



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.AlfaSeeYas.com October 1st, 2015 Fall Issue #45

President's Message

~ By Ray Zimmermann ~ rayzman89@gmail.com

As I write this column, summer is rapidly drawing to a close. Those of us who live in the Arizona desert are happy to see this time of year, since we know that pleasant weather will be here soon. They say that this summer was one of the hottest in Arizona history. Fortunately, because of the RV lifestyle we are so lucky to live, we missed most of the hot weather. Lori and I returned in late August from the longest trip we have ever made, at least in terms of miles traveled. Five months, 6400 miles, 15 states, 38 stops.

We were planning to attend the FMCA Family reunion in Madison, Wisconsin, so we decided to spend most of our time in the upper Midwest, since that is one of the few areas of the country we had never visited before. Along the way, our first major stop was in Branson, Missouri because, well, we like going to Branson, plus we wanted to check out places for a possible AlfaSeeYas rally. I'm happy to say that a rally is on the schedule for next year, to be held jointly with the Alfa Sunrisers RV Club. You can find all the information in a

Inside This Issue

Presidents Message	1-3
Editor's Note	3-4
Smiles	4,10,12,17,20
Cincinnati Information	5
New Members & Officers	6
Repair Facilities & Useful Sites	7
Upcoming Rally Information	8-9
Breakfast's Mesa & Yuma	11
Condolences	11
FMCA Assist Benefit	13-14
FMCA Annual Reunion	15-17
Escape Ladder	18-20
Branson Rally Information	21-24
Palm Desert Post Rally Info	25-27

separate article in this newsletter.

After Branson, there were a couple of stops to visit family, first in St. Louis, my hometown, and then the Chicago area, to spend time with Lori's brother and his family. If you ever visit Chicago, I recommend taking one of the architecture boat tours on the Chicago River – a great way to see the magnificent skyline and learn about the history of the city.

We then moved on to the Elkhart, Indiana area, where they proclaim themselves to be the world's RV capital. I heard somewhere

that 80% of RV's are now made in Northern Indiana. I don't know if that's true or not, but they build a LOT of RV's there. Driving around the area you see factories and suppliers everywhere, with acres and acres of coaches, trailers, bare chassis, etc. If you are ever in Elkhart, you'll want to visit the RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum to see an unbelievable collection of historic vehicles and memorabilia. This area also has a large Amish population, so you will find dozens of Amish-related restaurants, shops and tourist attractions. The Amish are typically thought of as farmers, but with large families and a limited supply of farmland, they need to find non-farm work. When we asked a tour guide what all the Amish do, she told us that most of them work in RV factories.

While in Indiana we attended the Great Lakes Area Rally at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. It was a well done Rally, with excellent weather, and we had a chance to meet up with AlfaSeeYas members and Arizona snowbirds John and Myrna Filipczak, who were performing with the "Frustrated Maestros" group. We would see John & Myrna again a month later when we were passing through Minneapolis and then again at the FMCA convention in Madison. One of the nice things about RVing – do it long enough and you will meet people you know wherever you go.

Also at the rally we met PJ & Megan

Miller, two of our newest chapter members and owners of McMiller Customs. They had their beautifully renovated Alfa coach on display at the rally. A few days before the rally we had stopped at their shop in nearby Nappanee, where we saw half a dozen coaches in various stages of re-skinning or renovation.

We headed north from Indiana and spent the next six weeks basically on a counter-clockwise circle of Lake Michigan. Enjoyed the Dutch-themed area around Holland, Michigan. Used Traverse City as a base to see Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Old Mission Peninsula. Spent a week in the Mackinac area, touring the quaint island and eating lots of good seafood. Discovered that we should have allowed more time for the Upper Peninsula, but we did manage to visit Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette. In Duluth we stayed at a marina, watching the large Great Lakes freighters come and go and the Aerial Lift Bridge go up and down. Took a tour of Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Learned why Door County, Wisconsin is such a popular vacation area. And of course, ate lots of cheese !

We traveled from eastern Wisconsin to Amana Colonies, Iowa to attend a rally of the Freightliner Chassis Owners Club. This group always puts on a good event. There were 68 coaches in attendance, including AlfaSeeYas members Ron and Andria Lee. Then we backtracked to Madison, Wisconsin for the 92nd FMCA Family

Reunion, our Association's big annual event. You will find a separate article on the Reunion elsewhere in this newsletter.

After Madison we worked our way slowly back home to Arizona with stops to see family and friends in Colorado and Utah. In Fort Collins, Colorado we spent time with AlfaSeeYas members Charlie and Donna Musgrave, who gave us a tour of the town and took us by their beautiful home. Charlie and Donna also belong to another FMCA chapter, "The Pikes Peak Rollers", which just happened to be having a rally at the RV park we were staying during the weekend we were there. So we attended yet another rally on our trip, as the group was very gracious and included us in all their activities. I'm sure you have also found that RV'ers are always welcoming to other RV'ers.

So now that we are back home it's time to plan where to go next. We would like to see as many of you as possible come join us at the FMCA Western Area Rally in Indio, California, January 6-10, followed by our chapter post-rally at nearby Palm Desert January 10-15. (You can attend one of these events without attending the other). As I mentioned earlier, we will be rallying in Branson, Missouri May 1-8, 2016. Look for more information and registration forms in this newsletter.

As long as our trip was this summer, it seems like there wasn't enough time to go

all the places and do all the things we would have liked. And it seems that's the way it is with life in general. So I encourage you to get out and use your coaches. Many of us have limitations, whether it be health, jobs, financial, family commitments and so on, but when you have the chance, get out and go. Attend a Rally, go visit distant friends or family, do a couple of things on your bucket list.

Travel safe, and I hope to "See Ya" out on the road.

~ ~ Ray

Editor's Note

By Jean Maddux

jeansalfanews@gmail.com

Fall is here already !!!

Some of you will be ready to go someplace warmer and some of you will be going home (hopefully somewhere warm). We live in Oregon, and the summers here are wonderful. So we stay home for the summer.

We have two lakes in Cottage Grove with campgrounds. We try to go out to Cottage Grove Lake a few times each summer. It has become an

annual event going to the lake with Don & Patty Rowe. Also, we are close to the Oregon coast. It's almost an annual trip going to Winchester Bay, OR with the Rowe's and Mike & Lorraine Lynch. The Lynch's don't come very often but we just got together for three days. This is our second event !! Anyone is welcome to come along if you are in the area. Just let me know. I'm sure many of you do the same...getting together with friends. That's what it is all about. Having fun !!!

So far no one has stepped up to be Rally Masters for the 2016 Annual Alfa Owners Rally. It doesn't look good. It's getting late, but it can still be done. I am sure someone out there is organized enough to start working on it. And if someone steps up to the plate, surely someone will step up and be co-rally masters. Sure it is work, but it is also fun and very gratifying when all done. Give it a try !! Please.....

As you read this newsletter, you will see we have a Rally planned in Branson, MO. Many people have stated they wanted to go there. Well, here's your chance. We will be getting together with the Sun Risers

from the East Coast. That should be lots of fun.

I am still looking for some articles to put in the newsletter. We have about 400 members of the AlfaSeeYas group, **someone** should be able to give me something to put in here.

We have had many fires, floods & tornados across the country. I sure hope none of these things affected you or your families. And if a disaster affected you...our prayers are with you. And if you need anything, let me know and I will get the word out.

Everyone, please be safe !!

"Happy Trails"

~~ Jean

HUGS

Hugging is good medicine
It transfers energy and gives the person hugged an emotional lift. You need four hugs a day for survival, eight for maintenance, and twelve for growth. Scientists say that hugging is a form of communication because it can say things you don't have the words for. And the nicest thing about a hug is that you usually can't give a hug without getting one.

NEED A PLACE TO STAY IN CINCINNATI ?

As a member of the Family Motor Coach Association, one of your benefits includes use of FMCA's national office campground in Cincinnati. The campground is located behind the Round Bottom Road office building, which houses FMCA storage facilities. Free Wi-Fi is available.

**Campground address:
3590 Round Bottom Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
(800) 543-3622**

The FMCA Campground has 15 full-hookup sites for members to use. All sites are on paved surfaces. Maximum stay is two nights per month at no charge; maximum five additional nights at \$20.00 per night.

Members should always call ahead before arriving at the campground. Occasionally the campground is occupied by FMCA chapters holding rallies or by members of the Executive Board and various FMCA COMMITTEES. So, call ahead before visiting.

The FMCA Campground is owned and operated by FMCA and is licensed by the Hamilton County Health Department as an RV park.

When they are in town, FMCA members are welcome to tour the main FMCA office building on Clough Pike. However, members should not drive their motorhomes to the Clough Pike office, because the parking lot cannot accommodate them.

Tours of the Round Bottom facility can be pre-arranged by calling in advance. For more information about using the FMCA Campground or touring the offices, call (513) 388-5308 or (800) 543-3622.



A warm welcome to our newest AlfaSeeYas members. To paraphrase, Sonny Gillespie, Past President of our FMCA association, the International Area Organization (aka INTO):

"The most important member of the AlfaSeeYas is the newest member"

Thanks so much for joining us!



PJ and Megan Miller

Wakarusa, IN



AlfaSeeYas Officers & Other Volunteers

President	Ray Zimmermann	rayzman89@gmail.com
Vice President	Randy Scott	rscott@antelecom.net
Secretary	Diana Manners	dimanners@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Lori Zimmermann	lorizim22@gmail.com
National Director	Larry York	lyork5635@gmail.com
Alt. National Director	Dale Manners	ddmanners@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jean Maddux	jeansalfanews@gmail.com
Website Administrator	Tony Monson	djnosnow@aol.com

Send U.S. Mail, dues to Treasurer at:

(Checks payable to AlfaSeeYas)

AlfaSeeYas

c/o Lori Zimmermann, Treasurer

1952 E. Divot Drive

Tempe, AZ 85283

Membership is \$10 per year. Multiple year renewals are encouraged at \$10 per year.

If you use an on-line bill payer, make sure your bank has the correct address.

Alfa Repair Facilities

Alfateers, Fontana, CA (909) 428-6775, website <http://www.alfateersrvservice.com>

[Follow Alfateers on Twitter & Like Us on Facebook](#)

Blue Sky Mobile RV Repair (RVDA Certified Master Technician) Tucson, AZ (502) 668-4038

website: blueskyrv@gmail.com

Bob's Diesel Service 340 W 32nd St., PMB #150, Yuma, AZ (928) 941-6462

Bretz RV, Missoula, MT (406) 541-4800 website: www.bretzrv.com

Charlies's Service, Sunset, UT (801) 547-7630 website: <http://www.charliesservice.com>

McMiller Customs, Nappanee, IN (574) 340-4100 website: www.mcmillercustoms.com

Mike Ewing, Robertsdale, AL (south of Loxley) (251) 508-3102 email: ewingrvrepair@gmail.com

Ronnie Wolfe/Dick Albritton, Choudrandt, LA (318) 372-8225 / (318) 278-1677

Emails: ronniewolfe78@gmail.com

dickalbritton@gmail.com

Useful Internet Sites for Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website AlfaSeeYas.com: www.alfaseeyas.com

You'll find lots of great information, including Rally info, Chapter documents, membership and dues information, past issues of the Newsletter, Tips and Tricks, a photo album and much more.

Family Motor Coach Association: www.fmca.com

Yahoo Message Boards - these are Internet forums where Alfa owners ask question and exchange information about our coaches. To read the messages, and post your own, you will need to "join" the group ([click the blue button that says Join This Group](#)).

AlfaSeeYas: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/alfaseeya/>

SeeYa DP: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaDP/>

SeeYa Travels: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaTravels/>

Chapters of Alfa Owners:

[Alfa One](#) - Southern California

[Lonestars](#) - Texas

[Mavericks](#) - Central California

[Roadrunners](#) - Non-Regional (Full Time/Half Time/Part Time)

[South Loafers](#) - Southern California, Arizona, & Nevada

[Sun Risers](#) - Eastern United States

[Sun Seekers](#) - North of Eugene, Oregon & Washington

Rallies ~~ the most FUN you can have in your Alfa ~~~~

If you would like to suggest a local rally, please contact our President, Ray Zimmermann. A group of AlfaSeeYas can get together very easily for a few days during the week, or over a weekend. **NEED HELP PLANNING A RALLY?** We have several documents to help those interested in planning a pre, post or other rally for our members. You can contact Ray and ask for any or all of the documents. They include: Rules of Thumb for Estimating Costs and Planning a Pre or Post Rally in Brief.

Upcoming FMCA Rallies

For FMCA Rallies - Members can sign up by calling
FMCA reservations (800)543-3622 or using the FMCA web site: www.FMCA.com

October 7th, till 11th, 2015 South Central Area Rally
Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, Conroe, Texas

October 14th, till 18th, 2015 Eastern Area Rally
Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, Asheville, North Carolina

January 6th, till 10th, 2016 Western Area Rally
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Indio, California

March 17th, till 20th, 2016 FMCA'S 93rd Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase
Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter, Perry, Georgia

April 15th, till 19th, 2016 INTO Area Rally
North Florida Fair, Tallahassee, Florida

June 8th, till 12th, 2016 Great Lakes Area Rally
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen, Indiana

RALLY CALENDAR ~~ UPCOMING ALFA CHAPTER RALLIES

SUN SEEKERS CHAPTER OUTINGS

Contact Gerry Winey at gerande@cableone.net OR call 928-277-1496 OR 805-290-3261

Contact Mel Kirkland at mel_kirkland@msn.com OR call 360-666-1621 OR 360-991-7436

For information and a registration packet on all outings.

NOVEMBER 2015

Wagonmasters Needed !!!

MAY 2016 -- TBA

Wagonmasters: Duane & Karyn Chebul and Jon & Jane King

JULY 2016 -- TBA

Wagonmasters: Larry & Shirley Shilley and Steve & Darlene Wright

SEPTEMBER 2016

Location: Silverline RV Resort, Winthrop, WA

Wagonmasters: Randy & Cheryl Fabian and Denny & Lei Wright

SOUTH LOAFERS CHAPTER OUTING

OCTOBER 27TH- NOVEMBER 1ST, 2015

Location: Distant Drums, Camp Verde, AZ

Wagonmasters: Jim & Vonnie Beard and Dick & Virginia Brubaker

JANUARY 19TH- 24TH, 2016

Location: Black Rock RV Village, Salome, AZ

Wagonmasters: Dave & Judy Sabol, Don & Jan Wallace, Jim & Vonnie Beard

More Dissatisfied Customers

These are actual complaints received by Thomas Cook Vacations from dissatisfied customers:

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

"We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

"My fiancé and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

"BE AWARE....THEY WALK AMONG US and VOTE TOO !!!

Sunday Sermon

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said "If I had All the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river". With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had All the wine in in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had All the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river".

Sermon complete, he sat down...

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365,

'Shall We Gather at the River'.

Alfa owners in the Phoenix/Mesa, AZ area get together every month from December through April at 8:30 am at the Golden Corral, 1868 N. Power Rd., Mesa, AZ 85205. (SW corner of Power Rd. & McKellips Rd.). The first breakfast this season will be on December 5th, and then on the second Saturday of the month starting in January. For more information call:

John Fillipczak at 612-965-5762 OR Myrna Fillipczak at 612-987-5811
OR e-mail jfillipczak@grantsburgtelcom.net

Alfa Owners' Breakfast in Yuma Foothills, AZ

Every second Monday of the month from November thru April, Alfa owners in the Yuma area meet for breakfast. All Alfa owners are welcome to attend. The next get-together of the season is Monday November 10th, 2015 at 8:30 am at:

Mi Fajita Restaurant, 11375 Foothills Blvd., Yuma, AZ

~~ Dan & Jenny Sheppard

Final Trip

AlfaSeeYas has been notified of the deaths of the following members.

We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Fran Kurz, F190415, wife of John Kurz, Fallsington, Pennsylvania

Jane Stanley, F390033, wife of Jack Stanley, Rescue, California

Table

Around the

Fab Finger Food!

If anyone knows about crowd-pleasing appetizers, it's Martha Stewart, whose latest book is *Martha Stewart's Appetizers: 200 Recipes for Dips, Spreads, Snacks, Small Plates and Other Delicious Hors d'Oeuvres, Plus 30 Cocktails* (Clarkson Potter). Her Cucumber and Endive Salad Bites are great for anytime entertaining. Part of the fun is the mix and match: Pile crisp cucumber slices and endive leaves with tasty toppings (Shrimp and Avocado Salad topping shown below, center). —Alison Ashton

Cucumber and Endive Salad Bites

Cut 1 English cucumber into 32 ¼-inch-thick slices, and gently pull 32 leaves from 4 heads of Belgian endive. Top with salad. Makes 64.



Shrimp and Avocado Salad

Cut 2 pounds peeled and deveined medium cooked shrimp into ¼-inch pieces; place in a bowl. Stir in ¼ cup finely chopped scallions, 2 Tbsp fresh lime juice, 2 finely chopped jalapeño chiles [ribs and seeds removed to lower heat] and 2 tsp coarse salt. Refrigerate 30 minutes or up to 2 hours. Just before serving, peel 1 avocado; cut into ¼-inch cubes. Fold into shrimp mixture.

ARCUS NILSSON

Help Us Help You

If you are receiving this newsletter in printed copy by mail, and **IF** you have an e-mail address, **PLEASE** send us your e-mail address. You will save the Chapter a lot of time and money that it takes to do "snail mail", plus you will receive Chapter news much sooner. We promise that we won't sell, give away or otherwise distribute the e-mail addresses of our members.



We must adjust to changing times
and still hold to unchanging
principles.

~~ Jimmy Carter

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FMCASSIST BENEFIT

During the recent Governing Board meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, there was a lot of discussion about FMCAssist, the Association's emergency medical evacuation and travel assistance plan. Last year the Board voted to again include this coverage as part of the FMCA membership at no additional cost. At this year's meeting, the Board voted to extend the program for at least another year. This is a benefit that would probably cost several hundred dollars to purchase on your own, but it seems many members aren't aware of it or don't understand it.

FMCA officials admitted that they may be the reason for some of the confusion. **FMCAssist** is the medical evacuation/assistance plan included with your membership, and **FMCA Road Assist** is a roadside assistance/breakdown plan, available at additional cost. The similar names have been confusing to many and in hindsight, FMCA probably should have come up with different terms. National President Charlie Adcock resorted to explaining the difference by saying, "You call FMCA Road Assist when your tire goes flat; you call FMCAssist when your heart goes flat."

In the first nine months since the program was re-instituted, 26 claims were handled by "Seven Corners", (the company administering the plan), ranging in cost from \$186 to over \$25,000. Here are some things you should know about this valuable benefit:

- Always **call "Seven Corners" first !!** (**After calling 911**, of course). Do not assume you can pay or incur an obligation for expenses and get reimbursed later.
- Print and save the FMCAssist ID cards. You can find a link to them on the home page of alfaseeyas.com. **If you downloaded these cards in the past, there is a new version available.**
- Since you don't know who will be in a condition to call for assistance, make sure your spouse and other family members are aware that you are covered by this program.

- Understand the coverage and the limitations. For example, you are covered as long as you are more than 100 miles from home but you don't have to be in a motorhome. You can be traveling by car, plane, ship, or motorcycle. (If you are a full-time RVer, you are always considered 100 miles from home).
- Benefits include:
 - Emergency evacuation/repatriation
 - Emergency medical reunion
 - Return of mortal remains
 - Return of dependents
 - RV/vehicle return (limited to North America)
 - Pet return
- For complete information, go to fmca.com and click "Benefits" and then "FMCAssist"

Know Your Pet No-No's

As much as we love our pets and want to spoil them, there are certain foods that are unsafe for animals. You should never feed a cat or dog:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic or chives
- Poultry bones
- Salt or salty foods
- Tomato leaves, stems or unripe fruit
- Yeast dough

If you want to give your pet treats, please limit them to approved cat or dog treats that do not contain any of the above ingredients.

FMCA ANNUAL REUNION & ANNUAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

By Ray Zimmermann

Lori and I represented the AlfaSeeYas Chapter at FMCA's 92nd Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase, held July 29th till August 2nd, 2015 at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wisconsin. I thought it was a good, well-run convention, and we were lucky to have good weather throughout. There were 1,434 family member coaches and 161 commercial ones for a total of 1,595. I think this was below what they were expecting and comes after the winter reunion in Pomona, California that also saw relatively low attendance.

The Alliant Center is a good venue for this type of event, as it provides ample facilities for exhibitors, seminars, display coaches and social and recreational activities. FMCA has been here before, and my guess is that they will be back in the future. The Center includes a large coliseum that seats 10,000 people or more, which was used for the Governing Board meeting and evening entertainment. Madison is a good-size city which offers a lot to do or see if you want to get off the reunion grounds for a while. There were various parking options available, including 50 amp power, 30 amp or just dry camping. As always at FMCA events, hundreds of volunteers worked thousands of hours to help put on the reunion.

FMCA National President Charlie Adcock reported on several initiatives to grow the Association's membership, which has declined over the years. A marketing firm has been hired, surveys have been conducted the on-line "join" process has been simplified and more is being done to educate members on the benefits of belonging to FMCA. Charlie emphasized the need to retain existing members. Many people get free membership when they buy a coach and then don't renew after the first year. He asked that we try to recruit more folks into our chapters, as the retention rate is much higher for members who belong to chapters.

There is a big push to educate members on the value of the FMCAssist

benefit, which was re-instated at last year's meeting and was funded for another year at Madison. See the separate item on FMCAssist in this newsletter.

FMCA "legislative" body is the Governing Board, which consists of the national and area officers and directors and one representative from each chapter. I served as the AlfaSeeYas rep this year at the day long business meeting, which is always held during the summer family reunion. About 70% of the chapters were represented.

Along with a bunch of routine business, the Governing Board passed two by-laws changes, both of which are of interest to our chapter:

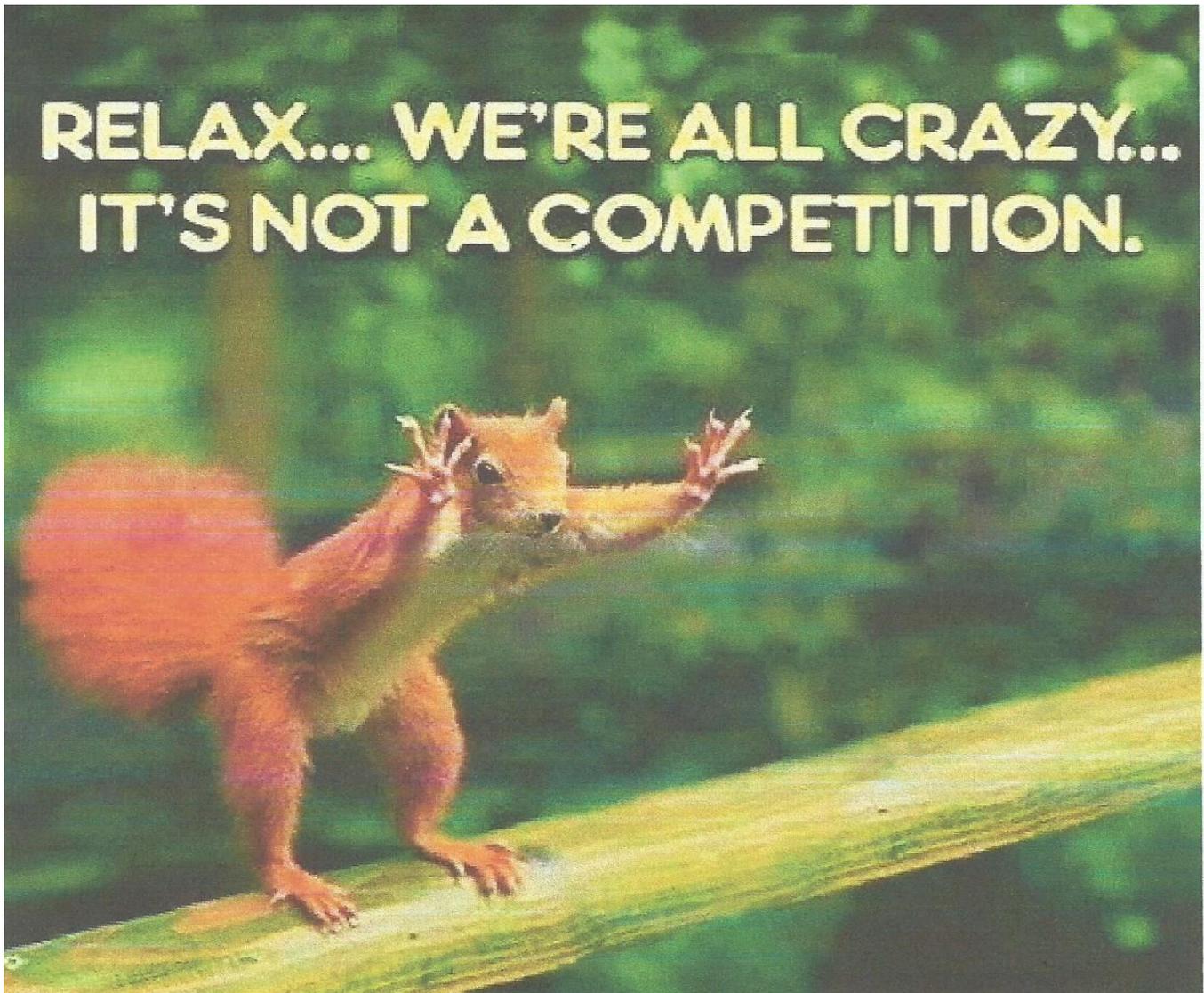
- The FMCA by-laws state that each chapter member can vote in chapter affairs. Many chapters, including ours, state in their by-laws that there is one vote per F-number. Apparently nobody ever caught the discrepancy until last year. The change passed by the Board will allow each chapter to decide how they want to do it - good for us, since now we won't have to change our by-laws.
- Previously, if the primary and alternate national director were unable to attend a Board meeting, the chapter had to elect a temporary delegate. The change passed at the meeting will give the chapter president the option to appoint a temporary delegate. This could be helpful for chapters such as ours, where the members are spread far and wide and they don't have frequent meetings.

The biennial election of national officers was held this year. The incumbent President, Senior Vice President and Treasurer ran unopposed. In the election for Secretary, Gaye Young defeated John Ferrari by 12 votes out of 278 cast. (Ferrari is the husband of outgoing Secretary Vicky Ferrari).

Next year's Reunions are both in the East - Perry, Georgia in March and West Springfield, Massachusetts in August. The summer one was supposed to be in Syracuse, NY but had to be re-located because of major renovations going on

at the venue.

I also attended the International (INTO) area meeting, which was pretty much just routine business. It was reported that this year's area rally in Shreveport, Louisiana was a success, with 278 coaches present. The rally turned a profit for the first time in years. This is important because rally profits are the only source of income for the FMCA areas. Planning is well under way for the April 2016 rally in Tallahassee, Florida and they expect a good turnout there.



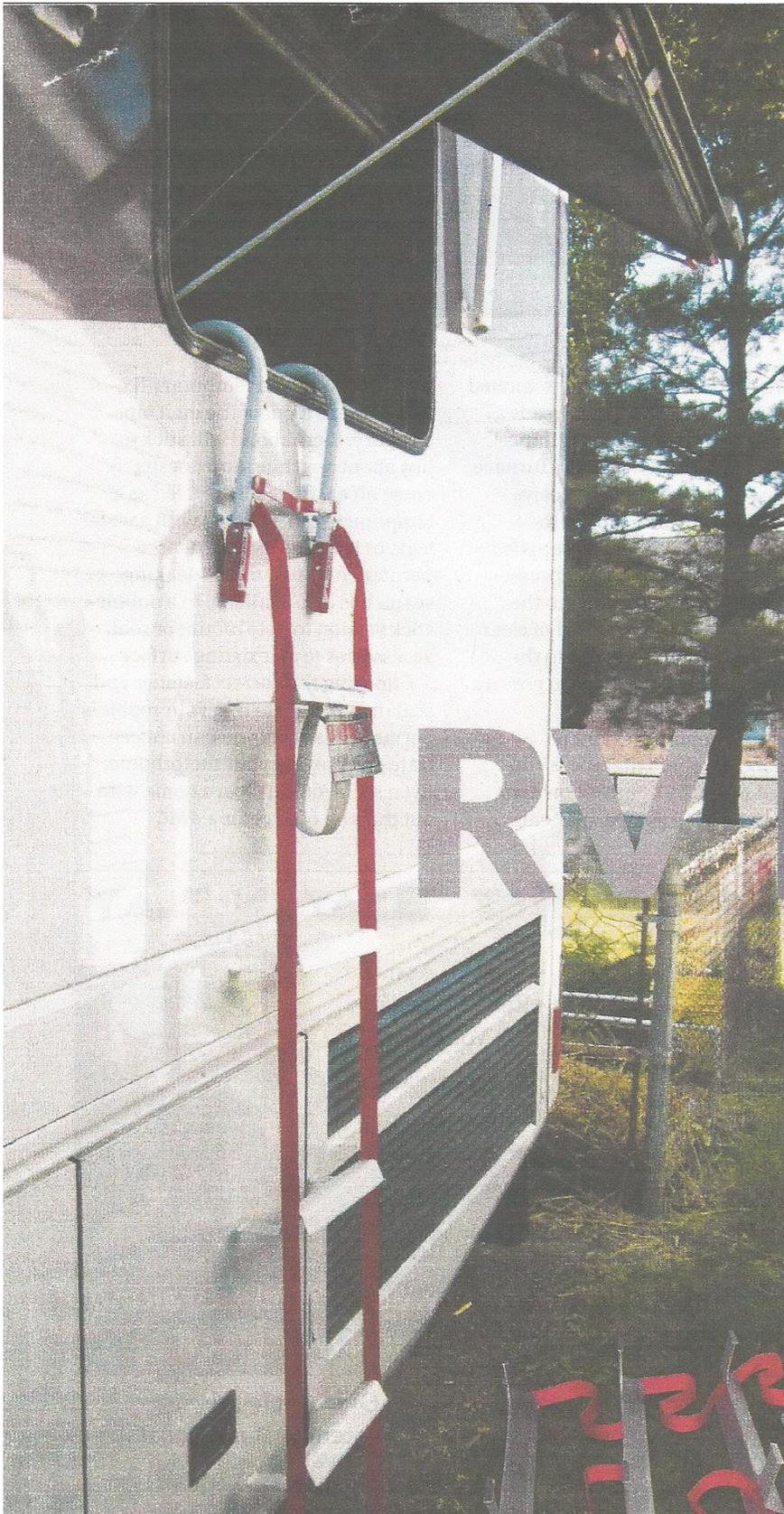
Escape Ladder

By Randy Scott

You may have seen the article in the February 2013 issue of the FMCA Family Motorcoaching magazine titled "Escape Ladder". We have included the article in this issue of the newsletter, along with some additional comments about it for Alfa owners.

We recently purchased the Kidde KL-2S ladder from Amazon for \$34.97, and performed the modifications described in the article. It was fairly easy to do, and we are very happy with it. Based on demonstrations we have seen about using the bedroom escape window (including using an Alfa motorhome), we think it is an excellent idea to have an escape ladder like this right near the window. However, I thought I'd add a few comments for our members:

- If your Alfa has a counter or cabinet on the inside just below the bedroom emergency escape window, you may not want to modify the ladder. As it comes, it spans a window opening depth (e.g., the window ledge plus the depth of the cabinet) of about 11 inches (and it looks to me that you could modify it if you require even more depth than that).
- I didn't cut off any of the extra steps (as suggested in Step 7 of the article), as leaving them on didn't have any adverse impact to the modifications or storing the ladder, and I figured if there was ever a case of our Alfa being further above the surrounding area (e.g., an un-level parking spot), the extra steps may come in handy.
- I did put rubber pads on the step standoff pads (as suggested in Step 7), and I also put plastic tubing on the ladder hook - although I used a larger diameter for parts of it, and slit the tubing where it didn't easily slide on the ladder hook.
- I keep the ladder in a small canvas carry type bag, on the bedroom floor, at the foot of the emergency escape window - in the hopes that we never have to actually use it, but it is there just in case !



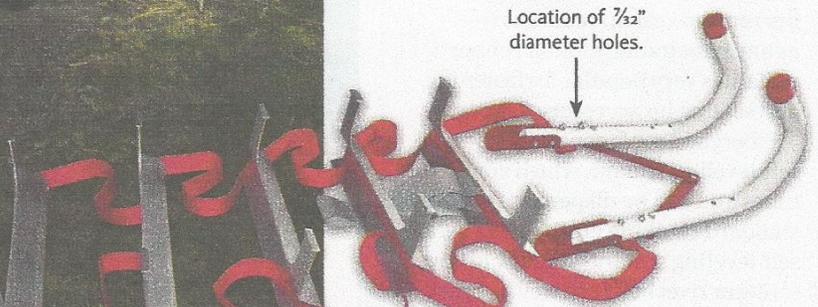
By adapting a store-bought escape ladder to fit the size of the motorhome's windowsill, the author created a safe and sturdy ladder for anyone who may need to evacuate through the emergency exit window.

Every motorhome is built with an emergency exit such as a window or door at the opposite end of the vehicle's normal entry. This is required in the event that an emergency such as a fire exists in the area of the normal entry. In many cases, this opening is located high above the ground, making it a potentially dangerous and scary exit point. To

R V E S C A

Make sure you can evacuate the motorhome safely in the event of an emergency.

Location of 7/32" diameter holes.



BY ED HOPKINS, F242191

reduce the risk of injury while trying to evacuate the motorhome via the emergency exit, I suggest you invest in an escape ladder.

An escape ladder should be light, flexible, strong, sturdy, and simple to use for all sizes of people. The top rung of the ladder must be at a reasonable distance from the bottom of the exit window to allow occupants to get a foot set comfortably and safely on the rung and get the second foot and leg situated so that egress from the RV can be accomplished.

Several companies offer escape ladders for residential use. However, these ladders are designed and built for windowsills that you would find in a house or apartment. They have

the ladder so it would attach more snugly to the windowsill.

The KL-2S has a two-piece metal loop that wraps around the window sill and braces against the interior wall. My idea was to remove one of the pieces so just the hook portion would hang on the motorhome's windowsill.

The tools required to modify the ladder included a $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch wrench, a drill and a $\frac{7}{32}$ -inch drill bit, a knife or scissors, and a measuring device.

Here are the steps for the modification project.

1. Loosen and remove the nuts and washers from the U-bolts that hold the straps to the attachment hooks. Pull the U-bolts out of the holes and return the washers and nuts to the bolts; this

24-inch-long venetian blind turner rod for this purpose. It should be stored in the same vicinity as the ladder to ensure that it will be available if needed for an emergency escape.) While setting up the RV escape ladder and practicing egress, place a blanket or towel over the window sill and down the outside of the RV to prevent damage to your motorhome.

6. Hang the RV escape ladder outside of the motorhome by placing the attachment hooks over the windowsill of the emergency exit, and allow the rest of the ladder to unroll down the side of the motorhome. You should now be able to exit the RV and climb down to the ground safely.

PE LADDER

large hooks that wrap around the windowsill and brace against the inner wall. While these work well in a house, the hooks are far too large for an RV windowsill that may be only a few inches deep.

I purchased a Kidde model KL-2S 13-foot escape ladder that was designed to be used to exit a second-story window of a home or business. First Alert also manufactures a similar ladder. These ladders can be purchased from home-improvement stores for approximately \$30.

What I found when I hung the ladder out of my motorhome window was that it was not very stable and lacked sideways support. While I was able to exit the motorhome using the ladder, I did not feel comfortable. Others may be okay using the ladder as is, but I didn't feel it was completely safe. Therefore, I came up with a modification to the hook portion of

will prevent you from losing this hardware, since you will need it later.

2. Once you have the hook portion removed from the ladder straps, use the drill with a $\frac{7}{32}$ -inch drill bit to drill out the concave ends of the rivets that hold the two pieces together. The rivets can then be pushed out and the bottom and top parts separated. You will keep the top portion.

3. Drill a set of $\frac{7}{32}$ -inch-diameter holes spaced $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches apart in each of the attachment hooks (as shown in the pictures). These holes will be used to reattach the step straps.

4. Reattach the step straps to the attachment hooks using the U-bolts. Be sure that the hook arms and the step standoffs are oriented in the same direction. Tighten the nuts so that they are fully on the U-bolts.

5. Open the emergency exit and place a prop between the window and sill to hold it open. (I use a

7. If you are happy with the results, determine how long you want the ladder to be and cut off the straps on each side just below the bottom step. You probably will want to attach some felt or rubber padding on the step standoff pads where they contact the side of the motorhome. You also should purchase several lengths of 1.5-inch-inside-diameter rubber tubing and slide it up the attachment hook below the strap where the ladder touches the outside of the RV to prevent it from marking the motorhome's exterior finish.

I hope that you will never have to use an RV escape ladder, but in the event it is needed, make sure to store it close to the emergency exit window. Also, practice using it often to be sure that your occupants are familiar with the location of the exit, that the window opens easily, and that all occupants can safely exit. **FMC**

Note: As of October 1st, all spaces are filled, however, if you would like to be on a wait list for Branson, please e-mail Butch Ballot at yankeedaug@aol.com

BRANSON, MISSOURI RALLY – MAY 2016

By Ray Zimmermann

In our last chapter newsletter, I mentioned that we were looking into setting up a rally in Branson, Missouri next year. After the newsletter came out, I was contacted by Butch Ballot, rally coordinator of the Alfa Sunrisers Club, asking if we would like to join their group at a rally that they have scheduled for Branson in May 2016. It was thought that by combining our forces we can get better deals on shows, transportation, meals, etc., and of course have the chance to meet and mingle with even more Alfa owners.

The rally will be held at America's Best Campground (ABC) from **May 1-8, 2016**. Lori and I visited ABC while in Branson last spring and were impressed with the park and the owners and staff. They specialize in hosting RV groups and have the contacts needed to handle all the arrangements. Bus transportation will be provided on to many of the shows and meals, so you won't have to hassle with Branson traffic.

The rally fee includes seven days camping with full hookups, four meals, two days bus transportation, and eight shows. There will be free days to enjoy other Branson attractions on your own, such as Silver Dollar City, Branson Landing, etc. The complete itinerary is listed below. Please note that the festivities start with dinner and a show at the campground on Sunday, May 1st, so you may want to come in a day early if necessary to get there on time.

The registration form can be found in this newsletter. The sign up deadline with payment of the \$30 wagon master fee is **October 31st, 2015** with the **balance of \$805.82 due December 19th, 2015**. The registration form has instructions for registering directly with the campground if you want to arrive early or stay late.

2016 Branson Rally

May 1st – 8th, 2016

Sunday 5/1

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Registration & welcome meeting in our pavilion

5:00 p.m.

Welcome Dinner in our pavilion

7:00 p.m.

All American Sock Hop with live entertainment at our campground in the pavilion.

Monday 5/2

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

12:00 p.m.

Lunch at The American Bandstand Grill

1:30 p.m.

Celebrity Car Museum at American Bandstand Theater

3:00 p.m.

The Legends in Concert at American Bandstand Theater

8:00 p.m.

The Sons of Britches

(Bus transportation is provided to all shows & meals. Bus will return to campground during the day if you need to attend to your pets.)

Tuesday 5/3

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

Free Day!

Wednesday 5/4

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

Free Day!

Thursday 5/5

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

10:00 a.m. California Dreamin' Show

2:00 p.m. #1 Hits of the 60's

5:00 p.m. Mel's Hardluck Diner with Singing Servers

8:00 p.m. Presleys' Country Jubilee -

(Pre-show starts at 7:15 p.m.)

(Bus transportation is provided to all shows & attractions. Bus will return to campground during the day if you need to attend to your pets.)

Friday 5/6

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

4:00 p.m. The Showboat Branson Belle

(Arrive on the dock at 3 p.m.)

Saturday 5/7

7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Pancakes & Coffee by the wagonmaster in the pavilion

Free Day!

Alfa Sunrisers BRANSON RALLY MAY1-MAY 8 2016

RV Park Info
Park: Americas Best Campground
Address: 499 Buena Vista Road
City, ST, Zip: Branson, MO. 65616
Phone: 800-671-4399
Website: AmericasBestCampground.com

Wagon Master Info
Name: Butch & Sandy Ballot
Address: 548 Loma Paseo Drive
City, ST, Zip: Lady Lake, Fl. 32159-0086
Phone: 352-874-3549
Email: yankeedaug@aol.com

Registration Deadline: October 31,2015 ...Full Payment Dec. 19,2015
Rally Dates: Arrive May 1,2016 Depart May 8,2016

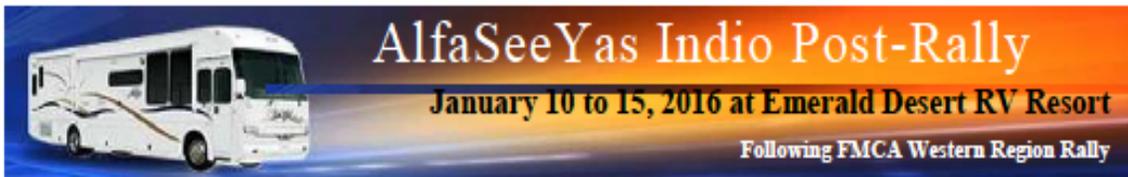


Names: _____
Address: _____
City, ST, zip: _____ First Outing? Yes No
Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____
5th wheel ___ Motor Home ___ Length ___ 30 Amp ___ 50 Amp ___ MH towing trailer ___
Arrival day and date _____

Deposits and Registration:
Wagon Master Fee: \$30.00 payable by October 31, 2015
Check payable to: Bruce A. Ballot
List of activities and costAlfaSeeYas \$805.82
A list of activities includes 4 meals,8 shows 2 days of Bus Transportation
Campground fees: Early reservations and stay after reservations are \$29.00 per night and MUST be paid directly to the campground to the attention of Michelle Ward.
It is strongly suggested that all members/guests arrive the day before. The night of May1 is a wagon master dinner and a private sock hop show just for us. Contact Michelle Ward 1-800-671-4399 for pre rally registration

I/we agree to HOLD HARMLESS The Alfa Sunrisers, the Wagon Masters, all officers, other attending members of the Alfa Sunrisers responsible for any personal injury of any kind which we or any member of our family may suffer during the campout (rally). This agreement applies regardless of the cause of the injury or damage and includes whether said injury or damage is caused by a condition of the premises, another club member, or any other person associated with the event. I/we make this agreement in consideration of the volunteer work of the club, its officers, and the wagon masters, as well as any expenses, which Alfa Sunrisers incur by holding the rally for my/our benefit, and recognize that in signing this legal instrument, I am/we are waiving any legal right to recover damages from The Alfa Sunrisers, the Wagon Masters or any officer, as well as other attending members of the Alfa Sunrisers.
By attending this rally, I/we also agree to abide by all rules of conduct of the Alfa Sunrisers, the host campground, as well as any additional rules established by the Wagon Master that have been designed for my/our personal safety and the safety of others in the campground, either regular campers or attendees of this rally.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____



Come to the desert and enjoy the January sunshine with average daytime temperatures of 72°! Visit old friends, and make new ones. Enjoy the amenities of a Good Sam-rated 10/10/10 RV resort. Check out the sights, go shopping in downtown Palm Springs, or just chill out! **Note that you do not have to attend the Indio Rally in order to attend the Post Rally.** For those who do go to Indio, we will move over to Emerald Desert on Sunday, January 10th. The 2016 post-rally is five nights instead of the usual four and will end the day before the start of the Big Tent RV show in Quartzsite, AZ. You can do Indio, then the AlfaSeeYas Post-Rally, followed by Quartzsite -- a great trifecta of January RV events. Your wagon masters are Ray & Lori Zimmermann (rayzman89@gmail.com), and Randy and Terry Scott (rscott@antelecom.net.)

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN UP SEPERATELY FOR THE FMCA WESTERN AREA RALLY!

(You can sign up at the FMCA web site, www.fmca.com)

Select the "GENERAL ELECTRIC PARKING" option

For those attending the rally at Indio, we will meet at a pre-arranged location on the morning of Tuesday, January 5th so we can caravan to the Fairgrounds and park together.

Your post rally fee includes:

- 5 nights with full hookups at Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA
- 2 catered dinners
- 4 mornings of coffee and goodies

Optional outings during the post-rally:

- "Behind-the-scenes" tour and box lunch at the Palm Springs Air Museum
- Palm Springs Tramway "Ride 'n' Dine"-- we will take a late afternoon tram ride to the top of the mountain, watch the sunset from the top of the peak, have dinner in the Pines Café, and watch the lights come on in the Coachella Valley before riding back down.
- Golf at one of the local courses

The day-by-day schedule will be sent out well before you arrive at the rally. In addition to the activities listed above, we will have:

- Question and answer session with the experts, Jon and Martin of Alfateers
- Cook your own entrée/bring side dish potluck and cookout
- Games (playing card bingo, left-right-center, ???)
- Coach walk (if enough participants wish to sign up)

**Complete the registration form in this newsletter
and return with your payment by November 15, 2015**

Alfa SeeYas Chapter FMCA Western Area Post-Rally

January 10 - 15, 2016

Registration Form

Wagon Masters Randy and Terry Scott, Ray and Lori Zimmermann

Names (as you want them to appear on your badge(s)): _____

Name(s) of additional people attending with you: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Home/Alt Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____ FMCA #: F _____

Rally Fee: One rig/two people (site rent with full hookups for 5 nights plus meals, taxes, and tip) \$ 370.00

Additional People (more than 2 per rig)- (Resort fee, plus meals, taxes, tip): _____ people x \$48 = \$ _____

RV Resort Pet Fee: Maximum of two pets per rig (\$3 per pet per day) _____ pets x \$15 = \$ _____

Optional Palm Springs Tramway ride and dinner: _____ people x \$36.00 = \$ _____

Optional group tour of Palm Springs Air Museum (including "behind the scenes" tour not available to the public, with box lunch with your choice of sandwiches: _____ people x \$21.50 = \$ _____

Sandwich choice: _____ Ham _____ Turkey _____ Veggie Wrap _____ Roast Beef _____ Italian Combo

(While at the museum you will have the opportunity to take a B-17 interior tour for an additional donation.)

TOTAL \$ _____

Make your check payable to AlfaSeeYas for the total amount above, and send with this form to:

Ray Zimmermann
(Alfa SeeYas Post-Rally)
1952 E Divot Dr
Tempe AZ 85283

I/we would like to participate in a golf outing (see attached info sheet): ___Yes ___No. If yes, # of players: _____

I/we will attend the FMCA Western Area Rally before the Chapter Post-Rally and will park with the Alfa SeeYas Chapter: ___Yes ___No. If YES, You must register separately for the FMCA Western Area Rally either on the FMCA web site or by mailing in a hardcopy registration form, AND you will need to register for the "GENERAL ELECTRIC PARKING" option. For those that are going with us to the FMCA Rally, we will meet at a nearby assembly point and go in as a group on January 5th, a day early to insure we can park together. We will advise you of the meeting time and place before the rally. Since we will go in a day early, there will be an additional one-day FMCA parking fee of \$20 per rig to be paid to the Wagon Master when we meet on Jan 5th.

I (Name: _____) or We would like to volunteer to be Seminar Monitors during the FMCA Rally. ___ Yes ___ No.

I/we are first timers: ___ Yes ___ No.

I/we are guests of: _____

I/we have a: _____ Motor Home _____ 5th Wheel/Travel Trailer. The length of our rig is _____ feet.

Questions? Contact: Ray - rayzman89@gmail.com or 360-789-6628 Randy - rscott@antelecom.net or 661-839-4526

TOTAL SPACE AT THE RESORT IS LIMITED. RESERVATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15, 2015!!

Guests/Visitors staying outside the Resort are welcome to all functions, provided you contact the Wagon Master prior to the post-rally to insure that costs are covered and food is available (note: the Resort charges a \$2 per day per visitor fee).

Cancellation Policy: There is a \$10.00 cancellation charge. Additionally, if the Chapter has incurred non-refundable costs, these fees will be deducted from your refund unless there is a waiting list and your space can be filled.

RV Resort Information: If you want to stay before or after the post-rally, you may arrange for additional days direct with the RV Resort. The group discount will be honored a maximum of two nights before and/or after. Contact information: Emerald Desert RV Resort, 76-000 Frank Sinatra Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92211. Phone: (760) 345-4770 or toll free (877) 624-4140. This is an adult-oriented resort.

Continued on next page

I/We agree that we shall not hold FMCA, the AlfaSeeYas Chapter, officers, employees or agents responsible for any damage or injury of any kind that our guests or we may suffer during the pre-rally or rally. This agreement applies regardless of the damage or injury.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

GOLFERS

At present, we have not made arrangements with the Resort for a golf outing. However, if you are interested in golf, please respond "yes" to the question on the registration form and indicate how many would play. If there is sufficient interest, we will ask the Resort to assist in setting something up. Worse case, you could ask the concierge at the Resort to set up individual tee times at one of the many local courses.