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On our GPS...

Are you going to be joining us in Haggerman Idaho? Are you going to caravan with anyone?

FMCA 'news'

Sign up for FMCA's e-Newsletter by August 31, 2018, and be entered for a chance to win the *Where RV Going?* Summer Sweepstakes! (Current FMCA members are already entered.)

FMCA RV Club delivers exclusive, money-saving benefits to RVers.

[See more...](#)



President's Message

by **Ray Zimmermann**

Goodness, the summer seems to be passing right along and it's hard to believe it is already August. Of course, I think we all feel that the older we get, the faster the years pass by. I guess that old saying is true: "Life is like a roll of toilet paper – the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes."

I see that many of you are taking advantage of your Alfas to travel to some great places this summer. I see this mostly through the wonders of social media. I know many people, including me, bemoan the pitfalls of Facebook and the other forums - - replacing human friendships with digital ones and subjecting us to dubious advertisements and innumerable cat videos. But I do see a positive side as well. There are now three Alfa groups on Facebook, two on RVillage, and the groups.io forum. Many of you post notes and pictures of the places you travel, descriptions to the upgrades you have made to your coaches, service tips and so on.

And speaking of internet forums, I can't imagine life without the amazing support provided on the Alfa technical forums, originally



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

This is my 2nd newsletter and I can tell you, putting this together is fun for me.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, I am hoping YOU will take a few moments and let me know if there is something you would like me to add.

I can think of a few 'topics' that might help:

- Cooking tips when traveling
 - Favorite recipe
- Favorite RV park
- Favorite 'destination'
- Favorite mechanic/repair location (I can easily maintain a list!!)
- Upgrades you have done to your Alfa
 - If I had known then issues
 - Upgrades in your future

on Yahoo and now on groups.io (groups.io/g/alfaseeya). I get a couple of calls or e-mails a month from new or prospective Alfa owners asking for information of some kind; apparently when they Google "Alfa," they find our chapter website and my name. I always tell them that if they do nothing else, they need to join the groups.io forum.

While on this topic, I would like to recognize the contributions of AlfaSeeYas member Dave Rypma. As the old Yahoo forums experienced more and more problems and basically became unusable, Dave spearheaded the conversion of the Alfa technical forum to groups.io. We all owe thanks to Dave, Jim Tozza, Brian Mills and AlfaSeeYa member Harlan Steinle, who are also moderators on the site.

On a new topic, I want to thank our Alternate National Director Dale Manners and his wife Dianna, our chapter secretary, for representing the AlfaSeeYas Chapter at last month's FMCA International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. While there, Dale attended the annual Governing Board meeting at which important FMCA business is conducted – this is the way you have representation in the affairs of FMCA. You can read Dale's report on the convention and meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing those of you who will be attending the AlfaSeeYas rally at Hagerman, Idaho September 21-26. Wagon Masters Randy and Terry Scott have planned a fun event in what I understand to be a very nice place - - this will be my first time in that part of Idaho.

If your state is anything like mine, you are being bombarded with ads for the 2018 elections. This is a good reminder that the AlfaSeeYas will also be conducting elections for chapter officers later this year. We have had members step up and volunteer to run for each of the chapter officer positions. Ballots will be mailed out in the fall, so please watch for them and follow the instructions for returning your completed ballots. I promise our candidates won't be sending you any ads, which should be reason enough to vote.

Since 2019 will be here before we know it, you may want to start thinking about some events for next year: 1) We hope to have a post-rally in conjunction with the FMCA Western Area Rally at

Indio, California in January – site to be determined. 2) The annual Alfa Owners Club Rally is being planned for April, tentatively in Texas next year! 3) A joint AlfaSee Yas/Alfa Mavericks rally is planned for October 7-12 in Buelton, California (think Solvang, Santa Barbara, wine country). More information will be sent as it becomes available.

I'll close with one more request: Please help us keep up-to-date on dues by renewing when your membership is due to expire. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, your dues expiration date is shown in the body of the transmittal e-mail. If you receive the newsletter by U.S. mail, your expiration date is shown on the mailing label on the envelope. Dues are still \$10 a year and checks payable to AlfaSee Yas can be sent to AlfaSee Yas, c/o Ray Zimmermann, 1952 E. Divot Drive, Tempe AZ 85283.

If a man crosses the ocean twice without taking a bath,
what is he called?

A dirty double-crosser!

Upcoming Rallys:

September:

- 19-22 — South Central Area Rally, Shawnee OK
- 21 - 26 — Alfa SeeYas Chapter Rally - Hagerman ID

October:

- 3-7 — Eastern Area Rally, York PA

Murphy's Law:

The easiest way to find something lost around the house (or RV) is to buy a replacement.

Dear Everyone (especially Alfa owners),

Our Story

I retired from officially working as an Electrical Inspection Supervisor for the state of Washington and obtaining my retired pay for USAF retirement with 21 years (8 active duty) the rest with the Air National Guard) on May Day 2000. My wife Sharon and I decided that we could now do a bit of traveling and maybe see some of our US of A.

We purchased a pickup and 5th wheel trailer (SOB) and took our first trip towards Branson, MO. We hit a few Wal-Marts along the way and a few RV parks. We made it to Branson and extended our original 2 weeks to 3. Sharon says to me, "You know, it's not that far to Graceland." so off we went to Memphis and spent a week there and did the Elvis thing. Then she says, "It's not that far to Nashville." Another 2 weeks just outside Nashville, 2 trips to the Grand Ol' Opry, and actually getting to sit right down in front when a kindly usher picked us after all the handicap people had been given seats in the front row. Two great shows. Then it was my turn, "It's not much further to the Atlantic Ocean". And we were sitting on the beach at Virginia Beach watching the 4th of July fireworks out over the ocean. Next, we both said, "Not that far to Washington DC". We spent 3 weeks there on Andrew AFB in their FamCamp and that wasn't long enough to really see all the great museum and monuments, but we got most of them. Then we headed back to Washington state and arrived - instead of a 3 or 4-week trip it was 3 months later.

Our trip then had us thinking. Instead of parking the 5th wheel for a month or two, we were only staying a week or two wanting to see the great US of A. As we were setting up numerous times in the RV and State parks, we noticed the motor homes coming in. They would park, lower the jacks, level, hook up water and electric and have a beer open and watching me finish setting up the 5th wheel. We wanted a motor home. We sold our house, did some shopping but prices etc. kept us in the 5th wheel until we were down in Casa Grande, AZ and happened to stop at an RV sales event. I noticed a lot of people waiting in line to look at what I first thought was an Alfa trailer, (not the 5th wheel we were used to seeing). So, I stood in line and

Alfa Tech Talk - by Ed Burrows

ROOF AND SIDEWALL RESEALING:

To keep water from getting into your side walls, which can cause blistering; it is important to seal all top and side joints. We had Leisure Coachworks do ours and they did a great job. The products used are Dicor 502LSW self-leveling on the roof and Sikaflex-221 on the sides. You will need to remove as much of the old sealing as possible before you add the new. Carry a tube of Dicor with you when you travel.

after stepping up into it, I noticed the steering wheel. "What kind of Alfa trailer is this?" I asked. They said it's Alfa's new motor home - 4 televisions, 4-door refer, separate freezer in the basement alongside the outdoor television, whole house A/C Heat pump, separate gas furnace, very nice 330 HP Cat engine. And a decent price. This was the second model Alfa made.

After haggling with different dealers, we found a price to satisfy us in Colton, CA and traded in the pickup and 5th wheel and rode along as they delivered it to us in Ehrenberg, AZ out of California. We were now proud owners of a 2002 Alfa motor home, serial #354. Without a tow vehicle we even used it to go grocery shopping from the RV park we were staying in at the time. Finally, after getting back up to Washington we got our Honda Accord out of storage and hit the road. We had already sold all the real-estate we owned, and our battle plan was to spend 5 years on the road (our kids had bets among themselves we wouldn't last 5 weeks living full time in an RV.) So, from December 2001 to March 2018 we lasted almost 16 ½ glorious years in our Alfa.

In 2003, we went to an FMCA rally in Indio, CA. We had met another Alfa motor home owner and I said maybe we should start up a chapter for Alfas. He said, yeah, go get the paper work. So, I went and got the paper work, didn't see him again and about 4 months later after meeting other Alfa owners we were at an AOC rally in Sevierville, TN and I was asked if I still had that paper work. I did and turned it over to Bruce Monte, who became our first president. He took it, filled it out, and we got at least 15 Alfa motor home owners together in an impromptu meeting and chartered the AlfaSee Yas FMCA Chapter. I was forced to be some sort of officer, so I became the Alternate International Director. Later, I became the National Director for about 4 years. Sometime later, I started up www.AlfaSeeYas.com and we were on our way to, at one point, having over 700 members in our chapter.

This story could go on for at least 50 pages of all the places we have been, all the friends we have acquired, just over 70,200 miles, 2 sets of tires, 11,822.5 gallons of diesel, 1355.5 gallons of propane, just over \$25,000 in maintenance (lube, oil changes, filters, tires, 4 microwaves, 2 refers, 3 refer cooling systems, 2 re-carpets, resealing, batteries, etc, etc.), \$9000 in improvements (LED TVs, Winegard sat antenna, Samsung refer, GE convection microwave, etc, etc.).

Sadly, we sold it last March. But, you know what? If we could, we would do it all over again in a heartbeat. It was a great life. It has been a great experience for me and Sharon and we have now purchased a home in Sun City West, AZ. We would still enjoy the Newsletter if you could send it our way. We're keeping all our friends. We still visit regularly with some of them.

Thank you all.

DJ "Tony" and Sharon Monson

70354 djnosnow@aol.com

Useful Internet Sites For Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website - AlfaSee Yas.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

Groups.io <https://groups.io/g/alfaseeya> This is an internet forum where Alfa owners ask questions 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").

Facebook Groups:

Alfa Owners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alfaowners/>

Alfa Motorcoach Owners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1816601868643360/>

Alfa Motorcoach Tech Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Alfatechsite/>

RVillage:

FMCA: <https://www.rvillage.com/group/830/family-motor-coach-association>

Alfa Owners: <https://www.rvillage.com/group/1681/alfa-owners>

Alfa Repair Facilities

Leisure Coachworks (formerly Alfateers), Fontana, CA (909) 428-6775 Website: www.leisurecw.com

(Follow Leisure Coachworks on Twitter & like Us on Facebook)

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

Website: <http://blueskyrvservice.com/> Email: 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

California RV Specialists, 110 S Cherokee Lane Ste B, Lodi, CA (209) 263-7040

Website: www.calrvspecialists.com

Charlie's Service, Sunset, UT (801) 773-1193 Website: <http://www.charliesservice.com>

New Debut, Wakarusa, IN (574) 862-4893 Website: www.new-debut.com

MCIRV (PJ Miller), Nappanee, IN (574) 252-9158 Website: <https://www.mcirv.com/>

Mike Ewing, Summerdale, AL (251) 989-2593 email: ewingrvrepair@gmail.com

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

Emails: ronniewolfe78@gmail.com

dickalbritton@gmail.com

FMCA Governing Board Meeting and Rally Report

Gillette Wyoming (July 18-20, 2018)

by Dale Manners

Alt. National Director (ALFA SeeYa, 74281)

I would like to say up front, the experience of attending the Rally in Gillette was exciting and very enlightening. We (Diana and I) met many new people and experienced many new adventures. The fact that there was a Governing Board meeting was the icing on the cake.

To start off, the day before the official Governing Board Meeting, we attended a National Directors Briefing and Orientation. Delegates were encouraged to attend this seminar to learn more about the Governing Board meeting and the processes. National Directors, Alternate National Directors, and temporary delegates received valuable information on how to efficiently handle the upcoming business before the Governing Board, the following day. We reviewed the proposed items and agenda. This meeting took place in the main meeting hall and about 80% of the several hundred delegates, attended. Each major item to be presented to the entire Governing board was explained and the procedures to follow, during the official meeting, were explained. This was a great help, it brought to light the reasons for many of the proposals and the pros and cons of each. The following day at the Governing Board meeting, approximately 68% of all FMCA Chapters were represented. The items presented and voted on were:

- **Proposed Constitutional Amendments:** These were mostly procedural in nature dealing with Rights of Members for refunds and “On Line/ Written Ballot Voting”. Online voting would be a new thing and will bring more of the membership into the loop when major decisions are proposed. These will be presented to the membership and possibly initiated in the future.
- **Proposed Bylaws Amendments:** There were several amendments proposed, one with respect to Commercial Members (Passed), Dues and Assessments refunds must be approved by the Executive Committee (Passed) and the most controversial PROPOSAL #7. This proposal that would have redefine the structure of the Governing Board, along with Proposal #8 they (DID NOT PASS). As a result, the makeup of the Governing Board will continue to be made up of an individual representative from each chapter, as it has been for many years. These two proposals were not recommended by the Executive Board and were presented to the Governing Board ONLY because they were presented by petition and were required to be placed on the agenda by the bylaws. (It appeared the petition came from members that did not belong to a chapter and would have removed individual chapter representation.)
- **Policy and Procedures:** Many P&P’s were discussed and were referred to the respective P&P committees as well and the Executive Board. Items voted on related to the Approved Constitutional Amendments and Bylaw changes I.E. FMCA Campground Software (passed), Clarification of (RV) Recreational Vehicle, Commercial Membership fees and dues, Allocation of Expenses for Travel, and

Clerical changes that needed to be made relating “motor coach or motor home’ to “recreational vehicle” as well as the update of the name of the magazine to “Family RVing”.

In the past the Governing Board Meeting usually lasts all day and sometimes in to the evening hours. However, this meeting went so well and the information was presented so well that we finished all items on the agenda and the meeting was adjourned, at 12:00 noon for lunch.

GENERAL MEETING: At the open general meeting and during the Presidents Report the status of FMCA was discussed in detail. Over the years membership was decreasing, revenues were decreasing and participation in rallies was decreasing. However, with the significant changes made by the Executive Board and the Governing Board all three items have made significant increases. In addition, to the turnaround in membership, revenues and rally attendance, FMCA has added and improved many benefits. (To include FMCA assist, Road Side Assistance, Store discounts, VA discounts, additional tire discounts, Health Plans for those under 65, RV pet safety programs, Sponsored Mail service, WIFI programs through Verizon and FMCA sponsored insurance programs.) FMCA has always been an organization owned and operated by its members and they are committed to continuing to provide its members with high quality lower cost services. Check out the Web site under Benefits.



What you can see from your RV window in Wyoming!

In addition to the usual meetings, Diana and I hosted a get together, at our ALFA, of all of the ALFA owners that were at the rally. Ray helped by sending out notices to those that were attending and we toured all of the parking lots to find anyone that may have not gotten the notice. We had a good time and met some new friends. Thanks Ray for helping get the word out. Those in attendance were:

- Tom and Sandy Wallace
- Charlie and Donna Musgrave
- Richard H Mares
- Hank and Gail Hein

For those of you that have not attended a national rally keep your eye on the “FAMILY RVing” magazine and check the web site for future rallies. They are well worth the travel.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you, it was a pleasure.

Ready for Solar-Powered Cars?

By Ray Zimmermann

I had an interesting, unusual experience last month when the high school solar car challenge came through Arizona and spent the night not far from where I live in Tempe. Each year, teams of students from 24 high schools around the country compete in this event with cars they have designed and built. The competition starts in Fort Worth, Texas. Some years, the entire competition takes place at the Texas Speedway; in alternate years, the challenge goes cross country, and this year the route went from Fort Worth to Palmdale, California.

I learned about this event through AlfaSeeYas Vice President Randy Scott and his wife Terry. For many years, Randy and Terry have volunteered with the solar car team at Palmdale High School. The Scotts accompany the race team in their Alfa, providing meals and other support along the route. I have the utmost admiration for Randy, Terry, the other adult volunteers and the hard-working students who made this trek through the Southwest desert in the July heat!



During their overnight stop in Tempe, the cars were on display at Arizona State University, and the students were eager to answer questions and tell visitors all about their cars. (Not that I understood much of it!) It was really inspiring to see what these smart, talented young people had accomplished - - gives one hope for the future.



If you use your Alfa for volunteer work or in charitable endeavors in your community, or if you know someone who does, why not let others know. Please do a brief write-up and send to our newsletter editor.

HOUSEKEEPING

President	Ray Zimmermann	rayzman89@gmail.com
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DUES:

- If sending dues via U.S. Mail:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter
c/o Ray Zimmermann
1952 E. Divot Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283

You can find your dues expiration date on the e-mail that forwarded this newsletter or snail mail label. (*Checks payable to AlfaSeeYas*)

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.

MEMBERSHIP:

No NEW members have joined since our last newsletter.

There's more!

AlfaSeeYas Store

Are you aware we have a couple neat items with our logo on it?? No? Go to: <http://www.alfaseeyas.com/pdf/orderformRev.pdf> to see images of the baseball style hat as well as jacket. There is a link to the order form so stop on by!



The caps are 'baseball style' and one-size for all with a Velcro adjustable strap for the black and a plastic strap with holes for the blue. **Price: \$10 ea**

The jacket is 100% polyester shell with a jersey lining. Mesh inserts at gussets have been added for breathability and articulated elbows for greater mobility. The cuffs are half-elastic and half-self fabric for comfort. There are side pockets and a drawcord hem with a toggle. Both have the *AlfaSeeYas* script over the left chest and the member name on the right chest in yellow/gold.

Available sizes are XS - 6XL.

Colors: Royal Blue or Black

Price: XL - 2XL - \$35

3XL - 6XL - \$40

Check with Randy Scott for the shipping cost which will be added to the order. He can be reached at:

(661) 256-3507 or via email at: rscott@antelecom.net



And that's another issue that has come to an end... Do YOU have something to add? Contact the newsletter editor or one of the officers. Come on! You KNOW you want to do it :-)