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On our GPS...

Jan 2019:

Western Area Rally - Indio CA

AlfaSeeYas Post Rally - Niland CA

FMCA 'news'

FMCA's 99th International Convention and RV Expo

will be March 13 through March 16, 2019, in Perry, Georgia!

Camp on the grounds for the entire event, or experience the fun for a single day. FMCA welcomes RVs of all shapes and sizes to join the excitement.



President's Message

by Ray Zimmermann

It was almost four years ago that I wrote my first column for this newsletter, following my election as chapter president. This will be my last column, as my term comes to an end and new leadership will take over at the beginning of the new year. The election is now underway for a new slate of officers, thanks to members who have volunteered to serve. Please remember to return your ballots by December 15th, following the instructions on the ballot.

I've done some traveling since I wrote to you in our last issue. Most of August and September was spent visiting family (and enjoying a break from the Arizona heat) in Colorado and Utah. In Heber City, Utah I met up with AlfaSeeYas members Randy and Terry Scott and Leigh and Suzanne Conner, and we caravanned together to the chapter rally in Hagerman, Idaho. We spent a very enjoyable week there in the lovely Snake River Valley -- you can read a full report on the rally elsewhere in this newsletter.

Many of us at the Hagerman rally were also going to a South



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

This is my 3rd newsletter - am I missing anything YOU might like to see?? Contact me and let me know!

In this edition I have included a travel article I wrote a few years back when hubby and I visited the lovely city of Prescott AZ. Our RV park was pretty centrally located so much of what we wanted to see was a short drive. (Hint: If you have not taken a guided tour before, the one my cousin and I enjoyed was well worth the fee!)

In September, we were supposed to join Randy and Ray and many others in Hagerman ID but the dreaded 'check engine' light stopped us in our tracks! (This would have been our first 'rally' since we became Alfa owners. Boy were WE disappointed!!) Sadly, we are still awaiting a resolution and have used both the Google email list as well as Facebook to connect with other Alfa owners in the hopes someone might have an answer...

Loafers outing in Jackson, California in early October, so the Scotts, the Conners and I were joined by Ron and Linda Pearson and Dennis and Cheryl Brink for the trip from Hagerman to Jackson via Elko and Reno, Nevada. We must have made quite a sight with five Alfa motor homes driving in trail though the back roads of southern Idaho and northern Nevada. It's always fun having friends to travel with, and nice to have good company during stopovers along the way.

It's nice to be home for a while – the weather is great in Arizona this time of year – but not too soon to plan future trips. After a one-year break from having a chapter event in conjunction with the FMCA Western Area Rally, we will be back in Southern California in January 2019. The Western Area Rally is at the Indio fairgrounds from January 8th-13th and we will again go in as a group with any chapter members, other Alfa owners and guests who would like to park with us. The Indio rally is the largest of any of the FMCA area rallies in term of number of attendees, vendors, seminars, and entertainment - they always put on a good show. When the area rally ends on January 13th, we will move on to a chapter post-rally at the Fountain of Youth RV Resort at Niland, California, near the Salton Sea. The post-rally will conclude on January 17th, which will give many of us time to get to Quartzsite for the annual Big Tent RV show. You can find the post-rally registration package [at this link](#). Hope to see you there!

Although not a chapter event, many of our members also belong to Alfa Owners Club (AOC) chapters, and the AOC has announced that their annual rally is set for Fredericksburg, Texas from April 7th – 12th, 2019, with chapter pre-rallies starting April 2nd. This is a "must" event for Alfa owners to make if at all possible and, in addition to a great rally, the Texas Hill Country is a really nice place to visit. I plan to be there!

And while it seems like next fall is a long way off, you might want to start thinking about the AlfaSeeYas rally at Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton, California, October 7-11, 2019. This will be a joint event with the Mavericks AOC chapter and more information will be sent out as the time for the rally draws closer.

As I've said in previous newsletters, I would like to see more chapter events in more places around the country. If you would

like to host a rally, and know of a good place to hold one, we can help you with suggestions and planning, and will send out information to the members. Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any ideas you would like to discuss.

It has been my privilege to serve as your chapter president for the last four years. I will continue to help the chapter in any way I can. I hope to continue my travels and I look forward to seeing you at FMCA and Alfa events or just somewhere out on the road. Wishing you safe and happy travels.

Upcoming Rallies:

January:

- 9 - 13 — Western Area Rally - Indio CA
- 13 - 17 — Alfa SeeYas Post Rally - Niland CA ([Application](#))

February:

- 6 - 9 — Southeast Area Rally - Lakeland FL

March:

- 13 - 16 — FMCA 99th International Convention - Perry GA

April:

- 7 - 12 — Alfa Owners Club Rally - Fredericksburg TX ([more information](#))

New Members:

- ♦ Mike Kirk, F99230S, Lincoln, CA

Final Trip:

AlfaSeeYas has been notified of the death(s) of the following member(s). We extend our condolences to their friends and families:

- ♦ Sande Baas, F330163, wife of Ken Baas, Cincinnati, OH (charter members)

RV Refrigerator Repair and Information

Those of you with RV (absorption) refrigerators may want to check out a website that recently came to our attention: Ford's RV Refrigeration Training Center at <http://rvrefrigeration.com>.

Ford's operates a repair facility and training school in Benton, Kentucky (near Paducah). The owner, Roger Ford, has been in the RV refrigeration business over 35 years, and his facility has received excellent reviews on rvservicereviews.com. They claim that "We are very passionate about educating RV owners as well. Too often they are told to throw it away and buy a new one when in most cases it's a simple inexpensive repair. The key is of course like any other service, to find a qualified technician that understands the RV refrigerator."

For do-it-yourselfers and those who don't want to make the drive to Kentucky, Ford's website offers a lot of educational and troubleshooting information and videos about RV refrigerators. And finally, the website has a listing of refrigeration service facilities operated by former students at the school.

Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss (by going too fast)...

You also miss the sense of where you are going and why.

Alfa Tech Talk - by Ed Burrows

FRONT TIRE WARNING:

If you have a flat front tire, **DO NOT STEP ON THE BRAKES**. The safest way to come to a stop is to apply minimal throttle to return your RV to a straight line.

A Wild West Tale

by Jeannette Harper

When you think ‘Old West’ cities what comes to mind? Tucson? How about Santa Fe? Well don’t discount Prescott Arizona! This is a city with Old West charm and modern 21st century amenities.

In 2017, hubby and I stayed for an extended visit to Prescott and were easily swept up in the city’s charm. Every day we experienced some place new to eat and let me tell you, there is an eatery for every taste, palate and budget. Museums, outdoor experiences, shopping – all within your reach and budget.

What makes Prescott so delightful is the downtown area. The town square is truly charming - it is bordered by Cortez and Montezuma (east and west) with Gurley and Willis (north and south). Enjoy the shade from the large trees in the park as well as the quaint bandstand! There is even a statue commemorating a ‘famous’ son of Prescott, William “Bucky” O’Neill who died during the Spanish-American War.



So what do you DO when visiting Prescott? First, a good idea would be to decide what it is you **want** to do! Are you looking for a museum? A winery? How about some place to eat? (And just how hungry are you? There is every kind of eatery imaginable within the city limits of Prescott.) If shopping is your thing you will not be disappointed. Art galleries and jewelry shops are well represented. Add in Tshirts, wine and even hotels surround the square and surrounding streets. *Whiskey Row* is a pretty famous street (for a variety of reasons...) Be aware, parking is strictly enforced. Do NOT allow a wheel to cross one of the sides of your parking space or you will be surprised with a **very** expensive ticket!

Again, what do you DO when visiting Prescott? Yes, you can tour a variety of museums within the city confines if short on time. (The *Sharlot Hall Museum* is within walking distance and is a ‘must see’ stop. The *Phippen Museum* is on N AZ-89 and gives you a ‘feel’ for western art. And the *Smoki Museum*, dedicated to the ‘Smoki People’ is a few blocks away from downtown. *Fort Whipple Museum* is a landmark as well as a site of the former Fort Whipple.) But if time is not your enemy, take a drive. Sedona



is but a couple hours southeast as is the historic town of Jerome along with the Red Rock Valley. There are a couple historic trains worth checking out - *the Grand Canyon Railway* in Williams AZ and the *Verde Canyon Railroad* in Clarkdale. Want to get in some fishing? No problem, as natural areas with lakes are not

far away. *Bearizona* (a drive-through wildlife park) in Williams AZ is well worth an afternoon visit



Prescott Arizona has something for everyone including the best weather almost year round! It may be triple digit hot a couple hours away but visitors to Prescott need not worry about THAT problem. But don't be fooled by the mild climate. Sunscreen, hats and maybe long sleeves may be needed as this area is located over 5,000 feet in elevation. That means you are closer to the sun and the air seems drier so lotion and lip balm may also be needed. You can bike, hike and fish all within a short distance to downtown Prescott. Now I ask you, what's NOT to like?

AlfaSeeYas Enjoy Hagerman Idaho Rally

By Ray Zimmermann

Eleven coaches and 21 people attended the AlfaSeeYas Chapter rally at the Hagerman RV Village in Hagerman, Idaho in late September. The weather cooperated with pleasant, sunny days and cool nights during the five-day rally. Many of us who had previously driven through southern Idaho were pleasantly surprised at how beautiful this area is once you get off I-84 and travel along the Snake River valley. There are lots of cliffs with waterfalls coming out of the rocks seemingly everywhere, the result of underground rivers from up north. We saw lots and lots of dairy farms between the small towns through the valley.

Wagon masters Randy and Terry Scott organized a fun schedule of activities, including a catered welcome dinner at the RV park clubhouse on the first night. On Saturday morning, we carpooled to Ritter Island, site of the annual Thousand Springs Festival of the Arts. There were approximately a hundred booths with vendors selling various arts, crafts and culinary items in the scenic island setting.

After spending several hours at the festival, we drove to nearby Niagara Springs State Park where we enjoyed box lunches at the picnic area. Following lunch, we went next door to Idaho Fish and Game's Niagara Springs fish hatchery. Our guide, an enthusiastic

and knowledgeable young biologist, took us through all parts of the facility and explained all the steps in hatching and raising two million steelhead trout smolts each year. The tour concluded with a ride on the moving track that glides over the fish runs and dispenses feed to the hungry hatchlings.

Sunday started with morning coffee and pastries at the clubhouse. The rest of the day was free to explore the area on our own. This provided an opportunity to see what the small towns in the area had to offer – such as craft breweries and home-made ice cream shops. Some of us took a drive and saw impressive views of the Snake River and Oregon Trail. We then compared notes on our day at a late afternoon happy hour back at the clubhouse.

On Monday morning we drove to the nearby Snake River Grill for breakfast, followed by a chapter meeting. The rest of the day was free until we gathered for dinner at a local pizza restaurant.

Tuesday was another day to visit some beautiful parts of the area. We went as a group to Twin Falls for lunch at the Elevation 486 restaurant, so named for its location on a bluff above the Snake River (see photo). We then drove down the canyon to Shoshone Falls, which with a 212-foot drop is higher than Niagara Falls.

On Wednesday morning it was time to say our goodbyes and move on to our next destinations. All agreed that this met all the elements of a perfect rally – beautiful location, nice weather, fun activities and great company.



Walk towards the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you!

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

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

Brett 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/](http://www.mcirv.com)

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

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

Emails: ronniewolfe78@gmail.com

dickalbritton@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPING

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.

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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@antelcom.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 :-)