



What's inside:

- Pg 1: President's Message
- Pg 2: Editor's Message
- Pg 3: Upcoming Rally's
New Members
- Pg 4: Request for Nominees
- Pg 5: Save the date
For Sale
- Pg 6: Alfa Tech Talk
- Pg 7: Easy Money
- Pg 8: Useful Sites
- Pg 9: Housekeeping
- Pg 10: AlfaSeeYas Store

On our GPS...

October 2019:

Alfa Owners Club Rally -
Buellton CA

FMCA 'news'

[FMCA's 100th International
Convention and RV Expo](#)

August 14 through August 17,
2019 in Minot, North Dakota!

Join thousands of RVers for
FMCA's 100th International
Convention & RV Expo. You'll
discover activities throughout
the 4-day event that will have
you grinning from ear to ear.

President's Message

by Larry York

Hope this newsletter finds you are well, and out enjoying your Alfa RVs.

As for Shirley and me, we decided to "chill out" (which is an oxymoron since we live in Southeast AZ – LOL!) and stay at home this summer. This is a rarity for us for most every summer since we bought our coach in late 2006, we have spent them exploring either the US or Canada.

In reflecting on our past trips, we have been truly blessed to experience what the RV lifestyle has afforded us to see and do over the years. Riding around a "cut off" iceberg in a small motorboat in Newfoundland; seeing the 30 and 40 foot tides and reversing falls in the Bay of Fundy; eating fresh "lobstah" with friends at a small campground in Kennebunk, MA; weathering a nor'easter while on the Outer Banks of North Carolina; watching chuck wagon races and a fabulous fireworks display at the Calgary Stampede on the 4th of July; getting caught in a herd of buffalo at Yellowstone; touring Plymouth, Jamestown, Boston, DC, Philadelphia, and Yorktown and seeing where significant milestones in our Country's history occurred; catching, cleaning, and eating Dungeness crab in Oregon; riding a jet boat up the Rogue River; eating shrimp and cheese grits in Savannah, GA; watching killer whales breach while in a boat on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; tasting wines all across the country; seeing the majestic mountains and glaciers of western Canada and Alaska; visiting MOTOWN Museum, the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and the Rouge Ford Plant; watching a stirring patriotic display at the base of Mount Rushmore one summer's evening; seeing Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens; eating "Q" in the Carolinas, TN, OK, MO, LA, and TX; watching the sunset from Sunset Pier in Key West; visiting Whitefish Point and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum near where the "Mighty Fitz" sank;



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

We have a variety of additions and updates to the AlfaSee Yas website.

I try and identify changes on the first page of the website but sometimes that doesn't work very well. (And if you don't have access to the internet you are not able to access the website anyway...) So, in a nutshell, here are a couple of the recent changes and items our President wants everyone to be aware of:

- We have updated the [Rules and Regulations page](#)
- We have [information for everyone](#) thinking of being a wagon master

Do **YOU** have anything you would like to have added to our newsletter?? I am but an email message away!

on and on....

I am probably boring you with all of this, but my point is that having an RV provides an opportunity many folks don't have, which is owning a platform that allows you to get out and enjoy all there is to see and do in America and Canada. Yes, you can fly to many of these places, but having a RV allows you to drive the backroads as well as the interstates and see and experience all that is in between. I am preaching to the choir, but maybe, just maybe, I am reaching out to someone who is a "weekend warrior" or a "point A to point B" type who needs a little prod to venture out and take in all that is out there. You will be glad you did!

Ok, ok, I'll get off my soap box.

So, what's going on in the Chapter?

We have published a revision to the Chapter's [Standing Rules](#) and a [Rally Guide](#) to assist first time rally wagon masters and to provide tips to prior rally wagon masters. Both documents have been posted to our Chapter website for your reading pleasure and URLs to access them are included in this newsletter.

On July 3rd, I sent letters and emails to all Chapter members notifying you that we will hold an election for the 2019-2020 *Nominating Committee* during a Chapter meeting at the October 7-11 joint AlfaSee Yas/Mavericks Rally at Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton, CA. In that notice, I asked that members who would like to run for the Committee should submit their names to me as soon as possible, but no later than September 16, 2019. So far, **I have ONE person who has agreed to be on the ballot.** I ask that you seriously consider stepping forward to run for and be on this important committee or nominate someone to be on the ballot. All actions needed to be accomplished by the Committee can be done by email and/or phone and should not require a lot of effort or time. Your support will be appreciated.

Randy and Terry Scott will be attending the FMCA Convention in Minot, ND August 14-17, 2019. If you are going to attend, please look them up. Who knows, Randy might spring for pizza. Randy will represent the Chapter at the Governing Board meeting. He will publish his report in the next newsletter.

Wagon Master Arnie Burr has arranged a Joint AlfaSeeYas/Mavericks Rally at the Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton, CA October 7-11, 2019. This rally is open to all makes of RVs, and those that attend do not have to be a member of either the Mavericks Chapter of the Alfa Owners' Club or the AlfaSeeYas Chapter of the FMCA. Initially, Arnie reserved 24 sites, but due to the influx of registrations, he has reserved an additional four sites for a total of 28 sites. As of publication of this newsletter, 21 registrations have been received. If you are considering attending this rally, I suggest you mail a check and your registration form in as soon as possible. Once all 28 sites are taken, a waiting list will be established in case there are cancellations, but don't count on cancellations. Please get your registration in now.

Ray Zimmermann, and Randy and Terry Scott are planning on attending the Rocky Mountain Area Rally October 17-20, 2019, at the Pima Fairgrounds in Tucson, AZ. If you are going, please contact them.

I am in the process of developing plans to hold a Chapter pre-rally in the Tucson area prior to the FMCA Winter Convention at the Pima Fairgrounds in Tucson. The FMCA Convention is scheduled for March 26-29, 2020. I am looking at March 21-24, 2020 for the pre-rally. Assuming we can arrange to go into the FMCA Convention a day early, AlfaSeeYas Chapter members and guests that will attend the convention will transition on the 25th. Registration for the FMCA Convention will open in September 2019. More information to follow.

After the FMCA Winter Convention, the Alfa Owners' Club will be holding their annual rally at America's Best Campground near Branson, MO April 26 – May 3, 2020. There was confusion when the rally dates and location were initially announced regarding campground reservations. All reservations with the campground will be made thru the Rally Master – not directly with the campground. Registration and information materials will be distributed later.

Safe Travels!

Upcoming Rallies:

October:

- **7 - 10 — Alfa Owners Club Rally - Buellton CA (Joint AlfaSeeYas/ Maverick Chapter Rally)**

New Members:

- **Paul and Rebecca Caryl, F496129, Spokane WA**
- **Michael and Cami Jones, F496286, Bonney Lake WA**
- **David Laws, F497054, Monroe LA**

Hear ye! Hear ye!

Notification of an Election and Request for Nominees

Per our AlfaSeeYas Chapter Standing Rules and By-Laws, during odd years the Chapter will hold an election for the Nominating Committee, and during even years an election will be held for Chapter officers: President, Vice President(s), Secretary, Treasurer, National Director and Alternate National Director.

As this is an odd year, we will hold an election for the Chapter Nominating Committee. The Committee will consist of no less than three and no more than five AlfaSeeYas Chapter members in good standing.

The election of the Nominating Committee will be for a two-year term and be held during a business meeting at the October 7 – 11, 2019 Joint AlfaSee Yas/Mavericks Rally at Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton, CA.

The duties of the Nominating Committee are:

- Select one of its members as Nominating Committee Chairman.
- Nominate candidate(s) for each of the Chapter Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, and Alternate National Director for the new term (2021 -2023) no later than October 1st, 2020 so that balloting will be completed by December 31st, 2020.
- Obtain clear acceptance of the nominees to serve the Chapter should they be elected.
- Make certain that nominated candidates are Members in good standing with the Chapter and the FMCA and qualified under applicable National and Chapter Bylaws.
- Nominate candidates to fill vacancies that may occur in elected Chapter Offices outside the normal election cycle.

Election of an individual to the Nominating Committee will not prohibit that person from being nominated for an elected Chapter officer position

Members seeking to run for the Nomination Committee and members who want to nominate someone to be on the ballot should submit names to Larry York via email at lyork5635@gmail.com no later September 16th, 2019.

Serving on the Nominating Committee is not a time-consuming major effort. All coordination and communication can be easily conducted via email and/or phone calls.

Please step forward or nominate someone.



2007 Alfa SeeYa So Long

Contact: kennethjayhall@aol.com
(561) 289-3205

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 7-10, 2019

Alfa See Yas has an outing scheduled for October 7-10, 2019 at Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton California. Buellton is located 43 miles north of Santa Barbra on Highway 101. Four miles to the east is Solvang, a town of Danish culture with modern shopping, dining and entertainment. There's a plethora of local wineries, breweries, and restaurants only moments away from the RV resort as well as Chumash Casino just 8 miles away. Weekday rates are around \$ 60 per night, group rate, plus taxes and weekends are higher. If you would like to arrive early or stay longer you will need to call Flying Flags, they will honor a 10% discount off retail for guests staying up to 3 days early or up to 3 dates later. Their phone number is 805-688-3716. This park has lots of swimming pools, bocce courts, sports courts and much more. I have made arrangements to Mendenhall's Museum across the street from the RV park, which is one of the largest collection of Automotive Petroliana in the country. There is Zaca Creek golf course only ½ mile from the park, which is a great walkable course of 9 holes.

I finalized the last details so here is link to the [Registration Form](#). I am looking forward to a good turnout, but spaces are limited so respond quickly.

Arnie Burr, Wagon Master

A journey is measured in friends, rather than miles.

- Tim Cahill

Alfa Tech Talk - by Dave Rympa

Alfa Charging Systems

There are basically 2 types of charge management systems in use on the Alfas from late 2002 to that last 2008 created. There are some anomalies - early 2002 were different, they had 4 instead of 6 batteries and I don't believe those real early coaches had a means of combining battery banks. Also, Founders with residential fridges installed at the factory generally (but not always) had the house and inverter batteries combined into a single bank up front (and only had one relay in the PathMaker).

Now to the basic systems:

Big Boy relays (2) and Bidirectional Isolator Relay Delay (BIRD) circuits (2) control the relays. I won't go into the nuances of voltage levels when the relays switch, but whenever the inverter bank is charged by the Xantrex charger (whether via generator or shore power), the first BIRD commands the inverter/house Big Boy relay to close (that BIRD has a sense wire connected to one of the inverter battery's 12 V terminals via a 5 A fuse (this is the infamous "orange wire"). When the 2nd BIRD (in the BCC) detects a charging voltage on the house batteries, it commands the other (chassis/house) Big Boy relay to close. Now all 3 banks are being charged by the Xantrex. This happens REGARDLESS of the position of the coach and chassis disconnect switches (so you can disconnect the battery disconnects and still charge all batteries when plugged into shore power (assuming the breakers under the fridge are on). If the engine alternator is providing a charging voltage, the direction is reversed, with the BCC's BIRD sensing charging voltage and closing the chassis/house relay, followed by the other BIRD sensing charge voltage on the house batteries and closing the house/inverter relay to charge the inverter and house batteries as well as the chassis batteries. Note the Xantrex charger has nothing to do with this path. Sitting across each of those Big Boy relays (in parallel with them) are manually operated knife switches that allow you to bypass the charging system and simulate the closing of the relays. With a properly operating charging system you should not close the knife switches to defeat the charging system. ONLY if you have a problem that can be temporarily solved by closing the knife switch (not normally both), should you consider doing so. That will result in ALL batteries being discharged when ONE bank is drained (not good if you like to start the engine!).

PathMaker charging system - In 2006 Alfa switched to the Xantrex PathMaker charging system which consists of a PathMaker controller including 2 relays and a rotary switch (some early 2006s have a single knife switch instead of a rotary switch). This single switch allows manual over-ride of the relay that connects the house to the inverter bank. There is NO way to manually connect the chassis batteries to either the house or inverter banks. The Aux switch just turns on the relay circuit to close the 2 relays when it is pressed momentarily (a second press will turn off the temporary relay closure). The effects of the Aux

it is pressed momentarily (a second press will turn off the temporary relay closure). The effects of the Aux switch last for 15 minutes, after which the relays are automatically dropped (or go back to automatic operation). The PathMaker always closes both relays whenever it senses a charging voltage on any of the battery banks. Note that, unlike the BIRDS, you can set the drop-out, cut-in and over-voltage settings for the relays to operate (3 rotary pots on the PathMaker - which is found under the upper step riser at the entrance door). Similar to the older system, the PathMaker will operate normally regardless of the position of the battery disconnects, so it will charge all battery banks as long as you have shore power to run the Xantrex charger.

There are a couple of common problems with both systems - the sense wire or the fuse holder to the inverter batteries for the first BIRD has a tendency to corrode. If your Big Boys start to clunk all the time, this is one of the first things to check. With the PathMaker, the relays can fail, especially if you spend time in salt air. When both relays fail, you cannot charge the chassis batteries with the Xantrex nor can you charge the house or inverter batteries with the engine alternator. You can temporarily bypass a single relay failure by closing the rotary switch to combine the house and inverter batteries; this give a path through the remaining good relay to the chassis batteries. BUT, if one relay fails, the other is surely not far behind! Keep an eye on them!

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

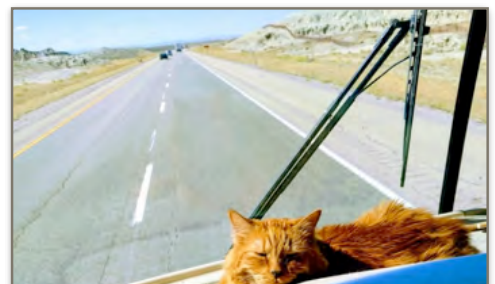
I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Easy Money

by Ray Zimmermann

Want to make \$35? If you have your last issue of the FMCA magazine, *Family RVing*, or when you receive your next issue, look at the feature called "Rear View" on the last page. You will see photos submitted by FMCA members. FMCA pays contributors \$35 for photos that are used.

I've had two photos published over the last several months. In the August 2018 issue, the magazine printed an old photo I submitted of some elk surrounding a motor home at the Grand Canyon RV park. In the January 2019 issue, you can see this photo of my cat Garfield, taken as we rolled through Wyoming this past summer.



So that's \$70 that I made - - more than enough to pay my FMCA dues for the year!

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 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

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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President	Larry York	lyork5635@gmail.com
Vice President	Randy Scott	rscott@antelcom.net
Secretary	Suzanne Conner	pappaconslady@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ray Zimmermann	rayzman89@gmail.com
National Director	Marvin Berry	berrymarvin@att.net
Alt. National Director	Dale Manners	ddmanners@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor (volunteer)	Jeannette Harper	budlinkjt@gmail.com
Website Administrator (volunteer)	Jeannette Harper	budlinkjt@gmail.com

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's 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 :-)