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On our GPS...

January 2020:

Western Area Rally - Indio CA

FMCA 'news'

FMCA's 100th International
 Convention and RV Expo

March 25 through March 29,
 2020 in Tucson Arizona

President's Message

by Larry York

Shirley and I hope that this newsletter finds you well and hopefully on the road enjoying your Alfa RV.

Since August, there has been a lot going on within the Chapter.

Randy and Terry Scott attended the FMCA Convention in Minot, ND August 14-17 as our Chapter's delegate to the Governing Board. The significant actions the Governing Board took were to approve the increase in FMCA membership dues to offset the significant rate increase for the FMC Assist benefit and the election of National Officers. You will find details about the Convention and the Governing Board Meeting in Randy's report later in this newsletter.

Of the 24 rigs that attended the October 7-10 Joint AlfaSee Yas/ Mavericks Chapter Rally at the Flying Flags Resort and Campground in Buellton, CA, 15 were AlfaSee Yas Chapter rigs – excellent representation. Subsequent to the rally, John and Rita Brower joined the Chapter after winning a free initial initiation fee and one-year membership during the Chapter meeting. Ray Zimmermann's summary of the rally is included in this newsletter. Arnie and Emily Burr, members of both the AlfaSee Yas and the Mavericks Chapters, were the wagon masters. Mark and Margaret McGuire, also members of both Chapters, assisted them. A very special thank you goes out to all of them for organizing and executing a great rally! [[View pictures here...](#)]

During the rally, Randy held a Chapter business meeting to elect the Chapter's Nominating Committee for 2019 - 2020. Jeannette Harper, Mark McGuire, and Leigh Conner were elected. Thank you for stepping up to fill this important committee.

October 17-20, the Scotts, Conners, Whaleys, Filipczaks, and Ray Zimmermann attended the Rocky Mountain Area Ramble at the



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

In this issue we are sharing notice from FMCA regarding the recent dues increase for membership. Information can be found on the SeeYas website including a copy of the [FMCA President's message](#). There is also a new procedure all Wagonmasters need to be aware of! We have copies of both the ['Rally Guide'](#) and ['Rally Insurance Requirements'](#) available on the website and here.

It is hard to believe November is here, soon it will be December and shortly after that, we begin a new year! 2020 seems an 'oddity' to me but hey, I remember when we went from 1999 to 2000! (Has it REALLY been 20 years?)

You will see in this issue we have listed 3 models of Alfa's "For Sale"...

Happy trails y'all!

Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, AZ. An article about this rally is also in this newsletter.

Upcoming in 2020 are:

The Western Area Rally at the fairgrounds in Indio, CA, is January 8-12, 2020. Those that are planning on going please contact Randy Scott, (661) 256-3507, and meet him at the Spotlight 29 Casino RV parking lot on the January 6th, then caravan into the fairgrounds with Randy the morning of the 7th (a day early). Make sure you ask for 25-30-amp electric service when registering for the Western Area Rally so that you will be parked with other AlfaSeeYas.

While we are at the South Loafers' Chapter outing January 22-26, 2020 at Black Rock RV Village in Brenda, AZ (about 20 miles from Quartzsite), we will have an AlfaSeeYas Chapter business meeting. Date, time, and location of the meeting will be sent out later. So, if you are in the area, come on over you might win a free two-years extension of your membership dues. BTW – there is a great Mexican food place (Dos Amigos) a few miles down the road from the RV park.

March 26-29, 2020, is the FMCA 101st Convention and RV Expo at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, AZ. On-line registration is now open. All the 50 and 30-amp full hookup sites are filled, but as of this writing, all other parking options are available. We had considered having a Pre-FMCA Convention Rally in either west Phoenix or south Tucson, but the RV parks in the area were full so we have decided to not have a pre-convention rally. If you have made reservations or plan on registering for the Convention, please contact me (email preferred lyork5635@gmail.com) or call or text (520) 266-0045 (leave a message if no answer) and tell me what parking you have requested, and what day you plan on going into the Convention. We will try to set up a social gathering during the Convention – who knows, we might spring for pizza if we can get it delivered.

The Alfa Owners' Club Annual Rally will be April 26-May 3, 2020 at America's Best Campground in Branson, MO. Please do not contact the park directly for reservations. All reservations with the campground will be made thru the Rally Master. Reservation forms and information are anticipated to be released soon.

When they are, we will blast an email to everyone, and post it on our Chapter's website, the Alfa Facebook pages and the groups.io forum.

I know it is a bit early, but since the next newsletter will not be until early 2020, Shirley and I wish you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and very Happy New Year! Safe travels and hope to "See Ya" down the road!

Upcoming Rallies:

January:

- 8 - 12 — 32nd Western Area Rally - Indio CC

February:

- 5 - 8 — Southeast Area Rally - Lakeland FL

March:

- 26 - 29 — FMCA 101st International Convention - Tuscon AZ

New Members:

- David & Lynn Bear, F499223, Statesville, North Carolina
- John & Rita Brower, F502911, Exeter, California
- Jim & Teresa Dall, F183434, Crestview, Florida
- Jack Marshall & Vera Laintz, F502398, Novato, California
- Karl & Janet Oaten, F502044, Ocala, Florida

Final Journey:

AlfaSeeYas has been notified of the death of the following member. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

Donita Sanchez, F370693, wife of Ernie Sanchez, Pleasant Hill, CA

Hear ye! Hear ye!**The Nominating Committee is seeking CANDIDATES!!!**

Are you looking for an opportunity to become more active in our Chapter?? If so, the Nominating Committee would like to hear from you! ALL Chapter Officer positions are up for election. Contact Mark McGuire, Leigh Conner or Jeannette Harper if you **a.)** want more information or **b.)** would like to nominate someone (including yourself). And, if you are an existing office wanting to continue in either your current position or another, contact us!

**2003 Alfa SeeYa 38'**

Contact: Norm Harper

Web Info: <http://alfa4sale.budlink.us>**2007 Alfa SeeYa So Long**Contact: kennethjayhall@aol.com

(561) 289-3205

2008 Alfa FounderContact: heliel@aol.com

(818) 889-8804

Web Info: http://alfaseeyas.com/pdf/Burrows_MH4Sale.pdf

The police officer got out of his car as the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. 'I've been waiting for you all day,' the officer said.

The kid replied, 'Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could.'

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

Report on FMCA Convention (Aug 14 - 17 in Minot ND) **by Randy Scott, Chapter Vice President**

Since our Chapter National Director and Alternate National Director were both unable to attend this convention, and my wife and I were going to be traveling this summer anyway, I volunteered and was chosen to represent our chapter at the convention. Specifically, to be our chapter voting member at the annual FMCA Governing Board meeting to be held on the first day of the convention. As you should be aware, while FMCA does have National and Area officers, FMCA is governed by its members - which is done via the annual Governing Board meetings. So, it is important for each chapter to have a representative at these annual meetings, and our chapter strives to do so each year. Note also that while each chapter is allowed only one voting representative, other members are allowed to attend the meeting, and it can be very interesting and informative to hear the deliberations and the ensuing decisions made by the Board - especially on controversial subjects.

We actually arrived on Aug 12 (as that was what FMCA recommended when we registered as Governing Board members). However, there were many others who arrived that day too - so it took us 3 hours to get parked! Usually FMCA conventions are much speedier than that, but the good news is that we had 50 Amp power already at our parking space. The weather during the convention (by the way, this was FMCA's 100th Convention!) was mild - nice temperatures and some late showers several days. We were fine parked on asphalt, but there were some folks who were parked on dirt, and they did get mud for several days. I had heard that while we would not encounter the cold winters that Minot is know for, that we would likely be "attacked" by mosquitoes, so we prepared by taking all kinds of repellents and sprays with us (!), but we didn't see a one! I did ask one of the local folks how much snow do they really get during the winter - she said not too much, but that it doesn't melt for a long time. For example, the highest temperature they had for the previous month of February was minus 12 degrees F! Minot in a fairly big town, so there are obviously a lot of folks who are able to deal with those conditions.

There were almost 1800 RVs at this convention (both motorhomes and towables), which pretty much filled up the North Dakota Fairgrounds facility. Overall, the convention was very well done, with lots of commercial displays, plenty of coaches for sale (including 5th wheels), and good entertainment during the days and evenings. All the FMCA conventions we've attended have been well done - I would certainly recommend you attend as many as you are able!

The rest of my report is regarding the Governing Board meeting held Aug 14, at which I represented our AlfaSee Yas chapter. On August 13, they held a National Directors Briefing and a National Directors Workshop - I went to both of those and they were very helpful to understand the issues that were going to be presented at the meeting on the 14th. I also attended the candidates' forum on Aug 13 - where the candidates for the FMCA National Offices all spoke and answered questions from attendees. All these meetings were very informative, and a good preparation for the Governing Board meeting on Aug 14.

The Governing Board meeting started at 9 am (we had to be there by 8 to register), took a lunch break, and went to about 6:30 pm that day. There were a number of controversial subjects with considerable discussion, so it was no surprise that it lasted that long. There were 253 chapter voting reps at the Governing Board meeting, out of a total possible of 358. The following is my summary of the primary items addressed at the Board meeting.

- The primary issue at the Governing Board meeting was FMCAssist – whether to keep it included as a part of FMCA membership, and how to pay for it. By now, you may have already read several articles on this topic – our Chapter President Larry York send out an email shortly after the meeting, FMCA sent out an email, and it has been discussed in the FMCA magazine. I won't repeat much of what has already been said, but briefly describe the highlights of what went on at the meeting. At both the National Directors Workshop, and then again at the Governing Board meeting, it was universally agreed by the attendees that FMCAssist was a great program and we wanted to keep it – especially since a number of members had benefitted from it (and we know several of our own chapter members who have used it and have been very satisfied), it is a great membership recruiting tool, and many would probably drop their FMCA membership if it wasn't included. Since the company providing FMCAssist (Seven Corners) had provided an unexpected late increase in their premiums, there was now a considerable shortage in the proposed FMCA budget. Plus, since FMCAssist was added back in as a part of FMCA membership in 2014 (I was at that Governing Board meeting that approved doing so), over \$2 million has had to be taken out of FMCA reserve funds to pay for it – bringing the reserve funds well below what they should be. Many options were discussed as to how to best pay for it, and it really narrowed down that the best option was to increase member dues. The FMCA risk management and financial folks had analyzed the costs of numerous options, and for the one to raise dues, since so many members having prepaid dues for multiple years (something like 80% of members have prepaid dues or are lifetime members), and that there likely could be fewer renewals and new registrations if dues are raised, they had calculated that it would take a \$25 increase in yearly dues. By the way, it was noted that Good Sam has a similar program, and their introductory rate is \$60 for 6 months! After several hours of discussions, and a thorough presentation and review of all the options and alternatives, the vast majority (including myself) voted for the dues increase as the best way to move forward. Effective Sept 1, 2019, dues will be raised to \$75 per year - for folks just joining FMCA the first year will be \$85. For those wanting to pay for several years in advance, there will be a proportionate discount per year, similar to what there is now, however it was decided that payment of multi-year dues would be limited to 3 years in the future. Also, The FMCA Risk Management Committee had already been tasked to investigate if there are any other companies that could provide similar coverage, and what their costs may be.
- Election of FMCA National officers: There was a candidate's forum on Aug 12 (which I also attended) wherein each candidate was given several minutes to talk, then the attendees were able to ask questions (and each nominee for the two offices with multiple candidates were to answer the same ones). Then, at the Governing Board meeting, for each office, the candidate(s) were announced, further nominations from the floor requested (there were none for any office), and then the candidate(s) for each office was

given a minute to speak on their own behalf. The results were: Jon Walker was re-elected as President by acclamation since no one opposed him; Percy Bell withdrew his candidacy for Vice President and Rett Porter was elected; Kathie Balogh was elected Secretary; and John Reynolds was re-elected as Treasurer by acclamation, as no one opposed him.

- The number of voting memberships to establish a chapter was changed from 20 to 15, and the number of voting memberships to establish an associate chapter was changed from 10 to 7. It is hoped that this will allow establishment of some more chapters.
- A change was made to allow chapters to change their bylaws (if desired) to combine the chapter officer positions of secretary and treasurer (some chapters are already doing this). We've informally talked about this for our AlfaSeeYas chapter in the past, so if we ever decide to do so, then it will be allowed.
- Information was presented concerning future FMCA International Conventions. FMCA President Jon Walker emphasized that FMCA is not going to go to locations where there is a good possibility that they will lose money - i.e., they will look at any location at which they may be able to make a profit (and encouraged members to suggest future sites that may do so). He also said members are emphasizing their desire that conventions have more opportunities for electrical power sites (note: for this convention, they brought in generators that powered many sites at 50 amps and many others at 30 amps) - and even full hookups.

a. At the meeting, some members expressed concern that August was too late for a convention - especially since kids/grandkids are starting school - but Jon Walker and others said they have had kids activities planned for last several conventions and none have shown up! Also, many of the potential sites have Regional or State Fairs competing for the time (e.g., the North Dakota State Fair was at this Minot convention site - and it ended only 4 days prior to the arrival of the initial FMCA convention contingent - the State Fairgrounds manager was one of the welcoming speakers at this meeting, and she told us of the great workload to have the two events so close to each other in time!).

b. FMCA is attempting to plan conventions further ahead to give folks more time to plan (as has been requested). However, there are certain lead times/approval times that locations have, that are beyond control of FMCA. For example, it was noted that they have been awaiting approval from the New York Governor's office for some time for the Syracuse convention.

(continued on page 11...)

U.S. Congress Considers Changes To RVers' Satellite Service

Randy Scott would like everyone to be aware of something that 'might' affect you as you motor across the U.S. He has shared an article from the November 2019 *Family Motoring* magazine.

In the article it talks about how the "*Satellite Home Viewer Act*" is set to expire at the end of 2019 - unless Congress acts to reauthorize it. If you don't have your *Family Motoring* magazine handy, here is a [copy of the article...](#)

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



c. The locations announced were (note, dates were only announced for the 2020 ones, and those locations all starting in 2021 are pending successful negotiations):

- Winter 2020 in Tucson, AZ (Pima County fairgrounds) Mar 26-29
 - Summer 2020 in Syracuse, NY (fairgrounds) Jul 29-Aug 2 (pending State approval)
 - Winter 2021 in Perry, GA
 - Summer 2021 in Gillette, WY
 - Winter 2022 in Tucson, AZ
 - Summer 2022 in Lincoln, NE or Sedalia, MO
 - Winter 2023 in Perry, GA
 - Summer 2023 in Lincoln, NE or Sedalia, MO
 - Summer 2024 in Gillette, WY
 - Summer 2027 in Gillette WY (Note: they are working on a multi-year contract to use Gillette, WY)
- Last year's Governing Board directed the Policy and Procedure committee to recommend changes to have FMCA not reimburse for much of the National Area VP travel - such as for their travel to chapter rallies, Area Rally site selection visits, etc. Apparently this was to save money at the National level. However, all the Executive Board members (National officers and Area VPs) heatedly disagreed with the resulting recommended changes - especially since they would then have to pull those funds out of the very limited Area budgets, and FMCA was already proposing a balanced budget (outside of having to pay for FMCAssist). Also, FMCA President Jon Walker emphasized that he has been asking Area VPS to visit more chapters more often and this amendment would limit them doing so. This proposal was defeated.
 - There was considerable discussion of the proposed FMCA budget (in addition to the discussions concerning paying for FMCAssist). This included the FMCA monthly magazine – that usually is losing money (although actually made money the previous month) – but is often cited as one of the three top benefits members get from FMCA (plus is a good recruiting tool when folks leave them at campgrounds, etc.). Also, discussions included a proposal to purchase new software to run the association (as well as the web site for members, membership info, etc.). There was a briefing by the FMCA IT folks (on both how bad the current software is, and how they had thoroughly researched numerous companies to provide a replacement), and the company (Protech) they were proposing to purchase the software from – for \$285,000 – which also comes with a lower monthly maintenance fee than the current software. It was eventually concluded that the IT folks had done a good job of selecting a new company, and that the purchase would be funded as a capital improvement for which FMCA could obtain a loan at a lower interest rate than they were earning with their investments.
 - There were several proposals to change the National Candidates nomination process, including how to assess candidate qualifications, but then the Nomination Committee chair reminded everyone that the FMCA bylaws require only that a candidate be an FMCA member, and not have an interest in an

FMCA commercial activity. Everyone agreed that the Policies and Procedures need to be rewritten to reflect this, and delete all the other extraneous details.

There were a number of minor changes approved by the Governing Board, which included:

- Delegation from the Governing Board to the Executive Board to set Commercial Member fees
- Changes to the Area bylaws format
- Revision to the deadline to get proposals to the Executive Board – from 14 to 3 days (via email works fine)
- Area VPs need to get yearly tax return documents to FMCA national
- FMCA National Officer candidates materials cannot contain anything that might imply endorsement by FMCA
- A change to allow chapters to not charge its members dues (previously bylaws said chapters "shall" - now says chapters "may"), as apparently some chapters don't need to charge dues, as they don't have expenses.
- A change to allow the Commercial Council elections via email, and require them to meet only twice a year – at the International Conventions

There were several items of interest in committee reports and previously decided/recommended at Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings, to include:

- Approve a partnership with TCS fuel, a fuel discount provider. The partnership would allow FMCA members the option to receive discounts on diesel fuel at in-network locations using an FMCA-branded prepaid discount card. This could result in savings of between 5 cents and 75 cents per gallon. This card will require that members pre-load it with funds to use it. Note: FMCA has since sent an email to members about this program, with further details and a link to sign up for it.
- Approve a partnership with Proteng Distribution, Inc. to offer FMCA members exclusive pricing on Proteng's self-contained fire suppression device.
- Approve a partnership with ToGo - an RV-centric mobile app provider
- A recommendation to not renew the partnership with RV Pet Safety/Nimble wireless which expired Aug 12, 2019 – but then they announced they may renegotiate it.
- Establish a partnership with Briter Products LLC for lithium-ion batteries - to include discounts to members and free analysis of what it will take to install them in a member's RV.
- The title of FMCA "Executive Director" was changed to "CEO" - with no change in duties
- While not controversial, it should be noted that a change that wasn't in the booklet, but was proposed and approved, was to merge and change the name of the "Member's Handbook" into the "FMCA Policies and Procedures." Most of the changes discussed at the Governing Board meeting were to the FMCA Policies and Procedures (P&P), and it is confusing to many where the Members Handbook comes into play.

AlfaSeeYas, Mavericks Hold Joint Rally in Buellton, California

by Ray Zimmermann

Twenty-four coaches, mostly Alfas but also “some other brands,” gathered in Buellton, California in early October for a joint rally of the AlfaSeeYas Chapter and the Mavericks Alfa Owners Club Chapter. Wagon Masters Arnie and Emily Burr, who like many of the attendees are members of both chapters, organized a



fun-filled four days of activity at the Flying Flags RV Resort, an upscale park offering many on-site amenities and a location close to various attractions on the California Central Coast.

As usual, a key part of these rallies is good fellowship and good food. The activities started on Monday evening with happy hour followed by a welcome dinner— chili and baked

potatoes with all the fixings, prepared by the wagon masters. Socializing and eating continued with coffee and plentiful breakfast goodies each morning, and a special treat on Thursday when Larry and Marty Finton prepared a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits and gravy.

Each chapter conducted a business meeting during the rally, but days were mostly left open to enjoy the features of the RV resort or explore the local area. And everyone found lots to do – golf, numerous wineries and tasting rooms, farmers’ markets and the nearby Danish-themed town of Solvang, with its many shops and restaurants. Fans of the movie “Sideways” recognized that many of the scenes were filmed in the area, including at several places right around the RV park.



Rally goers had a special experience on Wednesday evening, when they had a private tour of the very unusual Mendenhall Museum, located across the street from the RV park. The museum has a world-class collection of “petroliana” – gasoline pumps, globes, and porcelain gas, oil and road signs from days gone by. There were also some race cars and racing memorabilia, unusual vehicles and various antiques. Arnie had scheduled the visit for the evening, when all the signs and gas pump globes were illuminated in an impressive display of neon.



The rally concluded on Thursday evening with a potluck dinner, followed by a pumpkin decorating contest. Rally goers showed a lot of creativity in their entries, including one “pumpkin” made from

horseshoes. Prizes were awarded to the top three entries, plus special recognition for an Arnie Burr look-a-like pumpkin.

Attendees departed on Friday morning wondering where the time had gone, but it seemed that all agreed that the Burrs had arranged a most successful and enjoyable rally.

Join Your Fellow Alfa Owners at a Rally!

by Ray Zimmermann

As you are probably aware, the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) holds two international conventions each year, plus numerous area rallies around the country. The Rocky Mountain Area held their rally in Tucson, Arizona in October, so several of us who live in this part of the country decided to attend as a group. We consisted of four Alfas, plus one other chapter member parked with a different group.

This event was typical of most of the area rallies, with 294 member coaches in attendance. There were about three dozen vendors selling their wares, and local RV dealers had many new motorhomes and towables on display (and for sale, of course). Seminars were held on a variety of topics. Meals included in the rally included full catered breakfasts on three of the mornings, plus a ladies luncheon and a picnic lunch. Rally goers enjoyed musical entertainment on two evenings.

The rally was held at the Pima County Fairgrounds, which will be the site of FMCA's 101st International Convention March 26-30, 2020. To my knowledge, FMCA has never held an annual event at this venue before and since several of us are planning to attend the March convention, this was a good chance to check out the facility. When an international convention was last held in Arizona, at Chandler in 2017, over 2700 coaches attended, so it will be interesting to see what happens in March. The Fairgrounds does appear adequate to accommodate such an event.

Another rally coming up soon is the FMCA Western Area Rally in Indio, California, January 6-12, 2020. This one is always much larger than the typical area rally, usually drawing 800-900 coaches, plus lots more vendors than usually found at an area rally.

FMCA conventions and rallies are fun to attend, and even more fun when you attend with a group of other Alfa owners. If you would like to join us at either the Indio rally or Tucson convention, be on the lookout for emails asking who is interested. In the meantime, you can register these events on fmca.com.

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 :-)