



What's inside:

- Pg 1: President's Message
- Pg 2: Editor's Message
- Pg 5: Final Journey
 Song Title Contest
- Pg 6: Alfa's For Sale
- Pg 7: Article: Tires
- Pg 9: Useful Sites
- Pg 10: Recipe
- Pg 11: Housekeeping
- Pg 12: Article: Tires
- Pg 14: AlfaSeeYas Store

On our GPS...

April 2021:

AOC Rally in Branson MO has been rescheduled for 2021!

FMCA 'news'

Cancelled events through August 2020...

President's Message

by Larry York

We hope that all is well with you and your family, and that some of you are enjoying your coaches regardless of the current situation.

We have been spending our time this spring and summer hanging out mostly around the house and getting lots of odd jobs completed that have been piling up over the years. We were fortunate to spend a couple of weeks of quality time with our Granddaughter in May. Mid-June, we had friends and family over to celebrate a couple of milestones at one time – our 50th Wedding Anniversary, and Shirley's 70th birthday. In July, we had planned to attend our Granddaughter's rescheduled High School and Technical School (Veterinary Tech) graduations. However, her Tech School ceremonies were cancelled all together, and the High School ceremony was held virtually. So, we met at our youngest Son's place in San Tan, AZ and had a celebration party for her. Adrianna was the Valedictorian of her High School! All her hard work and perseverance paid off. It was so sad though for her to not have any graduation ceremony. Hopefully, she will look back on this time and make something positive from it. Also, in July we acquired a new family member – Maggie, a two-month-old Shitzu puppy! We will never forget the joy that Molly gave us, but I am sure Maggie will fill the void we have in our hearts. August will find us saying our farewells to Adrianna as she leaves for College Station to attend Texas A&M where she hopes to become a large animal veterinarian and work at a zoo. Bet you did not get how we came up with the name "Maggie".

Enough about us and our family.

The end of May, FMCA's Executive President, Jon Walker, sent a letter to the Chapter National Directors, Alternate National Directors, and Presidents that I thought would be of interest to



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

This issue we're talking about TIRES! (And many things related to tires...) We have a couple articles for you to peruse.

Hopefully you and yours are staying healthy and safe.

You all received a 'special' flyer about our need for people to step up and volunteer their time as officers of our chapter. Come on! Talk to one of the existing officers if you are thinking of taking on an officer position but are unsure...

No one contacted me to say they had figured out all (or even some) of the song titles I gave you in the last newsletter. You will find the answers in this edition.

Happy trails y'all!

you given the convention cancellations and how the governance of FMCA is adjusting and adapting. The following is an excerpt of his letter:

"I hope this note finds you well. What a strange time we live in these days. We have had some questions come up that I would like to address with you in this communication.

What are we going to do concerning the summer convention being cancelled as it relates to the annual Governing Board meeting? After consulting with our FMCA attorney, our FMCA parliamentarian, the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the chairman of the Policy & Procedure Committee, it is not possible to have the Governing Board meeting unless it is held in person. Since we cannot meet in person, we cannot have the meeting.

Our Bylaws state that we can have a chapter meeting via electronic means; we can have an area meeting via electronic means; and, we can have an Executive Board meeting via electronic means. The Bylaws do not explicitly state that we can have a Governing Board meeting via electronic means. Robert's Rules of Order indicate that if electronic permission is not stated, then there cannot be an electronic meeting. FMCA Bylaws then state that the Executive Board acts in the absence of the Governing Board until its next physical meeting.

FMCA's attorney then investigated Ohio law (where FMCA is incorporated). He told me that the state law could "trump" Robert's Rules of Order. The problem is that the Ohio law clearly states that any electronic meeting has to be conducted where all participants can simultaneously have aural communications. This means that everyone has to be able to hear and speak at the same time. Our attorney says that this would not be feasible for a group of our size.

What do we do about the transition of office for the five new National Area Vice Presidents? Again, our lawyer was consulted. He quoted our Bylaws which state "The President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of FMCA shall be elected for a two-year term. These officers and the Area Vice Presidents shall take office immediately following the Annual Membership Meeting in the year in which they are elected." We established the date of the Annual Meeting many months ago as being August 29, 2020. The newly elected officers, even though they have already been elected via mail ballot by their respective areas, according to the usual procedure, (see the published results in this packet) will assume their office on August 29, 2020. The fact that the Annual Membership

meeting is not being held has no bearing on the assumption of duties.

What happens between now and the next scheduled Governing Board meeting in Gillette, Wyoming in 2021? The Executive Board will continue to act on your behalf until that time. I have invited the newly elected AVPs to sit in on all official FMCA meetings. All official FMCA meetings are being posted on the Governance section of our website -- <https://governance.fmca.com/> I would encourage you to consult your elected AVP on all matters that he/she will be voting on. Any FMCA member is welcome to observe any meeting of FMCA, and we have made arrangements for members to do so. I would hope that your AVP would stay in touch with each of you between now and next summer.

Your FMCA Finance Committee will be starting their work on Monday, June 1, 2020, in a workshop session. Their official meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020. Their job is critical this year because of the terrible financial consequences of cancelling two international conventions. We have come from having a small positive financial condition this past year to being financially devastated now. We have had to let fifteen staff members go. All of the remaining staff are working from their homes. You should be very proud of your FMCA staff and how they are keeping up with the work of your Association in these troubling times.

My charge to the Finance Committee is to come up with a balanced budget, based upon our situation as we find ourselves in today. The committee has been given a very hard, but important task: to determine what we must live without in order to survive. I am confident that the members of this committee will bring a document to the table that will serve the best interests of FMCA...."

FMCA, like many large social and service organizations, have been hit hard by the mandates executed to impede the spread of the COVI-19 virus, and the resulting negative impacts of significantly reduced/negative cash flow from cancelled conventions, values, interest and dividends from investments, the economy and employment. From Jon's letter, you can see that the Executive Board is not sitting on their hands and worrying about things that are outside their sphere of control. They are working hard to figure out how to get FMCA through this and move on.

As a follow-up to Jon's letter, the Executive Board continues to meet to identify and evaluate alternatives to achieve a balanced budget with minimal impact to membership benefits. More to follow.

Shifting gears... Dale Prichard shared on the groups.io forum that Skip Huffman was diagnosed with Covid-19 a few weeks ago and has had a lengthy battle with it having gone in and out of ICU a couple of times. Last update from Dale on June 23rd was that he is improving – tired, but alert. Lexie was tested 12 days after Skip went to the hospital. Her test was negative, meaning she no longer had it if she had it, but was not tested for anti-bodies. Their son, Greg is there and will remain there until Skip can walk around the block without stopping. Rehab has not been scheduled but expected to be in a week or two. The virus really hit him hard. Please keep Skip and his family in your thoughts and prayers. **Skip hang in there and get well soon!**

On a positive note, sincere thanks go out to Craig McDowell, Linda Pearson, and Lou Holveck for volunteering to be on the Audit Committee and conducting an audit of the Chapter's 2019 financials per the Chapter's By-Laws. The Committee had planned to have a face-to-face audit during the April 2020 Alfa Owners' Club Annual Rally in Branson, MO; however, due to the cancellation of the Rally, the audit was conducted the week of May 24, 2020 electronically, with Ray posting his records on-line and the Audit Committee reviewing his records on-line. Communications between the Committee were facilitated by email

Committee reviewing his records on-line. Communications between the Committee were facilitated by email exchanges. The Committee found that the Chapter's financial records were complete and in order, and there were no recommendations for improvement. Their audit was documented in a letter prepared by the Audit Committee Chairperson, Craig McDowell, coordinated with the Committee members, and submitted to me on May 29, 2020. A copy of this letter was provided to Ray Zimmermann for his files. If you would like to review the report, please contact Ray, and he will share it with you. A special thank you goes out to Ray for continuing to maintain and organize the Chapter's financial records in a manner that allowed the Audit Committee to conduct their on-line review with minimal effort and time.

In spite, of the numerous and stressful challenges we are being faced with today, please remember "keep calm and chive on".

Hope to "See Ya" down the road!

Hear ye! Hear ye!

By now, you all will have received a flyer from the Nominating Committee. We hope some of you are considering stepping up and taking on one of the roles of officers in our chapter. Yes??? If you are straddling the line of 'should I?' or even 'could I?' - please take a moment and contact one of the current officers and ask them any questions you might have about the position you are considering!!

The clock IS ticking....



Upcoming Rallies:

Until further notice, all rallies have been cancelled. Hopefully we will have good news once the quarantine and 'shelter in place' is lifted...

Final Journey:

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

Ed Burrows, F192818, husband of Hellen Burrows, Agoura Hills CA

Charlotte Finch, F106382, wife of Bill Finch, Sequin TX

Carl Stiffler, F342923, husband of Connie Stiffler, Strawberry AZ
(former member from 2004 - 2018)

Sharon Wood, F352384, wife of Jerry Wood, Henderson NV
(former member from 2004 - 2017)

Song Title Contest...

So, did any of you guess the 10 song titles?? (No one contacted me with their answers 😞 so I don't know if we have any 'winners'...) Just in case some of you participated and are wanting the answers, here they are:

10: TBAMFW - These Boots Are Made For Walkin (Nancy Sinatra)

09: IHITTG - I Heard It Through The Grapevine (Marvin Gaye)

08: LLITS - Love Letters In The Sand (Pat Boone)

07: WULS - Wake Up Little Susie (Everly Brothers)

06: IWAVGY - It Was A Very Good Year (Frank Sinatra)

05: SBYM - Stand By Your Man (Tammy Wynette)

04: IWTHYH - I Want To Hold Your Hand - Beatles

03: LMT - Love Me Tender - Elvis Presley

02: IWTL - I Walk The Line - Johnny Cash

01: MAMOT - Memories Are Made Of This - Dean Martin



2007 Alfa SeeYa So Long
Contact: kennethjayhall@aol.com
(561) 289-3205

2008 Alfa Founder
Contact: heliel@aol.com
(818) 889-8804

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

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks?'

Why is it that, no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Tires!

by Jeannette Harper, Ray Zimmermann, Randy Scott

We all use them and truly, we all need them! It is amazing the number of manufacturers offering tires for our RV's, pickup trucks, ATV's, family sedan and more! But... how do you know WHICH tire or manufacturer is the best for your needs??

Recently, there has been a slew of email messages on the Alfa mail list about this very subject. The April 2020 issue of TrailerLife Magazine had a wonderful article about the same subject! (The April 2020 MotorHome magazine went into detail about wheel alignment.)

So, what is the first thing you need to know when looking for new tires?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What type of tires does my vehicle need?
- How many miles will the tires I want to buy last?
- How much do I want to pay?
- Should I replace or upgrade my existing tires?

Types of tires include:

- All-Season
- All-Terrain
- Low Profile
- Mud
- Snow/Winter
- Performance

Do you know how to read your existing tire numbers?? I didn't... The first number indicates the tire's diameter in inches (our RV tires are a much larger number which represents the diameter in millimeters) while the next number represents the width. If there is an 'R', that tells you the tire is a radial tire. The last number is the diameter and is in inches. If your tire also has an LT that means 'Light Truck' while a P stands for 'Passenger'. If you see a **snowflake** that is considered a snow/winter tire.

Keep in mind, you will see a manufacture date. Hubby and I learned you can have great tread on your tires but if the tires are 'old' the rubber will be deteriorated to a point you take the chance of a blowout... and NO ONE wants that!! For most RV owners, tires will age out before they wear out. Different tire manufacturers have different recommended years that the tires will last – typically between 6 to 8 to even 10 years – but they often recommend as tires age, that you take your RV to a knowledgeable tire dealer to make sure they are still safe.

Something very crucial to your vehicle, regardless of size, is wheel alignment. When tires are straight with each other and ride the road equally, your tires perform to their optimal best. You will also enjoy a smooth ride and longer tire life!

Another 'major' item about tires is the tire pressure. You will find the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure for your car (or RV) on a sticker in the door jamb, in your owner's manual and even on some tires. (Some manufacturers even place the stickers on the trunk lid, in the console or on the fuel door. Your purchase document may also have important tire pressure information.)... Keeping all the tires at their 'optimum' pressure is the key safer driving and keeping your tires from failing prematurely

Along with having the right tires as well as a correct wheel alignment, you should also be aware of weight load. Every vehicle has a sticker that identifies the **maximum** weight for that vehicle. In our RV's we should be taking into consideration the weight of fuel, water, food, and all the other 'goodies' we bring on our road trips or add onto our coaches. And lastly, we need to also add our own weight as passengers into the equation. A small amount over is not a big thing but a whole lot over and you might start asking yourself what can be left home. (Many experts suggest an annual 'weigh in' – some places are free of cost like empty weigh stations along most major highways...)

For large vehicles such as motor homes, it is preferable to do what is called four-corner weighing, since there are different weight limits for each axle. If you go to RV rallies, you will often find vendors there who perform this type of weighing. Once you know your weights, you can consult the tire manufacturer's inflation chart to find the recommended tire pressure for each axle. You can obtain a better ride and tire wear by inflating to the appropriate pressure for your weight, rather than the maximum pressure shown on the sidewall of the tire. (Note: Both left- and right-side tires on each axle should be inflated to the same pressure. Also, a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) is highly recommended – for both the RV as well as the towing or towed vehicle – that will have a display in the dash area of your vehicle. The newer ones monitor both tire pressure and temperature. Many will indicate if you have a slow leak, and temperature can be important to indicate if you may have a dragging brake, etc. There are a number of different TPMS brands on the market – there are occasional articles in RV magazines reviewing them, plus many of the major RV shows have multiple vendors so you can compare them yourself.

As members of the FMCA, we have an added benefit of discounted tire purchases. Hubby and I have utilized this benefit twice - once for our Alfa and once for our Chevy pick-up. Plus, you can get passenger car tires for several tire brands through FMCA. There are several tire brands that different RV owners prefer (such as Michelin, Toyo and Continental, to name a few), but we would highly recommend that you not "skimp" on quality by buying inexpensive brands – as we have members who have experienced multiple blowouts with less expensive tires, and the resulting damage to the motorhome more than made up for any cost savings in the tire purchase, not to mention the potential danger of blowouts – especially in the front!

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

A yummy recipe - No-Fuss Focaccia

Jeannette Harper (thanks to King Arthur Flour)

Ingredients:

2 tbsp olive oil (to drizzle into the pan)

1 1/2 c warm water

3 tbsp olive oil (for the dough)

1 1/4 tsp salt

3 1/2c all-purpose flour

1 tbsp instant yeast

Pizza seasoning or dried herbs, optional

Instructions:

1. Use non-stick vegetable oil spray to lightly grease a 9"x13" pan. Drizzle about 2 tbsp olive oil atop the spray. (The spray keeps the bread from sticking while the olive oil gives the bottom crust great flavor and a bit of a crunch.)
2. Combine all the ingredients and beat at high speed with an electric mixer for 60 seconds.
3. Scoop the sticky batter into a prepared pan and cover. Let it rise, at room temperature, for 60 minutes. (It should be quite hubby but not fragile looking...)
4. Preheat the oven to 375°.
5. Gently poke the dough with your index finger - all over.
6. Lightly drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle pizza seasoning or dried herbs.
7. Bake the bread until it's golden brown - about 25-30 minutes.
8. Remove from the oven and wait 5 minutes before turning it out onto a rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Big shout out to my fingers; I can always
count on them.

HOUSEKEEPING

DUES:

- If sending dues via U.S. Mail:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter
c/o Ray Zimmermann
12570 Village Circle Dr #4405
Sunset Hills, MO 63127

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!

Tech Article for the SVCC Newsletter

By Larry York

I saw on Facebook a week or so ago that, during the Tri-Five Nationals in Bowling, KY, a gentleman lost his life when his '55 Chevy had a tire blow causing him to lose control of his car. Then, I heard that Jim Thompson had a tire blow coming home from Silver City, NM. Luckily, Jim was able to control the car and neither him nor the car suffered any damage. Because of these incidents, I felt I needed to write this article for our newsletter.

As an owner of a 40-foot, class A motorhome, tire health and safety are the more commonly discussed topics within the RV community. At most every RV gathering or at campgrounds, you hear one or more stories and see the results of someone having a tire blow and of the physical damage it can cause. Fortunately, I have not (knock on wood) heard of a friend being injured or killed, but I do know that blow outs on RVs have resulted in personal injury and death. The primary reasons for tire failure on RVs are:

1. Tire damage due to road debris, potholes, etc.
2. Too much weight for the load range rating of the tire(s).
3. Weight not evenly spread throughout the RV (axle loads exceeding rated specs for the axles and tires).
4. Heat buildup due to under inflated tires.
5. Inflating tires over the manufacturer's maximum inflation specs.
6. Tire age.

There is not much one can do about accidentally picking up a nail or hitting a curb or pothole. That stuff happens. Also, we gearheads typically don't need to be overly concerned about weight, tire load ranges, or weight distribution on our rides (although some of us probably need to be concerned about OUR weight and weight distribution – LOL!).

However, those that trailer their rides do need to be concerned about weight and weight distribution for your trailers. Therefore, a trip to the scales to weigh the trailer loaded would be advised. Ideally, weighing the loaded trailer at each axle and from left to right would be the best. From that data, you can determine if your tires are rated to accommodate the loaded weight, and that the tires are inflated to the proper psi. Here is a good website that addresses car, light truck, and RV/trailer tire load capacities <https://rvtires.com/tire-load-capacity/>

Whether we drive 'em or trailer 'em, we all need to be concerned about tire inflation and the age of our tires. This goes for our classics, customs, hot rods, motorcycles, trailers, RVs, **AND our daily drivers.**

It is very important that **before** you head out on the highway for a car show, a short trip to Tucson, or a long trip, you need to check your tire pressures and fill them to either the spec shown on the tire or the vehicle manufacture's specs on the door or door jam.

Next, you need to find the date code on the tire.

- a. For tires made before 2000, look for “DOT” and the last three digits are the date code – 1st two digits are the week of the year the tire was made, and the last digit is the year in a decade (1970, 1980, 1990...) that the tire was made. My advice would be that if there are only three digits, I would immediately go buy a new tire(s) regardless of the appearance of the sidewall, or the tread depth since they are AT LEAST nineteen years old.
- b. For tires made after 2000, look for “DOT” followed by 10-12 characters. The last 4 numbers are the date code – 1st two numbers are the week of the year the tire was manufactured, and the last two numbers are the year the tire was manufactured.

The consensus of tire manufacturers is that all tires have a useful service life of 6-10 years. So, tires with a year code prior to 10 (2010) are at or very near the end of their service life and should be replaced. Other considerations in determine if the tire needs to be changed **regardless of the date code** are the appearance of “checking” (small cracks) on the sidewall, and tread depth (by law the tire should have more than 1.6mm of tread before they must be replaced).

Bottomline:

1. Make sure your tires are load rated for the weight of the vehicle AND the contents.
2. Monitor your tire pressure and don't under OR over inflate.
3. Don't make your decision to buy new tires solely on the appearance of the tire. Watch your date codes, sidewalls, and tread depth.



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 :-)