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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 that this newsletter finds that all is well with you and your family.

From what I have been reading, it sounds like the RV industry is doing well as sales of new and used RVs are higher than they have been in several years. Also, RV parks are seeing record occupancy numbers as families are looking to RVing as a way to shake off those quarantine "blues".

As you know, this year's FMCA conventions and almost every Area rally and some of the Chapter rallies have been cancelled for the rest of 2020. The January 2021 Western Area Rally in Indio, CA is postponed until January 2022. The October 2020 Rocky Mountain Area Rally in Tucson, AZ is rescheduled to October 2021. The September 2020 Eastern Area Rally in Lewisburg, WV is cancelled. However, the 2021 FMCA Conventions are still on schedule for March in Perry, GA and July in Gillette, WY. And the Areas are still moving forward to hold rallies during 2021. The FMCA leadership and staff are also working hard to roll with the punches and keep a positive outlook for the Association as they work with local and State officials and event venues to keep event and activity planning moving forward in 2021.

As I reported in the last newsletter, the Executive Board formally met June 5th, and approved a budget for the 2021 fiscal year. The \$230,000 deficit budget retained the membership benefit FMCAssist and left the annual family membership dues as they are. Since that time, the Board has met several times to continue to discuss the 2021 budget with an eye on retaining FMCAssist as a no additional cost benefit to the members while also trying to reduce/eliminate the deficit.

To that end, a special meeting of the Executive Board was held on Thursday, August 6, 2020, via teleconference. During that



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

September? Already?

That means we have but 2 months before our National Election and 3 months before our Chapter Election! But the Chapter Election is still a high priority for our Nomination Committee I can tell you! Our deadline for nominating candidates is October 1st!!!

WHO among you is planning to step forward and raise your hand? This is YOUR club after all.... It takes members to keep it going and active!!

Please PLEASE be safe out there in your travels! It seems most of the West Coast is on fire! I hope you are checking road conditions for CA, OR, WA and ID before you head out!

Happy trails y'all!

meeting the Board members were reminded that they approved a deficit budget on June 5, 2020, and that they met on July 14, 2020, to review a new, replacement budget that was presented to the Board by the Finance Committee which offset the deficit with cost and revenue adjustments such as reducing dues to \$50 per year, eliminating FMCAssist as a no-additional cost member benefit. This proposed budget resulted in a \$75,000 surplus. A motion was made at the July 14th meeting to postpone action on the proposed budget until the Board members had ample time to review and discuss the numbers. The Board members were reminded that this proposed budget, as recommended by the Finance Committee on July 14th, was to be voted on at this time. A roll call vote was taken. The motion on the proposed 2021 fiscal year budget failed with 2 votes "for" and 11 votes "against." Since this budget failed, the budget passed on June 5th remains the adopted 2021 budget until the Board votes to revisit it in the future.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ken Hall and Shirley Beemer and their respective families on the loss of Ellen Hall and Joe Beemer. Both were exceptional people that I had the fortune of meeting and getting to know through this great hobby we share. I will miss Ellen's bubbly smile, and Joe's jokes and great stories.

Skip Huffman continues to post updates on Facebook about his recovery from COVID. Although he is not 100%, he is improving, and the therapist and doctors are extremely impressed with his recovery. Skip keep up the good work!

Ray Zimmermann reached one of many forks in the road of life and has decided to stop RVing. Therefore, he has sold his Alfa. Ray has graciously agreed to remain on as our Treasurer until the end of the year but will not be able to continue after that. We will miss Ray. His contributions to the Chapter as a Wagon master for several Chapter Rallies, and Past-Vice President, Past-President and current Treasurer, among many, many other things, have left a great legacy and established standards for others to seek to attain. I personally will miss having the ability to turn to him to seek his experience and advice about an issue. I am honored to have Ray as a friend (even though he is retired Air Force – LOL!!). Ray, next time we are in the St. Louis area, we will call you and get together for a drink! Go Cards!

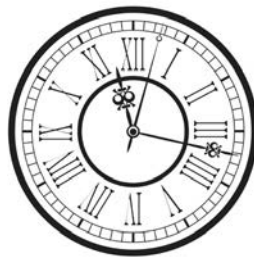
This leads to the next topic of this newsletter – Officer Nominations and Elections. There are now at least two positions that do not yet have nominees. We need YOU to step forward to run for an office – NOW!!!! Seriously, YOU need to come forward and contact the Nomination Committee (Jeannette Harper, Mark McGuire, and/or Leigh Conner) and tell them YOU want to run for an office! Elections are not far off.

Stay safe. Hope to “See Ya” down the road!

Hear ye! Hear ye!

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....



Worrying is like
sitting in a rocking chair.
It gives you something to
do but it doesn't get you
anywhere.

-English proverb



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.

Joe Beemer, F332169, husband of Shirley Beemer, Carlsbad, California

Ellen Hall, F257339, wife of Kenneth Hall, Boca Raton, Florida



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

Batteries!

by Jeannette Harper

I saw a most interesting article in the August 2020 MotorHome Magazine which got me to thinking.... We had replaced our 'front' batteries and had a problem getting them connected correctly. I know we weren't the only ones as I saw any number of email messages asking for help on the Groups.io mail list. About a year or so later we woke to an awful stench and discovered our 'back' batteries had been seriously compromised.

I know there are wiring diagrams as well and plenty of discussion in the 'files' of the mail list but I am going to give a quick reminder of just how important our batteries really are...

So, what is the first thing you need to know about batteries?

Our RV's have two different battery needs:

- House (inverter) batteries
- Chassis batteries

Chassis (starting) battery:

- This starts and runs the engine
- Are rated in 'Cold Cranking Amps' (CCA)
 - CCA is the number of amps the battery can deliver at 0 degrees F for 30 seconds
- Should NOT be used for 'deep cycle' applications

House (inverter) battery:

- Supplies 12v to the RV
- Need to be 'deep cycle'
 - Designed to provide a steady amount of current over a long period.
- Should NOT be chassis or marine batteries
- Are designed to be deeply discharged and recharged repeatedly
- Are rated in Amp Hours (AH) and possibly Reserve Capacity (RC)
 - The amp hour rating is basically how many amps the batter can deliver for how many hours before the batter is discharged.

The life expectancy of your RV batteries depend on YOU!. How they are used, how well they are maintained, how they are discharged and how they are stored. (If the battery is discharged to 50 percent everyday, it will last twice as long as it would if it is cycled to 80 percent.)

What does all of this mean to you? That depends on how you use your RV. If most of your camping is done where you are plugged into an electrical source then your main concern is just to properly maintain

your deep cycle batteries. But if you really like to get away from it all and you do some serious dry camping you'll want the highest amp hour capacities you can fit on your RV.

Deep cycle batteries come in all different sizes. Some are designated by Group size, like group 24, 27 and 31. Basically, the larger the battery the more amp hours you get. Depending on your needs and the amount of space you have available, there are several options when it comes to batteries.

The two most common causes for RV battery failure are **undercharging** and **overcharging**.

Undercharging is a result of batteries being repeatedly discharged and not fully recharged between cycles. If a battery is not recharged the sulfate material that attaches to the discharged portions of the plates begins to harden into crystals. Over time, this sulfate cannot be converted back into active plate material and the battery is ruined. This also occurs when a battery remains discharged for an extended period of time. Sulfation is the number one cause of battery failure. [Note: this is what happened to our chassis batteries! jmh] The second leading cause of battery failure is overcharging. Overcharging batteries results in severe water loss and plate corrosion. The good news is both of these problems are avoidable.

What is the role of 'house' (inverter) batteries?

- Lighting
- HVAC
- Appliances
- Entertainment Systems
- Electric Steps
- Electric Awnings
- Slideouts
- Leveling Systems

Remember, your batteries are the foundation of your motorhomes' power system. Be sure to take proper care of them!

I see a big baby boom coming our way in 9 months. They will be called the C-19 Babies & the #1 baby names will be "Charmin & Scott"

Just wait a second - so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this, is directly linked to the Common Sense of others?

A yummy recipe - Buttermilk Spice Muffins

Jeannette Harper (thanks to Mimis Cafe)

Serve: 12

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 20 to 25 minutes'

Ingredients:

Muffin Batter:

1 c sugar
1/2 c butter or margarine
3 eggs
2 1/2c flour
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp nutmeg
1/2 tsp cinnamon
3/4 c + 1 tbsp buttermilk

Nut Topping:

1/2 c sugar
1 c walnuts (finely chipped)
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp nutmeg

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a mixing bowl, cream the sugar and the butter using an electric mixer. When thoroughly mixed, add eggs and beat one more minute.
2. Sift the flour into a separate bowl, together with baking soda, nutmeg and cinnamon.
3. Add the flour and buttermilk to the first mixture; mix at low speed until smooth.
4. Make the nut topping: Mix all ingredients together in a small bowl.
5. Great muffin tins or use paper baking cups. Fill each cup 3/4 full of batter. Add a full rounded tablespoon of nut topping on top of each muffin cup of batter. Bake immediately or the topping will sink to the bottom of the muffin.
6. Bake 20 - 25 minutes until golden brown and toothpick/tester comes out clean.

Note: Don't have buttermilk? Stir in a teaspoon of either lemon juice or white vinegar to your milk and let it sit for about 10 minutes.

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
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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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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@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 :-)