



What's inside:

- Pg 1: President's Message
- Pg 2: Editor's Message
- Pg 4: In memoriam - Norm Harper
- Pg 7: New Members
- Pg 8: Being prepared & Upcoming rally's
- Pg 9: Recipe (chocolate cake)
- Pg 10: Useful Sites
- Pg 11: Housekeeping
- Pg 12: AlfaSeeYas Store

On our GPS...

Western Area Rally
Jan 9-13, 2025
Indio CA

FMCA 'news'

Check out the 'events' webpage for various chapter rally's across the U.S.

August 14-17
FMCA International Convention
Redmond OR

President's Message

by Randy Scott, Vice President

Hello everyone, and happy HOT summer to most of you! We in the desert have been having unusually hot weather this summer, as well as in the Midwest states we've visited this summer, plus many of the Eastern parts of the US too! Our desert in California normally cools down significantly at night, but lately hasn't been doing so, and I know many other areas have not been doing so either. Hopefully, there will be a reprieve in the near future.

We had a great Alfa Annual Owners Rally this past April in Bandera, Texas. As you should know, they are put on by members of the remaining Alfa owners groups, and many of us AlfaSeeYas members are also owners groups members too. A number of us went to Bandera prior to the Rally, in order to be in a good area to see the solar eclipse. We had a good group, and had fun, but when it came to seeing the eclipse, our area was cloudy and all we saw was about 4.5 minutes of real darkness! It was a little eerie to happen in the middle of the day, and it seemed like the birds got quiet too – but in order to see the eclipse we had to resort to viewing it on our TVs! Oh well, we had a good time for several days anyway, and then transitioned to the Annual Rally.

After the Rally, I had several issues with my Alfa – I don't need to go into detail, but suffice it to say in a matter of months I had a new differential installed (after metal chunks were found in the original one during routine maintenance), then another one put in when the first replacement was faulty, one of the jacks had to be replaced when it broke during the differential replacement, then the dash air needed to be repaired, and then the oil cooler failed when in Albuquerque, NM (on our way to Fort Worth, Texas to support our local California solar car race team). When having it towed to the Caterpillar dealer in Albuquerque,



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

It has been 1/2 of a year since the last newsletter! Holy smokes!

Winter came and went and we are now in the thralls of summer which usually includes hot and possibly very humid summer temps.

Please be ever vigilant when traveling as wild fires seem to be popping up when you least expect it! And you know, that will impact your travel and plans. Every State highway department has 'current road conditions' for you to check out.

Are you ready to evacuate in the event of an emergency? Please take the time to make sure you have emergency supplies you can grab on a moments notice. Here is a [link a U.S. government website](#) with useful information.

Happy trails y'all!

the towing company significantly damaged the rear right side of the coach, to include the bedroom slide! So, after having the oil cooler repaired, we drove it back to California where it is now at Leisure Coachworks waiting for repairs. One thing to note: I used CoachNet roadside service to have it towed in Albuquerque (I've had great results with them over the years), so they are acting as the intermediary to ensure the towing company pays the repair bill. Unfortunately, this also means I won't be able to attend the FMCA Convention in Redmond, OR in August.

Speaking of the FMCA Convention in Redmond: Marvin Berry, our Chapter National Director, will be representing our chapter at the annual Governing Board meeting to be held prior to the start of the Convention. Hopefully, some of you will also be attending the Convention – if so, you should look up Marvin and his wife Pat while there. As a reminder, the FMCA is governed by the members, and the annual Governing Board meeting is where the member reps and the FMCA officers get together to discuss and vote on any changes that may be proposed. There are a number of important items to be discussed at this Governing Board meeting – especially since FMCA is having financial issues, and will be discussing ways to save funds, as well as ways to attract new members. We should all be acting as “good ambassadors” to attract new members to FMCA and to our chapter. Remember, FMCA includes owners of ALL types of RVs, and has many chapters relating to geographic areas, as well as activities (e.g., 4-wheeling), plus types of RVs – such as our Alfa motorhomes and trailers. There are many advantages of being an FMCA member, as I'm sure you know and can enumerate to others. I see on the several Alfa FaceBook sites that there are new Alfa owners almost every week, so we want to get the word out to them of the advantages of being members of FMCA, the AlfaSeeYas chapter, and an Alfa owners group. Many new owners (actually current owners too!) have questions – especially those who have not owned an RV, or this type of RV, before. Thanks to our many members who reach out to help them, and answer their questions! We all continuously learn from each other—especially when we get together at outings and rallies!

You will also see folks wanting to sell their Alfas, as well as some who are looking to buy one. If you know of anyone wanting to buy an Alfa, or anyone who has recently purchased one, you can

certainly “steer them” to these FaceBook sites, as well as the Alfa groups.io site that is so well maintained by Dave Rypma. You can also remind them that we have a number of recommended Alfa service locations listed both in our newsletter and on our chapter web site.

As you may surmise, I am STILL the AlfaSeeYas Chapter Vice-President – and we are still looking for someone to be a candidate for Chapter President. I was chapter president for two terms a number of years ago, and volunteered to run for chapter vice-president to encourage others to run as president, but it has been over 13 years now, and it would be great to have others involved too! Please contact me if you are interested. Also, as I mention in each newsletter, we are always on the “lookout” for suggestions for Chapter Rallies, and volunteers to help put them on. We have numerous helpful guides, and others who will help, so please don’t hesitate to volunteer!

The announcement and the signup sheet are out for the 2025 annual FMCA **Western Area Rally** to be held again at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio, CA Jan 9-13, 2025 (**Note:** some of the info shows Jan 9-12 – the departure date is actually Monday Jan 13 – slightly different than previous years). Unfortunately, this Rally was cancelled in 2024, as I believe not enough folks signed up for it, so we want to encourage folks to sign up this year! We have attended this Rally often – it has hundreds of RVs, as well as many great seminars and displays. As a chapter, we have previously, and plan to do it again this year, volunteered to help monitor seminars. This is a very easy “duty” and as volunteers, we get to go into the Rally a day early (Jan 8) for free (and usually have electric available then too), attend a short orientation meeting that afternoon, and have a free volunteer’s dinner that night. I will contact the seminar volunteer captain in the near future, and hope to tell them that we will have at least several attendees who will volunteer. As we have done before, our intent will be to meet up either the day before at a local Casino on Jan 7 and stay overnight in their parking area to go in as a group the morning of Jan 8, or meet at the entrance to the Rally on Jan 8. You can get more information and sign up for the rally at www.indiorvrally.com, plus here’s a link to the [rally registration form](#) which will also be on the website. We are going to sign up for **30-Amp Electric** (it’s not that hot in Indio in Jan, plus if it did get hot, we can actually run both basement A/C’s on 30 Amp power if we don’t use other high-draw electrics), and hope to be parked as a group near the Rally buildings for volunteers as we have in the past. Please also indicate on the rally registration sheet **Yes** if you are interested in volunteering, and tell the POC listed that you are interested in volunteering for seminar monitor. If you are interested in going, and in volunteering, also let me know via email when you get a chance, please, and I will be in further contact with you prior to the Rally.

At our previously mentioned Alfa Annual Owners Rally in April, several of us put on a seminar on RV safety. We not only included the information we had in our previous chapter newsletter on the escape ladder and how to modify it for use in our Alfas, but we had great discussions on types of fire extinguishers, and other ways to escape in case of emergency. One of the main areas of emphasis was on the need to practice escaping, as well as having multiple extinguishers located throughout the coach and in outside compartment(s). We also discussed types of automatic extinguishers such as the Proteng system. Please ensure you are ready in case of a fire emergency – or really any emergency – in your RV!

I hope you all have safe travels in your Alfas, wherever you go, and enjoy all the sights you see! Please don't forget to contact me if you are interested in being a candidate for Chapter President, have a suggestion for a Chapter Rally, are interested in helping put on a Chapter Rally, or are interested in going to the FMCA Western Area Rally in Jan 2025. Also, several of us are planning to put on our Alfa Annual Owners Rally for 2025 in the April time period– we will be putting out publicity on it as soon as we nail down the details – so please look out for that info, and encourage everyone to sign up! *Randy*



I don't remember where I took this photo....

That's our Alfa! Might be the Red Bluff CA RV Park in Red Bluff CA...Jeannette

In Memorium - Norm Harper

Contributed by: Jeannette Harper

Many of you never met my husband, Norm. I am going to take a moment to introduce you to a wonderful man and the love of my life. Sadly, I said good by to Norm in March. This was both an unexpected event as well as a blessing.

Norm and I met when we were both still working - I ended up hiring him as a courier in my office with Caltrans. It didn't take long and Norm had befriended all we worked with. He just had a way about him. (This is the kind of person who steps up when you are in the hardware store and no employee is around for you to ask questions of. I have seen him spend 20 minutes looking for a part someone else needed in the plumbing section!!)



Norm introduced me to the world of RV travel, bless his soul! He grew up in a family that camped in tents, the back of a pickup and such. That was not a world I was familiar with. As I got closer to retirement, I kept hearing about how GREAT an Alfa RV was. Some day we would own one, he said...

The year before I retired, we shopped for an RV. We ended up with a wonderful Class C. (It is a good thing Norm and I got along as well as we did, because this motorhome was kind of on the small size...) Our first trip was 6 weeks long thanks to my having plenty of vacation, regular days off as well as furlough days. Norm was already retired at this time. We traveled from Sacramento and ended up as far east as Niagara Falls (an unplanned but totally mind blowing excursion) with exciting stops along the way. By the time we pulled in our driveway at home, I told Norm I was ready for Trip number 2! What a blast! (We DID eventually purchase an

Alfa and lived in it, full time, for 5 wonderful years. What a ride!)

Due to a knee injury while working and later surgery, Norm kept falling so he walked with a cane. Norm ended up with serious knee problems which is why he was retired at a young age. For a former heavy equipment mechanic, that was tough. One of the falls ended up injuring his back. I lost count of the many knee and back surgeries Norm endured over the years. (Sadly, it was another fall which led to Norm's death.)

July of last year, Norm fell in our garage as he was preparing to feed the deer for the evening. Norm broke his left femur right above his knee. (This was his 'good' knee...) Where we live in Oregon, medical care is available but 'specialties' are to be found up in Portland or Eugene. Unfortunately while in Portland, Norm contracted a life threatening condition which, about a week later, ended up with him in the ER in Coos Bay. After a week in the hospital, Norm spent 3 months at a care facility in Coos Bay before I could bring him home. He continued to have 'side effects' of the original life threatening injury unfortunately.

Thank heavens for 'home health care' as we had physical therapy, occupational therapy and nursing staff coming to the house. We had a local orthopedic doctor monitoring Norm's care for the doctor in Portland. We finally got to have an appointment with that doctor in January where Norm was finally encourage to "put full weight on that leg!"

While all this was going on, Norm was also dealing with aFib (atrial fibrillation - irregular heartbeat). He also was dealing with a continuous UTI. Good grief! Is it any wonder Norm was dealing with stress and anxiety? I know I was...

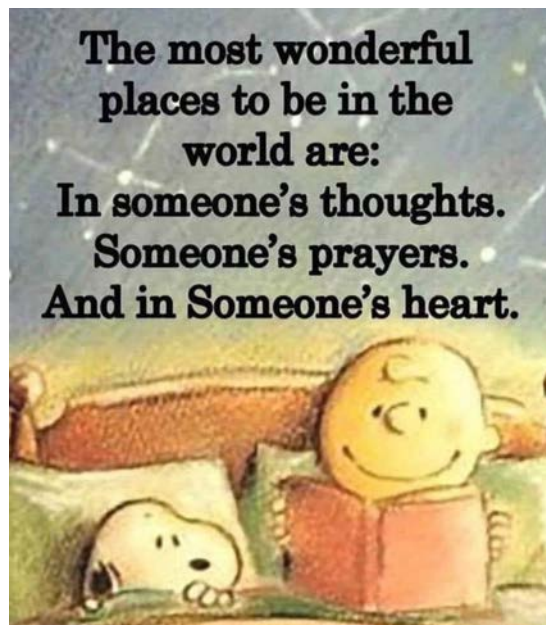
Norm had a great day and we were making plans for the next day on practicing more walking and getting in and out of my car. He was getting back into bed when he had, we think, a heart attack. When the ambulance and EMT's arrived, my love was barely hanging on. The EMT's tried but the Almighty had other plans and my guy was gone. (No more pain and no more stress...)

It has been tough, for me, to carry on. We were together 35 years and would have had our 33rd wedding anniversary this May. I am so thankful we had the forethought to have our 'end of life' plans in place which helped me tremendously. I am fortunate in that I have a great support network between neighbors and family. (Family all live somewhere other than Oregon so the neighbors are proving invaluable!)

Thank you for letting me share a bit of my honey with you. The many who knew him have expressed not only shock but also sadness as they really enjoyed Norm's company.



Norm Harper (1947 - 2024)



New Members:

Edward & Carol Gratz, F551548, Niagara Falls NY

Debra Hall, F549077, Yuma AZ

Tom & Alyee Ingle, F546626, Kingman AZ

Will & Sandy Piercy, F530758, Waynesville MO

Charles & Deborah Smith, F539401, Sun City West AZ

Final Journey:

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

Norm Harper, husband of Jeannette Harper, Bandon OR



What to do when you lose a loved one...

Contributed by Jeannette Harper

Losing a loved one is probably the most difficult time in anyone's life. It matters not whether that loved one is a spouse, parent, child or someone near and dear to you. Whether they were ill or their death was unexpected.

I recently discovered there are many resources available to help the 'survivor' work their way through the maze of our modern society. (And it can be MOST difficult if you are not prepared!) Those left behind are the ones with the burden. Who do I call? What do I do?

Shortly after hearing my husband had passed away, Randy Scott, sent me a helpful document [which I am sharing here](#). I also found a couple websites with useful information. The document, from Randy, will have verbiage not usable to most of us - it was produced by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. But MOST of the content is applicable and can prove quite valuable to your 'survivors'.

- **AARP:** [What to do When a Loved One Dies](#)
- **Hospice Giving Foundation:** [Life Stages: Financial Planning for Peace of Mind](#)
- **Kiplinger:** [What to do When Someone Dies: A checklist](#)

No one WANTS to talk about it but this is something we ALL need to... eventually.

Upcoming rallies:

- Aug. 14-17, 2024: FMCA International Convention, Redmond OR
- Sept. 18-21, 2024: South Central Rally, Shawnee OK
- Oct. 23-27, 2024: Rocky Mountain Area Rally, Farmington NM
- Jan. 9-13, 2025: [Western Area Rally](#), Indio CA
- Mar. 12-15, 2025: FMCA 110th International Convention, Perry GA

Chocolate Crazy Cake Recipe

(I saw this recipe on Instagram and made it... OH MY! Was it yummy!!! Very moist and truly chocolaty! Jeannette)

Ingredients:

- 3 c flour
- 1/3 c baking cocoa
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 c cold water
- 2 c sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 3/4 oil *

Directions:

Mix together dry ingredients. Add the liquid ingredients and stir. DO NOT BEAT. Pour into ungreased 9 x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes. (Toothpick/tester should come out clean)

Let cool and enjoy!

* In the comments section where I got this recipe, the baker stated she used olive oil which is what I did. I am guessing other oil would work as well.

Note: I had some difficulty getting all the ingredients to incorporate together. Not sure why...jmh



Useful Internet Sites For Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website - AlfaSee Yas.com www.alfaseeyas.com

You'll find lots of great information, including Rally info, Chapter documents, membership and dues information, past issues of the Newsletter, Tips and Tricks, a photo album and much more.

Family Motor Coach Association: www.fmca.com

Groups.io <https://groups.io/g/alfaseeya> This is an internet forum where Alfa owners ask questions and exchange information about our coaches. To read the messages, and post your own, you will need to "join" the group (click the blue button that says "Join This Group").

Facebook Groups:

Alfa Owners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alfaowners/>

Alfa Motorcoach Owners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1816601868643360/>

Alfa Motorcoach Tech Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Alfatechsite/>

RVillage:

FMCA: <https://www.rvillage.com/group/830/family-motor-coach-association>

Alfa Owners: <https://www.rvillage.com/group/1681/alfa-owners>

Chapters of Alfa Owners:

Roadrunners – Non-Regional (Full Time/Half Time/Part Time)

Lonestars - Texas

South Loafers – Southern California, Arizona & Nevada

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) 508-3102 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 Nancy McDowell, Treasurer
PO Box 160
Middleton ID 83644

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.

New Members: please use the [membership application form](#) on the Chapter website.

- If you use an on-line bill payer, make sure your bank has the correct address.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Randy Scott	rscott@antelcom.net
Secretary/Treasurer	Nancy McDowel	nancy12412@gmail.com
National Director	Marvin Berry	berrymarvin@att.net
Alt. National Director	Craig McDowel	craig12412@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor (volunteer)	Jeannette Harper	jh@budlink.us
Website Administrator (volunteer)	Jeannette Harper	jh@budlink.us

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 - \$46
3XL - 6XL - \$51

Check with Randy Scott for the shipping cost which will be added to the order. He can be reached at:
(661) 839-4526 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 :-)