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**EXTRA !! EXTRA !!**

**“SPECIAL EDITION”**

**President's Message**

~ By Randy Scott ~ [rscott@antelecom.net](mailto:rscott@antelecom.net)

We are putting out this “special edition” of our newsletter as we want to notify you of several urgent items: major changes to the FMCAssist Program, registration for our upcoming Jan 2013 pre-rally, attending and possibly volunteering at the FMCA Western Area Rally, upcoming elections for AlfaSeeYas chapter officers, and information on the FMCA INTO area and rally.

FMCAssist Program: Our chapter National Director – Mike Lynch – represented our chapter at the recent FMCA Annual Family Gathering. Mike reported: “At the FMCA Governing Board Meeting held Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, it was decided the current FMCAssist program will end Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be replaced by a plan to enable individual members to purchase their own coverage through a partnered vendor. Cost: individual member \$85/year, family or 2 member plan \$105/year. As you might expect, this caused A LOT of heated discussion with predictions of a possible large drop in membership. Bottom line: it was not affordable with the continued current drop in FMCA membership. FMCA recruits 700-800 new members a month but has approximately 1,100 non-renewables each month. Since 2005, FMCA

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has lost 45,000 members. The average age of members is now 71. The math says that dues would have to be increased about \$4 per year to continue FMCA Assist but because of pre-paid dues for future years that amount would have to be over \$8 rounded off to \$10. This would make the first year dues \$60 and following years \$50. Everyone felt this was too much. After long debate, the vote to end the current program was not close; most thought the Special Committee had done a thorough job of researching the options and then presenting them to the board. The FMCA budget is down 16% from last year. In Feb, the Executive Board tasked the director to cut expenses over the next 12 months by 1.2 million dollars. That has been done. Eight employees have been let go. The governing board cut the budget further by eliminating ALL payment for parking personnel at future international conventions. All parking will be done by volunteers. Travel expenses

for the governing board was cut as was reimbursement for registration fees for the governing board.”

I recently emailed our chapter liaison at FMCA for further information on what will be replacing FMCAssist, as there had been nothing on the FMCA web site. I received the answer: “FMCA has a new provider for the FMCAssist program. Under the new program, all FMCA members can use the provider for assistance as needed, with the member being directly responsible for any related expenses. Or, for enhanced coverage, members can sign up and pay the associated premium for the Voluntary Member Participation Plan, which pays for covered expenses up to certain maximums. The current program we have expires September 30<sup>th</sup>. The new program will go into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. The October issue of FMCA will have information on the program along with the web site.”

I just received an email (as hopefully many of you also did) from FMCA with further information on the new FMCAssist program, plus a link to the provider (Seven Corners Assist) with more information on the program and a link to enroll. There is a table which details all the coverage's available. It shows the benefits which will be now provided as FMCAssist which are included in your membership at no charge, and those that are optional at additional charge. In general, the previous FMCAssist payable benefits (Emergency Medical Evacuation/Repatriation Coordination, Emergency Medical Reunion Coordination, Return of Mortal Remains, Return of Minor Child(ren), Vehicle Return, Pet Return and Prescription Medication & Glasses Replacement) are now included at no extra charge with membership as “coordination only – you will have to cover all expenses incurred.” If you want the optional payable benefits for these services, then

you must enroll for Optional Benefits, at a cost of \$85 per year for a single person and \$105 per year for a family. All other benefits for which there are no payable amounts (such as Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Referral and Case monitoring, Trip Delay and Missed Connection Coordination, etc.) are included in the basic FMCA membership at no additional cost.

Bottom line: if you wish to continue to receive payable FMCAssist benefits that were previously provided at no cost, you must enroll for the Optional Coverage, and should do so As Soon As Possible in order to have uninterrupted coverage. For more details, see the Oct 2012 issue of the FMCA magazine (which will hopefully be out soon), and the web site at <http://fmca.sevencorners.com>.

Registration for Jan 2013 Pre-rally: Included in this newsletter is the information and registration package for our annual chapter pre-rally (to be held Jan 4-8, 2013) prior to the FMCA Western Area Rally (to be held Jan 9-13, 2013). Please note that you need to sign up separately for the FMCA Western Area Rally with FMCA, and that (as usual) we will be caravanning over to the Rally (about 10 miles away from our pre-rally site) a day early – on Jan 8 – in order to be able to park together and continue our “social hours” in the evenings. Our co-wagon masters – the Burrs and the Stanley’s – have put together a great pre-rally for all of us to enjoy! Also, we want to invite guests with SOB motorhomes, other Alfa Owners with 5<sup>th</sup> wheels, and other guests with towables to our pre-rally, as well as going with us to the FMCA Western area rally – as it is also open to towables.

FMCA Western Area Rally: As some of you will remember, last year our chapter volunteered to help at this Rally – as it is put on primarily by volunteers. We had a good time doing so – we were asked to

monitor seminars, had about a dozen of our members volunteer to do so, and monitored about 3-4 seminars each. We had fun, heard interesting seminars we may not have normally attended, and our participation was greatly appreciated by the folks putting on the Rally. If like last year, there will likely be a volunteers meeting and dinner the day we arrive at the Rally, and I would hope to get the seminar monitoring listing prior to us leaving the pre-rally. I have been contacted recently about whether our chapter is willing to volunteer for 2013, and I replied that I believed so. If their volunteer schedule goes as last year, I will be contacting those of you who sign up for the pre-rally, to see if you are planning on attending the Western Area rally and if you would like to volunteer to monitor a few seminars. Of course, there is no obligation for you to do so.

AflaSeeYas Chapter Election: Per our bylaws, we have an election of chapter officers every other year, and Jan 2013 is our next election. At our chapter meeting in April, I asked for volunteers for the nomination committee and any volunteers to run for office, but received none. Therefore, I have asked the current chapter officers if they would be willing to run for a second term and all said yes. If there are any of you who would like to run for any of our Chapter offices, please notify me directly No Later Than Oct 31, 2013 – and we will include you on the ballots. We will be sending out ballots to all chapter members later in this year, with the final election and count at our chapter meeting to be held during our pre-rally in Jan 2013. As a reminder, our current Chapter Officers (elected in Jan 2011) are: President: Randy Scott, Vice President: Mike Stinson, Secretary: Terry Scott, Treasurer: Kathleen Stinson, National Director: Mike Lynch, and Alternate National Director: Larry York. In addition, we have two volunteers who also work very hard to ensure the success of our Chapter: Jean Maddux as our Newsletter Editor, and DJ “Tony” Munson as our Web Master.

INTO Area: FMCA has more than 500 active chapters, or subgroups, divided into nine geographic areas and one International Area. Each of the 10 areas has a not-for-profit association designed to promote and improve communication between FMCA and all FMCA chapters within its respective area. A primary function of the associations is to help plan and carry out the annual area rally and other events that benefit members of a chapter within the area. Similarly, they assist FMCA with an international convention when it is held in their area, and provide many volunteers for parking, security, seminars, registration and other convention duties. Since our chapter is composed of members from throughout the United States and Canada (as are a number of other chapters, such as the Freightliner Chassis Owners Chapter, etc.) our chapter falls within the International Area Organization (INTO). Each association has its own bylaws that define its governance structure. The FMCA national area vice president serves as president of the area association.

During my tenure as AlfaSeeYas Chapter president, there has been very little activity or communication on the part of INTO. However, I recently received an email (along with the other International Area Chapter Presidents) from Dave Barr, INTO Vice President, which stated: “Greetings to all International Area Chapter Presidents from Alfred Vormittag, FMCA 's NEW National Vice President for the International Area (aka INTO): We the International Area (INTO) board did not put together an Area Rally for 2012. Our last Area Rally was 2011 in Goshen, IN. So Al, determined to get back to having an Area Rally every year, has announced the 2013 INTO Rally will be held March 20-24, 2013 in Tucson, AZ at 'Lazydays' RV Campground. Every site is a full hook-up site. Just some of the fun in the planning stages for this rally is a golf tournament, vendors, seminars, games, entertainment, ice cream social, etc., all coupled with

the potential for great weather, Alfred V said so. We suggest you plan to make this a rally within a rally for your chapter. You will be able to park together as a chapter if you indicate such on your registration form. Southern Arizona offers so much to do and see. What a great opportunity for fun and adventure in the Old West. We strongly encourage your attendance. Additionally, Alfred has asked his Vice Presidents to serve as liaisons to the Chapters. So if you have questions or think I can be of assistance to your Chapter or you in your relationship with FMCA please don't hesitate to contact me. I may not have the answer(s) but I'll do my best to get answers for you. Back to the Rally.... LOOK for the REGISTRATION FORM to be posted soon on the FMCA web-site and in your issue of Family Motor Coaching. We look forward to seeing you in Tucson."

If you have any questions, need for assistance, or have suggestions for INTO, please forward to me (Randy) and I will contact the INTO officers. I hope this will be the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship, as it sounds as though the new INTO officers want to work with us and also put on a good area rally.

I hope you have all had a great summer and safe travels, and that we will see you at our future outings

~~Randy

#### Senior Moment.....

I was visiting my son-in-law & daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, old man," he said, "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad."

I can tell you, that fly never knew what hit it....

#### Editor's Note

By Jean Maddux

[jeansalfanews@gmail.com](mailto:jeansalfanews@gmail.com)

Well, what can I say after all that?

As you know this is a Special Edition. The regular Newsletter will be arriving soon.

We have just come home from the first FMCA Cruise. We went thru the inside passage to Alaska. This was *our* first cruise (Jerry was on a Navy Aircraft Carrier, he said he was on many cruises, not quite the same).

There were 115 FMCA members on the cruise. Only 1 couple AlfaSeeYa members but we didn't get to meet them. We hope they had as great a time as we did.

We stopped in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Victoria, BC. Oregon gets an average of 40" of rain a year. Ketchikan gets 152". And we thought we got a lot !!!

More in the next newsletter.

~Jean



# SAVE THE DATE: JAN 4 TO 8, 2013



## AlfaSeeYas Indio Pre-Rally

January 4 to 8, 2013, Emerald Desert RV Resort

Prior to FMCA Western Region Rally

Come to The Desert and enjoy the January sunshine, with average temperatures at 72°. Visit old friends, and make new ones. Play a round of golf, or go shopping in downtown Palm Springs.. In addition to these great activities planned for the Pre-Rally, we will convoy as a group to the FMCA Rally at the Indio Fairgrounds, which allows us to camp together “on the grass” close to the activities, and continue socializing with Alfa friends, happy hours and all. Check out the May 2012 FMCA magazine article on this year’s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Area Rally to get a feel of what it is all about. The Wagon Masters are Arnie and Emily Burr and Co-Wagon Masters are Jack and Jane Stanley.

a.burr@sbcglobal.net

### Pre Rally Includes

**4 nights with full hookups at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert CA**

**1 catered breakfast  
2 continental breakfasts  
3 catered dinners**

**Optional Tours: to be announced**

**Question & Answer session with the experts, Jon and Martin of Alfateers**

**Optional Golf: to be announced**

### Rally Agenda **STILL IN DRAFT FORM**

#### Friday, Jan 4, 2013 – Arrival Day

<b>1:00 pm</b>	Check-in time
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Welcome dinner (to be catered)
<b>7:00pm</b>	Introductions, etc

#### Saturday, Jan 5, 2013

<b>7 – 9 am</b>	Campground sponsored breakfast
<b>9 – 10 am</b>	Alfa SeeYas Chapter business meeting
<b>10 – 11 am</b>	Question/Answer time, and Updates with Alfateers
<b>11 - 12 pm</b>	Tech Talk

#### Lunch on your own

<b>1 - 4 pm</b>	<b>Optional Tour: to be announced</b> or <b>Free time</b>
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Happy Hour (BYOB)
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Campground sponsored dinner followed by entertainment

#### Sunday, Jan 6, 2013

<b>7:30 – 9 am</b>	Coffee and rolls
<b>1 – 3 pm</b>	Coach Walk
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Happy Hour (BYOB)
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Dinner on your own

#### Monday, Jan 7, 2013

<b>7:30 – 9 am</b>	Coffee and rolls
<b>10 - 12 pm</b>	Craft to be announced
<b>? am - ? pm</b>	<b>Optional Golf:</b> course and time to be arranged

<b>4:30 pm</b>	Happy Hour (BYOB)
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Campground sponsored dinner

#### Tuesday, Jan 8, 2013 **Departure Day -**

<b>7:30 am</b>	Line up to caravan to FMCA Rally at Indio Fairgrounds
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AlfaSeeYas Indio FMCA Pre-Rally, January 4 to 8, 2013 – Palm Desert, CA – Registration Form  
**Wagon Masters Arnie and Emily Burr -- Assistant Wagon Masters Jack and Jane Stanley**

Names (as you want to appear on badge) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fee (\$218 camping/coach for 4 nights + catered meals & entertainment, incl, tax & tip) \$350.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Additional people at \$65.00 per person (for meals, coffee, donuts, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Park Pet Fee \$2.00 per day/per pet (2 pets Maximum) \_\_\_\_\_ pets @ \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL, INCLUDING RALLY FEE, EXTRA PEOPLE, PET FEE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Golf fees will be collected at the RV Park. Course and amount is not available at this time.

Make your check payable to **AlfaSeeYas** for the total amount above, and send with this form to:

Arnold Burr, Wagon Master  
12309 Old Town Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Questions? Email Arnie  
[a.burr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.burr@sbcglobal.net) OR  
Phone Arnie 661-588-0401

**Deadlines:** Total space at the park is limited to 30 coaches. Reservation deadline to the Wagon Master is  
**NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2012 !!!**

**Guests** are welcome to all function, provided you contact the Wagon Master prior to the rally to insure that cost are met and food is available.

**Cancellation Policy:** There is a \$10.00 cancellation charge. However, if the rally has incurred non-refundable costs on your part (e.g. one night site reservation fee), these will be deducted from your refund unless there is a waiting list and your space can be filled.

**Park Information:** If you want to arrive early or stay after the rally, you may arrange for additional days with the RV park. The group- discount will be honored a maximum of 2 nights on either side of the rally.

**Emerald Desert RV Resort, 76-000 Frank Sinatra Dr., Palm Desert, CA**

**(760) 345-4770 ext. 7002 OR (800) 426-4678**

**NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 ARE ALLOWED**

**NOTE:** You must register separately for the FMCA Western Area Rally, at the FMCA website. We will convoy to the FMCA Rally on January 8, a day early intentionally, to insure we have parking together 'on the grass' which is near the activities, with electric available. There will be a one-day additional FMCA parking fee of \$15 to be collected by the Wagon Master at the Pre-Rally. We will collect for electric at that time as well (usually \$40.00 for the entire FMCA Rally).

We agree that we shall not hold FMCA, the AlfaSeeYas Chapter, officers, employees or agents responsible for any damage or injury of any kind that our guests or we may suffer during the rally. This agreement applies regardless of the damage or injury.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_