



SeeYa Connection

Newsletter for our FMCA Chapter

Visit our Website at www.AlfaSeeYas.com

January 2010 Issue # 26

President's Message

-- By John Bohn - jfbohn1@mac.com

The year 2010 is here, and I hope it will be a happy one for all of us! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to our club so generously during the past year. Patty Rowe has done a marvelous job of publishing our newsletter in PDF format so it can be emailed to the membership. It now contains wonderfully colorful pictures along with links to websites and other information that was not possible with our previously mailed newsletters. Along with that, Tim Dean has established an automated method of notifying members of upcoming renewal dates that appears to be working extremely well. Combined, these actions have resulted in savings for the club and at the same time provide more and better information to our members.

Five of our member coaches kicked off the new year by attending the Rose Parade Rally and were entertained continually for the six days. We all came away with a real appreciation for the thousands and thousands of volunteer man hours that go into float preparations as well as the amazingly detailed artistry evident on the floats when you see them "up close and personal". You can't see that on TV! The folks who put on this rally have been doing it for 28 years, and they really do a marvelous job. You should consider going next year.

At the business meeting held in Palm Desert, I reported that our membership had decreased to below 500 in January of 2009, but since that time we have actively campaigned for new members and our membership currently stands at about 540! A

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lot of that came from recruitment through the FMCA, but several club members responded to the membership drive announced in May and brought in many new members. The winners of the drive are Joe and Barbara Felker who earned either \$100 or two AlfaSeeYas jackets! Congratulations Joe and Barbara, and thanks to all who participated!

FMCA has just begun a new membership drive called "A Dozen Does It"! If our chapter members bring in 12 new FMCA members, the chapter will receive a prize package with gifts that can be used as door prizes at future rallies. In addition, with each new member, the referring member will receive a \$10 certificate that can be used to pay part of FMCA dues, or toward the purchase of FMCA or Camping World merchandise. If you refer a new member, be sure they put your name and the AlfaSeeYas

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chapter name on the "Recommended By" line on the application that are available on line or in the *Family Motor Coaching Magazine*. As president, I have also been given 5 certificates for a first year free membership in the FMCA, a \$45 value. If you have someone who would like one of these, let me know. These certificates do count toward the "Dozen Does It", but they do not earn the \$10 recruitment coupon. The certificates are good until Dec. 31, 2010!

Finally, regarding my engine woes, I have placed another article elsewhere in the newsletter explaining my current situation and what I have found out as a result of these experiences.

Wishing you happy and safe travels,

-- *John Bohn, President*

Email: jfbohn1@mac.com

Editor's Note

-- *By Patty Rowe, Newsletter Editor - patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com*

Here it is ... 2010, and there's a lot of camaraderie to look forward to with our Alfa friends.

We've just wrapped up a wonderful Pre-Rally, followed by the FMCA Western Regional Rally, in Palm Desert and Indio, CA. Look for a report by Rhonda Dean in this issue. Husband Don and I were Wagon Masters to 43 Alfa motorhomes (40 at the Pre-Rally, joined by another 3 at the FMCA). Many folks stepped forward with offers of help, which was really appreciated. We had a super time, visiting with old friends and creating some new friendships. You ought to consider putting together an Alfa rally - large or small. The kudos that Wagon Masters get make it totally worth the effort.

Coming up is the Alfa Annual Rally, which is being put on by the South Loafers Chapter of the Alfa Owners Club, in Tucson, AZ, April 14-21 (information is in the "Other Rallies" section below). Don and I attended the Annual Rally in Bakersfield last year, and it was great.

Then we have an AlfaSeeYas Rally in Ft. Collins, CO, being planned by Charlie and Donna Musgrove and George and Carol Lee Hall. It is scheduled for July 17-22, and they have some terrific events planned, so save the date!

Next up is an AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally in Prineville, OR, August 7-10, prior to the FMCA 84th International Convention in Redmond. Don and I will be Wagon Masters (see, I told you it's a fun job, enough that we wanted to do it again.)

And there will be the Indio Pre-Rally, January 7-11, 2011. It's too early to know much about it, but we do know that Co-Wagon Masters will be Mike and Lorraine Lynch, and Don and Patty Rowe.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that the schedule for the Newsletter has been changed (December is just too busy to get it done). From this issue forward, The SeeYa Connection will come out in January, April, July, and October.

Hope you enjoy this issue! -- *Patty Rowe, Editor*

Upcoming Rally Calendar

If you would like to suggest **a local rally**, please contact our President, John Bohn. A group of AlfaSeeYas can get together very easily for a few days during the week, or over a weekend. **NEED HELP PLANNING A RALLY?** John Bohn has created several documents to help those interested in planning a pre, post or other rally for our members. You can contact John (see page 9) and ask for any or all of the documents. They include: *Rules of Thumb for Estimating Costs* and *Planning a Pre or Post Rally in Brief*.

Our AlfaSeeYas Chapter Rallies

July 17 to 22, 2010 – AlfaSeeYas Rally, Ft. Collins, Colorado – [Ft. Collins KOA Lakeside](#)

Wagon Masters will be George and Carol Lee Hall, with Charlie and Donna Musgrave as Assistant Wagon Masters. We have 30 spaces available. Our deposit deadline is March 31, 2010, when we will have to send the campground a deposit for every coach that will attend. Final cutoff date is July 4. Plans are still being finalized. As soon as there is enough information, an email will go out to our members with final details, cost for the rally, activities, and Registration Form. For now, be sure to **“Save The Date”**

Activities that may be included and/or optional will be:

Estes Park	Sweats Zoo
Lunch at a Dude Ranch	A Fish Hatchery tour
Micro brewery tours (2)	Plays at the local playhouse
Budweiser Brewery tour	Dinner and dancing at The Sundance

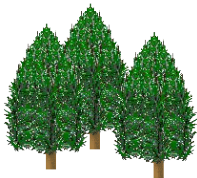


Cheyenne's Frontier Days start the day we leave (23rd). We are contacting the Chamber of Commerce there to see if we can make any arrangements for those who might want to partake of that.

Some members might plan to travel from Ft. Collins to Oregon for the AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally to the FMCA International Convention.

Note: The additional 10% discount will not be honored for those who have a KOA Kard. However, their stay at the park will count toward their bonus points.

August 7 to 10, 2010 – AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally to FMCA 84th International Convention, Redmond, OR [Sun Rocks RV Park](#), Prineville, Oregon (FMCA Convention dates are August 11 to 14, 2010)



Don and Patty Rowe will be Wagon Masters. We have 20 spaces available, and can probably get more if we need them. Rally cost and events are yet to be determined, but will likely include one or more catered dinners, and an optional trip on the Crooked River Mystery Dinner Train (an unforgettable experience!)

Information, cost, and Registration Form will be in the next Newsletter, but **“Save The Date”** now!

FMCA International Conventions and Area Rallies

For FMCA Rallies – Members should reserve General Parking for FMCA Rallies by calling FMCA reservations (800) 543-3622 or using the FMCA web site <http://www.FMCA.com>.

Feb 3 to 7, 2010 – [Southeast Area Rally](#) « *Click link to Get info and Register Online*
Hernando County Airport, Brooksville, Florida

March 22 to 25, 2010 - [FMCA's 83rd International Convention](#) « *Click link to Get info*
Albuquerque, New Mexico

May 27 to 30, 2010 - [Great Lakes Area Rally](#) « *Click link to Get info and Register Online*
Berrien County Youth Fair, Berrien Springs, MI

June 9-12, 2010 - **Midwest Area Rally**
Walworth County Fairgrounds, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

July 2 to 5, 2010 - [Northeast Area Rally](#) « *Click link to Get info and Register Online*
Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont

August 11 to 14, 2010 - [FMCA's 84th International Convention](#) « *Click link to Get info*
Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, Oregon

Our AlfaSeeYas Chapter will have a Pre-Rally to this event August 7 to 10—Save The Date!

September 29 to October 3, 2010 - **South Central Area Rally**
State Fair of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana

October 12 to 16, 2010 - **Rocky Mountain Area Rally**
San Juan County Fairgrounds, McGee Park, Farmington, New Mexico

October 20 to 24, 2010 - [Eastern Area Rally](#) « *Click link to Get info and Register Online*
Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Other Rallies

Apr 14 to 21, 2010 - **Alfa Annual Rally (Alfa Owners Club Chapters)** – Tucson, AZ – Rincon West RV Resort
The week before, some of the Owners Club Chapters will be having pre-rallies.
Registration Deadline is JANUARY 31.

This year, you do not have to be a member of one of the Alfa Owners Club Chapters ([South Loafers](#), [Roadrunners](#), [Mavericks](#), [Sun Seekers](#), [Lone Stars](#), Wranglers, or Alfa One) to attend.

Please see *Other Rallies* on page 5

Other Rallies continued from page 4

ALL Alfa owners are welcome at the Alfa Annual Rally. They are asking that non-chapter members either pay an additional \$25 fee, OR join one of the chapters for the 2010 year (this will cost as little as \$15 and you would be informed of, and welcomed to, other Owners Club outings for the year). If you are not a member of one of the Owners Club Chapters, check them out and consider joining one, in addition to your membership in AlfaSeeYas. Many who belong to our FMCA Chapter, the AlfaSeeYas, are also members of an Alfa Owners Club Chapter.

If any of our members want to attend the Alfa Annual Rally, send the [Registration Form](#) (← click the link) and applicable fees to Thomas Upton, Rally Master (951-634-5664), **no later than JANUARY 31**. He would be happy to put you in contact with a chapter of your choosing if you wanted to go that route. If you have any questions, his email is upton@airenetworks.com. The [tentative rally schedule](#) is at this link.

AlfaSeeYas Indio Pre-Rally Report

– By Rhonda Dean

[Emerald Desert RV Resort](#), Indio, California

January 2 - 5, 2010

Don and Patty Rowe greeted and parked everyone as 39 coaches rolled in on Saturday, Jan. 2. We couldn't have ordered better weather! Everyone got settled and enjoyed a great spaghetti dinner that evening with introductions afterward.

Sunday morning a breakfast of fresh fruit, rolls, coffee and juice was served. After breakfast 27 folks caravanned to the [Living Desert Museum](#) for a personal tram tour with wonderful guides. This is a beautiful natural setting with many desert creatures and plants. If you have never been it is a tour worth taking.

Sunday afternoon we had our traditional coach walk and as usual everyone got great ideas from one another. That night we had a potluck dinner at the clubhouse. No one went away hungry. After dinner 30 folks stayed to play LRC which is a dice game that takes no skill. Terry Scott won the pot of \$87.

Monday, after breakfast, Jon Goldstein and Martin Miranda from [Alfateers](#) gave an overview of their service center, spoke to replacement versus repair

issues and talked about the new services they are providing, i.e. inside upgrade package and outside paint job. Jon and Martin then addressed questions from the group and made some personal visits to coaches after the talk.

That afternoon, 12 folks caravanned to [Outdoor Resorts Indio](#) for a golf tournament, organized by Gene Brantner. That night our group participated in the resort meal with card bingo after dinner. There are four opportunities to win games and two members of our group won.

All during the pre-rally, Charlie, Vicki and Tom, from [Charlie's Service](#) in Sunset, Utah, were on hand. They installed (for no labor charge) Halon fire extinguishers in the refrigerator stacks of many of our RVs, as well as installing items from "Charlie's Service Goodies List".

Tuesday morning we were all up bright and early for the caravan into the FMCA rally. We had 33 rigs lining up and met three others at the rally. Don Rowe did another fine job of leading everyone to the Indio Fairgrounds!

Please see *AlfaSeeYas Indio Pre-Rally* on page 6

AlfaSeeYas Indio Pre-Rally Report continued from page 5

During the FMCA rally we had our traditional happy hour every evening with wonderful appetizers shared by all. This year we were fortunate to have several music makers with us. A big thanks goes out to Joe and Donna Davis, John Filipczak and Lorraine Lynch for providing music and songs for our happy hours.

[Mac The Fire Guy](#) came to our happy hour one evening, answered questions, and gave a demo about how to get out of our coaches in case of a fire. John Bohn has a report in this issue.

On the final night of the FMCA rally we had a pizza party, and took a group photo. The president of [INTO](#), (the FMCA Area Association that our Chapter belongs to), Sonny Gillespie and his wife Carole

joined us. Sonny spoke to us about a number of things, but the one that stuck in my mind was this: "The most important member of FMCA is the newest member." That resonated with me because we welcomed several new members to our Chapter during our Pre-Rally and the FMCA Rally.

Thanks to Mike Lynch, Roger Eldridge, and Don Rowe for the bonfires we had during the evenings. Mike provided the tub and stand and they all somehow came up with wood.

As always at these rallies it is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and catch up with our old friends.

-- Reported by Rhonda Dean



Most of the AlfaSeeYas who attended the Indio FMCA Rally, January 9, 2010

Speaking of [INTO](#) (our FMCA Area Association), this was in a recent Newsletter:

Jerry Sweeney F360476 is trying to start a new chapter called the Veterans Chapter. It will be open to all FMCA members who have served in the military. Not just retired military but any military service, male or female and regardless of which branch they served in. Can be reserve, National Guard, etc. Anyone interested can contact Sweeney at jerrylsweeney@gmail.com

The Camp Cook's Corner

For this issue, we have two recipes to share — one from Denise Gray, and one from Rhonda Dean. Both look easy, delicious, and I am definitely gonna give them a try. If you motorhome chefs will send me recipes — maybe something easy to cook on the road, or one of the yummy “heavy hors d’oeuvres” that find their way to our Happy Hours, or ??? — email patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com and I'll include them in future newsletters.

Skillet Tomato Beef Pasta

Serves 4 - 6 (contributed by Denise Gray, SYG 71914)

Denise says, *“Here's an easy recipe I enjoy cooking in the motorhome. I use my electric skillet.”*

Ingredients

6 oz uncooked elbow macaroni or other type of pasta

1 lb. lean ground beef or turkey

1 med. onion, chopped

1 can (14.5 oz) french style green beans, drained

1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes

Italian seasoning to taste (1 tsp to 1 tbsp)

Chopped parsley (optional)

Parmesan cheese (optional)

Preparation

1. Cook pasta according to directions, drain well.
2. Brown beef and onion in large skillet, drain.
3. Add beans and undrained tomatoes, mix well.
4. Add cooked pasta and heat through.
5. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
6. Garnish with chopped parsley and parmesan cheese if desired.

Good served with cornbread or garlic bread to round out the meal.

Mini Penne with Spicy Chicken Alfredo

Serves 4 (contributed by Rhonda Dean, Chapter Secretary)

Ingredients

8 oz dried mini penne pasta

1 jar (16 oz.) Alfredo sauce

1 can (14.5 oz.) diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano

1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning

½ tsp. Red pepper flakes

2 pkgs. (6 oz. Each) refrigerated chicken strips

1 can (2.25 oz.) sliced black olives, drained

Preparation

1. Cook pasta according to directions, drain well.
2. In medium saucepan, combine Alfredo sauce, tomatoes, Italian seasoning, and red pepper flakes. Over medium heat, stir in chicken and olives. Bring to a simmer; cook for 10 minutes.
3. Serve over hot cooked pasta (or mix all together). Top with parmesan cheese.

Serve with hot French bread and salad.

Featured Video: CPR in 2 minutes

Learn how YOU can save a life in an easy two-minute CPR lesson from Dr. Ben Abella.

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta says, "I am going to let you in on a secret: When a person's heart stops beating, it's not the end. Contrary to what you may think, death is not a single event. Instead, it's a process that can be interrupted."

[Watch this short video](#) to learn the new, simplified, and very effective method of giving CPR, without using mouth-to-mouth.

Then Remember: As soon as you see someone suffer what you think may be cardiac arrest, call 911, start giving chest compressions 100 times a minute, and don't stop for anything. To get more information and to find classes in your area in emergency cardiovascular care, go to the [American Heart Association Web site](#).



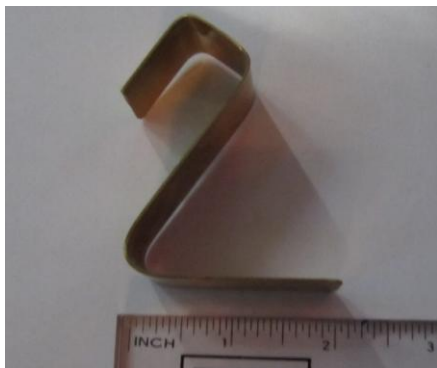
Click the link below to watch this important video: (there's a 16 sec. ad before the video begins)

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/health/2009/10/13/cheat.death.cpr.demo.cnn>

I like to follow a serious video with a light-hearted one. The more I learn about animals, the more I find surprises. This is an example. Despite the odds, these are best friends. [Click here to watch](#)

John Bohn sent in this tip: "Not so elegant," he says, "but it works!"

John fashioned some "hat-hangers" out of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide brass metal stock that Ace Hardware carried in 12 inch lengths. He cut each 12-inch section in half, then bent them as shown in the photos below so they would hang from the "fishing-pole rack" in the coach. He filed the edges to eliminate sharp corners, etc.



Got a tip for your fellow Alfa owners? Send a description, add a photo if you like, and it may be included in a future newsletter.

Email to: Patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com



Caterpillar seminar tidbits:
-- reported by John Bohn

Information about CAT engines is available at:
<http://rv.cat.com> -- Free CAT Customer Call
Center : (877) 777-3126

SCA test strips are now available in quantities of 10 from caterpillar (formerly only available in batches of 50---10 pack part # 4C9297). Be sure to test your coolant at least once per year. These strips make it simple and easy, assuming you can get the strip down into the coolant in the tank above the engine. You may need to dip the coolant with your finger and apply it to the test strip. Be sure your fingers are clean when you use this method. You may be able to find test strips in small quantities at Napa or AutoZone parts stores. If you are using Extended Life Coolant, you do not need to test for SCAs!

At a recent rally I observed several people warming their engines until the engine temperature gauge reached its normal level. It is NOT necessary to warm up your engine for more than a few minutes, unless you are planning on immediately driving under heavy load conditions (such as climbing a steep hill). For cooling down the engine, if you are

pulling into a rest stop after traveling at highway speeds, let the engine idle for 3-5 minutes before shutting it off to allow the turbo charger temperatures to decrease. If you have been driving through city streets, on the way to an RV park for example, you don't need to let the engine idle when you stop.

The majority of C7 engines were built with shallow sumps, requiring only 19 quarts of oil, rather than the 28 quarts for the deep sump variety. The problem is that the engine dipsticks are supplied by the coach manufacturer (in our case, Alfa Leisure) as its length depends on where and how they locate it in the coach. In most cases, Alfa Leisure apparently supplied the wrong dipsticks, and they need to be re-calibrated for the shallow sump. If not, your oil change may result in an overfill with the excess oil blown out through the breather tube, SUCKED INTO THE RADIATOR, and all over your tow car. When I had my dipstick recalibrated, they placed the new marks on the backside of the dipstick. Twice since then Freightliner facilities have still overfilled my engine, not realizing the correct markings were on the backside. Solution: grind off the markings on the original side with a file or Dremel tool.

Fogged Windows

At the Indio FMCA rally many coaches had fogged windows repaired by Joe Colvin, owner of Auto Glass Boss, from Phoenix, AZ. At the rally he repaired over 20 panes on various coaches at a cost of \$100 per pane. Many of us were under the impression that Western General would cover the repairs, less a deductible, but that turned out not to be the case.

Joe did an excellent job of taking care of all coach owners and will be available at the Tucson Alfa Annual Rally for others needing fogged windows repaired.

I had one fogged window fixed and will let you know if it continues to be a good repair in future newsletters. -- John Bohn

Engine Woes! — *an Article by John Bohn*
(that he probably would rather not have written)

My 2005 CAT C7 "blew" in Massachusetts August 21. Cause: a build up of "crud" in the radiator as a result of the blow-by tube not being extended past the radiator's air intake, along with a trip across the "Top of the World" highway in Alaska that was 70 miles of extremely fine dust. I spent 4 hours trying to clean the radiator using a pressure sprayer at a car wash before leaving Alaska, and thought I had it pretty clean. I didn't!

In Massachusetts, a Freightliner dealer rebuilt the engine but installed a cylinder insert in #6 that was .013" too short. When installing the pistons, this tiny gap apparently caused breakage of the top piston oil ring, and went un-noticed. Approximately 800 miles later, the cylinder blew again, and caused an over-pressurization of the entire coolant system, that in turn blew out the heater coils in the front of the coach. This occurred in Ohio, where a CAT dealer did the second rebuild and replaced the heater coil.

We drove the coach to San Diego, approximately 3000 miles, and it seemed to run fine, though I was hearing some knocking noises periodically at start up. I took the coach into the local CAT dealer and they discovered the #6 cylinder was again scored, and that metal filings were in the injector pump. They replaced the injector pump and are currently rebuilding the engine. The previous CAT dealer used a tool that allowed them to bore out the cylinder without pulling the engine (to save time and money). According to the San Diego CAT dealer this always results in metal filings going everywhere, so they do not use that method.

Thankfully, all of this is being covered by Caterpillar under warranty.

Lessons learned:

Insure that your blow-by tube extends past the radiator air intake!

Keep that radiator clean!

Because of the configuration of the C7 engine in our coaches, you cannot get to the front side of the radiator to clean it, and are forced to try to clean it from the rear. Now that mine is known to be very clean, I plan to keep it that way by cleaning it regularly from the rear. To properly clean a badly soiled radiator requires that it be removed from the coach, along with the intercooler, at a cost of somewhere between \$1500 and \$2500 dollars.

At the first rebuild, the Freightliner people extended the blow-by tube, but now I sometimes get residue on the tow car. Caterpillar has a solution for this in the form of a Mist Filter System (Part Number 269-2002) that takes the blow-by fumes and re-circulates them back into the engine. The cost of this system is about \$350 for parts and \$200 installation labor. It also contains a filter that must be replaced every 3-5 oil changes (I don't know the cost of the filter). A second option I discovered through the FMCA magazine is a new item on the market from a company in Arizona. This unit costs only \$29.95, and consists of a hard plastic box with inlets and outlets to facilitate the flow of blow-by fumes. Ideally, the oil particles will coalesce in the box, and then can be drained periodically. I don't know if this will work, but I have purchased one and plan to install it soon. If it works I'll let you know in the next newsletter. The website for this item is:

<http://www.retractabletowcurtain.com/oilcollector.html>

Whatever you do, **KEEP YOUR RADIATOR CLEAN!** If you have any hint of abnormal increased engine temperatures, consider getting the radiator professionally cleaned.

-- John Bohn

Service Update #1 -- Dustin Simpson, California RV Specialists

For many years Dustin Simpson provided excellent Alfa service at his shop in Lodi, CA. He is now back in business as California RV Specialists at the same location. He offers a free coach inspection and a discount to AlfaSeeYas members on any maintenance work. His shop is at: 110 S Cherokee Lane, Lodi CA 95240, telephone (209) 334-4500

Service Update #2 -- Charlie's RV Service 'Mobile Crew' Travel Schedule

Charlie, Vicki and Tom are traveling in the desert Southwest, with a trailer loaded with tools and supplies. They will be in Quartzsite AZ at the Roadrunners camp, LaPosa North, until Jan. 29. Then in Yuma AZ Jan. 29 to Feb. 15, and Apache Junction AZ from Feb. 15 to March 1. Their primary mission while here will be to install Norcold and Dometic refrigerator recall kits in the units identified by their manufacturers as requiring upgrading. The 'Mobile Crew' also will be installing, for no labor charge, Halon fire extinguishers in the refrigerator stacks of any rv whose owner wants one, as well as installing items from "Charlie's Goodie List". If you have any questions or if you want to schedule an appointment for when they are in your area, call Vicki at (801) 547-7630 during normal week day business hours.

More Service Info -- Alfateers, and Dick Albritton

If you are in Southern California, needing any type of Alfa repair or modification, get in touch with Jon at Alfateers, in Fontana, CA. Phone (909) 428-6775, website at www.alfateersrvservice.com

For those of you in the Eastern part of the USA, Dick Albritton is the acknowledged Alfa expert. His address is 5048 Hwy. 145, Choudrandt, LA 71270, phone (318) 278-1677. Dick and Trish are in Weslaco TX until March.

We Alfa owners, who no longer have a manufacturer behind us, are fortunate to have these knowledgeable, experienced and reputable companies available when we need help.

Fire Safety Tips

At the recent Indio FMCA rally, Mac McCoy, known as [Mac the Fire Guy](#), addressed our group at the coaches and pointed out that we should routinely open the fire escape window in our bedrooms and lubricate the rubber with 303. Indeed, one of our group tried opening their window and it wouldn't budge. In addition, Mac advises keeping a stick equal in length to the height of the window that can be placed as a brace to hold the window open when having to use it as an escape route, and using the bedding to lay over the opened window edge before exiting!



A warm welcome to our newest AlfaSeeYas members. To paraphrase INTO Pres. Sonny Gillespie: *"The most important member of the AlfaSeeYas is the newest member."* Thanks so much for joining us!

Evans and Patricia Benz

Roger Eldridge

Skip and Lexie Huffman

Jerry and Jean Maddux

Ken and Linda Routh

Michael and Kimberley Szczatko

Bill and Ann Chaney

Ronald and Zelda Ennis

John Kirk

Lena and Samuel Maddux

Marie McNeil-Shea and Jeff Shea

Jack and Ada Vanderwoude

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Ronald and Marla Green

Bob and MaryAnn Korbela

Gordon and Linda Prybil

Michael and Nancy Smith

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(checks payable to Alfa SeeYas)

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Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

Membership is \$10 per year.
Multiple year renewals are
encouraged at \$10 per year.

DECALS

We now have new *AlfaSeeYas* decals available. These are high quality laser-cut vinyl letters, not the bumper sticker type. If you would like one for your coach's exterior, please email jfbohn1@mac.com and he will send you one (free) with instructions for applying it!

Where are We ???



Barbara and Tim Campbell's Alfa #2374, in the [City of Rocks State Park](#), which is a little North of Deming, NM. This unique destination of large sculptured rock columns has hiking trails, a botanical garden, and a public night sky observatory. The Campbells and their black Peke, Amos, love this place.

Send a photo of your Alfa, noting when and where taken, to the Editor, patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com

Useful Internet Sites for Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website Alfa SeeYas.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 Motorcoach Association: www.fmca.com

Yahoo Message Boards – these are Internet forums 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).

Alfa SeeYas: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/alfaseeya/>

SeeYa DP: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaDP/>

SeeYa Travels: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaTravels/>

Chapters of the Alfa Owners Club:

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

[South Loafers](#) – Southern California

[Mavericks](#) – Central California

Western States Wranglers RV Club – Northern California to Eugene, Oregon

[Sun Seekers](#) – North of Eugene, Oregon, and Washington

[Lone Stars](#) – Texas Area

Alfa One – LA and surrounding area



Ageing Gracefully

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family, for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60 & 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love ... I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set.

They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and Compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

-- *Author Unknown*