



Visit our Website at [www.AlfaSeeYas.com](http://www.AlfaSeeYas.com)

July 2010 Issue # 28

## President's Message

-- By John Bohn - [jfbohn1@mac.com](mailto:jfbohn1@mac.com)

As I write this I am looking out over the beautiful scenery of Mesa Verde National Park near Durango, Colorado; watching a deer calmly grazing about 50 feet from the coach. We are dry camping in the park and I can highly recommend it. They virtually never run out of dry camping spaces, except on Memorial Day, and the price is right. If you have a Golden Age National Parks Pass it is only \$12 per night. (If you are 62 or older you can get a Golden Age Pass for only \$10, and it provides you free entrance into all National Parks.) They do have sites with full hookups, but they are usually always full. If you want those you have to plan well in advance and can reserve them on line.

As we make our way to the Fort Collins Rally we traveled first through Monument Valley, UT and that as well as Mesa Verde are two "must see" places that we are happy to have visited. Belle and I are both interested in the archeology and cultural histories of Native Americans, and have been very pleased with the how well "the story" has been preserved and presented here at Mesa Verde. It is a huge park with hundreds of sites, and draws people from all over the world. You owe it to yourself to visit sometime! Durango too is worth a visit. As most people who come here do, we took the coal fired steam engine train from Durango to Silverton and back. It is a full day's worth of travel through some of the most beautiful country in Colorado, as the train's path follows the Animas River.

## Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
Editor's Note	2
Info about January 2011 Indio Pre-Rally	<a href="#">3</a>
FMCA Rally Schedule	<a href="#">4</a>
Report on 2010 Annual Alfa Owners Club Rally	<a href="#">5</a>
Article on Electrical Tips	<a href="#">6</a>
Featured Video: RV Refrigerator Tips	<a href="#">8</a>
Follow up on Extended Warranty Contracts	<a href="#">9</a>
Camp Cooks Corner	<a href="#">10</a>
New Members	<a href="#">11</a>
Alfa SeeYas Officers & Contact Information	<a href="#">11</a>
Alfa Repair Facilities	<a href="#">12</a>
Useful Internet Sites & Tips from Owners	<a href="#">13</a>
Indio Pre-Rally Flyer	<a href="#">14</a>
Indio Pre-Rally Registration Form	<a href="#">15</a>

As we continue toward Fort Collins we are sure to see some more beautiful places in this great state. We hope your summer travels are as pleasant as ours have been, and that we may meet up somewhere down the road.

We wish you safe and happy travels,

-- John



Puebloan Archeological Site, Mesa Verde, Colorado

## Editor's Note



-- By Patty Rowe, Newsletter Editor - [patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com](mailto:patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com)

It's mid-summer already. Independence Day is my favorite holiday, and we had a wonderful celebration this year. My husband Don and I said "Happy Birthday" to America in the village of Yachats, "Gem of the Oregon Coast" (normal population 600). Several thousand of our fellow citizens from all over this great land lined the streets for an offbeat small-town parade (complete with an Umbrella Drill Team and a troupe of dancing jellyfish). We enjoyed the Pie and Ice Cream Social, and oohed and awed at the fireworks launched by the Volunteer Fire Department over Yachats Bay ... you get to marvel at them twice ... in the air, and reflected in the ocean. Great show! And probably one of the few places in America where you wrap up in blankets to watch fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

I imagine that some of you lucky ones reading this are having a blast at the Ft. Collins Rally! I wish we could have joined you there. But, having just finished up a *really long trip* back to Oregon from our winter home at Outdoor Resorts in Indio, CA, we've had a million things to do at home.

A couple of words about that long trip home from Southern California to Oregon ... wow, what a great adventure! We left Indio in mid-April, and went to [Charlie's Service](#) in Sunset, UT, to get some work done on the Alfa, as our new EasyCare extended warranty was soon to begin (figured we might as well get everything done before the old Western General warranty expired in May). We also had some neat goodies added. There were a number of Alfas there with us. We didn't get in many "happy hours" as it was really cold outside, but we did go to dinner as a group with Charlie and Vicki several times. It's a fun, friendly place, and they really do know the Alfa inside and out.



So anyway, there we were, hanging out at Charlie's (*photo above, we are on the left*), when we got a wedding invitation from Don's only niece in Michigan. What the heck, we thought, Alfas are made to travel, right? So - five weeks, 6,000 miles, and eleven new states on my map later - we finally arrived at home in Oregon. Wonderful trip, beautiful wedding, and the Alfa performed like a dream. She really IS made to travel! However, after 6,000 miles on the road, even Webster the Traveling Tuxedo Cat was ready to get home!

Now we are getting ready for the Prineville Pre-Rally coming up in August (Don and I are Wagon Masters), and the FMCA International Rally in Redmond, OR that follows. We have 19 AlfaSeeYas coaches registered for the Pre-Rally, with two or three others who will join us for meals, and park with us at the FMCA Rally. Looking forward to seeing old friends, and meeting some new ones (sorry if you didn't get your registration in, but it closed on July 5<sup>th</sup>).

Well, I hope there's something to interest you in this Summer issue of the Newsletter!



-- Patty  
← (my new Visited States Map)

## RALLY CALENDAR: Our AlfaSeeYas Chapter Rallies

### *Rallies ... It's where the GOOD TIMES are ...*

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.*



Photo from the Indio Pre-Rally, January 2010

January 7 to 11, 2011 – **AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally** to **FMCA Western Area Rally, Indio, CA** – **Emerald Desert RV Park**, Palm Desert, CA (FMCA Rally follows, the FMCA dates are January 12 to 16, 2011). Wagonmasters are Mike and Lorraine Lynch, with Don and Patty Rowe assisting. Mike and Lorraine have planned some awesome events for this always-popular Rally. There is a **Rally Flyer** with all the details on Page 14 of this Newsletter, as well as the **Registration Form** on Page 15. Deadline to register is November 1, 2010. There are 30 spaces reserved for us. This Rally always fills up fast, so get your Registration Form in soon!



**Emerald Desert RV Resort**



**Palm Springs Air Museum**



View from the **Palm Springs Tram**

Your editor has attended the Indio Pre-Rally and FMCA for 4 years. We wouldn't miss it for anything. The best bunch of folks, gorgeous weather, lots to see and do ... what more could you ask for in a Rally? Hope to see you there!

## RALLY CALENDAR: 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>.

**August 11 to 14, 2010 - [FMCA's 84<sup>th</sup> International Convention](#) « *Click link for info***

Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, Oregon ([Reserve General w/Generator parking](#))

**Our AlfaSeeYas Chapter will have a Pre-Rally to this event August 7 to 9. If you did not get registered for our Pre-Rally, you can still park with us at the FMCA. Email Wagon Master [Patty Rowe](#) if interested.**

**September 29 to October 3, 2010 - [South Central Area Rally](#) « *Click link for info and Register Online***

State Fair of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana

**October 12 to 16, 2010 - [Rocky Mountain Area Rally](#) « *Click link for info and Register Online***

San Juan County Fairgrounds, McGee Park, Farmington, New Mexico

**October 20 to 24, 2010 - [Eastern Area Rally](#) « *Click link for info and Register Online***

Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**January 12 to 16, 2011 - Western Area Rally**

Indio Fairgrounds, Indio, California

**Our AlfaSeeYas Chapter will have a Pre-Rally to this event January 7 to 11**

**February 2 to 6, 2011 - Southeast Area Rally**

Hernando County Airport, Brooksville, FL

**March 14 to 17, 2011 - FMCA's 85<sup>th</sup> International Convention**

Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, Georgia

**May 11 to 15, 2011 - INTO Area Rally**

Elkhart County Fairgrounds, Goshen, Indiana

**June 2 to 5, 2011 - Northwest Area Rally**

Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, Oregon

**August 10 to 13, 2011 - FMCA's 86<sup>th</sup> International Convention**

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wisconsin



## Report on the 2010 Annual Rally of the Alfa Owners' Club - by Larry York

*Editor's note: Even though this Rally is not organized by our FMCA Chapter AlfaSeeYas, many of our members are also members of one of the Alfa Owners' Clubs. So I felt this report was relevant for all of us, and Larry York, President of the South Loafers Chapter AOC, was kind enough to write it up. Don and I didn't attend the 2010 Annual Rally, but we went in 2009, and it was wonderful to be with so many Alfa Owners ~pr*

The 2010 Alfa Owners' Club (AOC) Annual Rally was hosted by the South Loafers Chapter and was held at the Rincon Country West RV Resort, in Tucson, Arizona, 14–21 April. The Rally Wagon Masters were Thomas and Christine Upton.

Attendance fluctuated day-to-day even during the actual dates of the Rally due to family emergencies, and folks calling to ask if they could get in – even for a day – but the number hovered around 107–109 Alfa 5<sup>th</sup> wheels and motor homes (roughly, 214 Alfa owners).

Every AOC Chapter was represented.

The schedule provided folks the opportunity to participate in various technical and informational seminars as well as craft classes, morning coffee and rolls, morning walks, water aerobics, a golf tournament, wine tasting, happy hours, three catered evening meals, a catered breakfast, an ice cream social, three evenings of live entertainment, “prize night”, movie night, a pet parade, a ladies luncheon, yard sale, RV/rig walk, and a tour of the Arizona/Sonoran Desert Museum.

There was free time also factored into the schedule to allow folks to relax and/or check out the local area on their own.

We also had a used book fair that resulted in a donation of \$233.25 to the Tucson Community Food Bank from books sales and eight boxes of leftover books that were donated to the Veterans' Hospital in Tucson.



*2010 Annual Rally - Alfas as far as you can see ...*

Also, several vendors and service companies, such as the “Weigh-It” guy, Alfateers, CoilNWrap, and Pressure Pro were on-site during the rally offering their services, and also presented technical seminars.

Thanks go to the [Alfateers](#) for cooking and serving a delicious breakfast, and the Rincon Country West RV Resort for sponsoring the ice cream social during the Rally.

Our entertainment included music during the opening dinner with dancing afterward, Irish Step Dancers, and the University of Arizona Steel Drum Band.

At the closing dinner, Jim Collard (Chairman of the AOC Oversight Committee) announced that, the Roadrunners Chapter will be the host chapter

*Annual Rally Report Continued on page 6*

for the 2011 AOC Annual Rally at a place and dates to be determined, and that since he will be the 2011 Rally Wagon Master, that he was stepping down as the Chairman and that Bruce Mitchell of the South Loafers and past president of the Sundancers/Alfa Owners Club Board had been elected by the Committee to replace him as the Chairman.

The feedback Thomas, Christine, I and our Chapter members received about the overall rally experience were very positive and appreciative.

Of note, this was the first year that we encouraged non-AOC Alfa Owners to attend the Rally. The incentive was that if they joined one of the AOC Chapters, then the "non AOC member" fee was waived. As a result, the Chapters gained several new members, and folks who had not experienced an Alfa only Rally were able to attend.

We are eagerly looking forward to the 2011 AOC Annual Rally.

Larry York  
President, [South Loafers Chapter](#), Alfa Owners' Club  
Member of the Alfa SeeYas Chapter, FMCA

## Electrical Tips and Other Info – An Article by John Bohn

*Information from the presentation by Jim Reed at  
Alfa National Rally, Tucson, AZ April 19, 2010*

Coaches have 3 banks of batteries :  
Inverter, Coach, and Chassis

- Inverter batteries supply 120V to receptacles when inverter is on.
- Coach batteries supply 12V to lights, sensors, etc. in coach.
- Chassis batteries supply power to start the coach.

When on shore power or generator, batteries are charged in this order:

- Inverter, then coach, then chassis

When the engine is on, its alternator charges batteries in reverse order, Chassis, Coach, Inverter. (This is why, after dry camping, it may take a very long drive to bring all batteries back up to full. You might consider running the generator while driving, until the batteries are full, if you plan to dry camp again soon.)

When storing coach, make sure knife switches are all open. If you have a battery with a bad cell it could pull down the charge on all batteries joined together, possibly damaging all that are joined.

If you plan to purchase a voltmeter, make sure it can read voltage as Root Mean Square (RMS), and that it can read accurately to 1 / 100th of a volt (0.01 volt).

*Electrical Tips Continued on page 7*

**Battery levels:**

12.8 volts – battery is fully charged (if there is no current going in or out, and the battery has been sitting unused for a while (e.g. 1 hour)).

12.1 volts – battery is 50% discharged (never allow batteries to go below this level, it will drastically reduce their life)

12.5 volts – battery is 80% discharged

13.2 volts – float charge level

14.1 volts – heavy charge going into battery (bulk charging)

When checking batteries with a voltmeter, have all switches off in coach and let coach sit for about 1 hour.

**Which batteries are which:**

If your inverter is mounted in the compartment by the driver's seat, the first four batteries in the generator compartment closest to that compartment are the inverter batteries, the last two are the coach batteries.

If your inverter is mounted under the steps, the first four batteries closest to the steps are inverter batteries, the last two are the coach batteries.

Coach batteries are two 6 volt batteries, wired in series. You can check each battery individually and they should read 6.4 volts each (1/2 of 12.8).

Chassis batteries (the two in the compartment near the rear wheel on the driver's side) are wired in parallel.

The inverter batteries are wired in pairs in series, then the pairs are wired in parallel.

The easiest place to measure battery levels is at the Xantrex unit. There is a good ground wire there, and major leads to each battery bank are at the poles of the knife switches. For an excellent

description of how to determine which pole is which, go to either of the Yahoo group websites, log in, go to the files section and open the file submitted by jimraija (Jim Reed) labeled **12VDC Electrical System – Trouble shooting.pdf** (Here is a direct link to that page, but it may not work if you are not logged into the Yahoo site. <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaDP/files/12%20VDC%20Electrical%20System/>) There is also a file on the sites describing the 120 Volt systems in our coaches.

Normal inverter system charging sequence, if batteries are low, is bulk, then absorption then float. If the charger follows this sequence, you know you don't have a bad cell in your batteries.

**Tips:**

Never change from generator to shore power, or vice versa, with any loads on the electrical system. This could damage the transfer switch (located under the refrigerator, behind the circuit breakers), and would require it to be replaced.

If you are on shore power and there is a power failure, turn off the circuit breaker at the pedestal before turning on the generator. When the power comes back on in the park, turn off all loads to the generator and wait a minute or two before shutting it down. Then turn the power back on at the pedestal.

Never turn the generator off when there are loads on it. It could damage the windings in the motor.

Chassis batteries are sealed (you can't add water to them), but they will lose water. When they do the only solution is to replace them, and replace both, not just one.

*Electrical Tips Continued on page 8*

When dry camping:

Conserve energy by knowing what amperage appliances draw. Examples are:

Appliances	(Approximate)
Heat pumps/Air Conditioners	12.5 amps (per compressor)
Electric water heater	12.5 amps
Microwave oven	12.8 amps
Electric coffee pot	8.5 amps
Toaster	10.0 amps
Hair dryer	10.0 amps
Electric fry pan	10.0 amps
Iron	10.0 amps
Analog TV	2.0 amps
HD 32" TV	1.5 amps
Crock pot	1.5 amps
Heating pad	0.5 amps

Use gas (propane) to make coffee, rather than the inverter. Don't use an iron or other high amperage appliances if not necessary. Heat water with propane.

CO (carbon monoxide) detectors: Jim suggests getting aircraft type, digital CO detectors because they alert at 20 ppm rather than at 50 ppm like those that came with our coaches. They can be obtained at: <http://aeromedix.com> The unit is the CO Experts, Model 2010. List \$249, Aeromedix price \$179. These are battery operated and can be mounted on the wall above the A/C-Furnace controller using Velcro.

Water, grey water and black water tank sensors are located at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{4}$  levels on the tanks. Therefore, when the sensor light just starts to show full when filling the fresh water tank, the tank is really only  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. The same is true for the sewer tanks.

### Featured Video:

The refrigerator in your Alfa motorhome is substantially different from a household refrigerator in the way it operates.

This video, [RV Refrigerator Tips](#), presents some very useful information about how these fridges work, how to maintain them, and how to get more efficient operation out of them. I learned a lot about our RV fridge, and you might too.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiODEcUakeU&feature=related>



## Extended Warranty Contracts

- A follow-up by John Bohn

I have previously discussed Extended Warranty Contracts, and as a result of my investigations I chose to go with [EasyCare](#). My reasons were as follows:

- They would provide a 4 year – 48,000 mile warranty on my coach that has 62,000 miles on it when other companies would only offer three years.
- They cover not only mechanical breakdown but also cover the wear and tear on the components as well (defined as a failure in their contract). It is explicitly stated in their contract and not a gray area.
- They require an inspection on the RV prior to placing coverage so that they have a basis for the condition of the RV and the customer has a less likely chance of having a claim denied due to pre-existing conditions (this is a loophole that is frequently used by other companies)
- Their contracts are not only transferable but are cancelable and they do not subtract claims paid from the refund amount a customer would receive.
- Seals and gaskets on all covered components are included.
- In the event that a like or kind part cannot be located for the needed repair they will pay to have the upgrade put in (example– an owner needed a new part for her fridge but because they couldn't find the part, her warranty gave her \$79 towards the cost of a new fridge. EasyCare would pay for a new fridge.)
- They pay claims over the phone by credit card, directly to the repair facility so that you don't have to pay out of pocket and then get reimbursed.
- They have been in business for 25 years and have an A+ rating with the BBB. They are licensed to sell warranties in the state of California and Florida which shows the stability of their company since businesses in these states are required to have their financials audited.
- With EasyCare you are dealing directly with the contract administrator since their parent company is APCO. When you deal with a broker they have no liability over the contracts that they sell you and can basically say anything they want.

Note from the Editor: Don and I choose EasyCare for our Extended Warranty Contract as well. Hope we won't even need them, but .....

### And Another Video:

What do you do when you live in your Alfa for months on end, or maybe even full-time? How do you have fun and get exercise, on the cheap (well, cheap once you've purchased the equipment). This Video shows how two RVers accomplish it. I have several Alfa friends who Wii in their motorhomes, and I have Wii'ed (and shrieked with laughter!) with some of them. It's great exercise, no doubt about it.

[How We Wii in Our Motorhome](#)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsmp3bXauQ0&feature=related>

## The Camp Cook's Corner

Calling all motorhome chefs: I need you to send me some of your recipes — otherwise, **you're gonna get tired of my cooking** — maybe something easy to cook on the road, or that Potluck favorite everyone requests the recipe for, or one of the yummy "Heavy Hors d'oeuvres" that find their way to our Happy Hours — email [patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com](mailto:patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com) and I'll include them in future newsletters.

Here are a couple of Appetizer recipes that I have been known to take to an Alfa Happy Hour. It's easy to keep the ingredients on hand ... you never know when a Happy Hour will break out!

### Pepper Jelly Appetizer

Serves 6 (it's easy to double this)

#### Ingredients

- 1 (8 oz) pkg Cream Cheese, softened
- ½ cup mild pepper jelly (red or green)

#### Preparation

1. Spread jelly over the block of softened cream cheese.
2. Serve with Crackers (Wheat Thins, Triscuits, Ritz, all are good)

*"It has a sweet and slight pepper taste. Anyone who tries this loves it, and it doesn't get much easier! You should be able to find the jelly in the jelly section at your local grocery store. Serve with crackers."*



### Salmon Ball

Serves 4 - 6

*"This is from my motorhome friend, Pat Lamson, who doesn't own an Alfa -yet- but is a great cook. It's easy, and really yummy."*

#### Ingredients

- 1 can (5 or 7 oz) salmon (regular or smoked)
- 1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- ½ tsp garlic salt, or ¼ tsp garlic powder, and/or other favorite herbs
- Pecans, chopped ... OR fresh Parsley, chopped

#### Preparation

1. In medium bowl, mix cream cheese, and garlic salt (or garlic powder), and/or other herbs, to taste (I add 1 or 2 tsp lemon juice when I make it)
2. Mix in salmon
3. Turn out onto waxed paper or saran, and form into a ball
5. Roll ball in chopped pecans, or chopped fresh parsley.

Refrigerate until served, with crackers or veggies such as celery & carrot sticks.



A warm welcome to our newest AlfaSeeYas members. To paraphrase Sonny Gillespie, President of our FMCA Chapter, INTO: *“The most important member of the AlfaSeeYas is the newest member.”* Thanks so much for joining us!

Preston and JoAn Bateman  
John and Diana O’Laughlin

Gary and Sandra Hubley  
Dalton and Isobel Tamney

Richard and Pamela Marty

### Alfa SeeYas Officers & Other Volunteers

President	John Bohn	<a href="mailto:JFBohn1@mac.com">JFBohn1@mac.com</a> (ph 858-822-8468)
Vice President	Dave Kiesig	<a href="mailto:trainmaster@hotmail.com">trainmaster@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Rhonda Dean	<a href="mailto:rhondadean@gmail.com">rhondadean@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Belle Bohn	<a href="mailto:bjbohn1@mac.com">bjbohn1@mac.com</a>
National Director	Tim Dean	<a href="mailto:twdean68@gmail.com">twdean68@gmail.com</a>
Alt. National Director	Don Rowe	<a href="mailto:don@donandpatty.us">don@donandpatty.us</a>
Newsletter Editor	Patty Rowe	<a href="mailto:patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com">patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com</a>
Website Administrator	Tony Monson	<a href="mailto:djnosnow@aol.com">djnosnow@aol.com</a>

The Alfa SeeYas Chapter Website is at: [www.alfaseeyas.com](http://www.alfaseeyas.com)

Send U.S. Mail and Dues to  
Treasurer at: -->>>>>>>  
(checks payable to Alfa SeeYas)

Alfa SeeYas Chapter  
3590 Round Bottom Road  
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](mailto:jfbohn1@mac.com) and he will send you one (free) with instructions for applying it!

## Alfa Repair Facilities (in alphabetical order)

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.

If you are in Southern California, get in touch with the Alfateers, in Fontana, CA. Phone (909) 428-6775, website at <http://www.alfateersrvservice.com>

Charlie's Service is in Sunset, UT. Phone (801) 547-7630 and website is <http://www.charliesservice.com>

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.

### A NEW ALFA REPAIR FACILITY

John Bohn received a recommendation from a trusted friend for a new Alfa repair shop, and thought it was worth a mention in our Newsletter. He was a District Tech Rep for Alfa, then Service Manager and Tech for Camping World in Baldwin County, AL. He has now gone into the Alfa repair business. If you are in that part of the country, contact Mike Ewing, Phone: (251) 508-3102, Email [dkbewing@gmail.com](mailto:dkbewing@gmail.com) He is located on Hwy 90, Loxley, AL.

### A REPAIR RECOMMENDATION for FOGGED WINDOWS

Member Irene Renfro writes: "When you open your July FMCA magazine to page 8 you will see an ad for [RVFogDr](http://www.RVFogDr.com) I can highly recommend them. They did all of our windows and what a difference it made. They did an excellent job. The owner is a friend of ours and he will treat you right. They have a great facility. Please let our members know. They are located in the town of Searcy, AR. It is a nice area with lots of places to visit." You can reach them at (501) 278-3015, or learn more at their website, <http://www.RVFogDr.com>

**MORE ABOUT REPLACEMENT WINDOWS:** Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with that expensive double-pane energy efficient kind, and today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the work had been completed a whole year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Helloooo,..... just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year, that in ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves! Hellooooo? It's been a year! I told him.

There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.

**A TIP ABOUT BAY DOORS** ... From Kathi Duarte, moderator of the Yahoo Message Board AlfaSeeYas: I have an '03 Gold and my sewer bay door did the same thing (blistered) and had the slots on the top of the door. Alfateers replaced the door and did an autopsy on the door, it was soaked and rotten inside.

Cause – The door was originally installed upside down by Alfa, the slots belong on the bottom, that caused the whole problem. Check all your bay door for slot holes on the top, if they are on top, they are upside down and you need to dry it out and plug the holes.

**A TIP ABOUT THE AIR CLEANER** ... From Don Rowe: While at Charlie's Service, we decided to increase the fuel mileage in our '05 Gold by getting an upgraded air cleaner. When Charlie removed the old air cleaner, it contained a large bird nest, complete with sticks, leaves, and moss from trees around where we park our coach in Oregon in the summer. We found that the intake vent for the air cleaner does not have a screen on it, and is therefore a perfect bird house for nests. We now get ½ mile more per gallon. Doesn't sound like much, but it will buy the air cleaner every three years. Everyone should check the intake vent to see if there is a screen, and if not, you might want to put a mesh screen of some type in there.

## Useful Internet Sites for Alfa Owners

**Our Chapter Website Alfa SeeYas.com:** [www.alfaseeyas.com](http://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](http://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 & Arizona

[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

[Sunrisers](#): An Alfa club that covers the Eastern US from Canada to Southern Florida



**Come to The Desert and enjoy the January sunshine**, with average temperatures at 72°. Visit old friends, and make new ones. Tour the largest collection of WWII aircraft, and take the Palm Springs Aerial Tram to the snow high above the valley floor. Play a round of golf for free, or learn tee-shirt braiding, a craft that will turn your over-long shirts into just the right length. 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. Wagon Masters are Mike and Lorraine Lynch (assisted by Don and Patty Rowe). Space is limited for this very popular rally, so register early! We hope to see you there!

**Registration Form** is in this Newsletter, and online at <http://www.AlfaSeeYas.com>

#### Rally Fee of \$289.00 Includes:

4 nights with full hookups at [Emerald Desert RV Resort](#) in Palm Desert CA

1 catered breakfast  
2 continental breakfasts  
3 catered dinners  
Potluck Dinner

**Optional Tours:** [Palm Springs Air Museum](#) (\$9.00 per person), and [Palm Springs Aerial Tram](#) (\$20.75 per person)

Question & Answer session with the experts, Jon and Martin of [Alfateers](#)

**Plus ... Free** Golf at one of the Coachella Valley’s finest 18 hole, par 3, private courses

#### Rally Agenda

##### Friday, Jan 7, 2011 – Arrival Day

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

##### Saturday, Jan 8, 2011

7 – 9 am	Campground sponsored breakfast
9 – 10 am	Alfa SeeYas Chapter business meeting
10 – 11 am	Question/Answer time, and Updates with Alfateers
Lunch on your own	
Afternoon	Golf at Outdoor Resort Indio (free), or Craft (braided tee-shirt) with Patty Rowe (no additional cost, just bring your own tee-shirt and scissors)
4:30 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
5:30 pm	Potluck Dinner: Bring a dish to share

##### Sunday, Jan 9, 2011

7:30 – 9 am	Coffee and rolls
1 – 4 pm	<b>(TOUR 1)</b> Visit to Palm Springs Air Museum (Escorted tour with knowledgeable docent of 3 hangers including largest collection of WWII flying aircraft. Includes movie about aviation in the military). Can get lunch on your own at Freedom Fighters Café before tour.
4:30 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
6 – 7 pm	Dinner (to be catered)

##### Monday, Jan 10, 2011

7:30 – 9 am	Coffee and rolls
10 am to 1:30 pm	<b>(TOUR 2)</b> Trip to Palm Springs Aerial Tram (Ascend 2 ½ miles to pristine wilderness, spectacular views, natural history museum & gift shop. Includes movie on how tram was built.) Can get lunch on your own at Peak’s Restaurant after tour.
4:30 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
5:30 pm	Campground sponsored dinner

##### Tuesday, Jan 11, 2011 Departure Day

7:30 am	Line up to caravan to FMCA Rally at Indio Fairgrounds
---------	---

**AlfaSeeYas Indio FMCA Pre-Rally, January 7 - 11, 2011 - Palm Desert, CA - Registration Form  
Wagon Masters Mike & Lorraine Lynch || Assistant Wagon Masters Don & Patty Rowe**

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

Rally Fee (\$197 camping/coach for 4 nights + \$46/person for 4 catered meals incl tax & tip):	<b>\$ 289.00</b>
_____ Additional people at \$46.00 per person (for meals)	\$ _____
Park Pet Fee \$1/per day/per pet (2 pets maximum) _____ pets @ \$4.00 each =	\$ _____
Optional Tour 1: <a href="#">Palm Springs Air Museum</a> @ \$9.00 per person	\$ _____
Optional Tour 2: <a href="#">Palm Springs Aerial Tram</a> @ \$20.75 per person	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL, including Rally Fee, Extra People, Pet Fee, Tour Fees:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Golf (free) No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ # of people \_\_\_\_\_ Tee Shirt Craft (free) No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ # of people \_\_\_\_\_

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

Don Rowe, Asst. Wagon Master  
 PO Box 522  
 Monroe, OR 97456

Questions? email Lorraine - [mmllynch@msn.com](mailto:mmllynch@msn.com)  
 or Patty - [patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com](mailto:patty@WeBeSnowbirds.com) or phone  
 Lorraine at 928-710-3681 or Patty at 541-521-0722

**Deadlines:** Total space at the park is limited to 30 coaches. Reservation deadline to your Wagon Master is **no later than November 1, 2010 !!**

**Guests** are welcome to all functions, provided you contact the Wagon Master prior to the rally to insure that costs 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 adjacent to the rally.

**[Emerald Desert RV Resort](#) in 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 Jan. 11, a day early intentionally, to insure we have good parking "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 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 cause of the damage or injury.

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