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On our GPS...

April 2019:

Alfa Owners Club Rally -
Fredericksburg TX

FMCA 'news'

[FMCA's 99th International
Convention and RV Expo](#)

will be March 13 through
March 16, 2019, in Perry,
Georgia!

Camp on the grounds for the
entire event, or experience the
fun for a single day. FMCA
welcomes RVs of all shapes
and sizes to join the
excitement.



President's Message

by Larry York

You may have heard that a new *Board of Officers* has been elected to serve the Chapter for the next two years. In case you have not, your new Board consists of me as President, Randy Scott as Vice President, Suzanne Conner as Secretary, Ray Zimmermann as Treasurer, Marvin Berry as the National Director, and Dale Manners as the Alternate National Director.

Thanks go out to Diana Manners for serving as our Secretary for the past two years. Thanks also go out to Randy for continuing to serve as the Vice President, to Dale for continuing serving as the Alternate National Director, to Suzanne Conner for stepping forward to serve as the Secretary, and to Marvin for assuming the National Director position. A very special thank you to Ray Zimmermann for serving as our President for the past four years and continuing as our Treasurer.

All of us look forward to serving the Chapter and keeping it a viable organization.

A few days after the cutoff of the last *SeeYa Connection*, Shirley and



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

In this edition I have included a travel article I wrote a few years back when hubby and I visited the lovely city of North Platte NE. Our RV park was again pretty centrally located so much of what we wanted to see was a short drive. (Hint: If you have not visited the LARGEST train switching yard in the WORLD you are in for a treat!)

We have been waiting and waiting to get our o3 SeeYa out of the shop! After much ado it turns out the fuel pump has been the culprit for quite a number of years. Sadly, it did not come up on the 'normal' codes via the smart steering wheel nor when connected to our shop's computer. The ECM had to be removed and Caterpillar had to use their computer to dig deeper. (The previous owners must have been having similar issues. That's how far back the problem went!!) Cracked fender flairs are being replaced and we should then be good to GO!!

I arrived back in Sierra Vista, AZ after a two and half month trip with our Alfa through Central and Southern California. Our wine inventory was getting low, so we decided it would be a good time to visit our favorite wineries and vineyards to restock and to spend some quality time relaxing after Shirley's knee replacement surgery in April.

After a few hot days getting across the desert and up CA 99, we arrived in Lodi, where we met up with Marvin and Pat Berry (and later Dale and Diana Manners) for some wine tasting and eating some great food (of course). After a week there, we had made plans to head up the foothills toward Plymouth, but the Alfa decided it kinda liked staying at the Flags RV Park. The gear on the slide out motor broke as it came in and one of the rear jacks broke and fell. That resulted in a few days delay while we chased down parts and got the slide out motor replaced which freed our clothes from being held hostage during the ordeal (one of the minor inconveniences of having a So Long model). Of course, that gave Shirley a reason to go shopping – LOL. In searching for a replacement jack, we found that there are no replacements available and used jacks are hard to find, if available at all. We ended up securing the broken jack with cable and broke out the lumberyard of wood blocks we carry to level the coach for the rest of the trip – not fun!

By then, it was only a few days before the start of the *South Loafers' Chapter* outing at the Jackson Rancheria RV Park near Jackson, CA. We moved in a couple of days before the start of the outing and stayed a few days after the outing which gave us more time to do some more wine tasting and eating – surprise, surprise! Thank you goes to Ed and Helen Burrows and Lou and Jean Holveck for a great outing! Good times, excellent food and lots of fun playing “oldie weds”. Ya done good!

If you have not been to the Jackson Rancheria RV park and/or their Casino, you are in for a treat. The area overlooks the tree covered rolling foothills of the Sierras. The RV park has paved streets and each site has large concrete pads (back-in and pull thru), with FHUs and large grassy areas between rigs. This park is on our “must return to” list.

From Jackson, we drove back down the hill, across the central valley, and over the hill to Moss Landing. We stayed in this area a

couple of times before (once at the Dunes near old Fort Ord and twice at the KOA next to the marina in Moss Landing). Although the price is a bit high, the KOA is location, location, location if you need a salt water fix. Plus, there are some great eateries within walking distance of the park. One is Phil's Seafood Market. This is a "must go to place" if you like good, fresh seafood. Dine in, carry out, or buy there and cook it at home. Not much on atmosphere, but good food, at a reasonable price, and lots of it.

We then drove down Hwy 101 to Paso Robles and, of course, tasted some more wine and ate more food – are you getting the central theme of this trip?

Upcoming Rallies:

March:

- 13 - 16 — FMCA 99th International Convention - Perry GA

April:

- 7 - 12 — Alfa Owners Club Rally - Fredericksburg TX ([more information](#))

June:

- 20-23 — Oregon Alfa Owners Rally - Florence OR (Heceta Beach RV Park)

October:

- 7 - 10 — Alfa Owners Club Rally - Buellton CA (Joint AlfaSeeYas/
Maverick Chapter Rally)

New Members:

- Alan and Judith Adams, F490997, Aurora, Ohio
- Ron and Joy Damron, F491944, Abell, Maryland
- Dale and Tara Fields, F481365, Poway, California
- Tim and Liz Kataras, F493443, San Marcos, California
- David and Vivian Latimer, F481423, Amarillo, Texas
- Jack and Tracy Ort, F492052, Rockport, Texas
- Lee and Nori Saylor, F491652, North Edwards, California
- Kim and Mary Ann Sprague, F491066, Harrison, Michigan

President's message, continued:

We had never seen the Hearst Castle, so while we were in the area, we drove over and spent a wonderful day touring the grounds and castle. Awesome place! We were amazed at how they were able to get all the steel, wood, and concrete up to the construction site particularly given when it was built. The furnishings were amazing. And of course, the ketchup and mustard bottles on the dining room table amongst the fine china, silver, and crystal spoke volumes about the roots of the owner.

From Paso Robles we drove to the Huntington Beach/Long Beach area and spent a week at the Naval Weapons Station – Seal Beach (Sea Breeze RV Park) while we visited friends who live in the Huntington Beach Harbor. This a very nice park that is located near many of LA's major attractions. Retired and active duty military, and sponsored non-military guests can use the RV park.

We then drove to Pechanga Casino and RV Resort in Temecula for some more wine tasting and eating. This is another nice well-maintained park that has had a major upgrade in the last couple of years that almost doubled the size of the park. The casino and hotel have also had major additions.

From there we drove to another one of our favorite RV parks – the Chula Vista Marina and RV Resort. Unfortunately, as you read this, the RV park (not the marina) is being demolished for construction of hotels, condos, convention center, etc. Some say that they will build a new RV park. Regardless, the location will not be the same. No more “heading in” the MH to take advantage of the views of the city park and the bay. Guess we will have to check out the Navy/Marine fam camps in the area.

After a week there, we headed home just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with friends and family.

Mid-January it was time to dust off the Alfa and head out for our annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite. We first drove to the Fountain of Youth RV Park near Niland, CA and the Salton Sea where Ray Zimmermann, and Randy and Terry Scott hosted a post-rally outing after the FMCA Western Area Rally in Indio. Despite the rain and cool temps, our hosts made us welcome and fed us well. Ray, Randy and Terry thank you for a great outing!

From there we drove to Quartzsite and stayed at the Holiday Palms RV Park. We stay at that park mostly due to ease of getting to and from the annual RV Tent Show – they have a gate at the back of the property that enters the wash that runs under I-10 so can walk to and from the show. As usual there are lots of people, traffic, congestion, etc. but we still had a good time and the weather cooperated.

Then it was a grueling 15-mile drive to the Black Rock RV Village near Brenda and the South Loafers' Chapter outing. Marvin and Pat Berry and we were wagon masters for this outing so most of our time there was spent doing wagon master duties. For the most part, the weather cooperated except for a couple of cool and breezy days.

From there it was back home where we will spend the month of February getting ready to head out for Texas to see family and attend the Alfa Owners' Club Annual Rally in Fredericksburg, TX. Will we “see ya” there?

Alfa Tech Talk - by Ed Burrows

STOVE VENT:

Alfa used an outside stove vent that requires you to remove two dogs before the vent will operate and then redo the vent after use. I recommend removing the dogs and putting a soft spring between the door and the body of the vent. The air flow from the fan will open the door and when off after use, the door will close. To install you will need to remove the vent, and drill two small holes. Be sure to reseal when you reinstall the vent.

Officer Election Results

In November, ballots were mailed to chapter members for the election of officers for the 2019-2020 term. The candidates ran unopposed and were elected, as no other nominations were received. The new officers are:

President – Larry York
Vice President – Randy Scott
Treasurer – Ray Zimmermann
Secretary – Suzanne Conner
National Director – Marvin Berry
Alternate National Director – Dale Manners

The next election will be held in the fall of 2020, and we will be looking for new nominees to fill our chapter officers' positions. Please consider helping your chapter by volunteering to serve as a chapter officer.

MURPHY'S LAW ABOUT THE OPEN ROAD:

When there is a very long road upon which there is a one-way bridge placed at random, and there are only two cars on that road, it follows that: 1) the two cars are going in opposite directions, and 2) they will always meet at that bridge...

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 7-10, 2019

Alfa See Yas has an outing scheduled for October 7-10, 2019 at Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton California. Buellton is located 43 miles north of Santa Barbara on Highway 101. Four miles to the east is Solvang, a town of Danish culture with modern shopping, dining and entertainment. There's a plethora of local wineries, breweries, and restaurants only moments away from the RV resort as well as Chumash Casino just 8 miles away. Weekday rates are around \$ 60 per night, group rate, plus taxes and weekends are higher. If you would like to arrive early or stay longer you will need to call Flying Flags, they will honor a 10% discount off retail for guests staying up to 3 days early or up to 3 dates later. Their phone number is 805-688-3716. This park has lots of swimming pools, bocce courts, sports courts and much more. I have made arrangements to Mendenhall's Museum across the street from the RV park, which is one of the largest collection of Automotive Petroliana in the country. There is Zaca Creek golf course only ½ mile from the park, which is a great walkable course of 9 holes.

I am working on finalizing the last details and a Registration Form will be coming in a couple of months. I am looking forward to a good turnout, but spaces are limited so respond quickly when the forms arrive.

Arnie Burr, Wagon Master

History - Old and New

by Jeannette Harper



If you have even the slightest interest in trains, a 'must see' will be the Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center located at 1249 N Homestead Road in North Platte Nebraska. (NOTE: Using your GPS will take you to the OTHER side of the tracks!!) The Union Pacific's Bailey Yard is the worlds **LARGEST** train switching yard and there is NO doubt, this place is hopping! You will find a visitor's center on the ground floor as well as a gift shop and small museum. Spend some time and watch the video playing in the lobby. Take the elevator to one of two observation floors. (The 7th floor is 'open air'. From this floor you will hear the clanging, banging and huffing of the engines and cars. You will smell the diesel fumes and feel the wind as it blows. The 8th floor is fully enclosed and provides a dramatic view of trains coming and going...) Look down and you

will see flags fly for every state Union Pacific Railroad visits! If you are lucky, you will be there for a special Community Day and no entrance fee is charged.. (The year we visited the Community Day included a pancake breakfast, hotdogs and cookies served outside in the courtyard.) Otherwise, you will pay a fee to get in. (Adults: \$7.00, Seniors: \$6.00, Students: \$5.00) Again, when we visited, the hours had changed for the summer. 7 days a week, the visitor center opens at 9:00a.m. and closes at 7:00p.m. (October 1st to

April 30th, the hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm) You can follow the Tower and Visitor Center on Facebook to see happenings on a daily basis - these include schools visiting, special events happening in and around North Platte. And if you are going to be in this city in September, plan on joining in with Rail Fest! Celebrations will be happening all around town including at the Bailey Yard and the Golden Spike Tower. <https://goldenspiketower.com>

Another fine example of what North Platte has to offer is the former home of Buffalo Bill Cody - also called Scouts Rest. The home and barn are now part of the Nebraska State Parks System and became a state historical park in 1965. Since then, the house and barn have been restored and a wealth of Cody memorabilia has been acquired and placed on display.



The home and barn are not open every day but rather Monday through Friday. Office hours are March 24th to Memorial Day: (Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m).; Memorial Day to Labor Day; (9 a.m.-5 p.m. - every day); Labor Day to October 24th (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) There is an admission fee of \$2 per adult and \$1 for children under 13 (under 3 is free).

The Parks website also mentions a large RV park on the property with accommodations for most campers. The website says “*Buffalo Bill State Historical Park is located next door to the Buffalo Bill State Recreation Area. This recreation area offers beautiful camping along the Platte River. There are 50 Amp electrical campsites and primitive sites for the tent campers.*” You can use the on-line reservation website if you are interested in camping at this recreation area.

And, if you like rodeos, the annual Buffalo Bill Rodeo takes place across the street from the ranch Buffalo Bill called home! <http://outdoornebraska.gov/buffalobillsra/>

Q: What goes through towns, up hills and down hills but never moves?

A: The road!

AlfaSeeYas Attend Indio FMCA Rally, Salton Sea Post Rally

By Ray Zimmermann



A group of AlfaSeeYas Chapter members kicked off the new year by attending the FMCA Western Area Rally at Indio, California from January 8th-13th, followed by a Chapter post-rally at the Salton Sea the following week.

Eight coaches assembled at a nearby casino on Monday and then caravanned to the Riverside County Fairgrounds on Tuesday morning. Thanks to some magic pulled off by Chapter vice president Randy Scott, we secured parking on a paved lot next to the main rally auditorium and within easy walking

distance of the various activities. This location was much appreciated on a rainy day later in the week; we knew from years past that things get rather sloppy for those parked on the dirt fields.

The Western Motor Home Association puts on the largest area rally in FMCA. This year, there were 774 coaches in attendance, plus many coaches from vendors and exhibitors. This was the 31st year that the WMHA has conducted the rally at the same location, so the experienced volunteers who organize it know what they are doing and everything ran smoothly as always.

There were many choices of seminars to attend. While most were RV-related, this year there were quite a few other topics covered, such as personal health, financial/estate planning, and writing memoirs and stories. The usual crew of vendors was displaying and selling products and many companies offered services at the coaches, including tire sales, various chassis products, satellite TV installation, shade and awning service, and glass repair.



Activity did not stop when the sun went down. Three evenings at the rally featured entertainment in the big auditorium. On the first night, we saw a tribute to Glen Campbell by several long-time members of his band. On the second night, a comedian tickled everyone's funny bone, and the third night wound things up with a high-energy group performing hit songs from the sixties.

When the rally ended on Sunday morning, seven of our eight coaches moved 45 miles south to the Fountain of Youth (FOY) Spa RV Resort near the Salton Sea. We were joined there by six other coaches - - Chapter members and friends - - for four-days of post-rally activities. This was a first-time location for our chapter - in past

years, we have had a pre- or post-Indio rally at a park in the Indio area. The FOY provided a nice change of pace, as most of the attendees had never been there before.

The weather did not cooperate as well as we wished; we had a couple of cool, rainy days, although things improved later in the week. We started off on Sunday evening with a welcome dinner at the park café. On Monday and Wednesday mornings we gathered for coffee and goodies at the wagon master's site before folks headed out to explore the nearby area. On Tuesday morning we enjoyed a catered breakfast in one of the park's activity rooms, after



which we held our Chapter's annual meeting.



For those who have not visited the area around the Salton Sea, let's just say some of the communities are "different." Visits to Slab City, Salvation Mountain and East Jesus provided an insight into different ways of living. Google those places or look them up on Wikipedia for more information than we have room to print here.

On Wednesday, a small group of us traveled to the General Patton Memorial Museum at Chiriaco Summit on I-10. Many of us had traveled past Chiriaco many times, and perhaps had stopped for fuel or food, without realizing what a great museum they have there. The museum is on the site of the headquarters of the Desert Training Center, an area of 18,000 square miles that was selected by General George Patton early in 1942 to train soldiers for World War II. Over one million troops were trained during the two years that the center was in operation.

Our post-rally concluded on Wednesday night with a farewell dinner at the Ski Inn in nearby Bombay Beach. (Bombay Beach is another interesting place you may want to read about on-line.) In addition to enjoying a great meal, we got to say that we were at the lowest bar in the Western Hemisphere - - the Ski Inn is 223 feet below sea level.

We said our goodbyes on Thursday morning, as members headed off to their next destination, which for many was the big RV show at Quartzite, Arizona. Our time at the rally and post-rally showed once again that this is a fun way spend time with chapter members and friends, learn a lot about our coaches and RVing, and see new, interesting places. Plan to join us at the next FMCA or chapter event or, better yet, help organize one. If you would be willing to do so, contact one of your chapter officers.

Useful Internet Sites For Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website - AlfaSeeYas.com www.alfaseeyas.com

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

Family Motor Coach Association: www.fmca.com

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

Facebook Groups:

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

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

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

RVillage:

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

Alfa Repair Facilities

Leisure Coachworks (formerly Alfateers), Fontana, CA (909) 428-6775 Website: www.leisurecw.com
(Follow Leisure Coachworks on Twitter & like Us on Facebook)

Blue Sky Mobile RV Repair (RVDA Certified Master Technician) Tucson, AZ (502) 668-4038
Website: <http://blueskyrvservice.com/> Email: blueskyrv@gmail.com

Bob's Diesel Service, 340 W 32nd St., PMB #150, Yuma, AZ (928) 941-6462

Bretz RV, Missoula, MT (406) 541-4800 Website: www.bretzrv.com

California RV Specialists, 110 S Cherokee Lane Ste B, Lodi, CA (209) 263-7040
Website: www.calrvspecialists.com

Charlie's Service, Sunset, UT (801) 773-1193 Website: <http://www.charliesservice.com>

New Debut, Wakarusa, IN (574) 862-4893 Website: www.new-debut.com

MCIRV (PJ Miller), Nappanee, IN (574) 252-9158 Website: <https://www.mcirv.com/>

Mike Ewing, Summerdale, AL (251) 989-2593 email: ewingrvrepair@gmail.com

Ronnie Wolfe/Dick Albritton, Choudrandt, LA (318) 372-8225 / (318) 278-1677

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HOUSEKEEPING

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DUES:

- If sending dues via U.S. Mail:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter
c/o Ray Zimmermann
1952 E. Divot Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283

You can find your dues expiration date on the e-mail that forwarded this newsletter or snail mail label. (*Checks payable to AlfaSeeYas*)

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

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

There's more!

AlfaSeeYas Store

Are you aware we have a couple neat items with our logo on it?? No? Go to: <http://www.alfaseeyas.com/pdf/orderformRev.pdf> to see images of the baseball style hat as well as jacket. There is a link to the order form so stop on by!



The caps are 'baseball style' and one-size for all with a Velcro adjustable strap for the black and a plastic strap with holes for the blue. **Price: \$10 ea**

The jacket is 100% polyester shell with a jersey lining. Mesh inserts at gussets have been added for breathability and articulated elbows for greater mobility. The cuffs are half-elastic and half-self fabric for comfort. There are side pockets and a drawcord hem with a toggle. Both have the *AlfaSeeYas* script over the left chest and the member name on the right chest in yellow/gold.

Available sizes are XS - 6XL.

Colors: Royal Blue or Black

Price: XL - 2XL - \$35

3XL - 6XL - \$40

Check with Randy Scott for the shipping cost which will be added to the order. He can be reached at:

(661) 256-3507 or via email at: rscott@antelecom.net



And that's another issue that has 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 :-)