



What's inside:

Pg 1: President's Message
Pg 2: Editor's Message
Pg 5: Solar Eclipse Rally Info
Pg 6: RV Escape Ladder Info
Pg 9: FMCA Alert - Calif RV Owners
Pg 10: For Sale
Save This Date
Pg 11: Useful Sites
Pg 12: Housekeeping
Pg 13: AlfaSee Yas Store

On our GPS...

Alfa Owners Rally

April 10-17, 2024
Bandera TX

FMCA 'news'

Check out the ['events' webpage](#) for various chapter rally's across the U.S.

August 23-26, 2023
[FMCA International Convention](#)
Gillette WY

President's Message

by Randy Scott, Vice President

Greetings to everyone this summer! I hope you are able to stay relatively cool, what with a good part of the US having a heatwave! I imagine the many snowbirds who went north for the summer are happy they did, although in talking to folks in northern states, they are encountering high temps too! I personally "went into the heat" this summer – going to Fort Worth, Texas to support my local California High School solar car race team in the annual race. This year, after 3 days of inspections, they started out on a cross-country race (they usually alternate between racing at the Texas Motor Speedway north of Fort Worth, and going cross-country), to Palmdale, CA – near my home – and where the team I support is from. I provide meals to them in Texas, and then on the road get out in front of them each day in my Alfa and provide them lunch. As you can imagine, it was hot! Of course, they want the sun to shine to get the most energy. Unfortunately, the race was ended early – in El Paso, TX, after three days of racing, since most of the race staff tested positive for Covid! We all were scurrying around for test kits, and fortunately the Palmdale team and myself tested negative, as well as many other teams. We then headed home – I encountered 113-degree temp when I stayed overnight near Blythe – and the RV park circuit breaker had a hard time handling the load! Needless to say, the Alfa took several days to cool down when I got back – although in the desert where I live, that is a relative term!

If you've been traveling this summer, I hope you are able to stay cool too. I did have a roof A/C put on my Alfa several years ago – the basement A/C works fine, but has a hard time keeping up with 100+ degree temps. I see where a number of you have done the same thing. I also see new members on the Facebook sites asking about running the A/Cs while driving – I run the roof air and the dash air on recirculate, and that keeps the front



Editor's Message

Jeannette Harper

This is a jam packed issue covering a wide variety of topics!

For those California residents, be aware you MAY be subject to 'compliance testing'! CARB is at it again...

It seems forest fires are everywhere in the West. Please take care and check for road conditions **before** you venture out!! Hwy 199 is currently closed due to a fire so alternate routes are needed if traveling between California and Oregon...

I apologize for not getting a newsletter out in July.... Hubby broke his femur and he and I are dealing with that as well as a potentially life threatening issue that has, thankfully, been resolved.

Happy trails y'all!

portion cool while driving (I don't have any passengers or pets to need to keep the rear area cool while driving – but could also run the basement A/Cs if I needed to do so).

As you may remember, I am still the AlfaSee Yas Chapter Vice-President – we are still looking for someone to be a candidate for Chapter President. I was chapter president for two terms a number of years ago, and volunteered to run for chapter vice-president to encourage others to run as president, but it has been over 12 years now, and it would be great to have others involved too! Please contact me if you are interested. Also, as I mention in each newsletter, we are always on the “lookout” for suggestions for Chapter Rallies, and volunteers to help put them on. We have numerous helpful guides, and others who will help, so please don't hesitate to volunteer!

We have an upcoming FMCA International Convention soon – in Gillette, WY – Aug 23-26, 2024. Marvin Berry, our Chapter National Director, will be representing us at the Governing Board meeting that will be held during the Convention. As a reminder, the FMCA is governed by the members, and the annual Governing Board meeting is where the member reps and the FMCA officers get together to discuss and vote on any changes that may be proposed. For example, this is where the decisions to add FMCassist back into the standard membership, and to allow all types of RVs into FMCA, were made several years ago. If you are going to the Convention, please say hello to Marvin and Pat.

If you follow the several Facebook sites dedicated to Alfa RVs like I do, you'll see that there are quite a few new Alfa owners – probably an average of one each week. Many have questions – especially those who have not owned an RV, or this type of RV, before. Thanks to our many members who reach out to help them, and answer their questions! We also want to encourage them to join FMCA, the AlfaSee Yas chapter, and an owner's chapter. You will also see folks wanting to sell their Alfas, as well as some who are looking to buy one. If you know of anyone wanting to buy an Alfa, or anyone who has recently purchased one, you can certainly “steer them” to these sites. You can also remind them that we have a number of recommended Alfa service locations listed both in our newsletter and on our chapter web site.

We have several upcoming events that I wanted to make sure you are aware of – even though they are fairly far off in time, many of us make plans well in advance, and the opportunity to sign up is not far off.

The annual FMCA Western Area Rally will be held again at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio, CA Jan 10-14, 2024. We have attended this Rally often – it has hundreds of RVs, many great seminars, and displays. As we have done before, our intent is to meet up either the day before at a local Casino on Jan 8 and stay overnight in their parking area, or at the entrance of the Rally on Jan 9. As a chapter, we have previously, and intend to do it again this Rally, volunteered to help monitor seminars. This is a very easy “duty” and as volunteers, we get to go into the Rally a day early at no charge, attend a short meeting that afternoon, and have a free volunteer’s dinner that night. I’ve already been contacted by the seminar volunteer captain, and have told her that we will have at least several attendees (who have already spoken to me). If you are interested in going, let me know via email when you get a chance, please. I will be sending out some additional info when I get it, likely within the next few months.

On April 8, 2024, there will be a full solar eclipse, with the path of the eclipse starting in Mexico, and going through the US from the Southwest to the Northeast. You can see details on several web sites. I believe the next solar eclipse won’t happen for something like another 20+ years. As you can imagine, many motels and RV parks along the path are already booked for that time. A group of Alfa owners is going to have an “informal” rally in Bandera, TX April 5-9, 2024. This will be dry camping at an RV park, as the RV parks with hookups in the area are already booked up. We’ve put the flyer in this newsletter, but it has been out for a while, so if you are interested, you need to contact Susan Prichard right away – I don’t know if there is still room available.

Then, we are going to have the Alfa Annual Owners Rally at a newly constructed RV park in Bandera, TX April 10-17, 2024. The announcement for that Rally has not gone out yet, but we will be limited in the number of RV spaces available, so please look for it when it comes out. We will endeavor to send it out via as many methods as possible.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, I have provided some updated comments, and the details, about an escape ladder that I would certainly recommend you consider for your Alfa (or any other RV, for that matter). All Alfas (as far as I know!) have at least one escape window in the bedroom, usually on the driver’s side. About 10 years ago at one of our Alfa Annual Owners Rallies, we did a demonstration of how to exit that window, which was very enlightening! We used an owner’s Alfa, and had a number of volunteers try to exit the window – and learned a number of important things, such as: you want to have something (like a rod or wooden dowel – I use a telescoping rod that I also use to hold up the engine cover—to hold the escape window open as it is heavy), the window sill is very narrow – you’ll want to make sure you throw a blanket/comforter/bedspread over it, you want to go out feet first with your tummy on the window sill, and it is quite a distance to the ground! After seeing that demonstration, I had a handle (like the outside one near the water compartment and the front door), installed outside the escape window to hang on to when going out the window, and also purchased the escape ladder and modified it as shown in the article. I’ve talked to the Rally Master for the 2024 Rally, and we are going to see about putting on an

emergency exit demonstration again. Hopefully, none of us will have to use it, but we all know that it is a good idea to know how!

I hope you all have safe travels in your Alfes, wherever you go, and enjoy all the sights you see! Please don't forget to contact me if you are interested in being a candidate for Chapter President, have a suggestion for a Chapter Rally, are interested in helping put on a Chapter Rally, or are interested in going to the FMCA Western Area Rally in Jan 2024.

Randy Scott

Vice President, AlfaSee Yas Chapter of FMCA



Don't Miss This Spectacular Celestial Wonder!

WHAT: Total Solar Eclipse -- April 8th, 2024

WHEN: (Eclipse-Viewing) April 5th - 9th, 2024

WHERE: Bandera, TX – Twin Elm Guest Ranch



Join your ALFA friends in Texas Cowboy Country for a four-day Eclipse-Viewing

gathering. This will be boondock camping (similar to Quartzsite or AIBF). Space is limited and due to the

extreme popularity of this event (the next total solar

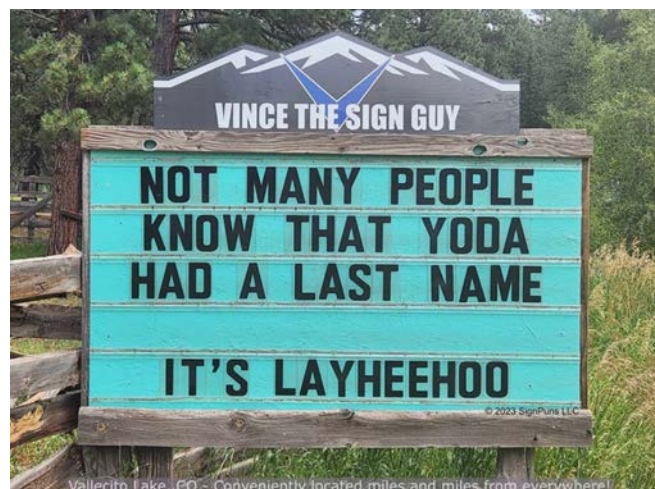
eclipse of the sun will not be viewable in the United States until 2044) – an

immediate non-refundable \$50 deposit is due now, and the remaining

nonrefundable \$150 balance is due within 3 months from booking. Solar eclipse viewing glasses (2 per site) will be provided.

BOOK NOW: Call BRENDA at TWIN ELM GUEST RANCH at (830) 796-3628

Tell her you are with the “*Alfa Owners Club*” group. Please then advise Wagon Master Susan Prichard of your booking by emailing: rvgrandmaor@gmail.com Potential small Wagon Master fee for this event is yet to be determined.



RV Escape Ladder

By adapting a store-bought escape ladder to fit the size of the motorhome's windowsill, the author created a safe and sturdy ladder for anyone who may need to evacuate through the emergency exit window. Make sure you can evacuate the motorhome safely in the event of an emergency.

By Ed Hopkins, F242191

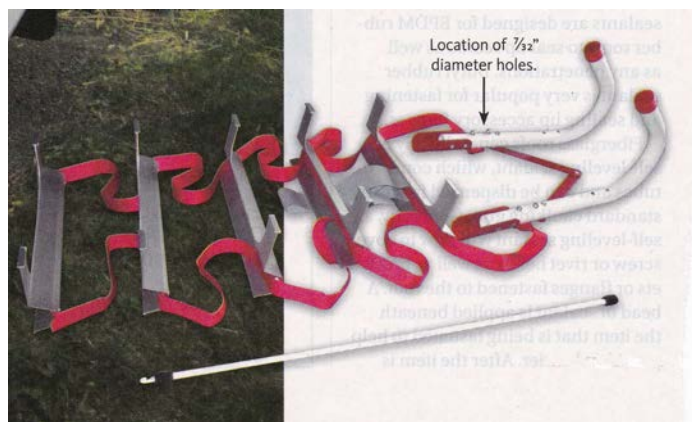
February 2013



Escape ladder

Every motorhome is built with an emergency exit such as a window or door at the opposite end of the vehicle's normal entry. This is required in the event that an emergency such as a fire exists in the area of the normal entry. In many cases, this opening is located high above the ground, making it a potentially dangerous and scary exit point. To reduce the risk of injury while trying to evacuate the motorhome via the emergency exit, I suggest you invest in an escape ladder.

An escape ladder should be light, flexible, strong, sturdy, and simple to use for all sizes of people. The top rung of the ladder must be at a reasonable distance from the bottom of the exit window to allow occupants to get a foot set comfortably and safely on the rung and get the second foot and leg situated so that egress from the RV can be accomplished.



Several companies offer escape ladders for residential use. However, these ladders are designed and built for windowsills that you would find in a house or apartment. They have large hooks that wrap around the windowsill and brace against the inner wall. While these work well in a house, the hooks are far too large for an RV windowsill that may be only a few inches deep. I purchased a Kidde model KL-2S 13-foot escape ladder that was designed to be used to exit a second-story window of a home or business. First

Alert also manufactures a similar ladder. These ladders can be purchased from home-improvement stores for approximately \$30.

What I found when I hung the ladder out of my motorhome window was that it was not very stable and lacked sideways support. While I was able to exit the motorhome using the ladder, I did not feel comfortable. Others may be okay using the ladder as is, but I didn't feel it was completely safe. Therefore, I came up with a modification to the hook portion of the ladder so it would attach more snugly to the windowsill. The KL-2S has a two-piece metal loop that wraps around the windowsill and braces against the interior wall. My idea was to remove one of the pieces so just the hook portion would hang on the motorhome's windowsill. The tools required to modify the ladder included a 5/16-inch wrench, a drill and a 7/32-inch drill bit, a knife or scissors, and a measuring device.

Here are the steps for the modification project.

1. Loosen and remove the nuts and washers from the U-bolts that hold the straps to the attachment hooks. Pull the U-bolts out of the holes and return the washers and nuts to the bolts; this will prevent you from losing this hardware, since you will need it later.
2. Once you have the hook portion removed from the ladder straps, use the drill with a 7/32-inch drill bit to drill out the concave ends of the rivets that hold the two pieces together. The rivets can then be pushed out and the bottom and top parts separated. You will keep the top portion.
3. Drill a set of 7/32-inch-diameter holes spaced 1 3/16 inches apart in each of the attachment hooks (as shown in the pictures). These holes will be used to reattach the step straps.
4. Reattach the step straps to the attachment hooks using the U-bolts. Be sure that the hook arms and the step standoffs are oriented in the same direction. Tighten the nuts so that they are fully on the U-bolt.
5. Open the emergency exit and place a prop between the window and sill to hold it open. (I use a 24-inch-long venetian blind turner rod for this purpose. It should be stored in the same vicinity as the ladder to ensure that it will be available if needed for an emergency escape.) While setting up the RV escape ladder and practicing egress, place a blanket or towel over the window sill and down the outside of the RV to prevent damage to your motorhome.
6. Hang the RV escape ladder outside of the motorhome by placing the attachment hooks over the windowsill of the emergency exit, and allow the rest of the ladder to unroll down the side of the motorhome. You should now be able to exit the RV and climb down to the ground safely.
7. If you are happy with the results, determine how long you want the ladder to be and cut off the straps on each side just below the bottom step. You probably will want to attach some felt or rubber padding on the step standoff pads where they contact the side of the motorhome. You also should purchase several lengths of 1.5-inch-inside-diameter rubber tubing and slide it up the attachment hook below the strap where the ladder touches the outside of the RV to prevent it from marking the motorhome's exterior finish.

I hope that you will never have to use an RV escape ladder, but in the event it is needed, make sure to store it close to the emergency exit window. Also, practice using it often to be sure that your occupants are familiar with the location of the exit, that the window opens easily, and that all occupants can safely exit.

RV Escape Ladder

Randy's Additional Comments:

These are comments I originally put in the Fall 2015 AlfaSeeYas newsletter about the article "RV Escape Ladder" that appeared in the Feb 2013 issue of the FMCA Family Motorcoaching magazine. I've updated my comments slightly, and we have included the original article for your reference.

I purchased the Kidde KL-2S ladder from Amazon in 2015 for \$34.97 – I've checked, it is still available – now for \$43.97, and is also available from other sources, such as WalMart. I performed the modifications described in the article. It was fairly easy to do, and I am very happy with it. Based on demonstrations we have seen about using the bedroom escape window (including using an Alfa motorhome), I think it is an excellent idea to have an escape ladder like this right near the window. However, I thought I'd add a few comments for our members:

- If your Alfa has a counter or cabinet on the inside just below the bedroom emergency escape window, you may not want to modify the ladder. As it comes, it spans a window opening depth (e.g., the window ledge plus the depth of the cabinet) of about 11 inches (and it looks to me that you could modify it if you require even more depth than that).
- I didn't cut off any of the extra steps (as suggested in Step 7 of the article), as leaving them on didn't have any adverse impact to the modifications or storing the ladder, and I figured if there was ever a case of my Alfa being further above the surrounding area (e.g., an unlevel parking spot), the extra steps may come in handy.
- I did put rubber pads on the step standoff pads (as suggested in Step 7), and I also put plastic tubing on the ladder hook – although I used a larger diameter for parts of it, and slit the tubing where it didn't easily slide on the ladder hook.
- I keep the ladder in a small canvas carry type bag, on the bedroom floor, at the foot of the emergency escape window – in the hopes that I never have to actually use it, but it is there just in case!

Also, as I mentioned in my President's Message in this newsletter, when we did an emergency escape demonstration from an Alfa at one of our Annual Rallies about 10 years ago (before I saw the escape ladder article and therefore didn't also have the ladder to use), we learned a number of important things, such as: you want to have something (like a rod or wooden dowel – I use a telescoping metal rod that I also use to hold up the engine cover—to hold the escape window open as it is heavy), the window sill is very narrow – you'll want to make sure you throw a blanket/comforter/bedspread over it, you want to go out feet first with your tummy on the window sill, and it is quite a distance to the ground! After seeing that demonstration, I had a handle (like the outside one near the water compartment and the front door) put outside the escape window to hang on to when going out the window, and also purchased this escape ladder and modified it as shown in the article.

FMCA Your RVing Family

Attention all California RV owners,

The State of California recently updated its Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program (HD I/M). Under these new regulations, motorhomes registered outside California are not subject to the HD I/M Program, but California-registered motorhomes will be required to undergo compliance testing once annually when the periodic testing requirements phase in during 2024. This decision will have an extreme adverse impact on many of our members who proudly reside in California. These residents enjoy traveling within their state and spending their tourism dollars there, but this regulation may well cause many of them to abandon camping entirely.

Unlike commercial vehicles, motorhomes are generally owned by individuals of relatively modest means, and many can still be in use after 20 to 25 years. The cost to retrofit these engines to meet the new standards would, in many cases, be completely out of reach for these individual owners. Many older people love to travel but are no longer capable of “tent camping” or other more strenuous methods. Some have medical devices such as oxygen generator or CPAP machines that require a steady supply of electricity. Others have breathing issues that preclude their sleeping in hot weather without air conditioning. Their motorhomes are essential to their enjoyment of camping and travel.

Furthermore, I submit that air quality will not be significantly improved by requiring the motorhomes to comply with these regulations. While California DMV shows over 12,658,000 commercial and privately owned trucks registered in California, it does not appear to maintain data on the number of motorhomes. The best data available was from the RV Industry Association (RVIA), which reports that 11% of the households in California own some type of recreational vehicle (RV) (note this is all RVs, not just motorhomes.) So, the maximum number of RVs in the state would be 1,453,934, and the number of motorhomes would be significantly less.

The emissions from this relatively small number of motorhomes, used sporadically by vacationers, would pale in comparison to the emissions of over 12 million trucks used daily in commerce and deliveries. While I understand the concerns in California about air quality and support overall efforts to improve it, inclusion of motorhomes in these requirements will result in a definite hardship to California residents without a corresponding increase in air quality.

It has been requested that the California Air Resources Board reconsider the inclusion of motorhomes registered in California in the Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program.

Signed: *Linda Burdette*

Chairman, Governmental and Legislative Affairs Committee

The best way you can help is to contact your state legislators - [Find Address \(ca.gov\)](#)



2004 Alfa See Ya, 38 foot, diesel, 350 Cat engine, Allison transmission, Freightliner chassis, 131,132 miles. New roof with a 10 year warranty (transfers to new owner), basement has 3 pull out trays, oak cabinets, lots of storage. asking \$36,000.

The coach is in northern MN..

Contact: Teresa Dall

Phone: (218) 390-1308 - please leave a message.

Email: kaocdo@gmail.com

Save This Date:

For those planning on attending the FMCA Rocky Mountain Area Rally scheduled for Oct. 24-28, 2023, **it has been cancelled.**

Upcoming rallies:

- August 23-26, 2024: FMCA International Convention, Gillette WY
- January 10-14, 2024: FMCA Western Area Rally, Riverside County Fairgrounds, Indio CA
- April 5-9, 2024: "Informal" Alfa Eclipse Rally, Bandera TX
- April 10-17, 2024: Alfa Annual Owners Rally, Bandera TX

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

Chapters of Alfa Owners:

Alfa One – Southern California

Lonestars – Texas

Mavericks – Central California

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

South Loafers – Southern California, Arizona & Nevada

NOT an AOC group - **Sunrisers** - Eastern US area

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: <http://www.mcirv.com/>

Mike Ewing, Summerdale, AL (251) 508-3102 email: ewingrvrepair@gmail.com

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

Emails: ronniewolf78@gmail.com

dickalbritton@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPING

DUES:

- If sending dues via U.S. Mail:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter
c/o Nancy McDowell, Treasurer
PO Box 160
Middleton ID 83644

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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

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's come to an end... Do YOU have something to add? Contact the newsletter editor or one of the officers. Come on! You KNOW you want to do it :-)