



Alfa Roadrunners

Dec 2014

ISSUE #4

Hot Flash Bulletin

by Dale Prichard

First, I would like everyone to say a prayer for some of our members, as currently we have some illness which has impacted them.

It's DECEMBER and that means its Christmas time or Happy Holiday's whichever you prefer. However you say it, it is a time for giving thanks and wishing everyone a happy year. But more importantly being thankful what we have and who we have in our life no matter how long or short it may be.

Quartzsite:

by Dale Prichard

Many of you have gone to our Rally in Quartzsite and been met by wonderful wagon masters upon arrival. We are sorry to say no

one has stepped forward to be the wagon masters for 2015.

Not to say Alfa's and friends will not arrive, but no wagon masters will be on hand to greet you, arrange for coffee, donuts and get the fire started.

Susan has worked very hard in enlisting you our members to step up and accept the challenge of wagon masters but alas everyone has commitments elsewhere.

Do not let this stop you from attending the Roadrunner site in Quartzsite, as many of our members will still come. And where else can you stay for \$40 for 2 weeks, get unlimited water and dumping during that time.

I know some people may have a problem with spending \$40 when there is "free" BLM land nearby, but that equates to \$3 a day plus you get a chance to meet other Alfa Roadrunners along with other owners, as our site is also

open to all Alfas and friends with other brands. With that being said come and check it out.

I am also sad to report that the December Hot Flash is lacking a little on content, as many of our members were unable to get their emails to me in time for this issue. Please continue to send me your items, thoughts, travels and just plain stuff. I am always seeking emails about our members, new ones and old ones, along with photos. Hum, "old ones", guess that encompasses most of us, huh? We all would love to hear about you

Members:

By Dale Prichard

Sending a Big Hello from Ted & Nancy Jacobs
by Susan Prichard,

Former Roadrunners with a '95 Alfa See Ya 5th Wheel. We ran into them in Kalispell, MT while staying at local Elks Lodge. They winter in Yuma and stay North of Quartzsite during the Big RV Show. Ted and I discussed several current members that they know, the Serpa's & Sedio's. To send them greetings: tnjacobsco@yahoo.com. It's a small, small world.

George & Carol Lee Hall have been members since Feb. 2005.



While traveling George and Carol came across a close friend. Of course I think I may know him.



On second thought, maybe not.

Hello, from Kathy and Chuck Anderson. 2005 SeeYa S/N 72615

We are so happy to become members of the Alfa Roadrunners group. We look forward to some really fun times and meeting everyone with a beloved Alfa! We love ours.

A little about us. Chuck and I met while he was in the Navy back in 1964 and we were pen

pals; that's before all this internet stuff. We've been married for 47 years and have two adult children; Jennifer and John and 3 grandsons aging from 8 to 21. We love them dearly.

We lived in Mpls till 1969 and then moved to Billings, MT where our children were born. We've lived in Sioux Falls, Duluth, MN, Hawaii, the Big Island and Seattle. That's where we started our RVing life. When we first got married, we always said plan B was to do what we're doing; living full time in our motorhome and traveling when and wherever we wanted.

We bought our Alfa about 5 years ago in AZ when we were in Yuma that summer. We have a 40' 2005 SeeYa. We've made a few changes but the biggest being re-skinning and paint. We love love love it!

Chuck is a retired sales representative for some major heating and air conditioning companies selling to contractors and did a lot of traveling in MT and WY, MN and WA. I did various things but am most proud of being a stay-at-home Mom until the kids got older. My last career was a craft designer for the craft industry and sold many designs to National magazines and publishers. My latest endeavor is being a Zumba Fitness Instructor and have taught for 4 years.

Last year and this year, we are workcampers at the Rio Bend RV Park and Resort in El Centro, CA. Chuck is working in maintenance and I'm teaching a Zumba Fitness class and also help in the activities department.

We'd like to do some work during the summer but haven't checked into that yet.

Workcamping or camp host would be great someplace where it isn't too hot.

We've loved our 5 years of full time RVers and look forward to many more years of fun travel, meeting new people, and attending rallies. Thank you for letting us join. We will be at the April Rally so hope to meet many of you there.

Hello from Roger & Kathy Hewlett

We have been in San Antonio for the month of November. We spent Thanksgiving week-end at a Dude Ranch in Bandera - we had a fun family time. Our granddaughters loved riding the horses! We are heading back to Houston tomorrow for Christmas and then to Florida for the winter. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - we wish you good health and safe travels!

A BIG Alfa Roadrunner welcome to all of our new members.

Congratulations to Frank & Deanna Jones, proud grandparents of granddaughter, Maya Kay Shinoda-Jones, born November 24, 2014. What a great reason to weather the cold and stay in Kansas City, MO area for the winter.



Can you guess who this lovely couple is?

Website:

By Dale Prichard

I have an Update from Dave Rypma on the Alfa Yahoo Roadrunners Group

I created a database today that contains all Roadrunner members who had indicated they wanted their contact information listed in our private Yahoo Alfaroadrunners group. Note that only members of the group can see the contact list.

For now, I've designed the database so you can add and edit records yourselves. Please check your information and validate that it's correct and, if necessary, update it. Hopefully, this will work well since it will save me and Dave Allen from having to update all the membership

records as they change. With that in mind, if you see that a friend's record is incorrect and that person is not a member of the Yahoo group, please make the change after checking with the record's "owner".

Hope this information proves helpful. Let me know if you have any comments or suggestions.

PS - to see the Contact List database, go to the group web site and click on "Database". If "Database" isn't on the menu row right below the picture of the roadrunner, click on "More" and select "Database". You'll see the list of available databases - click on "Contact List" and you'll see the list. You can sort and scroll through to see all the records. Also, you can select whether all fields are displayed at once or if you need to scroll across to see all columns. Give it a try.

Thank You Dave Rypma

Technical:

By Dale Prichard

Now, it's time for some technical talk.

Most of us have been caught traveling where the Dash air conditioner just does not seem to keep us cool. There are a few things to remember when this happens.

- 1) Basement air condition (AC)
- 2) On-board generator

The basement air conditioner was made for the rough environment, meaning it was designed with the RV road conditions in mind. Many people believe you should not use it while traveling. Well our resident expert (Dick A.)

has explained many times just how the unit works and why it works very well on the road. Dick has also explained the many workings of the on-board generator. Did you know that the generator uses about $\frac{3}{4}$ gallons of fuel an hour under a full load?

You can run your AC traveling down the road and remain comfortable while doing it. In fact when we travel Susan and I have an additional fan running to circulate air flow from front to back of our rig.

Now you ask, "Why am I telling you this?" There are wives tales hanging around, that you should NOT run your basement AC. Well, I am just dispelling that old wives tale.

Next - Recently Susan and I had to travel an extremely long day as we were leaving Apache Junction, AZ., and going to Gold Canyon, AZ. Ok, it was only 5 miles, but it seemed like 500 to me as Susan went ahead in the tow and checked us in.

Well after that very long distance, I arrived and we proceeded in setting up DaGirl Rv. We went to extend the jacks, motor came on (you could hear it), and nothing happened. After doing all the normal things, pulling plug, checking fluid I noticed that the motor solenoid/relay was bad. The fault was the contact was dirty causing excess heating.

The cost of repair was \$25 for a new solenoid from NAPA (not the exact one), but I made it work. An exact replacement would have cost approximately \$75 and more time to acquire it. I did a complete write up and placed it on my Google drive for everyone.

Another topic - Repairs, repairs, repairs - if it moves down the road, it's going to need maintenance... You may remember we lost our serpentine belt heading from Cody, WY to Buffalo WY. I figured out that the loss of the belt was caused by our Dash AC pump locking up. And on our way back to Arizona from our summer adventure, we lost our generator. Thank goodness the temperatures were also dropping.

With a couple of emails back and forth to Dick, we determined it was the automatic voltage regulator (AVR) board. Dick mailed a new board to friends in AZ and while staying in a state park in Cottonwood, AZ I replaced it and we were up and cooling.

The dash AC was a different story, after talking to Freightliner (FL), I was notified that a new pump was "\$700 and where would you like us to send it Dale?" Gulp \$700 for an AC pump, I thought I had struck GOLD. Well I declined and we traveled without the dash air.

I knew that if I continued to research I would locate a replacement for far less than FL quoted.

So, what did I find for a replacement that would fit on a CAT engine?

Cost

AC compressor = \$250

Accumulator = \$30

3 lbs. of Freon. P.S. I recommend you find what the going rate for a pound of Freon is. Some places will try to charge you %400 higher than the going rate. So know your cost.

Be wise.

Now, it took me about 2 hours to remove the old compressor. This was due to the learning curve. Re-installing the compressor only took 1 hour. So, you may think it was hard, but it was no different than working on your older model car.

I did need a vacuum pump and a set of gauges that I didn't have, so I contacted Gene's RV in Mesa, AZ. Gene's was recommended by other Alfa owners at Mesa Alfa monthly breakfast meetings. I had met Mike in Feb. of 2014 after he did some work (under extended warranty). I found he was a very competent RV technician. If you know me, you know I do NOT let just anyone work on DaGirls Rv. If you are in need of service, contact them, ask for Mike and tell him Dale (Alfa) recommended Gene's.

I asked if Gene's made service calls for dash AC's. But more importantly would Gene's perform a vacuum and a recharge. With that information at hand, I replaced the needed components and waited for our service call.

Cost

Service call: \$66

Labor: 1 hour \$99

Total cost of repair was under \$500 for everything. This was a far cry from the \$700 quoted from FL for the AC compressor only.

There are some very highly qualified technical individuals that visit the Alfa Yahoo Forums, where you can get most of your questions answered but in case you require additional help info there are 3 places I recommend (not in any order): that have worked specifically on Alfa's

- 1) Dick Albritton dickalbritton@gmail.com
- 2) Charlies NAPA in Sunset, UT
- 3) Alfateers in Fontana, CA

Blogs:

By Dale Prichard

Next I invite everyone to follow DaGirls Blog even if I do not post every day.

WebSite: dagirlsrv.blogspot.com

Sometimes DaGirls have some interesting Tid-Bits to share

Do you Blog or have an online website that you would like to share with our members? Send it to me for posting.

Rigs:

By Dale Prichard

Some of you have questioned what does the DaGirls Rv mean and how did the name DaGirls come about?



Our decision to RV was to be able to travel with our 4-legged family members. We purchased our 2003 See Ya #1084 in 2006 and licensed it in a Montana LLC in 2007. That LLC needed a name, therefore, "Da Girls" - Koko

and Della own the rig and allow us to drive. Kokopelli has since crossed over the rainbow bridge, but is still in our hearts and with us wherever we travel. Della now has a little sister, Silly Tilly.

We learned early on, when traveling with two Chocolate Labs you are going to need as much room as possible, especially when one is big and as fluffy as our Koko was.

Contest:

By Dale Prichard

So, let's have a little fun.

Did you name your Rig?

Let's see how many of you will send me an email, explaining how and why you named your rig. If possible include a photo of you, your rig or the reason for naming it the way you did.

Next and finally, how many of you are thinking about attending the pre-rally, rally or both?

Drop either us a line if you are thinking about attending:

Susan -

RvGrandma01@Gmail.com

Dale -

Gatorcq@Gmail.com

Publications:

By Dale Prichard

You thought I was done didn't you, fooled you.

One additional item to remember, the Hot Flash and Newsletter are 2 completely different publications.

Please remember Becky needs your input for the newsletter, which is published quarterly.

The Hot Flash bulletin is published at the whim of the president (me), but I really try to do it on a monthly basis. Both the Newsletter and Hot Flash needs your **HELP!** Both are only as good as you our members make it. So use the Emails below to send information to the appropriate editor.

Newsletter:

Becky Godfrey -

godfreybj@comcast.net

Hot Flash Bulletin:

Dale Prichard -

gatorcq@gmail.com

And Finally - thought I was done didn't you.

Remember we now have Roadrunner Patches for shirts or vests. Cost is \$5 per patch or \$6 if mailed. For our Canadian Roadrunners Susan uses PayPal for all transactions involving Canadian funds.

Contact **Susan -** RvGrandma01@Gmail.com for more information.

WANTED

Roadrunner members who have a favorite RV park or campground or one they really want to visit and who like to spend time with a few fellow Roadrunners. We would love to help you organize a Rally for 2015. Doesn't have to be big or fancy. Can even be dry-camping/boondocking. Can be anywhere we can take our rigs and can be attended by non-Alfa friends and family as well. We have guides available to assist on our website:

www.alfaroadrunners.net Chapter Info tab across top of Home Page.

Remember, our social group is only as strong as each of us make it. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and want to join you someplace new or someplace old that's a favorite of yours. Please think about this and contact any of your officers by e-mail to begin discussions.

MERCHANDISE

We are looking for a volunteer to hold our merchandise throughout the year. Willingness to process an occasional shipment to officers or one of our members at no cost to you would be appreciated. This volunteer would work closely with our Treasurer/Membership Coordinator.

Contact Susan Prichard at rvgrandma01@gmail.com

for more information.

Alfa Owner Clubs Contact Information

Mavericks

<http://mavericksrvclub.com/>

President - Arnie Burr

South Loafers

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

President: Judy Sabol

Sun Seekers

http://www.alfa-sunseekers.com/Home_Page.html

President - Jon King

Alfa SeeYas

<http://www.alfaseeyas.com/index.html>

President - Randy Scott

Sun Risers

<http://www.sunrisers.org/>

President - John Croes,

Roadrunners

<http://alfaroadrunners.net/>

President - Dale Prichard

Lonestars

<http://alfalonestars.net/>

President - Bill Ratterree

Alfa One

LA and surrounding area.

President - John Reay

E-mail: gingerphjr@yahoo.com

