



Alfa Roadrunner

Spring 2016 Newsletter

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SOCIAL MEDIA:

- [Facebook.com/groups/AlfaRoadrunners](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlfaRoadrunners)
- [https://groups.Yahoo.com/neo/groups/alfaseeya/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/alfaseeya/info)
- [https://groups.Yahoo.com/neo/groups/alfaroadrunners/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/alfaroadrunners/info)

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

- www.Alfaroadrunners.net

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well here it is January 2016. Where did 2015 disappear to? I sure don't know, except to say DaGirls RV sure did put on the miles. Be that as it may, 2016 is shaping up to be spectacular. Why, because we are Alfa Roadrunners and we never let anything get us down. Jim, Vice President will inform you of the Spring Rally being held in Yuma, Arizona. Memberships are increasing; you will hear more on that from your Treasurer, Susan, along with many stories of this year's Quartzsite rally. Which by the way, many people really missed out on a good time. Fun was had by all who attended. Thanks to Sharon and Dwight Tisdale who waylaid another Alfa at a refueling stop and got them to agree to stop in for a few nights and join our Roadrunner Family.

The Roadrunner chapter is made up solely of volunteers, and it is you, each one of you who has made the Roadrunners the chapter that we are. We need to be open to bringing in new volunteers and thanking those who have volunteered in the past for their giving. Let's everyone thank Denise & Bob Gray and MaryAnne & Ray Balzer for the great job they did as Wagon Masters and Asst. Wagon Masters this year in Quartzsite.

If anyone comes to me and wants to volunteer for a position, opportunity, or help in anyway, I will do what I can to ensure that the opportunity will exist, and give everyone the chance to try their hand at it. I have learned never to turn a gift horse away nor try to take candy from a baby. Therefore, I am announcing a new Newsletter Editor and want to thank Becky for the work she has put into the Newsletter in the past two years.

Why Denise, of course one might ask? Denise retired in 2010, but decided to go back to part time work to have their Alfa Gold remodeled which included being painted and re-skinned. Now what did Denise do during that time of work? Why she was a traveling nurse case manager. Which by the way, lead to many of her articles on continuing education, being published. In fact she has well over 75 articles published (I just learned that). Her dream is to continue writing for various websites and Rv'ing magazines. So let's give her a big Roadrunner welcome for volunteering.

Oh I almost forgot about Bob. Or is it "What about Bob? Oops no, not Bob that was "What about Bill" or was it "What about Bob"? Bob and Denise are full timers, and travel with 2 small companions, Karlie and Roxie. I am asking all members to welcome Denise to this new role and to send her info to add to your newsletter to keep us all informed.

Ok, on to the next item, did you realize that is has been 3 years since Susan and I accepted the role of VP & Secretary and then transitioned into President and Treasure sooner than the 2 years we expected due to medical issues of our then Treasurer Valerie. Well it is that time again for officers to be elected in April.

Your current officers are as follows:

Dale Prichard (me) - President, Jim Godfrey - Vice President, Becky Godfrey – Secretary, and Susan Prichard – Treasurer.

At the time of this writing Jim is unsure if he will step into the role of President which is outlined in the By-Laws. He and Becky are willing to continue another year in their current roles, but are not sure with their current lifestyle and commitments they are able to commit beyond that time frame.

Susan and I have discussed this in great length and have decided, if necessary, we are willing to remain in our current positions another year, if we are nominated and re-elected at the Chapter meetings in April. However, we are concerned about the Chapter well-being if all four officers change in the same year and want our membership to consider this.

But, and I mean a really big BUT we would LOVE for other Roadrunners to be nominated and run in place of us. It does not have to be couples, so all of you, even those of you who travel alone, please think about this wonderful opportunity to give back and to support your Chapter as officers for the coming year.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT (for what it's worth)

As many of you know by now I volunteered to head up plans for our Spring Rally at Fortuna de Oro in Yuma April 7-11, 2016. I am being assisted by Susan, Dale, and my loving wife Becky. You should have received the information about registration by now so get your reservations in as soon as possible. The group of us is working with the resort to select and assign sites, reserve rooms, plan meals (you will like the price!) and firm up daytime sessions, etc. I am also planning on have a morning of golf for those that want to play, so if you haven't indicated it on your reservation from and want to play, please let one of us know. I need to let the golf course know how many people will be playing. More information about learning sessions, discussions, crafty things, and daytime activities will be coming out soon so stay tuned and watch your email. Becky and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Yuma. Travel safe.

SECRETARIES THOUGHTS

2016 – Hoping for a good positive year for the Alfa Roadrunners. Lots of travel adventures, new territories explored, new friends made, precious time with family – what the heck could be better. I am hoping that each and every one of you will be blessed in 2016 with all of the aforementioned times/stories/adventures. Jim and I have chosen to make a more conscientious decision to not be Alfa full-timers, but rather remain closer to home to enjoy our Alfa with parents, siblings, children, and grandchildren!!! Can't wait to see each and every one of you in Yuma to catch up over a cup of coffee at breakfast, or a glass of wine during social hour in the evenings. See Ya soon...but not soon enough!

Becky Godfrey, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Balance : \$1671.73

Savings Balance \$5552.79

Total: \$7224.52

Since last publication, I have purchased neck wallets and an inventory of shirts for our upcoming Spring Rally, balance also reflects early registration fees for Spring Rally.

Let's all welcome our newest members:

Collins	Don	Box Elder, SD
Caterson	Neal & Lana	Lowry City, MO
Brewer	John & Debra	Aloha, OR
Harvey	Kevin & Andrea Jonson-Harvey	La Plata, MD
Wetzel	Curt	Box Elder, SD

Total Membership (No. of Rigs) As of 2/2/16: 156

I have sent everyone a notice of their current dues status. Many of you are paid thru 2017 & beyond. Currently we have 65 members whose dues expire the end of April, 2016. I will continue to remind those members about this upcoming date. I have also extended an invitation to former members to rejoin our Family of Fun.

Are both you and your spouse/significant other receiving this Newsletter and Roadrunner correspondence? If not, we can change that. Just sent Susan a quick email with both of your email addresses and she will update the database for future contacts.

We continue to meet new Alfa owners on-line and on the road, we share information about our brand and about the AOC and invite them to join one or more chapters – hopefully ours! We have been blessed to meet and make so many wonderful friends as we enjoy this lifestyle and thank each of you for your part in our lives.

SAD NEWS

On Dec 21, 2015, Roadrunner member Darrel Turner fell on the ice and incurred a fatal blow to the head. Funeral services were held Jan 9th at Lifebridge Christian Church in Longmont CO. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Judy!

**UPDATE ON THE ALFA ROADRUNNERS' BY-LAWS**

The new ALFA Roadrunner's By-Laws as voted by the club in January. There were 104 votes: 4 No, 100 Yes, for approval of proposed by-laws as published.

Alfa Roadrunners' By-Laws

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the ALFA Roadrunners Club or Roadrunners for brevity.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the Roadrunners shall be the promotion of good fellowship, fun, and companionship among members and the exchange of information and ideas to enhance the enjoyment of living or traveling in an ALFA or other brand RV.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

- An applicant for membership must be the owner or past owner of an ALFA RV and use, or advocate the use of an ALFA or other brand RV as a home when in use.
- An applicant should be willing to volunteer as required.

Section 2

Dues shall be an amount as agreed upon by a membership vote at an Annual Rally, and are due and payable at the time of becoming a member or the first day of the Roadrunner's year.

The Roadrunners' year shall be from May 1st to April 30th. If an RV owner becomes a member within three months prior to the first of the Roadrunners' year, they shall be considered as having paid dues for the year beginning May 1st of that year.

Section 3

A member shall be dropped from the Roadrunners for the following reasons:

- Non-payment of dues after sixty (60) days delinquency.
- Causing a disturbance or not complying with park rules during a Roadrunner rally if such actions recur after a warning from the Wagon Master or a Roadrunners' Officer.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

- There shall be a minimum of two business meetings per Roadrunners' year.

- A quorum shall be defined as 5% of the members in good standing at time of the meeting.
- The above meetings shall be conducted at a sanctioned Roadrunners' rally.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers shall be Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each occupant Roadrunner member of an Alfa RV is eligible to hold any office in the Roadrunners Club.

For Example, husband and wife may each be an officer.

Section 2. DUTIES

- **Past President:** The Past President shall consult and advise the President as required.
- **President:** The President shall conduct all meetings of the membership and shall appoint all committees (including committees of members in one RV) deemed necessary for the betterment of the Roadrunners.

The President shall act as the Wagon Master for the Roadrunners at the ALFA Pre-Rally to the AOC Annual Rally. The President shall act as the representative to the Alfa Owners Executive Committee.

The President shall be the primary interface with the webmaster for all additions, changes and deletions to the Roadrunners' web site.

The President shall appoint a Quartermaster to maintain and control the Roadrunners/ inventory.

- **Vice President:** The Vice President shall act on behalf of the President in the President's absence and will assume the duties of the President if the President is not able to meet the obligations of the office.

The Vice President shall assist the President, as necessary, at the request of the President.

The Vice President shall act as the Assistant Wagon Master for the Roadrunners at the ALFA Owners Club Pre-Rally to the AOC Annual Rally.

If the President is unable to perform the duties of Wagon Master for the Roadrunners at the ALFA Owners Club Pre-Rally to the AOC Annual Rally, the Vice President shall assume the duties of Wagon Master.

- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record minutes of all meetings and enter them in the official Roadrunners' records.

The Secretary shall report said minutes at the next Roadrunners' meeting for acceptance/correction by simple majority.

- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for:
 - receiving funds
 - disbursing funds at the discretion of the President or majority vote of the members present at a published meeting
 - maintaining accurate financial records
 - furnishing a financial statement at sanctioned Roadrunners' meetings
 - keeping accurate and up to date computerized records of the Clubs membership and officers
 - assisting the Quartermaster with Roadrunners' inventory.

Section 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Election of officers shall be conducted at the ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally. Nominations for officers shall be submitted by a nominating committee or by members from the floor during the regular meeting held during the Pre-Rally and just prior to the election of officers.
- The elected Vice President shall be the President in the following year and shall fill the office of "Past President" in the year subsequent to the year term as President to ensure continuity.
- Election of officers shall be by a majority vote of the members present.
- Officer vacancies prior to the end of their term shall be filled as follows:

The Vice President shall fill the office of the President for the duration of the term

Offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be filled by a simple majority vote during the next ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally.

If the President and Vice President are unable to complete their terms simultaneously, the order of succession for the office of President shall proceed in the following manner.

The office of President shall be offered in the following order to the offices of; Past President, Treasurer, and then Secretary for the remaining term. Failing acceptance of this offer, a special election shall be conducted at the next sanctioned business meeting for the office of Interim President.

The office of Vice President shall remain vacant until the next ALFA Owners Club Rally. See Article V, Section 3.

Section 4 TERM OF OFFICE

- The term of office for all elected officers shall be from ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally to the next ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer may not serve more than three consecutive terms in office unless voted on by a quorum of members present to extend the terms.
- There shall be no limit on the number of terms the Secretary may serve.

ARTICLE VI ACTIVITIES

Section 1

- There shall be a minimum of two (2) sanctioned rallies per year, including the Alfa Owners club Annual Rally. Each rally shall be headed by a member who shall be called "Wagon Master".
- An ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally is defined as a rally open to all chapters of the Alfa Owners Club and attended by two or more chapters of the Alfa Owners Club.
- All members shall be willing to volunteer to organize a rally.
- Rallies shall be a minimum of 3 nights, 4 days with a maximum of 6 nights, 7 days.

- The date and place of the rally shall be determined by the Wagon Master, however; one rally shall be held at a date and place to facilitate attendance of the Alfa Owners Club Annual Rally.
- The Wagon Master shall make sure there is sufficient room for all sized of Roadrunners' RVs and that time is made available for a business meeting.
- Guests, in their RV or a Road Runners' RV, will be welcome at all rallies, except the ALFA Owners Club Annual Rally, providing space is available as determined by the Wagon Master.
- In summary, the Wagon Master will be responsible for the following:
 - Selection of a site and date for a rally
 - Securing and making a deposit when required
 - Sending information and a copy of the registration form to the President for forwarding to the Web Master.
 - Insuring campsites are ready and arranging for parking of rigs
 - Insuring that the Newsletter Editor has all details regarding the rally.
 - Insuring that the Newsletter Editor receives a post rally report to include pictures.
 - Wagon Master fees for each rally shall be assessed on a per RV basis with two people attending. The amount will be established by the Officers. If there are more than two people in one RV, a fee shall be assessed at 50% of the Wagon Master fee per extra person. This fee is to be used to defray such Wagon Master expenses as the Welcome Dinner, morning coffee, etc.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed by any member in good standing or by a committee appointed by the President. After review and acceptance by the Officers, timely notice of the proposed change(s) shall be published in the newsletter, and/or on the website and/or by group e-mail as deemed appropriate.

Section 2

Amendments shall be ratified by a vote of a simple majority of the members responding to the notice within sixty (60) days. Response may be by mail or e-mail to the President.

ARTICLE VIII APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President shall appoint an Audit Committee made up of three (3) Roadrunners' members to examine the financial records of the Roadrunners' Club and the financial statement prepared by the Treasurer for presentation to the membership. This committee will report their findings to the Roadrunners' membership at a business/election meeting at the Alfa Owners Club Annual Rally.

Section 2

A Newsletter Editor will be appointed by the President. An appointment for one year would be considered normal. It will be considered customary for the newsletter to be published 3 to 4 times per year.

Section 3

A Web Master will be appointed by the President. This individual will be responsible for the maintenance of the Alfa Roadrunners website. Directions for additions, deletions and changes to the site will be provided to the Web Master by the President.

Section 4

A Quartermaster may be appointed by the President as considered appropriate. The Quartermaster will maintain and control the Roadrunners' inventory of products for sale and will report directly to the Treasurer regarding purchases and financial management.

President: Dale Prichard

Secretary: Becky Godfrey

It was recommended that the by-laws be reviewed and amended as necessary at the 2015 AOC ALFA Annual Rally in Casa Grande, AZ. The by-law changes were reviewed and approved by membership voting January, 2016.

QUARTZSITE RALLY REPORT 2016 -By Denise Gray

We placed a request for wonderful weather for the rally, and were not disappointed, with lots of sunshine and temperatures in the 60's during the day and 40's at night! Our request for beautiful sunrises and sunsets over the desert was also granted!

Our finally tally for the rally was 26 rigs and over 50 people attending some of the events, with several staying elsewhere. Two couples sold their rigs, while in Quartzsite! Mike and Lorraine Lynch, who you may not recognize since they have both lost so much weight, visited several evenings, as they were working a booth in the Big White Tent.





Above a sunrise, below a sunset.





Thank you to Armand Mercier for the picture above!

The rally was a little different this year. The first Saturday evening we had delicious pizza from Silly Al's as our "welcome dinner". Since we no longer have all the equipment stored in a storage unit in Quartzsite, we asked all the attendees to supply their own paper products and utensils. We also asked everyone to make their own coffee/tea/hot chocolate in the mornings. Many of us did this anyway, so this was a significant savings for the club.

The rest of our scheduled meals were pot luck's and no one went away hungry! As with all pot lucks, there was plenty of wonderful food to sample. Doughnuts from the Quartzsite Bakery were available on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Many thanks to the Hills, Harris's and Vore's who volunteered to drive into town to pick them up.

On Sunday, 7 cars went to the Desert Bar. We had lunch, toured the facility, and drove back to our campsite, with several of us stopping at either Walmart or the Safeway in Parker. www.thedesertbar.com

On Monday, 10 cars went to visit the Blythe Intaglios, 15 miles north of Blythe, CA. Everyone viewed these desert art formations, which are somewhere between 400 and 2000 years old. They are best viewed from the air, but we all walked out to the sites and viewed them from the ground. If you are interested, here is the BLM website.

www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/cultural/intaglios.html , we returned to Blythe, and ate a delicious lunch at Rebel Barbeque. Monday evening we grilled our meats and ate some wonderful pot luck sides.

Tuesday we had the ever popular, coach walk, with many of the coach's open for us to view the changes people have made to their condo's on wheels!

Every day we had a social hour in the evening and a campfire. Wednesday afternoon, Ray Balzer moderated an interesting Tech Talk. On Thursday afternoon we had an ice cream sundae social, which was a big success, with no ice cream left over!

Dale Prichard, our Sheriff this year, did an excellent job of keeping the group in line. Those who had "infractions" were of course fined for their misbehavior. The Nobles and the McKenna's (who had to leave early) even confessed to their infractions and left money to cover their fines before they left! Our donation this year was \$ 185 to the Quartzsite Food Bank.

Sunday morning, we had the leftover doughnuts and some pancakes in bread puddings. Many thanks to the volunteers, John Kurtz, Leigh Gushea, Deanna Jones, and Irene Mercier, who cooked these delicious treats!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to assist with tables, table covers, mats, BBQ grills, and ice cream scoops. Also, thank you to the 'Roadrunner Pyromaniacs', for our evening campfires! Thank you to all our participants for all the terrific pot luck items!

Due to the football games on Sunday, many attendees stayed over at least another day, after the actual rally ended. A group of 19 people went into town and had pizza at Silly Al's. They had a great time!

TECH TALK

2006 Alfa Gold #4078 Battery Rewiring- By Dave Rypma

(This article is very long, so only the introduction is included. You can find the link to the article and the pictures at the end of this write up)

Many of us have combined our 2 (House & Inverter) battery banks into one. There have been lots of articles on the Yahoo forums about different ways to accomplish this task. The job can range from simply moving a single cable to completely rewiring the batteries, inverter and charge control circuits (BIRD & Big Boy relays or PathMaker). I'll show you how to make the simple change, but I chose to do a complete rewiring job. I removed all the wires and replaced most of them with new 2/o welding cable. I'll go through my logic for doing so and you can make up your own mind if all that work is worth it or not.

Background

First, why do anything at all? After all, the electrical system is working OK! Or is it? Are all the cable crimps tight, clean and free of corrosion? Can you access the filler caps on

the batteries? Does your slide motor work well and pull the slide in just like it did when the coach was new? (Mind you, that could be a roller problem or a slide alignment problem or a rotted floor.) Do your lights dim a bit when you turn on a heavy load? Does your battery indicator in the control panel beside the bathroom sometimes show “Fair” when you know the voltage is good? All those things can be caused by poor electrical connections.

Then you ask yourself if you should connect all 6 batteries together into one bank instead of 2. Nothing more annoying than being woken up in the middle of the night by the low voltage alarm when boon-docking (or staying in a Walmart lot while traveling). That can happen easily if the furnace runs enough to lower the house voltage to the critical level. Of course, you could use the knife or rotary switch to connect the batteries together temporarily. But maybe you forget, or forget to separate them again. By the way, when the banks are connected in this way (or by the PathMaker or BigBoy relays), the fuses are connected in such a way that you could exceed the current carrying capacity of part of the Alfa wiring system if you developed a short in the wrong place! And, of course, the Xantrex inverter logic can't keep track of your battery state of charge since it doesn't know anything about your house batteries!

There are also other wiring issues that may need correcting. In my case, my main slide motor voltage was low enough at the motor to cause the slide to stall when coming up the ramp when closing it (some of you may remember helping me push it in at the AOC Rally in Casa Grande in 2015). So I had to chase down and fix that issue as well!

When I looked at the cable connectors and crimps on my wiring (batteries, inverter, PathMaker, slide system), I noted that the lugs were all open at the front, there was no heat shrink covering the lugs and the crimps were done with a simple crimper, possibly a hammer crimper. The smaller wires (including #6 used for some of the slide system wiring) used ring terminals that seemed to have been pinched closed with pliers and were the wrong size! Not high quality materials or workmanship. I wanted better and I set out to remedy the flaws.

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9sPRvrzodh2UEFTMnQwUGxnVXc&usp=sharing>

ALFA OWNER'S CLUB HISTORY

By Randy Scott, South Loafers and Alfa See Yas, President of the AOC

In 1974 ALFA Leisure sent out approximately 100 invitations for the first campout at Salton Sea, CA. This resulted in the formation of a chapter with about 14 members, called the Sundancer Kids. Subsequent Outings occurred in April and November of 1975.

On April 23-25, 1976, ALFA Leisure hosted a campout for ALFA owners at Flying Flags, Buellton, CA. 72 ALFA owners organized into the National ALFA Owner's Sundancer

Club. It consisted of four chapters: Alfa One, South Loafers, Wranglers and the original Sundancer Kids.

In 1977, the second National Rally was held at the 49er RV Park, Plymouth, CA. 44 ALFA owners enjoyed the western hospitality and sightseeing in Gold Country.

August 1977 saw the formation of a new chapter, the Sun Downers, in Washington State. The Oregon chapter, Sun Beavers, followed in September 1977. September also saw the Sundancer Kids dissolve their chapter, with members joining other California chapters.

In October 1977, the Sun Roamers was formed to serve the needs of ALFA full-timers and semi full-timers.

The 3rd National Rally was held April 22-23, 1978, at Trailer Village, Valencia, CA. Alfa One was the host chapter. Magic Mountain was the highlight of the Rally. 100 rigs attended.

1979 was a busy year of for ALFA owners. The 4th National Rally was hosted by the South Loafers. The Rally was held at Camperland on San Diego's (California) Mission Bay. The main attraction was the Harbor Cruise Dance. 77 rigs attended.

Pismo Beach Village, Pismo Beach, CA was the location for the 5th National Rally. This was held April 21-27, 1980. 75 member rigs enjoyed the area beaches and attractions from Solvang to Hearst Castle.

During the winter of 1980-81, the Sun Roamers, Sun Beavers and Sun Downers disbanded. This left the Sundancers with three active chapters; Alfa One, South Loafers and Wranglers.

ALFA owners tried their luck in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the 6th National Rally, April 19-26, 1981. 41 couples enjoyed the activities at the Hacienda Campground. This was the first time that the Company sponsored a barbeque.

Santa Cruz, CA, attracted 44 ALFA owners for the 7th National Rally. This was held April 19-26, 1982. There was a fun filled week from the Santa Cruz Boardwalk to the fabulous Flying Lady restaurant in Moorage Hill.

Southern California's Orange County Fairgrounds was the location for the 8th National Rally, April 10-17, 1983. 72 ALFAs attended and enjoyed a busy week this included everything from Disneyland to a Swap Meet. A trip to the ALFA factory, to observe units under construction, was included.

The 9th National Rally occurred in Central California, at the Lodi County Fairgrounds, April 1-8, 1984. This was the largest rally thus far; 127 rigs. Some rigs had to be turned away. Three new chapters were formed during this rally: the Sun Seekers [WA] , Rain

Daners [OR], and the Happy Wranglers [a spin-off from the Wranglers]. Plans for a National Board of Directors were also made at this rally. The Board was selected and met in May and October of 1984.

In 1985 the Sundancers returned to Central California for the 10th National Rally. This was held at Okayed Lake Resort, in Manteca. This rally broke previous attendance records with 179 ALFA owners. The activities ranged from bus trips to San Francisco and a “Gambler’s Special” to Lake Tahoe. There were also trips to a Hershey’s Plant and an Almond Processing Plant.

In June 1987 The Happy Wranglers changed their name to the Mavericks.

The Roadrunners formed in 1987.

Sept. 1993 ALFA introduced the first “See Ya” model 5th wheel.

In 1993 the Rain Dancers disbanded. Oregon was divided at Eugene, with members from Eugene North to the Sun Seekers, while those to the South went to the Wranglers.

1996 saw two chapters formed: The Lone Stars in August and the Sunrisers in October.

2001: Motor homes given the ‘SEE YA’ name.

May 2004 all ALFA RV’s became the “SEE YA” models.

October 2004: The Sunrisers split into two separate chapters...Sunrisers: East of the Mississippi River, South of the Mason-Dixon Line. Sunchasers: North of the line.

April 2008: The Sunsearchers Chapter disbanded, absorbed back into the Sunrisers.

April 30, 2008: Alfa Leisure, Inc. closed its doors. The Owners Club & Chapters continued on without any corporate backing.

August 2008: Wranglers changed their name to Western States Wranglers RV Club.

September 2008: Owner’s club dropped ‘Sundancers’ from the name.

March 2009: Sunrisers chapter, everything East of the Mississippi River, withdrew from membership in the Owner’s Club.

November 2009: Sun Seekers changed their name to Sun Seekers RV Club.

December 2010: The Wranglers (Western States Wranglers RV Club) withdrew from membership in the Owner’s Club.

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WORKING AT AMAZON.COM?

By Susan Prichard

Many of their seasonal camperforce (Amazon term for us) are working at Amazon to supplement their retirement income, many for “something extra” they want to buy, some for the experience. We fall mostly into the last category, a little into the 2nd category. We convinced ourselves to sign up for this annual event after making our trip North to Alaska with the guise of making enough \$\$ to buy new tires for “da girls rv”. We were not totally committed to the idea when we applied and accepted a position, but made the trip north with the mindset that we might do this and we would be open to leaving if it did not work out well.

Each year, Amazon offers several locations to their camperforce, but not all locations. We think it depends on the available supply of seasonal workers in the area and also campgrounds. You are required to stay in one of the Amazon approved campgrounds and your site and electric is paid for by Amazon (there may be an occasional exception to this rule where Amazon doesn't pay for the campsite). Newer Amazon sites are robotic, older ones require up to 5 – 10 miles of walking each day as you move around the facility. Available positions vary from site to site, but include receiving, picking, stowing, ICQA, etc. There are several shifts including nights (premium pay) and facilities are open 7 days a week.

In our facility we were assigned a 4 day work week with a mandatory overtime day (MOT), if required. Initially our schedule was Sunday through Weds with our MOT day of Thursday. However, several weeks into the season, we were offered a pay increase to shift to a schedule including both Saturday and Sunday, so change we did.

We began this journey with 8 hours of training, followed by 5 days of 5 hours a day. Then the fun began. We work 4 ten hour days (5 if MOT is called). In a robotic facility – and ours is quite large, you walk to your assigned station on one of 4 floors and then stand there for 10 hours a day. A robot brings a pod to us. That pod is a four-sided series of bins full of product. We have been trained to count the pods/bins in several different ways as assigned each day and according to business needs. Once trained (briefly) and once over the nervousness of not quite knowing what we are doing, all processes are easy. The first several weeks there was considerable pain as the old bones had to adjust to climbing 2 or 3 steps continuously or stooping, bending, sitting on a stool as we are required to count high and low around our pods. Now with only 3 weeks to go, I am proud to say that I am in better physical shape (although I don't think I have lost the Amazon 10# that the non-robotic camperforce claim is possible).

We have heard in the past from other camperforce workers that they felt they were not valued in their jobs or by other workers in the facility. Here in Haslet, we do feel we

have value and are accepted. We move through the building freely and have access to everything the building has to offer. There are numerous break/lunch rooms equipped with free basic coffee and vending machines. We were given a Thanksgiving meal the week before the Holiday and for those of us scheduled to work on Thanksgiving, received overtime pay and a piece of pumpkin pie. The supervision and leadership are fairly accessible. I will caveat this by stating that most of the camperforce here in Haslet are working in the ICQA area – so be prepared to count, count, count. Usually smaller numbers. There are many acronyms used and that can be confusing because often not explained – juice carts (storage cart for damaged items), water spiders (floor runners moving product on pallet jacks and a fairly fast pace) and many more. But most you figured out over time or someone else has figured it out and shares.

Many of the camperforce here in the TX area have worked in other facilities over the past several years. Some locations have campgrounds very near the facility. Here in TX most of the campgrounds are 20 – 30 miles from the facility and most take about 30 – 35 minutes of drive time to get back and forth. They hope to improve that situation by next year. But keep in mind if you decide to take on this opportunity/challenge, that the days are long, the weather can be a factor and you should include campground location when making your decisions. There is some car-pooling and some campgrounds seem to have more comraderies than others at the campground. But keep in mind everyone has a slightly different schedule and we are all pretty tired when we come home and on our days off there is shopping and laundry so not a lot of social time. Also, if this sounds like something you might want to do, both sides of a couple can be hired or just a single person in a couple can work to receive a campsite. Many couples both started and then one or the other left prior to finishing the season and the other continues to work. If you finish the assignment, you are paid a completion bonus based on the hours you worked.

Pets can be an issue if you both work. Breaks are only 15 minutes and lunch is 30 minutes so no matter how close your campground is if you both work you will probably need a pet walker for dogs. Your campground may be able to put you in touch with other camperforce where only one of the couple is working and the other may be available to take your pets out for a fee. In our case, there is a couple here with home schooled teenage children, who we have hired to walk the dogs several times a day.

Several times Dale has commented that he hadn't had to punch a time clock in many years and be prepared to have supervision and training by adults younger than many of your grandchildren. Many of the processes are works in progress and are evolving on a daily basis. For us and many others we know, we prefer to be busy so the down time and shifting directions can be difficult. This can be frustrating, but it's only a job and only lasts for a short season.

As we moved through October and November, I often said I wasn't sure I would make it thorough to the end. Now that I'm just 3 weeks away from it, I think I will make it and it's been an experience. We are glad we did it, but since we are mostly here for the experience, we can honestly say we will probably not do it again, but glad we did it once.

NOTE: We completed our assignment on Dec. 20th at 11 am and we were on the road by 1:30 pm. We earned 5 hours of paid time off after working 320 hours and earned our completion bonus!

NOTE: If you are thinking of applying for 2016, the on-line site will probably open mid-February. This year Haslet had 900 applications in first few weeks for about 400 openings, so do it early. Search google for Amazon Camperforce.

So now that I've shared an overview of this work opportunity, I would like to ask for a similar view from members who have worked the beet harvest or worked for a cruise line or any other work camper opportunity you would like to share. Please write it up and send in to our newsletter editor for future newsletters.

NOW, ONTO THE FUN, LET'S HEAR WHAT IS GOING ON WITH OUR FELLOW ROADRUNNERS:

Hello from Leigh Gushea,

Winter Quartzsite rally was our first experience with dry camping other than occasional overnights at Camp Wally (Walmart). It worked well. Went a full two weeks before dumping gray and black tanks and taking on water.

We arrived to the general area on Wed. before the start of rally. We couldn't find the exact site so waited for Susan and Dale to show up an hour or so later to guide us to the proper place. The next couple days we had more and more people show up, 25 rigs in all.

We reconnected with a few friends we had made last April and made many new friends.

Dale went from rig to rig helping with generator problems, including ours! He also turned out to be the sheriff and raised about \$200.0 I believe, by fining all the helpful people!

Denise and Bob and MaryAnne and Ray did a great job as wagon masters keeping things organized and running smoothly. There were a couple organized outings which were well attended and of course the Big Tent was there if you felt you really had to spend money on something!

There were 13 Alfas for the Post Rally! We all went out for pizza one night and had a bon fire another. A few days later we were down to about 7 or 8 rigs and now on Fri. a week

after rally we are down to one, just us. Bud and Jan Serpa, and his son and daughter-in-law are still here also in their SOB 5th wheels. Not sure how long we will stay here.

We are looking forward to the Spring Alfa Roadrunners rally in Yuma and hope to see you there.

Kevin and Andrea Harvey

Kevin and Andrea (AJ) Harvey hail from Southern Maryland, where they raised four children while serving on Active Duty in the United States Army for over thirty years. On 17 December 2015 AJ retired. On 23 December they loaded their 2004 Alfa SeeYa and began what they call their Grand Adventure.

AJ and Kevin began RVing over 25 years ago with rental units from Military Recreation Services. In 2000 they purchased their first pre-owned travel trailer. Then in 2004 they purchased a new 2004 Alfa SeeYa. They have traveled up, down and around the East Coast area many times on vacation and supporting their children's athletic events as they became more competitive. Then, as the children grew older over the years, their SeeYa took them to visit colleges. Now, with the youngest attending college in New York City, AJ and Kevin have decided to spend some extended time in their Alfa SeeYa traveling this great country which they spent their adult lives defending.

It was at a Flying J service center somewhere in New Mexico that AJ and Kevin met the Tisdales who told them about the Alfa Roadrunners rally in Quartzsite, AZ. Three days later AJ and Kevin pulled into Quartzsite and linked-up with the Roadrunners.

Kevin says he has known about the Alfa Roadrunners, as well as the several other Alfa clubs for years, but never felt they had the time to be full participating members. Now, as retirees, time is available. They hope to join us at the National Rally this year, for they will be in the Yuma area all winter, before working their way north to see a few of the "Seven *Jewels*" National Parks.

Please welcome our new members, Kevin & AJ Harvey

ROADRUNNER PRE-RALLY

At the bottom of the newsletter you will find the registration form for the pre-rally.

Barb Zielke has personalized buffet covers she will make in advance of the rally if you are interested. If so, you will need to let her know in advance so that she has the fabric to make the covers. The cost is \$60, due to the price of the vinyl fabric. Contact Barb at [206-910-7116](tel:206-910-7116) gipter@gmail.com

Barb will also be holding a class for weaving a fabric basket if there is enough interest. There is some straight sewing involved but not a lot and there are plenty machines if needed. Barb states that she would be happy to do the sewing for you, if notified ahead

of the class! The class will cost about \$20 if you wish for her to provide the materials. Also, a \$5 tool if you wish to purchase, which she has.

AOC RALLY IN YUMA

The deadline of February 20th is quickly approaching for the AOC Rally at Fortuna de Oro RV Resort in Yuma. Have you sent in your reservation and check? The paperwork is available on the website, www.alfaroadrunners.net, events tab.

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA needs me and you....

My Bucket List includes the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and one of our interests is giving back – donating our time. Therefore, I'm in the process of organizing a **Volunteer Rally** at the AIBF for this Fall. The dates of the Fiesta are Oct. 1 – 9. We would probably meet at a local campground the day before we need enter the Fiesta grounds. We would all need to enter together to be able to park together. Each participate would need to volunteer in some capacity at the event as well as complete some on-line information/courses. But nothing too difficult and there should still be lots of time to enjoy the balloons and each other. If you have an interest in participating, please let me know at rvgrandma01@gmail.com and I'll keep you updated as I learn more. Dale and I will be wagon master's for this event and are looking for assistant wagon masters, so let me know if you have an interest. What's on your Bucket List?

We are always in need of additional gatherings/rallies – who is willing to step up as Wagon Master to coordinate/organize a gathering of rigs at one of your favorite places or someplace you've been wanting to visit. Doesn't have to be big or fancy, just friends meeting friends. We have guidance available for you at: <http://alfaroadrunners.net/annual-rally-information/> and other members are always willing to lend a hand. Let's go some places.....

2017- QUARTZSITE

It's never too early to plan our next fun filled Quartzsite Rally!!

Rally planning for 2017 is off to a great start with volunteer wagon masters Ray and MaryAnne Balzer ready to start putting together a rally not to be missed!

Additionally, we have several Roadrunners ready to step in as assistant wagon masters to ensure a great time. We very much appreciate their enthusiasm and volunteerism!!

Stay tuned for the preliminary rally schedule we hope to release during the Spring Rally in Yuma. Currently we are polling this year's attendees for a review and ideas for 2017. We already know that a couple of feature from the recent Quartzsite rally will be repeated in 2017—the ice cream sundae social and the breakfast potluck.

They are returning by popular demand! Of course the 'tech talk' will return, as well as the very popular 'open crafts' event started this year.

Though the specific rally dates have not yet been set, the Quartzsite RV show dates are January 21-29, 2017. Start blocking out your calendars! (Note the period is a few days later than the 2016 show).

Stay tuned for future Quartzsite rally information in the newsletter and email from the club. See you in QZ in 2017!

GET-TOGETHERS

Mesa AZ

MOAB (Mesa Owners Alfa Breakfast) will be Saturday, February 13th, March 12, and April 9 (for those not at the AOC rally!), at the Golden Corral located on Power Rd and McKelliips Rd in Mesa, AZ 85205 starting at 8:30 am. Please wear your Alfa red shirts or your Park name tags. If you have any questions please call John Filipczak: [612-965-5762](tel:612-965-5762) or email me: johntsr641@gmail.com

Yuma, AZ

The Yuma Alfa Owners Breakfast is the second Monday of the month, November through April. All Alfa owners, past owners, and want-to-be's are invited. It's a great time to meet and greet, catch up on the goings on, and discuss the care and feeding of Alfa MH's and Fifth-wheels.

The Yuma Alfa breakfast's are held at the Copper Miner Restaurant (formerly Mi Fajita Restaurant), 11375 Foothills Blvd., Yuma, AZ. (The restaurant is under new ownership and management. They offer the breakfast special that a lot of folks like.)

If you're in the area we hope you'll join us for the breakfast. If you have questions or need directions please give us a call. And please pass the word.

Mel and Judi Kirkland

'03 SeeYa 40', towing '15 Caddy SRX

[928-342-7374](tel:928-342-7374)

FOR SALE

- Brand new (never out of the box) custom make ADCO Sunbrella Cover for a 40' Alfa. \$500. Located in Mesa AZ. Owner no longer owns an Alfa. Contact. Steven Rector sfrector@gmail.com
- Alfa friends. I will be selling our 2005 Alfa Gold. If you hear of anyone that might be interested please have them contact me

Judy Turner
PO Box 6618
Longmont CO 80501
[303-776-2942](tel:303-776-2942) home
[303-775-4851](tel:303-775-4851) cell
thisjudy@comcast.net

FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

Thank you to Becky Godfrey for all her hard work as Editor. Your effort is greatly appreciated. I hope you like the new format for the newsletter. If you have any suggestions or have news you would like to include, please send your information, by the 5th of May for the next newsletter to me at rvtreking@gmail.com Please put newsletter into the title so I don't delete you!

Alfa Roadrunners Spring Rally April 7 thru April 11, 2016

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2016, 2015 (the sooner the better)

LOCATION: Fortuna de Oro RV Resort

13650 Interstate 8 Frontage Rd, Yuma, AZ 85367

Phone: [\(928\) 342-5051](tel:9283425051)

Website: http://www.cal-am.com/resorts/resorts_details.php?resorts_id=31

Co-Rally Masters:

Jim & Becky Godfrey

719-598-6054 (H) or 719-310-2095 (C)

jim.godfrey@comcast.net

godfreybj@comcast.net

Co-Rally Masters:

Dale & Susan Prichard

480-495-4646 or 480-495-4645

gatorcq@gmail.com

rvgrandma01@gmail.com

The Alfa Roadrunner Spring Rally is for Roadrunner members only and we would prefer that units be onsite, but that is not required for the Roadrunner Spring Rally. FYI, your rig will be required to be onsite for the National Rally.

Names: _____

Type & Size Alfa: 5th Wheel _____ Motor Home: _____ Length of Rig: _____

First Timer Rally Attendee?: Yes _____ Is this your first time to stay at this resort?
Yes: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We will not be collecting site fees this year. You will book and pay for your site directly with Fortuna de Oro by phone for the Spring Rally. Be sure to inform them that you are with the Alfa Roadrunners Chapter.

Spring Rally Registration Fee (up to 2 people per rig and includes members not staying in park)

\$ 80.00 Due to late start in planning, we do not have final figures on meals, etc. yet. As planning progresses and we know more details, if it appears fees will be higher, we will let you know as soon as possible. As we did last year, if costs run lower than expected we will refund any access.

Fee Includes: Welcome Dinner, Daily Coffee and Donuts, Pancake Breakfast, Sheriff's Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Potluck, Social Hour, and contribution to Chapter Baskets.

Additional People in rig (\$20.00 per person) \$ _____

Chapter Dinner to be held during Alfa National Rally (\$25.00 per person) \$ _____

Annual Dues (Roadrunner Fiscal Year is May 1 – April 30) \$10.00 per year \$ _____

(You may pay for one or multiple years now) (optional) (e-mail rvgrandma01@gmail.com

if you are not sure if you owe dues for 2016/2017))

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

For the first 24 Roadrunner members to register for the Spring Rally who are first time visitors to the park, we have certificates for 3 night's free stay. So get those registrations forms back to us as soon as you can. We will contact you with certificate info prior to booking your reservation.

Please forward the registration form and a check payable to Alfa Roadrunners/Susan Prichard, 791 Apollo Lane, Oswego, IL 60543. Include in the memo line 2016 Alfa Roadrunners Spring Rally.

Payments in US Funds only. (Susan can also accept PayPal payment to family/friends with copy of form e-mailed to rvgrandma01@gmail.com).

There will be NO shortened stay or reduced fees on the Rally Registration Form. If you wish to arrive early or depart late, the AOC Rally Rate per night (\$28.00 + taxes) applies to 5 days before and after the Rally as long as the dates are attached to the National or Roadrunner Spring Rally dates. You must make all reservations and arrangements directly with the Resort.

Alfa Roadrunner Spring Rally is a social event hosted by the Alfa Roadrunner Club.

It would help us if in planning if you could provide us the following information:

_____ Number of people interested in a Spring Rally golf event?

_____ Would you like to play 9 or 18 holes? (An 18-hole event is being planned for the National Rally.)

Alfa Roadrunner REFUND Policy: Rally Master shall, upon request, refund money to individual requesting it, providing money has not been disbursed/committed or is non-refundable.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED FROM ALL PERSONS ATTENDING THE RALLY

We agree that we will not hold the Alfa Roadrunners, nor any officer or agent, responsible for any personal or property injury of any kind, which we or any member of our family or guest(s) may suffer during the Rally. This agreement applies regardless of the cause of the injury, and includes, without limiting it, whether said injury is caused by a condition of the premises, another club member or any other person. We make this agreement in consideration of the expenses that the Alfa Roadrunners incur by holding the Rally for our benefit, and recognize that in signing this paper we are waiving a legal right to recover damages.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions and/or special needs below, i.e., requesting vegetarian options for meals, gluten free, etc., please state number of participants with restrictions.