



## Alfa Roadrunner Summer 2016 Newsletter

Editor: Denise Gray  
[rvtreking@gmail.com](mailto:rvtreking@gmail.com)

### **Officer's Contacts:**

President: Jim Godfrey - [jim.godfrey@comcast.net](mailto:jim.godfrey@comcast.net)  
Vice President: Chris Mooney - [chris@moonsail.com](mailto:chris@moonsail.com)  
Treasurer: Becky Godfrey - [Godfreybj@comcast.net](mailto:Godfreybj@comcast.net)  
Secretary: Barbara Leachman - [barb@moonsail.com](mailto:barb@moonsail.com)

### **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>

### **WEBSITE ADDRESS:**

- [www.Alfaroadrunners.net](http://www.Alfaroadrunners.net)

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Roadrunners. We hope your summer is going well for all of you. From the many accounts that have been posted on the various Facebook pages, it appears many are having fun, and then others, maybe not so much. We have had an action packed summer so far getting Becky's folks moved from Cleveland to Colorado Springs. Her dad is 95 and lived in the Cleveland home he designed and built in 1957.

Looking ahead to late September, Susan Prichard has been heading up the organization of a fall rally at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta from around the 29<sup>th</sup> of September thru the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. As of our last conversation she had approximately 9 rigs coming. Please look for her article in this newsletter for more details. Becky and I are among those attending and volunteering and really look forward to seeing the festival, our Roadrunner family, and meeting the other volunteers from around the world that attend.

As some of you know, Becky and I will be Co-Wagon Masters for the 2017 Alfa Owners Club (AOC) rally in Tucson next April. Brenda and Andy Bober from the South Loafers

are the Wagon Masters. We could use some volunteers from the Roadrunners to help out with some of the planning and help on some of the committees. We would also like the Roadrunners, as a group, to sign up and head up an activity at the AOC rally. Please give this some thought and volunteer to help out and help make the 2017 AOC Rally a wonderful event. The more volunteers we have reduces the time each of us has to put in! Please watch for a separate email requesting help on several of the AOC 2017 rally committees.

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, there hasn't been much for your VP to do since the updating of the chapter website ([www.alfaroadrunners.net](http://www.alfaroadrunners.net)) shortly after the national rally. There has been an additional update with info on the Albuquerque Balloon Festival rally, so if you have interest in that check it out. The MoonBus will not be in Albuquerque since we have a date in Indiana for a slide drive update. If you have a blog you would like linked to the Roadrunner website, send me the URL for your blog and I will make that happen.

Safe travels to all.

### **SECRETARY THOUGHTS**

No report since there have not been any meetings.

### **TREASURER**

We have welcomed no new members since the previous Newsletter. Membership currently stands at 168 Rigs. Current account balance is \$6,598.55.

### **LOSS**

From Susan Prichard:

"Rest in Peace, Dear Friend,

Doug Ferguson passed away 5/19/16 after a long battle. Wendy, their son Scott and John Kurz were with him when he died at the VA Hospital in Seattle, WA. Doug and Wendy fought this with grace. I will always remember Doug as a big old Teddy Bear with his easy smile and gentle way. We have so enjoyed our visits with them in Quartzsite, Yuma, Graham as we shared stories of Alfa adventures and of learned about their prior life experiences. Did you know Doug built large trammels and spent some time mining? Doug and Wendy faced this future head on and sold their Alfa last January while in Arizona. Although Doug will be missed, we know his bright smile and

positive attitude is what he would have wanted us to remember and carry on. We offer Wendy and their family our heartfelt condolences. ”



*From John Kurz*

Today a friend of mine died. He had been diagnosed with Glioblastoma several months before my wife had been diagnosed with the same form of brain cancer. My wife lived 9 months after her diagnosis and never caught a break. From her first surgery, she was unable to function even at a fraction of her former self and then proceeded to get worse. My friend, Doug, was more fortunate. He did very well for the better part of a year and a half. While he had some impairment, he could still drive his motorhome, keep up with most of the repairs needed and he enjoyed life. Then, the drug stopped being effective with his cancer. At first, it progressed slowly and then gained momentum. In his last few weeks of life, he went downhill very fast. His passing was relatively quick and peaceful. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to be with him, his wife and his son during this difficult time. Doug will be missed. He was taken from us way too soon.

**TECH TALK** from Dave Rypma

Like I'm sure many of you have, I've experienced the foul smell of holding tank gasses entering my motorhome. It's usually caused by one of my standard P traps being empty and allowing gasses from the grey water holding tank to enter through the dried out trap. And it's usually the trap in the washing machine's standpipe. Of course, that's also the hardest one to refill since you can't just pour in a few cups of water! I wanted to do

something about that.



A few months ago, someone (I think it was Dale Prichard) mentioned a “waterless trap” was available. I did some digging and found the HepvO Sanitary Waste Valve! You can get more details on it here: [www.hepvo.com](http://www.hepvo.com). This site contains details and installation instructions for the device. The rest of this article will cover my installation and how I went about it.

Here’s a picture of the package that arrived when I ordered it. It’s available for 1-1/2” tubing and 1-1/4” tubing. Note that I say “tubing”, not “pipe”. The size refers to the diameter of the tailstock on the fixture to which you are applying this device. The package comes with the trap (“BV1B”) and a couple of adapters, one for the chosen tailstock size and another to allow the trap to be mounted horizontally. Horizontal mounting would be useful for installing one of these under the shower, but not for the washing machine.

Either size will do for the washer since you will not use the adapters. The picture below shows

you what you will use for this installation:



You can clearly see the threads on the device; the bottom (on the right) has a male thread and the top (left side) has a female thread (in a universal collar). Both threads are 1-1/2” IP, so standard ABS plumbing fittings can be used to install the device on the washing machine’s waste plumbing. To

adapt this trap, you will need two ABS adapters: 1-1/2” ABS female to 1-1/2” IP male and 1-1/2” IP female. The next page shows a picture of the ABS adapters installed on the new trap.



The first picture shows both ends; the next 2 show each end separately. The outlet end (with the female thread adapter) needs to have some Teflon tape applied to the threads to affect a proper seal; the other end (with the male thread adapter) has a built-in gasket, so no need for Teflon tape.



Now for the installation tasks themselves. First, you will need to remove the washing machine from the cabinet. That requires unscrewing the door hinges and tether wire and removing the doors. Also remove both fixed door latches (on the

cabinet floor). Remove the 2 drawers below the washer since that's where you will find the power connection, the water connections, the standpipe connection to the waste water system and 4 screws in the washer base under shelf. Remove them all (the 4 screws hold the washer to the shelf).



Below, one final detailed shot of the table construction showing the block placement inside the HF dolly frame (to keep table on dolly).



Above is a picture of the original plumbing for the standpipe trap and the cheater vent. Also shown are the hot and cold water taps and outlet for the washer.



At the left you see those 1-1/2" ABS pipes coming through the washer cabinet floor. Also shown is the dryer vent at the top left (it's a loose fit into the vent exit from the dryer). The cheater vent in the middle is no longer needed for the new waterless trap.

Finally, a couple of shots of the finished job both above and below (to match the last 2 pictures):

I plugged the extra gaps  
foam to hold the standpipe  
the size of the hole for the  
Replaced the washer, and  
Yeah!



with low expansion  
in place and reduce  
water lines.  
**NO MORE SMELLS!**

## **NEWS FROM OUR FELLOW ROADRUNNERS**

*From Robert Mellis*

Our spring started with horror...but things have been looking up since then.

Back in February, we headed home after a minor service visit and our Alfa caught fire because of the new alternator that had just been installed. We watched our life burn up in five minutes. Total loss, including the tow car.

Through the endless kindness of friends - as well as friends of friends whom we never knew, we received all kinds of support. After two months of struggling with the insurance company, we received a settlement and were able to purchase a 2008 Alfa See Ya to replace our smaller 2004 Alfa.

We then took a test drive to visit our children and grandchildren in Connecticut, and Vermont. That felt good and, of course, we wanted more adventure. So we wandered the backroads of Maine, from the boonocks to the coast. We visited friends in Newport and Islesboro, off the Maine coast.

Now we are heading south to have the rig's 60,000 mile service at Gaffney, before pushing west to visit Ronnie Wolfe at Choudrant, LA, to have some additional work done.

After that, we head back to Florida where we spend the winter as volunteers at our two favorite state parks: Lover's Key in Estero, and Honeymoon Island in Dunedin.

New blog is at: <http://robertsmellis.blogspot.com/> New pictures <http://mellis.shutterfly.com/>

*From Scott Newman*

Barbara and I left our place in Jamestown, Ca. in July and met family at Lake Tahoe then we traveled to the Oregon coast stopping in Florence, Pacific City and Seaside. We have seen several other Alfas along the way. Our plan is to travel eastward from Leavenworth, WA. along the northern border of the U. S. and then into Canada. Our end destination is Nova Scotia and Prince William Island and then south through the New England states. We will turn westward after having our Alfa serviced in Gaffney. We plan to see as many sights, states and parks as possible and look forward to seeing other Roadrunners along the way. Happy trails to all.

*From John Kurtz See Ya 4138*

This past year has been one of first for me. The biggest of which was it was the first time I have taken a trip alone. It was a year ago, on August 10, 2015 that my wife of 45 years passed away. Fran and I had a wonderful marriage and done much travelling over the years. The last five+ years were spent in retirement on the road and making so many friends. I have used this past year to visit as many of those friends as I could and have our own memorial dinner to celebrate Fran's life. The following are some of the places I visited:

- Kansas City, Mo
- Little Rock, AR
- Houston, TX
- Albuquerque, NM
- Santa Fe, NM
- Casa Grande, CA
- Yuma, AZ
- Indio, CA
- Quartzite, AZ

- Palm Desert, CA
- Fontana, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Mountain View, CA
- Portland, OR
- Kennewick, WA
- Tacoma, WA
- Cle Elum, WA
- Seattle, WA
- Rapid City, SD

Along the way, I upgraded to a residential refrigerator, pure sign wave inverter, solar panels and had my roof coated. Now that my big trip is over, I have my Alfa at M.C. Miller's in Indiana to be re-skinned and painted. I look forward to continuing my travels soon.

*From Jim and Becky Godfrey*

Greetings Roadrunners! I too, understand that many of you are having a very enjoyable summer full of fun packed travels, while others have had their share of problems, making their summer far less enjoyable.

Well, believe it or not, Jim and I actually did a tad bit of traveling this year. My brother and sister-in-law joined me in Cleveland, Ohio to assist with the completion of our parents move to Colorado Springs. They, too, have a motorhome, and had traveled up to Cleveland from Florida to help with the move. They then departed and headed west to Colorado Springs. We waited and waited for furniture, with no news of arrival, so they departed and headed west on a Sunday. Go figure, the furniture, arrived on Monday!!! Jim and I made sure everything was offloaded, the important items unpacked, and that parents were settled in and happy prior to our departure on Tuesday.

We caught up with my brother and sister-in-law in Grand Junction, Colorado. From there, we traveled to Moab, Utah and spent lots of time at the Arches and the Canyonlands. Although it was hot as the dickens, a good time was had by all. We spent roughly a week together before our departure back to Colorado Springs due to prior commitments. Darn!!!

Hope everyone is enjoying the final days of summer and making the most of it!

*From Bob and Denise Gray*

After the AOC Rally, we went to Westminster CO for doctor's appointments. We stayed a little longer than planned, as Bob had a cardiac ablation for his atrial fibrillation. We finally left CO and traveled to Minnesota Roofing for a new roof. We stopped there on the way to meet up with family outside of Milwaukee, then friends at the Wisconsin Dells. From there we crossed Canada on the TransCanada Highway, entering Ontario at Sioux St. Marie. We traveled east to Montreal and then north to Quebec City where

Denise worked on Genealogy. Quebec City should be on everyone's bucket list. It is beautiful! We were lucky to be there for Canada Day and were able to watch the Mounties raise the flag, following a parade. We continued northeast, traveling the scenic Gaspé Peninsula loop.

With our French significantly improved, we left Quebec and visited with friends in Vermont, prior to the Escapade in Essex Junction VT. Then we were off to New Hampshire and to devour lots of lobster in Maine.

*From Kathy Hewlett*

Hope all of our Roadrunner friends are doing well and are healthy.

We had a great time on a Viking River Cruise with Mike and Lorraine Lynch in April and then a fun family reunion in Yellowstone and wedding in Red Lodge, Montana in June. We are now "vegging" in Michigan with family and friends.

We plan to be at Palm Creek in Arizona in January 2017 and then travel down the Baja to Cabo San Lucas in February/March. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual rally in Tucson!



*From Chris Mooney*

The MoonBus has been racking up some miles this summer. We left AZ in late May and travelled to NM, about 50 miles SE of Gallup for a week off the grid with friends. From there we began a trip to the West Coast, with stops at the Grand Canyon, Barstow, Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, Sacramento, Reno, and Vallejo near San Francisco. By mid-June, we were in Sonoma camped for a NASCAR race. After the race, we technically made it to the coast with a stop in Bodega Bay. From there, the trip took a northward turn. We took the 101 from Petaluma through the redwood forests to Redcrest, CA, Crescent City, CA, Coos Bay, OR, to Tillamook, OR. This ride was beautiful and though there are a few narrow spots, this portion of the 101 is perfectly doable in a coach. From Tillamook we turned inland through Portland to Olympia, WA where we attended a Parrothead musical long weekend featuring several musicians we know from the Gulf Coast. From there it was on up to the Seattle area where we reconnected with old boating friends from the Caribbean. After three weeks in the NW corner of the country, including Seattle, Whidbey Island, and Birch Bay/Blaine, the bus took an eastward turn. We stopped in Yakima, WA to visit a high school friend, then Pendleton, OR and Baker City, OR on the way to a week with seven other couples we met while cruising in the Caribbean in McCall, ID. All these couples now are RVing, either full-time or splitting time between RVing in the summer and boating in the Caribbean in the winter.

One thing we have found in the NW is that there is no shortage of brew pubs, coffee kiosks, or marijuana stores. Seems to be one of each in every block of the towns. We've been sticking to the brew pubs, and only scratched the surface in our research.

We've seen a number of Alfas along the way, met a few who knew nothing of the Facebook, Yahoo, or AOC world, and just missed a few of our AOC/Roadrunner friends. Our plans from here take us from the far NW to the far SE, with plans to get to Key West, FL by the first weekend of November. This will be via Indiana for a slide center-drive conversion. Then it will be back to TX for the winter. Hope everybody else is enjoying their summer!

*Lexie and Skip Huffman*

We (Skip and Lexie Huffman) have broken with our regular itinerary and headed for some new territories this summer. Our first stop was a visit to fellow Alfa owners, Dave and Jane Petersen of Moses Lake, WA. They have a beautiful lakefront home with knockout views of the surrounding neighborhood. We'd never seen the Grand Coulee Dam, but got the tour from Jane and Dave. Very impressive!

Two days later, we were back on the road to Coeur d'Alene, ID. No wonder so many retired LA cops have chosen to call this home. We stayed at the Blackwell Island RV resort which sits at the confluence of the river and the lake. Truly breathtaking scenery. The park even has a dog beach where your favorite pooch can paddle his paws. We connected there with two Canadian friends and had a great time dining out at some super restaurants overlooking the lake.

Next stop - Missoula, MT. We found a small, but delightful RV park just north of I-90 called Jim and Mary's. They had flowers everywhere - just a beautiful spot. From there, we took our car to visit friends in Victor, MT. That trip took us through the Bitterroot Valley, famous for its fly fishing. The folks we visited there are our next door neighbors in the Yuma Foothills in wintertime.

Since then, Skip and I met up with our friends (and fellow Roadrunners), Kathleen and Patrick Bustamante at Flathead Lake, MT where we'll spend the next month exploring the Glacier National Park area together. Right now we're just south of Flathead Lake in Ronan, Mt at a cute, very small RV park called the Diamond S. No big amenities, just comfy and well kept.

That should keep us busy until we start south in September. To all our Alfa friends, don't forget that mid-November, we'll be back at our property in Yuma with an extra full hook-up for visitors. We'd love to see you.

## **AIBF VOLUNTEER RALLY, SEPT. 28 OR 29 – OCT 9 OR 10<sup>TH</sup>**

*From Susan Prichard:*

<http://www.balloonfiesta.com/operations/volunteering>

If you have this event on your bucket list and at least one of the persons in your coach is interested in volunteering at this event, contact me for availability and more details. Current plan is that we will be meeting on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at a campground in Albuquerque (last chance for full hook-ups) and caravanning into the Fiesta grounds as a group on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be dry camping during the Fiesta. Various volunteer positions are available and some online training is required prior to attending. The Fiesta dates are Oct. 1 – Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Many will be staying till Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Call me ASAP if you are interested – Susan Prichard – 480-495-4645.

-

*From MaryAnne Balzer:*

Come join us in Quartzsite January 20 – January 29 and celebrate 30 years of Roadrunner life on the road! That's right; the Alfa Roadrunner's Club was founded in 1987!

The 2017 year continues Alfa clubs' recent anniversary celebrations. So in 2017 let's see how many 'long-timers' and new-comers we can gather at our traditional camping location in the desert of North LaPosa BLM, just south of the Quartzsite junction on Highway 93. It's time for a grand desert celebration!

Come witness beautiful sunrises and incredible sunsets. Visit the big tent RV show as it comes to life as if by magic—filled with products galore. Be amazed by the quirky cultural experience that is Quartzsite. Be in awe of the desert experience. Be moved and inspired by the willingness of all Roadrunners to pitch in; making the desert rally a great time for everyone. Be swept away by the fun of it all, be a kid again. Come play and fall in love with the unique lifestyle. Whether you are full-timer, part-timer or vacationer come join us in January!

We are working on a great line-up of rally activities for 2017. Venturing outside camp group activity ideas include outings both out of town to Crystal Hill for quartz crystal hunting; and visiting the numerous in town quirky and unique attractions found only in Quartzsite.

In-camp time may be spent in many ways. The Wagon Masters will coordinate numbers of seminars, groups and get-togethers as selected with the attendees. From tech talks to desert walks to crafting to open coaches, to social hours and more the Quartzsite rally is unique as events are in the hands of the attendees.

Planned meals will be handled in several ways. Stay tuned as the Wagon Masters arrange some creative fun options to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Variety of meals will include some provided as part of your camp fee, or coordinated attendee special event meals, or small group social gatherings. And, of course, there will be Anniversary cake!

Watch your email for special Quartzsite news blasts as fall approaches for sign up and further information. Also, watch the newsletter for the rally column. In addition, please be sure to check the Roadrunner web site at [www.alfaroadrunners.net](http://www.alfaroadrunners.net) for updated rally news and information. And always, if you want to talk with Wagon Masters Ray and MaryAnne Balzer please contact us via email, phone or text. We'd love to talk with you.

See you in Quartzsite!

## **INTERESTED IN BAHAMEXICO?**

*From Kathy Hewlett:*

Roger and I are thinking about driving our motorhome down the Baja next winter (2017) and would like to hear from other Roadrunners who have taken the trip or are interested in going with us. We would love to “talk” to friends who have made the trip and hear the pros and cons. We are wondering about safety, gas, campgrounds, language barriers, food etc. We have another couple, not Alfa owners, who are full timers that would like to go with us and we would welcome others to travel with us. You can contact us via email or phone:

Roger Hewlett – [roger.hewlett@gmail.com](mailto:roger.hewlett@gmail.com) 210-573-9847

Kathy Hewlett – [Kathy.hewlett@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.hewlett@gmail.com) 210-884-1245



## **AOC Rally**

Plans are well underway and more details will be coming out soon, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for April 6-11, 2017 in Tucson at the Rencon WestRV resort. See you there. If you have any questions or would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer, please let Jim or Becky Godfrey know. Contact number is 719-310-2095, email is [Jim.godfrey@comcast.net](mailto:Jim.godfrey@comcast.net).

## **GET-TOGETHERS**

### **Mesa AZ**

MOAB (Mesa Owners Alfa Breakfast) will be Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 breakfasts 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**

After 10 years and many home improvements Da Girls RV is up for sale. We have moved up to a Gold. So if you know of anyone who might be interested in a fully resided and custom painted 2003 SeeYa with less than 100,000 miles, contact us at [gatorcq@gmail.com](mailto:gatorcq@gmail.com) or [rvgrandma01@gmail.com](mailto:rvgrandma01@gmail.com) for more details. Thanks, Susan & Dale Prichard

Formatted: Font: Georgia

Formatted: Font: Georgia

Formatted: Font: Georgia

Formatted: Font: Georgia

### **FROM THE EDITOR**

The next newsletter deadline will be November 1, but you can send me articles whenever you want and I will keep them for the next newsletter.

Suggested ideas:

- What you have been up to!
- Interesting places that you have visited.
- Great RV parks where you have stayed!
- Tech issues

Denise [rvtreking@gmail.com](mailto:rvtreking@gmail.com).