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SOCIAL MEDIA:

• Facebook.com/groups/AlfaRoadrunners
• https://groups.io/g/alfaseeya/

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

• www.Alfaroadrunners.net

CALENDAR:

• Roadrunners Pre-Rally- April 3 – April 6, 2019
• Alfa Owners Clubs Rally (AOC) – April 7 – April 12, 2019
• ABQ International Balloon Festival- October 5-13, 2019
• Quartzsite January 17th – January 25th, 2020

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE- Susan Prichard
Boy how time flies...seems like I was just sitting on the sand and enjoying my view of the Sea of Cortez while penning my thoughts for the fall newsletter. Now here I am, it’s almost Valentine’s Day and time to be thinking of moving on after a busy winter in Yuma and a wonderful Rally in Quartzsite.

Life just doesn’t sit still for any of us. We have no guarantees that our plans will work out or that our tomorrows will come. Just today a fellow Alfa owner posted the sad news that they had been involved in a terrible accident that totaled their Alfa and poses the terrible possibility of ending their retirement just as it is beginning. The good news is that everyone onboard is okay, and time will help them work through this.

One of our Roadrunner members was recently involved in a bicycle accident and has a long road to a full recovery. We have members who are undergoing various serious illnesses and medical treatments. These are well all examples of folks who could possibly benefit from a “Get Well Soon” or “Just Thinking of You” e-card.

On the flip side, we have much to celebrate – birthdays, yes I love getting older, don’t you? Weddings, anniversaries and special occasions and holidays. Several times in the past few years the thought has occurred to me that it would be wonderful if we had the ability as a group to acknowledge these special dates with our membership. Well, it’s finally going to happen. When I mentioned this idea to one of our newer Roadrunner Alfa owners she kindly volunteered to be our first Life Events Coordinator. Look for more info further in this newsletter of how we think this is going to work and what we will need you to do to participate and to help this flourish. I want to thank the other members of the Board for agreeing that this is a worthwhile benefit for us all and supporting our e-card program.

Dale and I will be packing up in the next month and heading out to Texas to enjoy a bit of sightseeing both before and after our Spring Rally and the Annual AOC Rally in Fredericksburg. I am so looking forward to seeing the Hill Country and other parts of Texas and our many friends that will be joining us in April. As each of you also prepare for your spring and summer travels I wish you safe travels and much joy and health. I hope that we might cross paths with many of you as we travel the highways and by-ways of this beautiful country/continent we call home.

So, don’t forget to tell those you love, Happy Valentine’s and how much you appreciate them as I share those same sentiments with all of you, my Alfa Family.

Susan

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT- Dave Rypma

Hello Roadrunners! By the time the next newsletter after this one come out, we’ll have completed our spring rally. If you’re intending to join us in Fredericksburg, I hope you’ve made your reservations, because there isn’t much room left (if any); there are well over 30 Roadrunner coaches registered last time I checked. Final planning is well on the way, and I hope to send out a preliminary schedule for Roadrunner Spring Rally
activities very soon. If you have any particular topics you’d like to see covered in technical or information sessions at the rallies (either Roadrunner or AOC), and you didn’t already suggest it on the registration form, please let Susan or me know. Send a note to president@alfaroadrunners.net or vicepres@alfaroadrunners.net with the details of any requests.

I didn’t have an opportunity to join the other Roadrunners in Quartzsite this year, but from what I saw and heard, it was a blast! For the first time in many years, I’ve been spending lots of winter time in the frozen north where temperatures have been down to 20 below zero or lower at times. But I look forward to returning to my Alfa and warmer weather in late February. Then I’ll be heading west from Florida and will see many of you in Fredericksburg at the beginning of April. Happy travels and see you then. And stay warm!

Dave Rypma 2006 Alfa Gold #4078

TREASURER MESSAGE- Brian Hood

Update from John Kurz:

As you probably already know, I have resigned as Treasurer. It has been an honor to have held the position. My decision to resign is a personal matter, but I want you to know it is not related to the Roadrunners, nor is it related to my health.

Our elected Secretary, Brian Hood has stepped up to be the interim Treasurer until elections at the AOC. I have turned over to him all the records and have shown him the procedures I had in place. I will continue to be available to him and the other Roadrunner Officers in an advisory capacity.

While I won’t be able to be at the AOC this year, I look forward to attending several Roadrunner rallies in the next year and hope to see everyone there.

News from your Treasurer, Brian Hood, and Secretary, Carol Hood

Greetings from Casa Grande, our temporary home on the way to the annual AOC rally in Fredericksburg, TX.

First, I want to reintroduce myself, as Treasurer of the Roadrunners, and my sweetheart, Carol, as club Secretary. The President and the other members of the ALFA Roadrunners Board asked me to step in as Treasurer upon the resignation of John Kurz and asked Carol to fill in as club Secretary.

I have a strong management and financial background. I have a B.S. and M.S. in Management Science and an M.B.A. with a focus in Quantitative Business Methods. Before retirement, I held an executive leadership position with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, overseeing a staff of over 300 providing computer, communications and other information-related services to Corps of Engineer sites in 14 northwestern states. I was responsible for managing funds in excess of $50 million. After retirement,
I volunteered as treasurer of our church for five years. While in that role, I had a much smaller budget, but it put me closer to the checkbook.

During her working years, Carol held several secretarial and administrative positions as she followed me as I was reassigned by the Department of Defense. In her last position, as well as serving as a notary, she was the executive assistant to the president of a multinational forest products company. After retirement, she served two terms as the secretary of our church and edited our lake association newsletter for five years.

Carol and I live on Sacheen Lake, a small 2-mile-long natural lake about 40 miles north of downtown Spokane, WA. We call our home Lake’s End. We own the glacial moraine, the place where the glacier dumped a lot of rocks at the very south end of the lake. Carol and I are half-time RVers. We purchased our first RV, a 1965 VW camper, while I served in the U.S. Army in Germany in 1975. We have owned an RV ever since, gradually progressing to our ALFA motorhome, which we purchased in 2015. (Our first ALFA was a 36’ fifth-wheel that we owned for about eight years.) Since retirement in 2007, we have been snowbirds. We’ll celebrate our 49th anniversary this year at the rally in Fredericksburg.

Treasurer’s Report

The Roadrunners have a strong financial position. As of February 1st, the club account balances were:

- Checking $4,938.42
- Savings $5,001.07
- PayPal $327.05
- TOTAL $10,266.54

There are 192 active members as of February 1st.

Please continue to mail hard-copy forms, checks and paperwork for the treasurer to Susan Prichard, 233 Rainbow Drive #13386 Livingston, TX 77399-2033.

Emails to the treasurer (Brian), which can include attachments such as membership applications, should be sent to treasurer@alfaroadrunners.net

Funds can be submitted to the treasurer by PayPal deposit to secretary@alfaroadrunners.net

Very respectfully, Brian ’03 SeeYa #1310

LIFE EVENTS COORDINATOR – Barb Bridges

This is Barb Bridges here to introduce myself. My husband, Dan, and I are recent new Roadrunner members and had the pleasure of meeting several Roadrunners at the Quartzsite Rally in January. Apparently there were 42 units present for the rally.
For those of you we haven't already met, I'd like to say hello. Our president, Susan Prichard, discussed how nice it would be to acknowledge our birthdays and wedding anniversaries through e-cards. This sounded like such a thoughtful gesture. For those who enjoy receiving cards, I have volunteered to do just that. I will be acting as the life events coordinator for our chapter.

It is your choice to participate or not, and either choice is perfectly fine. Simply do not provide information on events you do not wish acknowledged.

What we need from those who do wish to receive e cards is to go to www.alfaroadrunners.net, member login, and profile and fill in some, or all of the information on your profile page relating to these special dates. And by the way, these cards will be sent privately. We won't be sharing your events with other members. We'll leave that up to you.

Birthday - Date and month you were born. Nobody needs to know the year.

Wedding anniversary - Day, month and year

If you know of a situation where a supportive card should be sent, please email me at lifeeventscoordinator@alfaroadrunners.net

Thanks for reading, and I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes and keep in touch. Barb

IN MEMORIAM

Long time Roadrunner, Dayla Collins passed away on November 30, 2018.
Bea Geoffrion was born February 10, 1943 in Manchester N. H. She passed away November 17, 2018. She lived in Las Vegas since 1971 and worked in the hospitality industry at the MGM Hotel and Casino as a front desk cashier and as a room reservation agent. From David Geoffrion.

TECH TALK

For the past year we have been discussing maintenance on our Alfa’s. We have covered from battery maintenance, to our furnace and even water heaters.

This time let’s discuss maintenance on our Generac Generators. We all know about the once-a-year maintenance; examples such as, oil with oil filter, the fuel filter and even the air filter, but did you ever think about the alternator or water pump belt?

Being petroleum based products, they too have a limited life span. I recently helped an Alfa owner, who had always performed the yearly maintenance. While in Quartzsite at the Roadrunner Rally, his generator starter went out. He discussed the issue with me, and he made an appointment to visit us in Yuma, where I would perform a starter replacement when he arrived.

As we were finishing up, I did what I always do, I removed the belts for a visual inspection. Upon the visual inspection, I showed both belts to the client, who recognized that it was just a short time before either or both belts failed.

Now there are many of you, who will just keep going along until a problem appears, and that’s your choice. There are many more of you who want, and need, a reliable generator. Just like all equipment, there is maintenance that is needed and/or required to be performed.

I would also like to state one additional item, when your alternator belt is squealing, and you go to tighten it, please remember, it is better to replace a squealing belt than to replace the rotor shaft in your alternator. Dale Prichard
Installing the PT100 Solar Charge Controller

I've had a solar system installed on my 2006 Alfa Gold for 10 years now. The system consists of 4 x 100 Watt panels on the roof, connected in parallel and managed with a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) solar controller. I purchased it from AM Solar in OR back in 2008. I have been looking at increasing the amount of solar on the roof, but my 30 Amp controller wouldn’t handle much more than the 400 Watts up there now, nor would it handle more than 30 Volts from a panel. Also, solar panels have improved significantly over the years in quality and efficiency. Those original panels were 22 Volt open circuit and would not match well with the newer panels, so they’ll also need to be replaced.

I recently replaced my Xantrex inverter/charger with a new pure sine wave Magnum MS2812. With ME-BMK and ME-ARC (battery monitor kit and advanced remote control). I found, during my research, that Magnum also just started selling a new solar charge controller to complement the ME-ARC, ME-BMK and MS2812. The PT100 is a MPPT charge controller that will supply up to 100 DC Amps to the 12 V batteries and can support solar panels connected to deliver up to 200 Volts to the controller. The ability to support those high panel voltages is very useful if you want to use the existing 8 Gauge wiring from the roof to the front cap area. If you used 1200 Watts of 22 Volt panels, you would need to deliver up to 60 Amps or more from the roof to the controller!

That’s WAY beyond the capability of the 8 gauge wires. If you place 48 volt panels in a series/parallel pair and use 4 x 325 Watt panels, that 1300 Watts of panels will deliver 1200 watts to the controller at about 17 Amps, well within the capacity of the 8 gauge wiring (70 Amps). You will still lose up to voltage 3% in the wire. You can go up to 160 Volts (all 4 panels in series) and reduce the current to under 8 Amps and reduce the losses to under 1%, a very acceptable loss! One caveat – if you put the panels in series, you should try to eliminate any shading from trees, roof antennas, vents or other sun obstructions. There are panels available that will re-duct the impact of shading (using integrated diode bypass protection), but these cost more. I chose to place my panels in such a way that shading was eliminated (no roof-top vent cover, air conditioner or antenna shadows).

Now to the PT100 installation! I installed it in the small front compartment on the driver’s side in front of the front wheel and water heater. It’s where the windshield washer fluid reservoir is stored and where I had installed my earlier 30 Amp Heliotrope HPV-30DR MPPT solar charge controller (now almost 10 years old!). The PT100 requires removing part of the partition between the lower and upper parts of that compartment and even then it’s a snug fit, but easily done. The controller also needs good ventilation, so you need to add venting to keep the temperature in line. I chose to use a temperature controlled relay to power a small 12 VDC fan to cool the charge controller as needed. The pictures show the details. I embedded some pictures in this article, but there are lots more available on my Google Drive here:
The two images above show the full PT100 front with wiring access cover removed and another with the wires in place. The image to the left shows the PT100 installed in its final place with all the wires installed. Below is an image of the lower vent hole for air intake. Note the filter material inserted in the grilled opening.

The next images show the manual reset breaker for the solar panels and the breaker under the front cap (100A) for the connection from the controller to the batteries.
The final pictures show the thermostat control for the ventilating fan mounted in the floor of the top compartment section on the left and the ME-ARC showing PV voltage input. Check the pictures at the link above to see more details.

David Rypma
2006 Alfa Gold
#4078

dave.rypma@gmail.com

ARE YOU PREPARED? —Denise Gray

Are you prepared if an emergency happens? Many of us are full-time RV’ers and don’t have a stick and bricks to retreat to in the case of an emergency. What would you do if you or your spouse had a heart attack today? A car accident or RV accident?

Being prepared is so important if any of these, or other events occur. Obviously insurance is important. If your rig suddenly has a fire, do you have access to your insurance company name, address, phone number, or is everything in the rig? Keeping a copy in your toad and/or in the cloud may save you time and money. Our full timers RV insurance does cover some of a motel stay...

What about your health insurance information? Is that information located in more than one place? What about if you have a health emergency? Do you remember your
medications and your health history? Does your spouse or significant other know or remember?

A few years ago I saw at several rallies a medical thumb drive that people were purchasing to put their health information on for an emergency. Logically, this seems to be a practical answer to this issue. Unfortunately, it is not a good idea.

When I was working as a travel nurse, each of the hospitals where I was contracted required ALL staff, including doctor’s to sign that they would never put any outside computer disc or thumb drive into any hospital computer to prevent a computer virus contaminating the secure medical information. The signing of this contract meant that if you violated the contract you would be fired and financially penalized. This is a HIPPA requirement, and all medical institutions, including doctors offices, should be in compliance.

So what can you do? We have a paper list of our medical information. In addition, we have the information in the cloud so that each of us can access the information in an emergency. We both know where the information is and have access. We also take the paper copy to our doctor’s offices for them to add the information to our medical record. Doctor offices love being handed this information, as it saves them time.

So what information is on this form? Here is what we include, in a table format:

- **Name**, date of birth, name of insurance(no numbers), and date last updated( all above the table)
- **Allergies**— in red if you can (above the table)
- **Prescription medications**— name, dose and how/when you are taking the medication, reason taking, and the doctor who prescribed the medication
- **Over the counter medications**, including all vitamins and supplements, same information as above
- **Physicians**— specialty, name, address, phone and fax numbers
- **Health History**— diagnosis, date diagnosed(can be approximate) and information about the disease/surgeries
- **Tests and Lab work**— eg. Mammograms, chest X-rays, Stress tests, EKG etc...
- **Immunizations**— last flu shot, Tetanus, Pneumonia, and Shingles vaccination etc.

We also copy, from the medication list, all the medications and allergies, and print them on a very small piece of paper which we carry in our wallets. Obviously, all of this needs to be updated every time something changes! It is no good if you don’t keep it updated! Just from the medications you are taking, a doctor or nurse should be able to recognize your current medical situation.

Do you have a will? Do you have Advance Directives? Have you designated a financial power of attorney and a medical power of attorney? Do they know your wishes? Do they know where this paperwork is located and do they have access to the information? Are
you keeping a copy in a fire-proof safe in the rig, and also do they have copies if needed? Are you an organ donor? Everyone also needs to know that... So are you prepared??

**QUARTZSITE RALLY FOLLOW-UP — Karen Ratcliff**

This year’s time in the desert was filled with creating memories with friends and many new friends. We were excited to welcome 42 rigs throughout the week. Several of them were new Alfa owners attending for the first time.

The Rally was hosted by John & Karen Ratcliff, David & Gloria Owens, and John & Leigh Gushea. The activities and meals for the week were a great success, because there were so many that stepped up to volunteer and help.

The men’s tech talks were popular as always as Dale and several others not only shared their knowledge but pitched in to help with many projects that were needed. Several pictures can be found on FB showing the guys assisting each other while completing projects.

The ladies tech talks included time with Irene Mercier as she taught us how to make a miniature tree with wire and beads.
Armand Mercier then helped us finish them by gluing them to a rock we selected as the base. April Zvan held a class on crocheting cozies glass covers for our favorite drinking glass. The cozy’s not only keeps the glass from sweating on furniture but can also help prevent the glass from tipping over as you drive down the road. Linda Venable shared her knowledge on how to free our homes from harmful chemicals by using Norwex products. Gloria Owens led a discussion on sharing 5 or less ingredient recipes to simplify our meals. Perhaps we can share some in upcoming newsletters.

Jon Goldstein and his team, from Leisure Coach Works, joined us for dinner one evening. During Jon’s visit we had a drawing for several LCW certificates for service work and also certificates for products. Thank you Jon, for your generosity. We are fortunate to have this dedicated group available to always provide excellent service to our Alfas.

SkyMed and FMCA also visited with us to review the advantages of their benefits. Redlands sent hats and shirts to be offered to some lucky people. Gloria Owens turned the drawing into fun times by coming up with questions for the crowd to answer which identified the winners.
Offsite trips included a trip to Dripping Springs Mine led by John Ratcliff and David Owens. Rudy Gefeke led a trip to Salvation Mountain, Slab City, East Jesus, Imperial Dunes, Salton Sea, and Bombay Beach.

The wagon masters provided breakfast each morning. Evening meals were a combination of potlucks, appetizers, desserts, cake and ice cream. Sven and Sharon Novion spoiled us with their beer batter pancakes. Dave Volker also included his secret pancake recipe. Yum! No one walked away hungry from the pancake breakfast.

The Sheriff, Rudy Gefeke, did a great job of entertaining us as he exposed all the infractions he witnessed during our time together. Thank you, Rudy, for the great job!

Our Alfa rock sign from last year was nowhere to be found so several people worked hard to rebuild it. They did a great job as shown in the picture above. We hope we will return next year and find it still in place.

Our group made donations of clothing, household items, and a check for $370 to the Quartzsite Salvation Army.

The Wagon Masters want to thank everyone who helped and everyone who came to the Rally. It was a pleasure leading the rally for such wonderful group of people. We are happy to announce that Jeff & Linda Venable and Rudy & Beth Gefeke will be Wagon Masters for next year.

We hope we will see all of you at the AOC Rally in Fredericksburg, Texas. Remember to make your reservations early before it’s sold out.

**UPDATE - 2019 ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL (AIBF) ROADRUNNER RALLY**

Good day everyone and we hope all of you who attended Quartzite this year have recovered. What a great showing this year! Congratulations.

This year’s Albuquerque Balloon Festival (AIBF) is scheduled for October 5-13, 2019. There are over 550 balloons piloted by over 650 pilots from all over the world and the event hosts over 886,000 people over the nine days of the event. The AIBF is the largest ballooning event on earth, the most photographed event in the world, and the largest annual international event held in the United States. It takes place in an area the size of 54 football fields, all put together! I can’t think of an event I’ve ever attended that is any more spectacular than seeing 500 balloons launch in about an hour or so at sunrise. Truly spectacular! You must see it! Here is a link to more facts on the festival in general. [http://www.balloonfiesta.com/FAQs](http://www.balloonfiesta.com/FAQs). More detailed information follows.

Becky and I are looking forward to heading up this year’s AIBF Rally again. This will be our fourth year in attendance, and along with many others in the club, we look forward to this annual event. For the new members of the Roadrunners, or a reminder for others, this rally is a “working rally”, in that at least one member of each coach will need to work as a volunteer during the festival. Volunteers are referred to as Navigators. We
I would love to have as many of you as possible join us for this fantastic event. If you plan on going, AND you have not emailed me to let me know, I don’t have you down on my list and you won’t get updates from me. **IF YOU PLAN ON GOING, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW. I WILL NOT ASSUME!!!!**

Kim Judge, the Navigator/ RV/ Music Festival Manager, and the AIBF Team have made a lot of changes this year. I’m going to try and capture the main ones in this update, but I encourage any of you that have previously bookmarked AIBF sites on your computer/tablet/phone to use the information below to update those bookmarks.

First of all, the AIBF has changed and updated their main website. The new site is [https://balloonfiesta.com/](https://balloonfiesta.com/). Along with that change came new site locations and formats for information many of us have used in the past. Try the sites below:

- [http://www.balloonfiesta.com/Volunteers](http://www.balloonfiesta.com/Volunteers) gets you to the new main page for Navigators. On this page, you will find several other links to important information. A good one to look for is “Volunteering FAQ’s”. Information on this link will answer a lot of your questions, so I encourage you to take the time to click through this information. Embedded in that information is a link to the **Navigator Application**. It is also on the main Volunteer page, but I’ve included it here for your convenience. First time attendees will need to complete this application right away, as this becomes your profile. [https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=267018721](https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=267018721).

**All attendees this year must reserve an RV slot.** Kim Judge is conducting a test with the Roadrunners involving a Group Registration site. The link to that site is [https://addmi.com/r/g/-LP7zI-XPzuuWlriQxJB/reservations](https://addmi.com/r/g/-LP7zI-XPzuuWlriQxJB/reservations). When you register on this site, **PLEASE contact me so I can add you and your information to my attendee roster in order to monitor the status of our allotted RV spaces.**

Near the bottom of the Volunteer web page is a white box with several Titles shown across the top of the box. One of those is “**Navigator Central**”. Click on that title and then bookmark that page. This web page is packed with information about being a Navigator, completing or updating your profile, password reset, required training, etc. This site will quickly become your “go-to” site as a Navigator. For those of you that are returning from last year or from previous years, one very important thing you need to update is your clothing sizes. The AIBF will be using the same vendor this year as last, and as many of us experienced, jackets and vests ran large (or very large), so adjust your sizes accordingly. They are ordering more small sizes this year and the vest will be a zip-in style. Any questions, let Becky, or I know or contact someone you know that was there last year.

There are two sets of “work” requirements; one is the time required to receive your free jacket, hat, shirt etc., currently set as four, 8 hour shifts in your chosen area (requirements may vary based on work area), and the other one is the work time required to qualify for free dry camping. The free dry camping requirement has been 80 hours per couple, 51 hours for a single. Your “work area” Director/Captain/Coordinator
will most likely NOT be familiar with the free camping requirement, so if you ask them a question about it, you may get the wrong answer. Local volunteers/co-workers not staying in an RV probably won’t know either.

This is a dry camping event, 10+ days’ worth!! We will be parked close together in what some call “Rally Style”. That means your awning may not extend all the way or be very close to your neighbors slide out. We strongly encourage attendees to purchase or make a Gen-turi exhaust system for your generator. Information on how to make one will be distributed in a later update and at the AOC Rally in Fredericksburg, Texas in April. They can also be purchased at Camping World and online. If you want more information about this right now, contact me, Jim Godfrey, and I’ll get you pointed in the right direction. There are also pump out “honey wagons” available for those that need to be pumped out or need extra water. There is a reasonable fee for this service.

One last important item for now. Because there are no dump facilities or water available at the festival grounds where we park, we have been gathering at the Enchanted Trails RV Resort just west of Albuquerque on I-40 the night before we go into the festival grounds. Some come and stay a couple of nights. Their website is http://www.enchantedtrails.com/. We socialize, have a pot luck planning meeting, empty tanks and fill up with water, and take a long hot shower prior to caravanning over to the festival park as a group on Thursday morning. The club has reserved 20 sites for Wednesday, Oct 2nd, and all are 30 amp sites, so contact them to get your name on one of those sites. You can arrive earlier, just let them know you are with the Roadrunners and when you will be arriving. More information to follow as we get closer to the event. Also, be aware we have a waiting list started and that we will be shutting down our registration for this rally probably in late August or early September in order to allow some of our friends in SOBs to join us, so don’t put off your decision too long!!

We hope this was article was informative. It is intended to get you thinking about attending the AIBF, introduce you to the new web pages, and provide you with some general information about what to expect at the rally. More detailed information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, if you have any specific questions, please reach out to Becky or I and we will do level best to get your questions answered. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again. We will be at the AOC Rally in Texas and you can always catch up with us there. Happy and safe travels.

Jim and Becky Godfrey, 2019 AIBF Wagon Masters

**2020 ALFA ROADRUNNERS QUARTZSITE RALLY**

Mark your calendars for January 17th – January 25th 2019 and plan to join us for a week full of fun.

We will gather at our traditional camping location in the desert of North La Posa BLM, just south of Quartzsite junction on Highway 93. As always, our event coincides with the Big Tent RV Show. The Wagon Masters are Linda & Jeff Venable and Rudy & Beth Gefeke.
ROADRUNNER MEMBER UPDATES

From Diana and Keith Tucker 03 SeeYa 70628

Diana and I are fairly new Roadrunners, joining last year at the Annual Rally in Hemet. We are also affiliated with the South Loafers, but since we are friends with several Roadrunners, we also thought it would be fun to join. Enough for the past.

We had a great summer and fall. We spent the summer in the northwest, Yellowstone, and southern Utah. Fall sent us to San Diego, Jackson Rancheria, and Sparks Nevada, before swinging through the Prescott Valley, AZ brick and mortar home in November. While in Sparks, we had the wonderful task of getting my Mom moved into a senior community. That involved getting her house ready to sell. Three weeks later, she was happily in a new apartment and her house was on the market, and we were off to Lost Wages for some needed respite. As of this writing, her house sale will close. Good news, for sure.

So for the present. Here we are at our winter Arizona retreat...Yuma AZ. I know. Our Home is in Prescott Valley, AZ, so why are we in Yuma? Simple. PV is at 5000ft, and our golf balls freeze there!! Plus, other Alfa friends, and new friends (Canadian and American) we’ve met over the last 3 years are here too. We are at Fortuna De Oro RV Resort in the Foothills. This is our 3rd year staying here. We really enjoy staying here. Lots of activities we like (such as golf among many other things).

Besides activities in the Resort, we actually do try to venture out. While our friends the Pearson’s were in town, we visited the Yuma Territorial Prison, and Castle Dome Mine Museum and Ghost Town. The prison we had visited before, but the Castle Dome was our first. Except that the entry fee is probably too high ($15 per person), it was very interesting. My main takeaway was how impressed I was with the amount of artifacts they had recovered from the mining town. Lots of period artifacts and stories about the ghost town. We spent about three hours out there touring the museum, and honestly the time flew by and we didn’t realize we had been there that long.

We missed the December Alfa Breakfast at the Foothills Eatery, but attended the January breakfast. Wow!! What a gathering! We had a great time visiting. Unfortunately, we will miss the February breakfast. Our 45th anniversary is this month, and my Sweetie and I have plans.

From Yuma, it’s on to the Annual Rally!! More old friends, and some new ones too. Then we are off for our spring and summer adventure, which includes the southeast coast, the Midwest, then Canada and Alaska! Should be a great 2019, for sure! Keep an eye out for pictures on Facebook as we travel. SeeYa!
From John and Dianne Tschumper

Hi Friends,

This past summer we drove to Alaska to spend some time with our daughter and grandchildren. On the return trip we stopped in Oregon for service on the car and the coach. The morning we left I installed a hitch on the car upside down. When I moved forward to test the locking mechanism the hitch made a lot of noise. The navigator who was watching said it sounded very loose. Upon inspection I found the error. During that trip there had been several other indications that judgment was starting to become a problem. During the rest of the trip there was much discussion and we soon decided it was time to hang up the keys. After years of traveling we have visited a lot of Canada, and every state on the continent, except Kentucky. We have made a lot of friends along the way. We have driven to the East Coast three times. We have been to Alaska several times. We have seen a lot, but not everything. I reached my 80\textsuperscript{th} birthday this January and we realize the rest of our travels are going to have to be by a different mode. After 15 wonderful years it’s time to sell our coach. It can be viewed at the following site. \texttt{rvtrader.com} Search for 2005 Alfa Gold. It’s located in Washington, UT. Search nationwide. Happy Trails

From Robert and Jo Mellis

After a complete year spent battling multiple myeloma, Robert Mellis has rebuilt his strength and is ready to roll from Wauchula, Florida, to the Roadrunners and Alfa get-together in Fredericksburg, TX, this spring. He and his remarkable spouse, Jo, had great plans to slip away from the heat of Florida last October when his oncologist declared he was in remission. What the doctor had failed to mention was that remission does not mean you are back at anything close to full strength. As a result, their best laid plans went awry and they remained in their SKP Resort in Wauchula through the winter.

Then, just as they were eager and willing to leave a hellish 2018 behind, their Honda Fit was smashed when rear-ended by a young woman in her huge SUV. Who knows what she was doing. The Fit’s rear end was decimated and the insurance company declared it to be a total loss.

Now they are outfitted with a 6-speed manual shift 2018 Honda Fit with new tow bar and they feel like 20-year-olds as they scoot around Florida, occasionally grinding gears and stalling at stop signs as they rebuild old skills.

From Linda and Jeff Venable

Hi, fellow Roadrunners! It has been an eventful year for the Venable’s. So, I’ll just hit some highlights. We are now beginning our third year of full-timing in our 05 Alfa See Ya. We are so glad that we stumbled into the Alfa Cult (I mean community!) three years ago! When we bought our Alfa, we had no idea what that would mean to us in the long run. We just liked the way it felt like home as soon as we stepped inside.
Our most recent news is that we purchased a winter lot in Yuma, AZ. After spending our first couple of winters here and there in Arizona, we decided we loved the Yuma area, and the weather is fantastic. I can see why the population here triples during the snowbird migration! We have several Roadrunner neighbors, which really makes it nice. Stop on in if you are passing through!

We just returned from joining 42 other Alfa’s (and an S.O.B. or two!) in the Quartzsite desert. This was our second year of attending the Quartzsite rally. Since we enjoyed it so much, we have signed on as Wagon Master for next year, along with our co-Wagon Masters, Rudy and Beth Gefeke. If you have not experienced Quartzsite, I highly recommend it! It is so peaceful out there, and we have a wide-open space to spread out, and plenty of room for gatherings and campfires. Don’t be afraid of the boondocking aspect. We were, but it was easy. Plan to come and see what Quartzsite is all about next January!

While many of you were hanging out and having a great time in Albuquerque at the Balloon Fiesta, Jeff and I were cruising through Canada and the Northeast, looking for pretty leaves. Sadly, the leaves were not on our schedule, but we had a great time anyway! There is really nothing like a cruise on calm seas to relax you. Jane and Rich Johnson were very kind and took great care of our pups, Zilly and Zada, while we were gone. I am very grateful to them for that!

After the AOC rally last year in Hemet, Jeff wanted to run a marathon in Cincinnati, Ohio. So we headed east. This was to be his first marathon in several years. During our stay near Cincinnati, we visited with Donna and Alan Vore. That was a fun trip east. Heading back across the Midwest was truly hot and humid. Just the kind of weather we try to avoid! Along our way, we stopped to visit with Becky and Jim Godfrey in Colorado Springs. Unfortunately, we had to hurry across in order to attend the funeral and memorial service for Jeff’s father in Lompoc, California. Jeff’s dad was a pilot practically before he could drive, down there in Hemet. He flew in WWII, Korea, and unofficially, in Viet Nam (before it was even a thing). He was very accomplished. The rest of the summer was spent touring Thousand Trails parks in Washington and Oregon.

We hope to see many Roadrunners at the AOC rally in Fredericksburg! Texas is my home state, and I am very happy to be going back there for a while, especially during wildflower season! See Ya down the road!

*From Bob and Denise Gray*

We have spent the winter, other than our trip to Quartzsite for the Roadrunner Rally, at our annual site in Paradise RV Park in Sun City AZ. We have been waiting for the post that was inserted in Bob’s skull, in October, to heal. On February 6, we met with the Audiologist and she placed his BAHA (bone anchored hearing aid). For the first time ever, Bob has bilateral hearing. The Audiologist spent about an hour, teaching us about the device. She spent time calibrating the BAHA, and testing how it was working.
An interesting occurrence, was that he had to turn down his regular hearing aid in his left ear, now that he could hear bilaterally!

One of Bob’s first comments, when we returned to the car, was that this was the first time that he had ever heard music in stereo! He said he did not know what he had been missing!

Our plans for the summer are fluid at the moment. Originally, we had decided to go to the Maritimes. We just found that one of our dogs, Karlie, will not be with us very long due to kidney failure, and we may need to change plans. We still plan to visit our Roadrunner Family at the AOC in Fredericksburg TX.

**GET-TOGETHERS: AVAILABLE IN WINTER MONTHS ONLY**

**Casa Grande**

Hi Friends! The next dates for the monthly Alfa Breakfast in Casa Grande are Monday March 11 and Monday April 15. Both will be at 9:00 AM at the Golden Corral on Florence Blvd in Casa Grande. If you plan on attending, please RSVP via email at lorrainelynch@gmail.com or call 928-710-3681 on or before the prior Thursday. Thanks and we are looking forward to seeing you there!

**MOAB (Mesa Owners Alfa Breakfast)**

It’s that time of year again and Myrna and I hope that each one of you have a very “Happy Thanksgiving” celebrating that special day with your family and friends.

We are ready to meet and greet you at our first MOAB on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at the Golden Corral located on the SW corner of McKellips Rd & Power Rd, Mesa, AZ starting at 8:30 am. Pass the word to other Alfa owners that might not know about our MOAB get together.

The dates for the MOAB (Mesa Owners Alfa Breakfast) at the Golden Corral in Mesa are: March 9, 2019 and April 13, 2019 and for you long range planners the last MOAB for 2019 is on December 14, 2019.

‘SeeYa’ there to exchange all the great travels and other points of interest that happened to you since our last MOAB. As usual, we’ll have a “Q&A” session exchanging ideas and asking questions about our Alfas.

John n Myrna ’04 SeeYa’ #2408

**Westside Phoenix Area**

The Westside Phoenix Alfa breakfast is on the third Wednesday of each month November to March. 8:30 AM at Tivoli Gardens. Located at 12535 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85374. Contact Linda Rees 623-236-4061, or lindar@outdrs.net Come on out, good food, good company!

**Yuma, AZ**
Alfa Breakfast is the 2nd Wed of month, starting Feb. 13th at The Eatery, on the SW corner of Foothills & I-8., at 8:15 - 8:30 am. Nov thru April. Mel & Judi Kirkland & Dan & Jenny Sheppard, are the Coordinators.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last newsletter as the Editor. It’s been fun over the last three years to work with everyone who has sent in information. Thank you to Kay Aerts Miller who will be taking over the newsletter. Thank you to Carol Hood and Kay who have been the proof readers over the last couple of newsletters. Denise

The next newsletter deadline will be May 5, but you can send articles whenever you want and they will kept 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