



A VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

APRIL, 2004

Look What's Inside

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LESSON LEARNED!

Roy & Cindi Burrell

We returned from 6 weeks in Mexico and were boon docking in the desert. About 3 am Cindi smelled smoke, she woke me up, and we looked down the hallway and could see a red glow thru the smoke near the dash. I slammed the pocket door, bailed out the escape window, (8ft off the ground) Cindi tossed out my levies and tennies, I quickly dressed, ran around and got the ladder out and set it up so Cindi could get out.

Meanwhile, she opened the window on the other side of the bedroom for fresh air and tossed more clothes out so we would have something to wear. Then I ran around to open the entry door to reach the big fire extinguisher by the co-pilot seat and I didn't have a door key!!!! We came in for the evening like we always do, locked the dead bolt and then hung up the MH keys on this cute little brass key rack mounted on the end of the upper cabinet! I had no coach door key and couldn't get in!!! All we could do is move the car away a safe distance and watch it burn. What a helpless feeling.



As luck would have it, we had left the cell phone in the car the day before when we were out sight seeing. We called 911, and by the time they got there, it was well on its way. Things we learned are (1) Keep a MH door key in the bedroom AND in the car, (2) Have a bedroom fire extinguisher mounted on the wall in plain view where you see

it everyday, (3) Practice a fire drill and figure out if you can get out of the bedroom escape window!! YOU NEVER THINK IT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!!

We are making suggestions to the Fire Safety Officer, Mac McCoy and Western RV that Air shocks should be on the escape window to hold it open after it is unlatched, (its a very heavy thermo pane window) and to come up with some kind of a roll up rope ladder which one could keep in the closet by the window to hook on the window ledge and roll down to get out with!

It's been a week and we still don't sleep well. Imagine if it had happened 700 miles down in Mexico!!!

DRR III Biggest Rally Yet!

Dawnell Greene



The third annual Desert Rat Rally had 145 coaches turn out for the largest Alpine Coach Association rally in our four-year history. There were five days filled with fun, information sharing, and camaraderie amongst the Alpine Coach owners. There were no planned activities, folks just visited, went to check out the RV Show and vendors in Quartzsite as well as tour the areas points of interest.



Once again ACA had support from various dealers that helped to make the rally a success. Conley RV from Tampa had planned to send the chuck wagon but had to cancel so Herb Hoelle

from Conley RV helped Gale find an excellent caterer from Parker Dam. The Paradise Café provided 3 great dinners that were all very tasty. Club members had a great time volunteering to help serve up the meals. Jim Arens's RV Connection from Sandy, Utah and Mesa, Arizona provided staff and six show coaches for the members to view. Saddleback RV provided support for the rally as well.

We also had Ron Doyle, Burk Morgan and Ted Eaton from Western RV and Herb Hoelle from Conley RV stop and visit us all day Monday.

After dinner each evening we all sat around our huge bonfire, visiting with one another, watching our fire marshal, Danny Gayhart, stoke the fire and just having a good time staying warm in the cool desert evenings. One evening we burnt the ceremonial chimney with the Christmas tree on top. These great fires would not be a success without all the contributions of wood hauled in by the attendees.

The amazing thing about the Desert Rat Rally is how many folks come from all over to the dusty desert each year and keep coming back, bringing friends. In the desert we truly live by the clubs mission: to create new relationships across the country, support and learn from other Alpine Coach owners and...to HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

Rally News

From the...

Fun and Games Department

Gale Johnson



The first two rallies of 2004 are behind us and have been rated as successes. The Rally Department is currently grinding through the necessary details to get registration forms for the two remaining scheduled rallies to all of you as soon as possible.

With 145 coaches in attendance at DRR III and 61 coaches at the recently completed Albuquerque Pre-Rally, (both are ACA record totals) the bar has been set even higher for the upcoming events. We suggest that you make plans now to attend the Redmond, OR Pre-Rally at the 1000 Trails Preserve in Bend, OR from August 10-15 and the 2004 Homecoming Rally at

America's Best Campground in Branson, MO from October 3-8. Registration materials will be mailed for both rallies as soon as all of the final scheduling and financial arrangements are completed.

Please wait to receive the official registration materials for each rally before attempting to register. Reservations will be accepted for each rally when the completed registration form and payment have been received at the ACA Rally PO Box. Reservations will be confirmed and spaces assigned in the order received. Space is limited, but we hope to have adequate sites at both rallies. However, we strongly suggest that you return your registration materials as soon as possible.

Finally, a sincere *thanks* to all who have contributed to this year's rally successes. We truly appreciate all of the members who volunteer to help at each rally. We always have more helpers than we can use and we couldn't do it without you.

Also, our Alpine Coach Dealers have provided record-setting personnel and financial support. Our first two rallies would literally not have happened without the generous support from:

- Bill Plemmons RV World
- Conley RV Centers
- Guaranty RV Centers
- RV Connection...and
- Saddleback RV

As always, if you're considering a new Alpine Coach or need service on your current coach...we recommend you contact any of the great dealers who support the **Alpine Coach Association**.

See ya at the Rallies...Travel Safely!



TRAVEL TIPS

For those people who have a Health Care Proxy or Living Will they should carry those with them in the coach. With the new health care privacy rules it becomes even more important that these be available when traveling. If you don't have these with you at the time they are needed then you really don't have them in force. These documents enable a spouse or designated individual to make health care decisions and receive the medical information on the person in need and also enable withholding heroic

measures to keep someone alive with the many devices and treatments available even if there is little if any chance of recovery. I thought this might be helpful so that those individuals who have these documents and specify what care they do or do not want are protected. I would encourage those that have not looked into these to do so.

John Tripp

NEWSLETTER WEB ACCESS

Please note that beginning with this newsletter, in order to access the newsletter from the Western RV's web site you will need an access code to view it. This access code will be changed periodically and should not be shared with non-ACA members.

The current access code is: [aca0304](#).



BOARD MESSAGES

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOBILE OFFICE

Claudia Gayhart



DRR III has hit the history books and what a hoot it was! We had close to 150 coaches this year, a record-breaking number of attendees.

The food was scrumptious, the fires were brilliant and the camaraderie was unforgettable. If you weren't there, you missed our biggest and best rally ever! Mark your calendars for January of next year so that you will not miss this event in 2005.

Spring is here and I think we're all ready to put the cold, rain & snow behind us. Now its time to get those wheels shined up and get ready to hit the road and follow the sunshine. If you are trying to figure out where to go, see Gale Johnson's column for our upcoming rallies. FMCA Conventions in Oregon are very nice in August!

We received feedback from many of our members regarding the time and location of the ACA rallies. We are happy to announce that we listened to your suggestions and plan to hold

Homecoming 2004 in Branson, MO this fall. Gale has been hard at work for several months planning a wonderful time for all of you. Please get your reservations in early for this terrific event.

I would like to remind everyone that we now have an extension and voice mailbox on the Western RV phone number. Simply call WRV at 509-457-0729 and request Ext. 399. This connects you to the ACA voice mail and you are welcome to leave a message for one of the Board Members. This mailbox is checked regularly and messages will be forwarded to the appropriate director. We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions on this line. FYI, if you have an urgent request, please contact us directly on our phone numbers listed in this newsletter for faster service.

Elections for four (4) Director positions will be held later this summer. The Nominating Committee has been busily recruiting for these positions for the past 10 months. If you are interested in a position on the Board or know someone who is, please contact Earlene Bloomquist/928-685-3827, Louis Burch/214-534-0399 or Margie Aspeslaugh/720-201-2126 for information or nomination.

Danny & I will be leaving Arizona in late April to attend our daughter's wedding on May 1 in Columbus, Ohio. We will spend most of the summer months somewhere east of the Mississippi and hope to see many of you on the road or at Homecoming in Branson.

RAMBLINGS

Don Dittus



It has been an uneventful time since the DRR III. Sue and I have visited with friends in Arizona and have enjoyed the warmer winter temperatures {warmer than MN}. Soon it will be time to head the coach back home. We plan to see some sights along the way and perhaps even to visit my sister in Raleigh, NC. Not quite the most direct route, but the cold spring in Grand Marais and the Alpine Coach make this an attractive possibility. Isn't it great to have that kind of flexibility in travels. We look forward to summer on the north shore and to visiting with our ACA friends who will be making the tour around Lake Superior. Happy and safe travels to all.

SPECIAL PROJECT'S UPDATE

Chet McIntosh



Another DRR has come and gone. What a great time, lots of good company, superb meals and spectacular bonfires. Not to mention all the "stuff" under and around the Big Tent that you didn't even know you needed.

After the Rally we headed for the Escapee Park in Aguanga, CA to officially settle into the RV lot we purchased last year. Now we are in Northern California trying to condense a 10'x10' storage room stacked high, into an 8'x20' utility trailer that we can park in the storage yard in Aguanga. We had planned to be in Albuquerque but had the opportunity to spend time with 3 grandsons while Mom & Dad were on holiday. Hope to see you all in Redmond in August.

Both Joey Bed and Slim Slider have joined the growing list of vendors supporting our ACA newsletter and we appreciate their support. Our slide drawers are one of the best additions we've made to make our coach more enjoyable. We no longer have to unload everything to reach that box way in the back!

Davis Cabinets, our very first advertiser, continues to impress us with their creativity in designing custom computer desks and matching cabinetry; and in retrofitting the cupboards above the cockpit to accommodate flat screen TV's.

When you have the opportunity, let our advertisers know we appreciate their support.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Carol Reimer



Hi, from the desk of the Secretary.

We just returned from the great rally in Albuquerque, NM. If you were unable to join us you missed great food, interesting tours and the chance to meet and make some new friends. We also were at DRR III and this relaxed rally is a must for you to attend next year. We had a membership meeting there and will have another one in Branson, MO at our Homecoming in October. In the mean time please keep me informed of any

serious illness or loss of your traveling companion. We need to know about you!

Until next time, Happy Traveling and Stay Healthy!

Carol has received correspondence from member Lavola Windemuth reporting that John Mendes received a new kidney on January 28th and is doing very well. They hope to soon start making some trips again.

MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

Kay Watts



The multiple and colorful hot air balloons have just lifted off for their morning flights here in Albuquerque. We watch them from the windows of our coach.

Some Alpine club members are on board. What an experience! This FMCA Convention follows two very successful rallies since our last newsletter article, Quartzsite and here. The Club is growing with each rally as attendees who are not members join in the fun and turn in their applications, eight at Desert Rat and five so far here. We are aware that five new coaches have been sold here so we anticipate more members and it is only the start of the second day.

We have been on the go and the mail has not caught up to us for some time so I apologize to anyone waiting to receive club information from me. I will be catching up on my duties at home in April. We left colder climates right after Christmas and will be returning home at the completion of this rally. The winter in the Southwest has been cooler than normal, whatever that is, but it is great now. We almost wish we did not have to head home to the cooler temperatures and spring storms. Soon however the flowers will be blooming, summer will follow with another opportunity for the ACA to get together at Redmond, and then it will be time for Homecoming in Branson, MO. Join us at one of these rallies and experience the FUN.

When you change addresses (snail or email), or phone numbers please let me know to update the Club contact information for you. We want to be able to keep you informed about Club activities and coming events. Safe travels until we meet again.

Journeys End

ACA wishes to extend its sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following members whose passing has been reported to us:

Jerry Bishop Seattle, Washington
Lynda Ritchey Aguanga, California

THE TREASURER'S CHEST

Dawnell Greene

In January at Quartzsite I agreed to take over the Treasurer functions until the election in October. Since then I have published a set of financial policies and procedures as well as set up an expense report form for the board. I am currently in the process of filing our IRS report for fiscal year 2003.

Every member should have received in February a membership roster as well as the clubs financial status that included income and expenses for 2003 and our planned budget for 2004. If for some reason you did not receive this mailing please contact our membership director Kay Watts.

CHAPTER TALK

Ron Dodge



Southern California

Jim Klinko

Alpine So Cal had their most recent rally in conjunction with the annual ACA Desert Rats Rally at Quartzsite, AZ. Our chapter had about 10 coaches there for a total of more than 150 Alpine Coaches from all over the Country.

The weather was beautiful. We were about 8 miles from Quartzsite - but in a really nice area all parked together. Everyone had a great time roaming around through all of the flea market type booths. I managed to find exactly what I was looking for. So, you just never know.

Thanks to ACA we had catered dinners - out in the middle of the desert, Awesome!

Anyone who would like to attend one of our Alpine So Cal chapter rallies, to see what we're all about - contact Bob Turner at (760) 771-3350 or RLTSYT@MSN.COM via e-mail.

See the Rally Calendar on page 9 for So. Cal chapter rallies.

Eastern Chapter (ACE)

Sandy Munsil

Fourteen ACE members met on January 30th at Natures Resort in Homosassa, Florida for a pre-rally to the FMCA Brooksville, Florida rally. The weather was a little cool and wet but we had a great time anyway. We watched the manatee being fed at the State Park took a ride on the river and had lots of good food. The men gathered for tech talk while the ladies did crafts in the clubhouse. At night we would gather under a tent at the Trudel's Coach. New Members Chris and Richard Morgan entertained the group playing and singing blue grass music. Nine coaches went on to the FMCA Rally. We would like to thank Mallise and John Crawford and Shirley and Jesse Rumberger for putting this rally together.

Join us at Stone Mountain, Georgia May 1-5, 2004. Jesse Rumberger will be sending registration forms out soon. The September 29-October 3rd ACA Homecoming Pre-Rally in Springfield, MO is still in the planning stage. Visit us at our web site, www.ace-rv.net for more details. If you have anything to share with the club e-mail it to louistrudel@comcast.net.

Southwest

Mac and Sandy Diller are forming a southwest chapter. If you are interested in joining please contact them.

Contact list for existing or planned chapters:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| So. Cal | Bob Turner RLTSYT@msn.com 760-771-3350 |
| Northwest | Open Position |
| No. Cal | Open Position |
| Full Timers | Open Position |
| Eastern | Jesse & Shirley Rumberger jsrumberger@aol.com 941-792-1218 |

Southwest Mac & Sandy Diller
sdiller@aol.com
 623-584-7617

Midwest Ted & Kay Watts
themowatts@aol.com
 636-926-0024

Somewhere in Texas Louis & Linda Burch
labsr@aol.com
 940-240-3251

TECH TIPS

Lowell Potvin

Hydro-combiner Battery Caps

I got this tip from Louis Burch. These caps are expensive but supposedly they do the trick to saving water in the batteries not to mention eliminating the corrosion that accompanies any boil off.

The source for these caps is:

Northern Arizona Wind and Sun
 2725 E. Lakin Dr., Suite #2
 Flagstaff, AZ 86004
 800-383-0195
www.solar-electric.com

For information sharing on the Web go to:
www.IRV2.com
 and click on Alpine Coach Owners Forum.

WRV NEWS

For Western RV Customer Support
 Please call 1-866-567-4133
 Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm PST

2005 40 foot Quad Slide Alpine Coach Limited Is Added To The Lineup

Dawnell Greene/Burk Morgan

At the Alpine Coach Association's FMCA Pre-Rally to the Albuquerque FMCA show, WRV introduced their latest addition to the Alpine Coach Limited line. The new 2005 40' Front Door Quad Slide (FDQS) provides the same first-class comfort and style as the other Alpine Coach models with added room and expansive views from the front living area.

The 40' Quad Slide has the couch and galley in the driver's side room slide, same as the triple slide, and the lounge chair and dining table slide room on the curbside. Included in the curbside slide room is one large window with additional windows on each end. This window provides for an expansive view of the outside and adds even more openness to the living area.

In the bath area the comforts of home have been continued as an additional sink and vanity cabinet have been added to the water closet area.

Various other features have been added not only to the Quad Slide, but to all 2005 Alpine Coach Limited models. Some of the additions include:

- A Hydro Hot® Hydronic Heating System that allows for a continuous supply of domestic hot water, and an ability to control interior temperatures in two separate heating areas independently. Quiet operation through low-velocity heat exchangers eliminates a standard fan motor.
- Ceramic Tile flooring is now an available option for the front driver and passenger area on all floor plans. There is now a choice between the high-gloss polished and a textured finish tile.
- Residential style solid wood pocket doors have been added between the bath and kitchen area and the bath and bedroom area.
- A solid wood headboard replaces the previous fabric style headboard.

Entertainment features now include a Sharp® AQUOS Liquid Crystal Television (LC-TV) with a high-definition television (HDTV) satellite receiver included as part of the option. A twenty-seven

inch (27") Toshiba® Flat-Screen television is standard.

In the galley the revolutionary GE® Advantium Oven is now an option.

Surge-Guard® has been added as an available option. Surge-Guard protects your coach electronics from sudden and unexpected power spikes and surges when connected to an outside electrical source. The Onan® Power Inverter is now standard with a more user friendly control panel and allows owners to obtain service, if needed, through the Cummins/Onan Coach Care system.

The body and exterior include a new paint scheme which adds more character and includes some new eye catching color groups. A Roof Ladder is now an option and the tough 3M® Film Front Rock Guard is now standard.

For driving enthusiasts the Actia® Smart Gauges have been integrated in the cockpit/drivers control area. These new gauges monitor various driving functions such as miles-per-gallon, low voltage conditions, and will display engine, transmission and ABS codes to aid in diagnostics. The audible turn signal indicator volume has been increased to better alert the driver.

To power you down the road the Cummins® 8.9 ISL Pegasus 400-horsepower electronic engine is standard in all models. No option will be offered. This engine meets newly mandated federal emission standards and is equipped with a 2-stage Jacobs® Compression Brake.

The new 40 foot Quad Slide was well received by the attendees and in fact the first order was taken at the ACA rally!

ALPINE COACH MART

Ads are \$10.00 for a 2.5 inch by 3 inch ad (business card size). Additional space is \$10.00 for another 2.5 inches by 3 inches. Ads may be for Alpine Coaches, and related furniture or equipment.

1998 Alpine 36' FDSS – front door, 7.5 kw Onan generator, updated interior – medium blue, BMW headlights, new batteries, awnings on all windows, washer/dryer, Uline ice maker, front shade retrofit, 2 couches- one ultraleather , ultraleather driver and passenger seat, Non-smoking coach. 25,000 miles. Asking \$115,000.

Glenda Frame (509) 332-6738
E-mail g_frame@msn.com

2000 Alpine 38' 6", FDDS. Like new. Front door, 2 slide-outs, diesel pusher with 350 Cummins, 7.5 Onan generator. Awnings on all windows. Outside white with brown contrasting trim. Sea green carpeting with blue/green window treatments. Light oak cabinets. Corian counters, hardwood flooring in kitchen and bath. Ultra leather 2 sofas plus driver and passenger seats. Inverter, camera, 2 TV's, built-in vacuum, ice maker in side-by-side fridge, satellite, VCR, CD changer. Non smoking and no pets. Has always been garaged. Illness requires us to sell. 18,000 miles, \$135,000.

John Mendes or Lavola Windemuth
209-823-7453 or E-mail luvsc creations@aol.com

2001 37' FDDS. Cummins 350 with 18K miles. Loaded. Immaculate, Non-smoker and no pets. Tow Dolly included. Save thousands under dealer price, \$159,000 and will listen to offers. Hacienda parks membership included.

Arnold Robert 208-362-4415 or 208-761-6423
Or E-mail streetrodder@rmci.net

Wanted Alpine Coach 2001 Mid-door single slide.

Bob Medwick 916-723-9649

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 20th

is the deadline for ads and articles in
the July quarterly issue.

ACA MARKETPLACE

Ads may be Business Card Size and there is a charge for running the ad. One ad is \$40.00, two ads are \$70.00 and four ads are \$120.00, payable in advance of placing the ads. Please contact Chet McIntosh at mcme@groundcontrol.us regarding running an ad.

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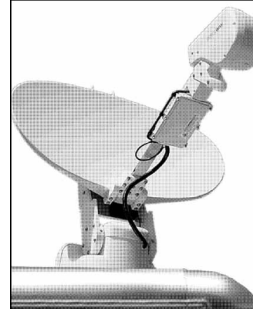
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SlimSlider@valint.net
www.slimslider.com

Rally Calendar

| DATES | | LOCATION | HOST CHAPTER | CONTACT |
|-------------------------|------------|--|--------------|---|
| 2004 | | | | |
| April | 23-25 | CA Chula Vista " So Cal Chapter Rally" Chula Vista RV Resort | So Cal | Mac & Anne McDougal mcdscot@cox.net or 619-440-4444 |
| May | 1-5 | GA Stone Mountain " Eastern Chapter Rally" Location TBD | Eastern | Jesse & Shirley Rumberger jsrumberger@aol.com or 941-792-1218 |
| August | 10-15 | OR Bend "FMCA Redmond Pre-Rally" Thousand Trails Resort | National | ACA Rallies alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486 Bellevue, WA 98015-3486 |
| September | 10-12 | CA Mammoth Lakes "So Cal Chapter Rally" | So Cal | Jim & Vivian Weinheimer J.Weinheimer@BPDonline.net 714-579-7416 |
| | 29 – Oct 3 | MO Springfield " Eastern Chapter Pre-Rally to Homecoming" Location TBD | Eastern | Jesse & Shirley Rumberger jsrumberger@aol.com or 941-792-1218 |
| October | 3-8 | MO "2004 Homecoming" America's Best Campground (ACA MEMBERS ONLY) | National | ACA Rallies alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486 Bellevue, WA 98015-3486 |
| November | 5-7 | CA Newport "So Cal Chapter Rally" Newport Dunes RV Resort | So Cal | Jack & Linda Giddens crazysingerlkg@aol.com or 760-789-7820 |
| 2005 | | | | |
| January/February | | AZ Quartzsite "2004 Desert Rat Rally" DRR III Location TBD | National | ACA Rallies alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486 Bellevue, WA 98015-3486 |
| February | TBD | NV Las Vegas "So Cal Chapter Rally" | So Cal | Mac & Anne McDougal McDSCOT@cox.net or 619-469-8725 |
| April | TBD | CA Banning "So Cal Chapter Rally" Silent Valley | So Cal | Bud & Pam Johnson Pamelashere@CS.com or 949-768-1008 |
| March | 15-20 | GA Adel "FMCA Perry Pre-Rally" Reed Bingham State Park | National | ACA Rallies alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486 Bellevue, WA 98015-3486 |
| August | 9-14 | ND "FMCA Minot Pre-Rally" Location TBD | National | ACA Rallies alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486 Bellevue, WA 98015-3486 |

Change-of-Address

Please complete and mail to:

ACA Memberships
5808A Summitview, #337
Yakima, WA 98908

Or E-Mail:
ACAMemberDir@aol.com

| Change-of-Address Form | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Coach Serial # _____ | (last 5 digits) |
| Name _____ | |
| New Address _____ | |
| City _____ | ST ____ Zip _____ |
| New Phone (_____) _____ | |
| New Cell Phone (_____) _____ | |
| New E-Mail Address _____ | |



5808A Summitview, #337
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ACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Home: 623-214-6384 Cell: 602-421-6384
gayhartdc@netzero.net

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Rally Director – Gale Johnson
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alpinerallies@aol.com

Membership Director – Kay Watts
Home: 636-926-0024
ACAMemberDir@aol.com

Director – Don Dittus
Cell: 707-972-4212
dittusd@pocketmail.com

Director Special Projects – Chet McIntosh
Cell: 510-220-0515
mcmc@groundcontrol.us

Chapter Director – Ron Dodge
Cell: 509-994-3080
katdodge@aol.com

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU.

The ACA Quarterly Newsletter is the official publication of the Alpine Coach Association. The publication is issued the first week of every quarter beginning January, April, July, and October.

This publication is designed to provide information that is of interest to our club members. The information published herein does not constitute professional advice. This publication and the persons associated with its release are not liable for the content.

Inquires may be directed to any one of the ACA board of directors or the publisher/editor, Dawnell Greene.
Phone: 512-633-7254 or
E-Mail: dkgreene@gte.net

The Alpine Coach Association is a chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA).