

# A View from the Summit

Volume 8, Issue #4

October 2007



ALPINE COACH  
ASSOCIATION

**NOTICE: The annual meeting of the general membership shall take place on October 10, 2007 at 10:15 AM at our rally location at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.**

**August 7-16, 2007**

## **Newport, Oregon Pre-rally FMCA Rally – Redmond, Oregon**

**by Patty McGuire**

No matter how hard I try, I just can't get the coach ready so we can get on the road on time and, as usual, we were late arriving at Pacific Shores Outdoor Resort in Newport. Since this was only our third ACA rally, I consider us newbies and don't know all the ins and outs of rally goings-on. I now know when the Rally Director says 5:00 everyone arrives early to make sure they get a good seat. Once at a table, they hope to get called first for dinner or maybe they want to be close to the front so they can catch some of the coveted TP tossed to the crowd by the master of TP throwing, Gale Johnson. (The exposed beams and rafters added a little challenge for Gale trying to get the packs to the back of the room without knocking down the lovely decorations.) When we finally get over to the clubhouse for dinner and the evening's activities, the only empty seats are clear in the back of the room. We made our way through the crowd and were warmly greeted by the friendly and familiar faces of Paul and Alma Heil. They make us feel at home.

The week was full of all kinds of fun – something for everyone. Carl Nichol森 arranged rounds of golf at the Salishan Golf Club, and Danny Gayhart took some folks four-wheeling in the huge sand dunes in Florence, Oregon. There was a visit to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and within 30 minutes you could be at the Chinook Winds Casino trying your luck and, no, we didn't have any... thanks for asking.

One day there was a spirited "Gearhead Session" with some of the techs and vendors from WRV. There were many good questions asked, and the answers were comforting to most. Before the session was completed, though, the ladies took off for a luncheon at the Shiloh Inn, leaving the men at the clubhouse and their own lunch of Mexican food.

Lucky for all of us, the weather was beautiful. Each morning out at the new coach display, I-5 Uhlmann RV of Chehalis, Washington, provided a continental breakfast. One evening a wine and cheese tasting was hosted by Guaranty RV of Junction City, Oregon. It is truly amazing how these two dealers step up and help make our rallies so successful. Besides these events, I-5 Uhlmann's provided everyone a box breakfast for "Get Away Day" on Sunday morning, and Guaranty provided a barbecue beef and salmon dinner on Saturday night. Thanks to all of you.

After Saturday's dinner the Rivoli RV Revue entertained us. This is a husband and wife team that travel from rally to rally in their RV singing about the humorous things that can happen while you travel the country in your RV. I think everyone saw themselves in one or two of the songs, and there were quite a few hands raised when asked if anyone had lost an awning. Louis Burch actually confessed to losing four!

My favorite night, or should I say my sweet tooth's favorite night, was a dessert buffet. Picture this – you walk in, and before you are two long tables covered with about 100 desserts of all kinds. You pray that the table you sit at is picked early by Andy Lewis and his deck of cards. You even start to contemplate using bribery to ensure your card and table receive an early calling. Let me assure you that the ACA has some wonderful cooks. M-M-M good!

On Sunday morning about half of the 100+ Alpine Coaches left Newport heading east for a rendezvous at the Sisters Rodeo Grounds. Coaches started leaving as early as 6:00 AM, and it was Andy's job, without his deck of cards, to make sure we all left in a timely fashion, and not too close together. When we arrived at the rodeo grounds it was quite a sight – there were more than half of the 50 coaches all lined up and the rest soon arrived to get ready to caravan the last 25 miles into Redmond for the FMCA Rally. A little before the caravan's departure time of 1:00 p.m. two police officers on motorcycles, two county sheriff's deputy vehicles and two Redmond police vehicles arrived. They were there to give us a police escort all the way to Redmond. We had our headlights on and were allowed to travel through stop signs and red lights. It was really fun for us, but the people who had to wait didn't look very happy. I couldn't help the big smile on my face. One gentleman even came to the Alpine display at the rally wanting to see what an Alpine was like. He had gotten caught in the traffic when our caravan came through town, and we looked like we were having so much fun that he wanted to be in a group like ours.

FMCA rallies can be very low key. You are as busy as you want to be. Many had WRV techs perform service work on their coaches, or had new equipment installed, and many attended some of the classes offered on a variety of subjects. We used the time to get to know other ACA members better.

On the last full day of the rally WRV treated the entire group to a pizza party – not just any pizza party. These pizzas didn't come in a box and weren't delivered by Dominoes or Pizza Hut...they were made fresh and baked in a wood-burning oven at our campsite. About 3:30 in the afternoon a van came in pulling the cutest trailer with a domed pizza oven attached. Soon there were four patio umbrellas set about, and the fire was being stoked to get the oven up to the 500° temperature required to bake pizzas. The trailer was outfitted with iceboxes, and work counters completely surrounded it. By 5:30 the crowd of ACA members had gathered in anticipation of these tasty wood-fired pizzas. With two men assembling, and one woman baking, it took a while to feed what seemed like 200 hungry people. The pizzas were worth the wait. Thanks to Western RV for a fun-filled evening.

I am impressed by the fact that we come from all walks of life, and our ages span many decades, but we all have two things in common – our Alpine coaches and our love to travel in them. I can't wait till we will once again hit the road and be in the company of the fun members of the ACA...we'll try to be on time.

At the FMCA Redmond Rally in August, 2007, Alpine Coach Association was presented with a 5-Year Anniversary Certificate. "Belonging to a chapter enriches the FMCA membership and strengthens the bonds that develop among members. We realize that keeping a chapter active involves all the members working together, and we wish to recognize and pay tribute to the time and talent contributed to your success."

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ACA!

# Board Messages



## From the President Kathy Nichol, President

I would like to touch on the subject of **VOLUNTEERISM**. At our General Meeting in October at the Balloon Fiesta we will announce the results of our recent Board of Directors election. Those candidates are volunteers.

We will also elect a Nominating Committee (volunteers) to seek new candidates (volunteers) for the 2008 election.

We have an election each year, replacing half the Board one year and the other half the following year. This provides for continuity on the Board.

Organizations such as ours need volunteers to participate on committees, to help with parking crews, meal arrangements, clean-up, and to seek office on the Board of Directors. Traditionally, older citizens who volunteer have longer work experience and more wisdom to draw upon. Volunteers sometimes receive only modest recognition – since their activities involve free will and lack of reimbursement. However, research has proven there are positive rewards when volunteering, doing for others and finding meaning in those activities. Research has also verified that staying active contributes to a healthier and longer lived life and that social supports are critical to healthy aging.

Statistics show that 41% of individuals 60 years and over have volunteered in the last year and that volunteers would give more time if asked. **I am asking.**

I am asking you to consider getting involved with the national Alpine Coach Association and/or the regional clubs. These are your organizations – formed to promote fun, friendship and fellowship. Get involved, volunteer; help make a difference in your organization. Offer your wisdom, a special skill you may possess, serve on a committee, or run for office on the Board. Each time someone new gets involved there is the opportunity to learn more about our group, help make change or offer a different approach or flavor to the area helping with. Keep your clubs alive with fresh and fun ideas.

***MAKE A DIFFERENCE, VOLUNTEER!!***



## **Membership Memos**

### **Earlene Bloomquist, Membership Director**

First, I want to thank everyone who volunteered for our ACA Club at the FMCA Rally in Redmond, Oregon in August. Those who volunteered at the WRV Alpine Coach display site signed up new Alpine owners and current owners who are not ACA members. From the FMCA Rally and the pre-rally in Newport, we have 11 new ACA members! I want to welcome these new members, and hope they will enjoy their time with ACA.

My second announcement is from Burk Morgan and his secretary, Sandy Sweeden. They would like everyone to have the one telephone number to call for Technical Support, Customer Services, Parts and Service Center. 1-866-567-4133. They are hoping that by having this one number your phone calls will be answered quickly and more efficiently.

Remember...If you have any changes of address, email, phone numbers, new VIN#, new FMCA number, please email me at [jebloom@pocketmail.com](mailto:jebloom@pocketmail.com) (best option); or [jebloom414@netzero.net](mailto:jebloom414@netzero.net) (secondary email address, but we don't always have internet access). When sending emails to either address please include "ACA" in the subject line or your email will be rejected. You can also call me on my cell phone (509) 969-2503 or on our land line in the winter (928) 685-3827. Please contact me with these changes (if you contact other Board members, they will then have to forward the information to me). Feel free to contact me with any membership questions you may have.

Jerry and I want to thank Gale & Joan Johnson for the wonderful Newport Rally it was awesome. See you all in New Mexico in October for more fun.

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## **From the Secretary's Desk**

### **Kay Watts, Secretary**

In my final communication as your Secretary, I want to thank you for having the honor of serving 4 years on the ACA Board. As I retire I look forward to continuing my association with all the wonderful members of the Alpine Coach Association. Our Club needs new people and fresh ideas to continue to move forward and grow, and this is true of the leadership of the ACA as well. Each of you is a valued contributor and the Board can benefit from your participation. Being on the Board is rewarding, but it means work – I will not say different. We need you. Volunteer to run in the next election, or when approached to serve, consider saying yes! and get involved. There is work to be done and fun to be shared.

Whatever the final results of the election in process, I am sure the new Board will diligently and effectively fulfill their duties and that our organization will continue serving the needs of our members. I am looking forward to attending future rallies as an ACA member, but will continue to help out when needed.

Ted and I are looking forward to the opportunity to have time to work on the formation of the Midwest region and see if we can get a group organized and functioning. Any members who would like to participate please let us know. The extent of the region has not been defined, but to avoid overlapping with existing regions we could say anything west of the Mississippi, east of the Rockies, and north of the Mason/Dixon line. And we will welcome anyone that feels they are too far from an existing club.

Thank you and we'll see you in Acoma, Albuquerque, and Quartzsite.





## **Treasurer's Chest**

### **Gail Stacy, Treasurer**

Finally, it is cooling a bit here in Las Vegas...all the way down to the mid-90s. This is such a beautiful time of year here, when it's cool enough in the morning and late afternoon to enjoy being outdoors. Of course, we missed the hottest part of the year here by being gone the whole month of August in our Alpine and on our trip to Germany. Now we are getting ready to hit the road again, first to our SoCal rally at Lake Havasu, followed by our trip to New Mexico and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Given that the Fiesta is sold out, we will definitely see many of you in Albuquerque!

Membership renewal activity has slowed down since you all have gotten very good at sending your dues to Earlene on a timely basis.

Our general account balance is still a bit high, but many of our expenses are incurred later in the year. I still expect our general account balances at the end of this year to be similar to the 2006 year end.

The rally account has much more activity as Gale works hard to secure rally sites, caterers and entertainment for our continued enjoyment the balance of this year, next year and on into 2009. With Newport and Albuquerque being sold out and the addition of the Acoma Pre-rally, we have had a very high volume in the account recently. The next bursts of activity will be the expenses associated with Acoma and Albuquerque, and then the start of receipt of fees for Desert Rat VII.

I hope all of your summer travels were wonderful and you found lots of ways to keep cool. John and I wish you all continued good health to really enjoy your travels. We will see many of you at upcoming rallies, and we wish you all safe travels, wherever you may be heading.

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## **Region Talk**

### **Dave Fernandez, Region Director**

The Heritage Rally is about to start in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and we are hoping for nice weather. I know that there will be a lot of hot air at the Balloon Fiesta (pun intended). ACA is growing and the Regions are having rallies while the weather is still great. I hope the heat waves are behind us.

Some new dealers have been added, and one in particular is Keystone RV Center in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. They have offered to make their presence known at any rallies in their area, so if you're holding a rally closeby please contact Ron at 717-360-4627 (cell) or 800-232-3279 for some support.

I hope you will consider joining one of our Regions (if you haven't already) and participate in the camaraderie and fun we all have at our rallies. It's a chance to get to know your fellow ACA members even better in a smaller venue with more frequent gatherings. Feel free to attend a rally in your Region sometime as a guest – I know you will have a wonderful time and probably decide to join. Of course, all ACA members are welcome at any of these Region rallies if you are traveling in the area at the time of a rally. If you would like more information, please contact one of the regions listed below.

My wife, Donna, and I would like to wish all of you health, happiness and safe travels wherever you go. We'll see you in Albuquerque!



## ACE (Eastern)

Please visit our web site at [www.ace-rv.com](http://www.ace-rv.com) for information about ACE.

## TEXANS

If you are interested in joining the fun with the TEXANS, please contact Louis and Linda Burch at [labsr@aol.com](mailto:labsr@aol.com).

## NorCal (Northern California)

Northern California is in the process of forming and is looking for members who would like to attend a Rally.

## Fulltimers

### Maureen & Niel Dahl

The one bit of information I would like to pass along here concerns the FMCA Fulltimers chapter. Their chapter gets together twice a year, before the International Conventions, then caravan to the convention. Until then, safe and happy travels to you all.

## SoCal (Southern California)

### David Fernandez

Alpine SoCal will hold a rally in Lake Havasu, Arizona in September and again in Chula Vista, California in November. More rallies are planned for 2008, and we are also in the planning for some rallies in 2009. Alpine SoCal will hold elections in October and the new Board members will be announced at the November rally.

SoCal currently has 63 member coaches, and we always have a lot of fun when we get together. All ACA members who live full or part time in Southern California or Southern Nevada are welcome to join our Region, and any ACA member is welcome to attend our rallies if you are in the area. For Region and rally information, please visit our website: [www.alpinesocal.com](http://www.alpinesocal.com). Or, you can contact the president, Dave Fernandez, at [AlpineDriver@msn.com](mailto:AlpineDriver@msn.com) for information.

## NoWACA (Northwest)

### Larry Smith

Pacific Beach on the Washington coast was the site of our latest rally. Hosted by the Smiths, we had 14 Alpines and one SOB in attendance. It was fully disclosed up front that there was not much to do, and the weather could be a challenge; but the weather cooperated and we had a great time together.

We managed to polish off 41 pounds of salmon, 50 ears of corn, 34 pounds of fried turkey, 12 pounds of bacon, 9 dozen eggs, dozens of pancakes and a little bit of wine. In addition to eating, we held a Hillbilly Golf tournament one day and a Redneck Horseshoe tournament the next. First, second and third place winners were awarded "fabulous" prizes. In addition, the four first place winners each received a 2006 Apex for their efforts (two Chardonnay; two Sauvignon Blanc).

We would like to thank Kip Barker and I-5 Uhlmann RV in Chehalis, Washington, for their generous support.

NoWACA membership is open to ACA members living in the Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana).

## Contact list for existing or planned Regions:

<b>ACE</b>	Tom & Peggy Bacome • 731-935-2303 <a href="mailto:pjbacome@aol.com">pjbacome@aol.com</a>
<b>Fulltimers</b>	Maureen Dahl • 425-466-1445 <a href="mailto:wandern.two@verizon.net">wandern.two@verizon.net</a>
<b>Midwest</b>	Ted & Kay Watts • 636-926-0024 <a href="mailto:themowatts@aol.com">themowatts@aol.com</a>
<b>NorCal</b>	Stan & Pat Abernathy • 510-701-7026 <a href="mailto:paabern@aol.com">paabern@aol.com</a> John & Barbara Knox • 408-356-5267 <a href="mailto:jdknbak@verizon.net">jdknbak@verizon.net</a> • Cell: 408-218-8192
<b>NoWACA</b>	Larry & Barbara Smith • 360-437-2913 <a href="mailto:typsmith@olypen.com">typsmith@olypen.com</a>
<b>SoCal</b>	David & Donna Fernandez • 909-214-0000 <a href="mailto:AlpineDriver@msn.com">AlpineDriver@msn.com</a>
<b>TEXANS</b>	Louie & Linda Burch • 940-648-1304 <a href="mailto:labsr@aol.com">labsr@aol.com</a> • Cell: 214-534-0399



# Rally News

## from the Fun & Games Department a.k.a. Gale Johnson, ACA National Rally Director [alpinerallies@aol.com](mailto:alpinerallies@aol.com)

The Holiday Season and the New Year are a lot closer than we sometimes want to think. And...with the New Year, comes a whole new schedule of 2008 ACA Rally events. We kick off the Year with the 7th edition of the popular Desert Rat Rally (DRR VII). We are planning to gather at the “traditional” BLM Rally Site near Quartzsite, Arizona from January 16-21, 2008. FYI...we have explored several other venues for this event in order to provide some “variety” for the many folks who have attended multiple “Desert Rat” Rallies. In fact, that “research” is continuing as this is written...so, stay tuned. The 2nd Annual Desert Rat “Drive-In” Movie has been scheduled and we’re still planning to challenge your entertainment sensibilities with the Mel Brooks classic...*Blazing Saddles* (last year’s runner-up selection). Again, if you have other feature selections you’d like to suggest...I’m open. Don’t forget to bring firewood for our great campfires. This is an “SOB” Rally...so, invite your **motorhoming** friends to join you/us. Remember, this is an official FMCA Regional event, so...motorhomes only please.

Be sure to make plans to attend the upcoming Pomona FMCA Pre-Rally...February 18-23, 2008 at the Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. Note that this Rally will begin a day earlier than normal with parking and check-in on **Monday** and the “caravan” to Pomona on **Saturday**. We will leave Las Vegas in small groups...make an intermediate food and rest stop at Peggy Sue’s 50s Diner at Yermo, California...and then proceed to an area near the FMCA Fairplex site to re-form the full caravan and travel as a group on into the FMCA caravan parking area.

Joan and I previewed the Oasis Resort in mid-September and were very impressed with the facilities. It’s a beautiful venue with two pools, spas, restaurant, and other upscale amenities. We will be able to have all of our meals and meetings right in the clubhouse with ample outdoor display areas for a number of new Alpine Coaches. We are working on securing on-site entertainment and also working toward selection and pricing for at least one group outing to a show on the Las Vegas Strip. More on this later.

And...there’s an additional incentive to attend the Pre-Rally and the Pomona FMCA Convention. WRV has agreed that for everyone attending **both** Rallies, they will partially sponsor our attendance at Sunday’s NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Race at the California Speedway at Fontana, California. In other words, **Western RV will pay a significant portion of everyone’s race day ticket with the added benefit of our group having walking access to the pit area before the track goes “hot” for the race.** Again, in order to take advantage of this deeply discounted NASCAR event you must attend **both** the Pre-Rally and the Pomona FMCA Convention. The registration materials and additional information will be mailed to all Alpine Coach owners by WRV in the coming weeks.

And...the year’s just beginning...so make plans for the rest of the 2008 Rally Schedule. We’ll have information for you soon on the July 8-13 Minneapolis-St. Paul FMCA Pre-Rally (Grand Casino Resort at Hinckley, Minnesota) and the November 11-17 “Christmas” Heritage Rally in Branson, Missouri.

Finally, the Newport Pre-Rally and the Redmond FMCA convention were extremely successful with the greatest individual event attendance to date. Joan and I were awed and humbled by your kind and generous show of support at the Newport Pre-Rally and hope that we can continue to live up to your expectations. Thank you.

***We’ll see you down the road...Safe travels!***

# Rally Calendar

**Remember, all ACA members are welcome to attend ALL rallies.**

<b>September 27-30 2007</b>	<b>Lake Havasu City, Arizona</b> Heritage Rally Pre-Rally	SoCal	Chuck & Donna Hall dchall002@roadrunner.com Russ & Lois Thomas russ@seeing-green.com
<b>October 9-14 2007</b>	<b>Albuquerque, New Mexico</b> Heritage Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
<b>November 9-11 2007</b>	<b>Chula Vista, California</b> Chula Vista RV Resort & Marina	SoCal	Paul & Dale Sullivan sobersullie@hotmail.com Bill & Patti Figge figgebp@mac.com
<b>2008</b>			
<b>January 16-21 2008</b>	<b>Quartzsite, Arizona</b> Desert Rat VII	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
<b>February 18-23 2008</b>	<b>Las Vegas, Nevada</b> Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
<b>March 11-15 2008</b>	<b>North Tampa, Florida</b> Pioneer Village	ACE	Jim & Jodi Girouard www.ace-rv.com
<b>April 28-30 2008</b>	<b>Santa Barbara, California</b> Ocean Mesa Campground at El Capitan (north of Santa Barbara)	SoCal	Jim & Stephanie Archer jwarcher@cox.net Rick & Sue Coleman suzc3@verizon.net
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>Wenatchee, Washington</b>	NoWACA	Jamie & Donna Jamison turbo-5@smwireless.net
<b>May 13-20 2008</b> (week-long rally)	<b>Lake Powell, Utah</b> Wahweap RV Resort	SoCal	Mac & Anne McDougal mcdanne@cox.net John & Gail Stacy gjstacy@cox.net
<b>July 8-13 2008</b>	<b>Hinckley, Minnesota</b> FMCA Pre-Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
<b>September 2008</b>	<b>Oak Glen</b> Apple Festival	SoCal	Dave & Donna Fernandez AlpineDriver@msn.com Ed & Donna Mathews ejm_mathews@msn.com
<b>Fall 2008</b>	<b>Lancaster, Pennsylvania</b>	ACE	Jesse & Shirley Rumberger jsrumberger@aol.com
<b>November 11-17 2008</b>	<b>Branson, Missouri</b> Heritage Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015

# Alpine Coach Mart

For answers to questions and advice from other Alpine Coach owners visit [www.IRV2.com](http://www.IRV2.com) and click Alpine Coach Owners Forum.

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(800) 245-53RV



## Advertising Information

**Alpine Coach Mart** – Ad price is \$10 for a 3.5 x 2 inch ad (business card size). Advertising is limited to Alpine Coaches and related furniture or equipment. To place advertising, contact Barbara Smith at [aca\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aca_newsletter@yahoo.com).

**ACA Marketplace** – Business card size display advertising price is \$40 for one ad; \$70 for two; or \$120 for four. Please contact Barbara Smith for more information at [aca\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aca_newsletter@yahoo.com)

## Photo Request

It's time to do some updating of the ACA website and I need a few photos. What I'd like are photos of member's rigs in locations they find interesting. Please email the photos to [linda@vex.net](mailto:linda@vex.net) with your name and the location the photo was taken.



Linda Cain, Webmaster

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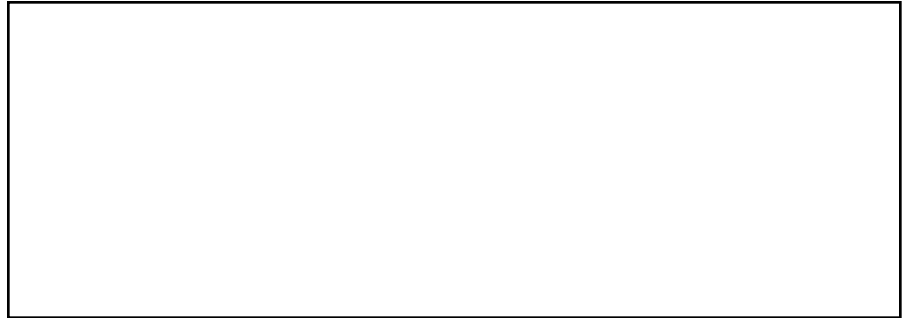
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**Voice Message**

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(Note that by being a member of FMCA in good standing we are in compliance with their insurance liability.)