

A View from the Summit

Volume 8, Issue #3

July 2007



ALPINE COACH
ASSOCIATION

**Please Note:
Change of date and location
of the Pomona Pre-Rally.**

Rally News

from the Fun & Games Department

**a.k.a. Gale Johnson, ACA National Rally Director
alpinerallies@aol.com**

The 2007 Rally season is going to end with a “full house” at our final two Rallies. The Newport, Oregon FMCA Pre-Rally (August 7-12) and the Albuquerque, New Mexico International Balloon Fiesta (October 9-14) are both sold out...with waiting lists. Additionally, the Albuquerque Pre-Rally is greatly exceeding expectations and we are working to minimize the “drycamping” by creatively developing ways to provide some services to our overflow attendees.

The Newport Pre-Rally will be the largest ACA/FMCA Pre-Rally to date and the Balloon Fiesta Rally, even though limited by the available sites, will be among the most heavily attended Heritage/Homecoming events we've ever scheduled. Your continuing (and increasing) support of the ACA Rally Program is gratifying as well as challenging us to find larger and more attractive Rally destinations and facilities.

The dates for the 2008 Desert Rat Rally (DRR VII) have been set. We will plan to gather at the “traditional” BLM Rally Site near Quartzsite, Arizona from January 16-20, 2008. There will be an ACA General Membership meeting on the 17th. Arrangements have been made for the 2nd Annual Desert Rat “Drive-In” Movie. We will share in a rare cultural experience by watching the classic Blazing Saddles (last year's runner-up selection)...unless someone can convince me of an even better choice. So...begin collecting firewood for our great campfires. Remember...this is an “SOB” Rally...invite your motorhoming friends to join you/us. It's just got to be warmer (and drier) than last year.



Important Notice...The Pomona Pre-Rally originally scheduled at the Outdoor Resorts at Aguanga, California, has been "re-located" and there is a minor date change as well. The Resort has experienced greater-than-anticipated sales since we made our reservation and will not be able to "clear" enough sites for our event. Therefore, the Rally will be held at the Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. Because of concerns over Sunday traffic between Las Vegas and Pomona, we will "slide" the Rally one day earlier. The dates will be February 18-23, 2008, and we will caravan to the Pomona FMCA on Saturday the 23rd. 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.



Also, make plans for the rest of the 2008 Rally Schedule. We'll have information for you soon on the July Minneapolis-St. Paul FMCA Pre-Rally (Grand Casino Resort at Hinckley, Minnesota) and the November Christmas Show Rally in Branson, Missouri.

*We'll see you down the road...
Safe Alpine Coach Travels*

Rally Calendar

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

August 7-12 2007	Newport, Oregon FMCA Pre-Rally (Redmond)	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
September 20-23 2007	Pacific Beach, Washington Beautiful Washington Coast	NoWACA	Larry & Barbara Smith typsmith@olypen.com
September 27-30 2007	Lake Havasu City, Arizona Heritage Rally Pre-Rally	SoCal	Chuck & Donna Hall dchall002@roadrunner.com Russ & Lois Thomas russ@seeing-green.com
October 9-14 2007	Albuquerque, New Mexico Heritage Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
November 9-11 2007	Chula Vista, California Chula Vista RV Resort & Marina	SoCal	Paul & Dale Sullivan sobersullie@hotmail.com Bill & Patti Figge figgebp@mac.com
2008			
January 16-20 2008	Quartzsite, Arizona Desert Rat VII	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
February 18-23 2008	Las Vegas, Nevada Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
July 8-13 2008	Hinckley, Minnesota FMCA Pre-Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015
November 2008	Branson, Missouri Heritage Rally	National	alpinerallies@aol.com or P.O. Box 53486, Bellevue WA 98015

red indicates recent changes

Board Messages



From the President Kathy Nichol, President

Wow, suddenly the weather has changed and it is HOT everywhere. Summer has definitely arrived. I hope wherever you travel you are staying cool.

The rally season is upon us, and it looks like it's going to be another great one! Sold out in Newport, Oregon and sold out in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Acoma pre-rally is also looking pretty full. If you are not attending one of these rallies, take a look at the upcoming schedule and try to join us in the future. Sold out means members are enjoying each other, the club, and the rally destinations. Our Rally Director is doing a great job! Be sure to let him know how much you appreciate his efforts.

October is time for new directors to be elected. You should be receiving the ballots with the slate of candidates the first part of August. Watch for this information and be sure to exercise your opportunity to vote for Board Members. The Board works for you, so you should help elect Directors you feel will work in the direction you would like to see the club heading. The new Board of Directors will be introduced at the Albuquerque rally.

Also, feel free to share any of your ideas with the Directors so the Board can discuss them.

I hope to see many of you on the road and at the rallies. As always, feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

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 with your name and the location the photo was taken.

Linda Cain
Webmaster





Membership Memos

Earlene Bloomquist, Membership Director

Hello Everyone! First, I would like to thank everyone who sent in their renewal dues early. I also want to thank all of you who have joined FMCA and have let me know. There are 68 ACA Members who do not belong to FMCA and 6 members who have not renewed their FMCA dues.

Sixty-seven new Alpine Owners joined the ACA from July 1, 2006 to June 20, 2007. Our current membership is 461. As of 6/20/07 262 members have renewed their membership. **IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE DO ASAP.** If you do not plan to renew your membership, please let me know that also. Please save our

ACA money by being prompt in paying your dues. Thanks!

Jerry and I are looking forward to meeting many of you in August in Newport, Oregon at the Pre-Rally for FMCA/Redmond. Also we will be at the Pre Acoma gathering and Albuquerque/Heritage Rally at the Balloon Fiesta in October.

I want to thank Bill and Judy Fleming for coming to visit us in our home park in Congress, Arizona (near Wickenburg). Special thanks to Bill for taking care of some important and helpful things on my computer. I will be able to save the ACA some money with the information he gave me, thanks again Bill!

I always like to give you some information about places we've been that you might enjoy. This is a must-see – it's called "Body World 2" (you can go online and find out where it is showing). It's the Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies. Body World 3 opened in Portland on June 7th, Body Worlds opened in Charlotte, North Carolina on June 13th. There are many other places it is showing, go online if you are interested in seeing a GREAT exhibition. Enjoy!

I want to tell Ralph & Mary Lundberg how sorry I am for messing up their email address in the last newsletter please, would everyone change their email address to: ralphlund@sbcglobal.net.

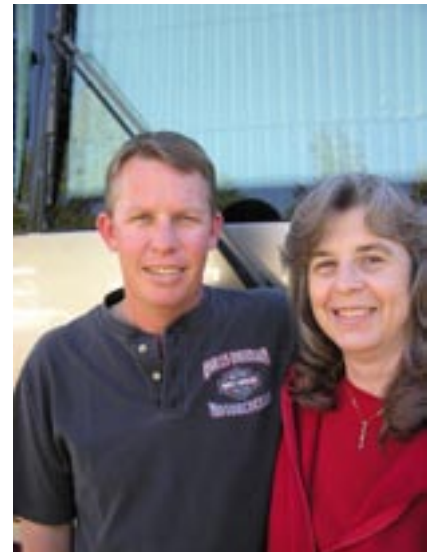
Thanks, and I wish everyone safe travels and a wonderful and enjoyable summer.

Special Projects

Andy Lewis, Director

It's that time of year again – another issue of the newsletter is upon us. Hope all of your travels have been safe and exciting. As another year fast approaches, election of Board members is on the horizon. There are no pressing projects on the agenda, and all other projects are finished or are in the final draft stage. If there is anything you would like to see changed, modified, have a comment or just want to chat, please get in touch with me by calling, writing, e-mailing, homing pigeon or any other means available to you – I would love to hear from you.

I would like to take a moment to encourage all members to vote. Your vote is extremely important. This is your organization and your vote is your voice as to who runs this organization. When you get your ballot in the mail, please take some time to read the candidates' information. If you do not know the candidate, call another member or the candidate themselves. Please make an informed vote, and get your questions answered.



From the Secretary's Desk **Kay Watts, Secretary**

Your Secretary has not been very busy with ACA business this summer and this has been good. I sincerely hope this means that you are all enjoying good health and fantastic travels.

We have been able to enjoy our new Alpine and travel with our 15 year-old grandson. Those of you who have done this know it can be very enjoyable and rewarding. Next year I suspect he will be more into cars and girls than grandparents. Right now he is into history, and his selection for our trip was the Civil War battlefields of Virginia and the surrounding area. He didn't even get bored reading all the information in the museums or with all the stops along the way.

We visited all the major battlefields along the war's route to Appomattox Court House. A few of the lesser-known battlefields were the neatest surprises. North Anna Battlefield was actually a county park with very well-preserved earthworks and interpretive signage along a path through the shady woods. I am sure all the trees were not there on the day of the battle, but they were sure nice on the hot day we were there.

Another find was the New Market Battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley. This was the only battle in which the students of Virginia Military Institute (VMI) participated. Most of these young men were 15 to 18 years old and 10 were killed. An Alumni of VMI purchased the property and deeded it to VMI. It looks much the same as it did when the battle occurred, and has an excellent museum that details not only the exploits of the cadets and this battle, but a good synopsis of the entire war. If you ever think of taking a trip into this area you may want to include Civil War sites.

And if you ever get to Petersburg, Virginia, site of the Crater Battlefield, and are into ice cream you may want to visit M&M's Ice Cream Shop downtown near the Siege Museum. The shop's CEO is an 8 year-old girl who may be the one dishing up your order – the service and ice cream is great! Another great find in Petersburg is an old church with 14 original Tiffany windows commissioned by the states that had troops in the battles around Petersburg.



Treasurer's Chest **Gail Stacy, Treasurer**

Wow! It's really hot here in Las Vegas...yesterday it was 109° up here on the hill we live on, so it's probably 5 degrees hotter down in the valley in the main part of Las Vegas. You may ask, what in the world are we doing here at this time of year when we have a beautiful new motorhome to travel to cooler climates? Good question! John loves his softball and I have some community responsibilities, so we do hang around some throughout the summer. We will be heading out on July 4, and plan to spend some time in Colorado and then down to the beach in Southern California. That will probably be followed by a trip up to Montana to see friends.

My biggest excitement for the summer will be my daughter's wedding in Germany this August. Unfortunately, that may also preclude us from being able to see all of you at the Newport Rally. We were really looking forward to going, as it is in such a beautiful area, but we will definitely see many of

you at the Heritage Rally/Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta!

As I know Earlene will tell you, this has been a busy time with all of the membership renewal payments coming in. Earlene's job here is much more difficult than mine...I just need to record all of her deposits and reconcile the bank accounts. Of course, with receiving all of the renewals, our general account balance is much higher than usual for the time being. Many of our expenses are incurred later in the year, so by year end I expect our general account balances to be similar to the 2006 year end figures.

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 and well into next year.

John and I hope all of you are finding great places for your summer travels, and experiencing good health to really enjoy them. We will see many of you at upcoming rallies, and we wish you all safe travels, wherever you may be heading.



Region Talk

Dave Fernandez, Region Director

Newport, Oregon is about to start and we are excited to see what WRV has added to the new models. The weather across the US has been hot and humid. ACA is growing and the regions are having Rallies as the weather is getting better.

I hope many of you who are able will consider joining one of our Regions 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 some time as a guest, as 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 in this Year!

ACE (Eastern)

Thirteen coaches met at the Wal-Mart in Mango, Florida on January 16th. We left the Wal-Mart parking lot early Wednesday for the Tampa Fairgrounds. Our days were spent visiting the new coaches and all the vendors at the Super Show. We gathered for social hour each evening and attended the rally entertainment. On Friday we had our business meeting in the afternoon and the club provided pizza for dinner. After dinner, Western RV Eastern Reps spoke to the group about all the changes happening within Western RV. We would like to thank Judy and Bill Bilodeau and Jean & Bill Decker for all their work.

Please visit our web site at www.ace-rv.com for information about ACE.

NoWACA (Northwest)

Larry Smith

The first rally of 2007 for the NoWACA was held in Walla Walla, Washington in May 10-13. The early birds in our group enjoyed the balloon festival; we all enjoyed the great food and friendship along with special wine tasting by limo (the only way to go). Thank you to Jamie & Donna Jamison for putting together a great rally.

Our next rally (originally scheduled for mid-August) will be held at Pacific Beach, Washington on September 20-23. Plans are in the works for another fun time together and will be emailed soon.

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

TEXANS

Louis Burch

If you are interested in joining the fun with the TEXANS, please contact Louis and Linda Burch at 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.

Contact list for existing or planned Regions:

ACE	Tom & Peggy Bacome • 731-935-2303 pjbacome@aol.com
Fulltimers	Maureen Dahl • 425-466-1445 wandern.two@verizon.net
Midwest	Ted & Kay Watts • 636-926-0024 themowatts@aol.com
NorCal	Stan & Pat Abernathy • 510-701-7026 paabern@aol.com
NoWACA	Larry & Barbara Smith • 360-437-2913 typsmith@olypen.com
SoCal	David & Donna Fernandez • 909-214-0000 AlpineDriver@msn.com
TEXANS	Louis & Linda Burch • 940-240-3251 labsr@aol.com • Cell: 214-534-0399

SoCal (Southern California)

David Fernandez

Alpine So Cal held a week-long rally in Bethel Island, California at the Sugar Barge RV Resort, from June 2-9 – we had a great time. Events and activities included a group dinner at the resort; a trip to the Jelly Belly factory for a tour and lunch; a tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery followed by beer tasting; and a catered BBQ dinner at the resort.

So Cal currently has 59 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. Or, you can contact the president, Dave Fernandez, at AlpineDriver@msn.com for information.

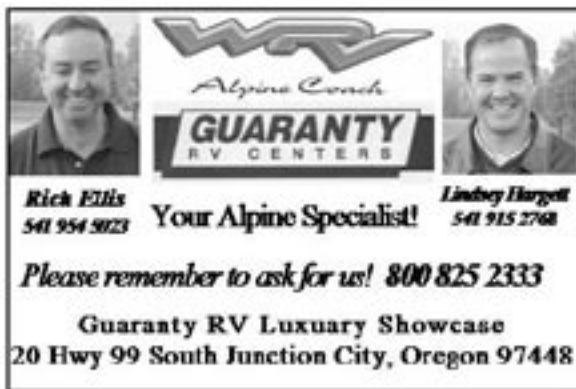
Alpine So Cal wants to thank Lindsay Hargett and Rich Ellis for their participation and support at all ACA and Alpine So Cal rallies.

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. While there, they have a potluck breakfast one morning and also serve ice cream at the RV Alliance ice cream social. They also publish a newsletter four times a year. Their membership year is 1/1 – 12/31 and the dues are \$15 a year. If interested, go to the FMCA website, then Chapters, Links and Fulltimers Chapter. They sound like a fun group (just like ours) and it never hurts to meet up with more fellow Fulltimers. Until then, safe and happy travels to you all.

Alpine Coach Mart



Rich Ellis
541 954 5023

Lindsay Hargett
541 915 2768

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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

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**Reminder:
All ACA
members
must be
members
in good
standing of
the FMCA.**

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