



ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION

A View From The Summit

Volume 10, Issue #1 FEBRUARY 2008

*Check out the great sale from
Jimmy Doyle on page 5
Two Alpine Coaches for the price of one !*

Thanks for the Memories

Since the inception of the Alpine Coach Association we have had an incredible team of two people dedicated to making each ACA Rally unique, entertaining and most of all **FUN**. That team would be none other than our Rally Director Gale Johnson and the lovely Joan Johnson often referred to as the "Lovely and sometimes irritable Mrs. Johnson".

Gale announced his retirement at the Desert Rat VII Rally at the Membership meeting. It was news that was reluctantly received by the membership, especially the frequent rally attendees.

It was a lucky day for ACA when Gale Johnson took on the task of Rally Director when the club started forming. Gale came to us with years of experience putting together promotions and events. The expertise he brought to ACA Rallies showed immediately in the organization, execution and excellence of our rallies. Starting in 2001, Gale worked as a volunteer for five years or about 20 rallies and about 15,000 meals, until finally becoming a paid Rally Director in 2006.

There's always a good woman behind every man (usually trying to give directions), and that would be Joan. At every event Joan would meet and greet the attending members, giving out information, hugs and unparalleled hospitality. Every member felt special and welcome. What a great way to start an event.

No one says it quite as well as Bob Hope:

***Thanks for the memory
Of rainy afternoons, swinging Harlem tunes
And motor trips and burning lips and
burning toast and prunes
How lovely it was.***



It would seem improbable that Gale would take a caravan of coaches through Harlem but there were certainly motor trips, we're mum on the burning lips and are convinced that somewhere along the line there was burning toast and certainly with this group, some prunes. One fact remains that is indisputable, how lovely it was. Thank you Gale and Joan for making our travel dreams come true, for creating an atmosphere of family, fellowship and love. You will be greatly missed and we wish you many happy trails ahead. You both built this club, we promise to take care of your members.

Boy will we miss you!

Gale leaves some pretty big shoes to fill, OK, that's pretty obvious, have you seen the feet on that guy??? Here are some thoughts and memories from some members:

The very first time I met Gale was at Quartzsite in 2003. We were standing around the fire talking. I told him Jerry and I had been on the road as full timers for 10 years. He was amazed that we had not seen all of the United States. I told him how much I loved history and needed to see **everything** in each state. He said "Boy how does Jerry deal with this?" I said "He does everything I tell him to do." Gale then said to me "You should do what I tell you and run for a position on the ACA Board". I told him that I couldn't yet but that I would volunteer for the nominating committee. He took me right to Claudia and told her and the next day I was appointed to the committee. Jerry and I will miss both Gale and Joan but we are the lucky ones in ACA, they live next door to us!

Earlene Bloomquist

Boy oh boy... I don't know what to tell you about Gale. Just some good memories and I do mean good!!!! One thing I will remember forever was our rally in Branson and the singer that came to the campground. His name is John Tweed and he is so good. When we walked to the group breakfast that morning Gale and Joan were playing one of his CD's in their motor home and had all the windows open. We had not yet met John but we were enthralled with his singing before we ever got to breakfast. I guess that what I think of most when I think about our rallies was the entertainment that Gale was able to come up with. We will miss him so much and I don't think a lot of people realize what we have lost.

Jean Kurrle

A good story but politically incorrect. On the way East toward Hilton Head, we stopped off at a truck repair place in Phoenix to have our radiator replaced. "Red" was the mechanic who did the work and when we told the manager what a great job "he" did, the manager said "she" and her name is Lisa. As fate would have it, Gale was coming in a few days later to have his radiator replaced. When we got to Hilton Head, we asked Gale if "she" did a good job for him also. Gale says "he" and we knew we had him. This was the first and last time we ever saw him speechless.

Basil Shannon

Barbara and I attended our first ACA rally at Canby, Or. It had been scheduled at another campground and the deal fell through just a few weeks before. Gale and Joan put the rally back together and it was a real delight. We knew then that we were in an organization that is really special. For us, the rally at Branson, MO has been the highlight of our ACA experiences. Gale really outdid himself on that one. We rolled into the RV park and set up. Without leaving the park we had a good dinner, an evening of great entertainment and then a breakfast with more outstanding entertainment. After that, it just got better! We still reminisce about that rally and marvel over how well put together it was.

We must all be aware that Joan has been the power behind the throne. Gale freely admits that Joan was a real asset in the business they had before retiring. We will miss them greatly and hope to see them again somewhere down the road. Thank you Gale and Joan.

John and Barbara Knox



WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

Why to get into Gale and Joan's coach of course!

For many years, at every Rally, a single coach or a roving band of rally attendees have mysteriously left chickens or eggs at the Johnsons coach. To this day, they remain at large, despite diligent surveillance by the resident on board guard cat. Hopefully Gale and Joan will devote space to their flock of chickens in their new roost in Congress AZ. Meanwhile, there is a substantial reward for the capture of these chicken rustlers....Ok, it's not a substantial reward, the yokes on you! But we would like to hear the story in the next issue.



Say Goodnight Gracie

When I was elected President of ACA, I decided to get involved with the rallies. Gale was very hesitant at first to turn anything over to the new "blonde" who wanted some responsibility. He didn't know for sure if he could trust me to accomplish a task. (As I said—I'm blonde—duh!)

Once we established a working relationship, Gale, Joan, Danny and I began a lasting friendship. Gale and I began our "George & Gracie" shtick by accident even though many of the members swore that we wrote and rehearsed our routine for each rally. We had so much fun and often surprised each other by rendering the other speechless with a comment or "look". My favorite times were when Gale was at a loss for words, which doesn't happen very often.

I'm really going to miss Gale as our Rally Director for the ACA. Our hope is to visit with Gale and Joan more now that they live in Congress Arizona, only 30 minutes from where we live in Surprise.

Claudia Gayhart
President of ACA May 2002 through October 2006
Past President October 2006 through November 2008



Alpine Coach Association Contact Information

5808A Summitview #337
Yakima, Wa. 1-800-888-4133 Ext 399

Frank Halasz President

Cell 505-400-1431
fhalasz@swcp.com

Earlene Bloomquist Membership Director

Cell 509-969-2503
jebloom@earth-comm.com

Andy Lewis Director Special Projects

Cell 702-682-5278
Firemans@embarqmail.com

Basil Shannon Secretary

Cell Phone 361-877-1597
Basil_shannon@yahoo.com

Renée Perrault Newsletter Editor & Treasurer

Cell 206-919-3805
reneegary@msn.com

Claudia Gayhart Past President

Cell 602-421-6384
gayhartdc@netzero.net

RALLY COMMITTEE HINKLEY:

Al and Ruth Baird
Louis Burch
Giles and Joann Lenzmeier
Ken and Maureen Pysick
Kathy Nicholzen
Ray Schemanske

BRANSON:

Andy Lewis
Renee Perrault
**Hoping for more volunteers
There's plenty of room in the
ACA Volunteer pool, jump on in!**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT—Franklin Halasz

My friends,

We've had considerable disconcerting news in the past few months, culminating in Gale's retirement from Rally Director following completion of our Quartzsite membership meeting. While not rising to the level of "times that try men's souls," the issues that confront us appear more serious than they should be for a club with a mission of increasing the enjoyment of Alpine ownership. Your Board is working -- harder than we think we should have to! -- to set us back on the course to have fun. Meanwhile, we need to overcome a few hurdles.

First, we need to carry on the ACA tradition of great rallies at moderate cost. Gale has set a standard that we may not reach right away, but we are making progress. The volunteers for the Hinkley pre-rally committee are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. They surely can use more help; a couple of ideas are mentioned in the survey that we're asking all ACA members to submit. The Branson rally may be more than six months away, but it is time to start building on the arrangements that Gale started two years ago. And if we going back to Quartzsite next year, we'll have to start planning for that. At present, Andy Lewis is the Board contact for rallies, in addition to starting active work for Branson. Please direct your suggestions to him.

Second, we need to ensure that our bylaws conform to FMCA requirements. At Quartzsite, the members ratified a revision that we believe will suffice, but FMCA has not yet concurred. Fred Royce has volunteered to work with FMCA to draft any changes that may be needed, and has promised to submit them in time to be voted upon by the membership when we elect our new officers.

Speaking of elections, one of the FMCA requirements -- incorporated in our newly-approved Bylaws -- is that certain officers be elected to specific positions. This will require a larger slate of candidates than was necessary in the past, when Board members were elected at large and they then decided who would serve in the specific posts. Since we have five positions to fill, we need a slate of at least ten candidates. Our volunteer nominating committee would be happy to hear suggestions from anyone, and I urge each of you to consider running for a position. From its inception, ACA has had to be a unifying force in the face of geographic diversity. At present, all Board members are Westerners. The rally committees have members that are more nearly locals, as they should be, and we need even more active participation from all parts of the country. Again, please help the nominating committee by offering to run or at least suggesting a name.

These are challenging times for us, but we thrive on challenge; after all, we're RV'ers. We may have believed the ads about carefree travel when we bought our first motorhome, but we learned to live with, and cherish, the reality -- RV'ing is what you make it. The Alpine Coach Association, too, will be what we make it. Let's do it together. Meanwhile, let's not forget why we bought our coach and joined ACA -- to enjoy life more. Dessa and I have cleared our calendar and hope to see you at the Las Vegas rally. Be careful out there, but have fun doing it!

Sincerely,

Franklin Halasz

VIVA LAS VEGAS— From our Friends at Guaranty

There are still spots available for Guaranty's Las Vegas Rally February 20th to the 24th. Cost is \$300.00 for 4 nights and includes 2 dinners, lunch, Guaranty's signature Wine and Cheese party and various fun activities, including a Las Vegas Show.

Contact Jim Hardy to reserve your spot. Jim.Hardy@Guaranty.com or 541-915-6364.

Remember, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas! And NEVER split 10's on the blackjack table. Have a great time and thank you Guaranty for putting this event together.

50% off MSRP

New 2006 Alpine Limiteds

	was	now
34 FDDS	\$326,732	\$163,366
36 FDDS	\$326,273	\$163,137
40 FDTS	\$352,309	\$176,155
40 FDTS	\$349,333	\$174,667
40 FDTS	\$352,317	\$176,159
40 FDQS	\$366,029	\$183,015
4 0 FDQS	\$359,836	\$179,918

New Alpine Apex series

'06 MDTS	\$418,806	\$209,403
'06 FDQS	\$421,061	\$210,531
'06 FDQS	\$424,445	\$212,223
'07 MDTS	\$415,331	\$207,666
'07 MDTS	\$420,715	\$210,358
'07 MDTS	\$421,126	\$210,563

RV Motors is selling these units "as is". Front TV's are missing, call for details. **3rd party warranties apply.**

800-278-0371 or 706-217-7715

RV MOTORS, LLC

Survey

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|----|
| 1. How many Rallies do you attend a year on average | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. What is your determining factor: | | | | |
| A. Distance to travel | yes | | | no |
| B. Time of year | yes | | | no |
| C. Other ACA friends attending | yes | | | no |
| D. Cost | yes | | | no |
| E. Other please explain | | | | |

Comments _____

- | | | | |
|---|-----|--|----|
| 3. Will you be attending the following Rallies: | | | |
| A. Hinckley Minnesota July 8 -13 | yes | | no |
| B. Branson Missouri Nov 11 -17 | yes | | no |

If you plan on attending would you like to volunteer for:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| A. Communication and Flyers | yes | no |
| B. Checking out sites and entertainment | yes | no |
| C. Registration of Attendees | yes | no |
| D. Check in Attendees at Rally | yes | no |
| E. Help with Parking | yes | no |
| F. Serving Meals | yes | no |
| G. Door Prizes | yes | no |
| H. Caravan | yes | no |

Comments on what you would like to see at a Rally:

Please send by email to: reneegary@msn.com or, if you wish to remain anonymous, please send to the ACA address listed on page 3.