

MATTERHORN

Alpine SoCal Newsletter

An FMCA Chapter

Rally Information

Aug 23-26, 2023 FMCA
107th Intl Cone CAM-
Plex, Gillette, WY FMCA

Sep 5-10, 2023,
NoWACA/ACA Joint
Rally, American Falls, ID
Call Michaela at
208-226-7700

Sep 6-10, 2023, ACA-
Mackinaw, MI Rally
Tom Cook 231-920-2606

SOLD OUT Sep 12-17,
2023, SoCal/NorCal Rally,
Bend, OR/Sisters Garden
RV Resort. Scott & Marcia
Hicks & Pat & Marcella
Mayfield 541-549-3021

Nov 5-10 Pechanga RV
Resort, Temecula, CA.
SoCal Mike and Donna
Hambarian
GRBGMIKE@aol.com
Helen Hillix, James
Feathers
feathersjr@gmail.com,
helen@helenhillix.com

President's Message



From our president, Scott Hicks,

As I write this, I can report hearing from, and seeing a few Alpiners who participated in Tom's 30 day Bucket List caravan. For many, this will be the RV trip of a lifetime, especially considering all the attractions going to and coming back from. Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Tetons & Glacier NP, come to mind. Some are also attending the FMCA Summer convention in Gillette, WY, and later several will be with us in Sister's Oregon for the Socal/Norcal/ACA rally in September. I've been thinking of setting

Jan 29-Feb 3, 2024, NorCal, SoCal, ACA, NoWaca Rally, Wine Ridge RV, Parump, NV. Jerry & Marilee Fichera, Wagon Masters, jfichera@live.com

Feb 1-Mar 15, 2024. IN NEED OF WAGON MASTER & DESTINATION. TBD CA, SoCal/NorCal

Mar 20-23, 2024 FMCA 108th Convention Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ FMCA

Apr 18-23, 2024 Napa Expo RV Park WAGON MASTERS NEEDED. Napa, CA SoCal/ NorCal

Sep 3-15, 2024 Wishon Village RV Park TENTATIVE DATES. 5 Nights Shaver Lake, CA SoCal with ACA Tom & Patty Dietrich tpdietrich@sbcglobal.net

Oct 18-Nov 18, 2024 Pismo Coast Village TENTATIVE DATES...WAGON MASTERS NEEDED Pismo Beach, CA SoCal/NorCal

up a screen to project an old fashioned slide/video show at the Sisters rally, with all the pictures you all will be taking! (Hint, Hint)

Speaking of Tom, he called up to let me know that he's agreed to continue as SoCal FMCA director for another 1-2 years. Thanks, Tom! BTW, the summer FMCA convention will return to Redmond, OR for the summer of 2024. Sounds like another opportunity for a club Pre-Rally in the NW!

With the FMCA director off the table, we only have two rolls to fill for the SoCal Board. After an amazing long run as VP/ SARC, Bill Figge is stepping out at the end of this year. Please show your appreciation in an email or phone call for all that he's done for SoCal over the years. That being said, we need a member to join Linda Matthews in the rally committee (SARC). The other roll to fill is President. I'm stepping down at the end of this year. Remember, our club prospers due to the members who lead rallies, and serve on the board. Please think about these two positions on our board of directors, and contact a board member if you can step into one of these rolls for a short 2 year term.

Here then, are your board members, with end dates:

SARC 3rd Quarter 2023

By Debbie Lacy, SARC

Happy Spring to you all from your SARC Committee.

The calendar says summer, and it is certainly true!

We are looking forward to the Pechanga Rally November 5-10. Registration information coming soon!

We are working hard on planning rallies for 2024. We have added Napa Expo Fairgrounds and PismoCoast Village to the schedule. If you are interested in hosting one of those rallies or a location you are interested in, please contact Bill, Stephanie, Linda or Debbie, and we will be more than happy to get it on the schedule and help you to get the campground procured. We have included a copy of the Rally Schedule in the newsletter.

Happy travels and we look forward to seeing you on the road.

Scott Hicks, president ('23); Janet McNeill, 1st VP/membership ('25); Susan Vargo, treasurer ('25); Bill Figge, VP/SARC (rallies) ('23); Stephanie Archer, SARC ('23); Linda Matthews, SARC ('25); Debbie Lacy, SARC ('23); Tom Polk, FMCA director ('24 or '25); Helen Hillix, newsletter ('24); Helena Mazzocco, Secretary ('25); Jim Archer, website ('25). When you see someone, please thank them for their service to our club.

Have a great rest of your summer! I'm looking forward to seeing several of you in Sisters!

Scott

Membership Report

By Janet Prodanovich, 1st VP Membership

Membership is holding at 52 members. Please remember that the \$15/year membership fee is due in June. Feel free to renew for multiple years!





Tom Polk's 33-Day Bucket List Trip to Churchill, Manitoba July 15-August 16

Beluga whales' adorable faces and friendly demeanor have captured the hearts of countless nature lovers and polar bears spark both curiosity and fear! Throw in red foxes wandering down the street, numerous bald eagles, tundra swans, white foxes and other wildlife too numerous to mention and you have the focus of Tom Polk's 33-Day Bucket List Trip.

Two years in the planning (and with the contribution of all the group meals by Beth and Norm Cannon who did an amazing job of taking care of us) it was the trip of a lifetime for the 40 members in 20 RV's who made up the caravan. Meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, coming from all over the US, the trip included visits to mysterious architectural details in the Winnipeg at the Manitoba Legislative Building, days of traveling through spectacular fields of yellow canola, wheat and corn to museums, parks, historical tunnel tours in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to countless BYOB get togethers at the wagon master's site. Always expecting "spikes in the road," Tom and his helpers (especially Don from Heartland Travel Agency) adeptly pivoted to flying to Churchill when a train derailed and blocked rail access to our destination. But Tom would not be deterred!

Once in Churchill, we headed for Hudson Bay and the Churchill River, getting up close and personal with the Belugas on kayaks, Zodiacs and a small boat. We were surrounded by literally thousands of whales, mothers and babies galore! It was truly awe-inspiring!

Although it was not polar bear season, we were thrilled to see several moms with babies and adults in what is described as "walking hibernation," as they conserve energy for the return of the ice and hunting season. Gorgeous animals!

Another highlight was the "Tundra Rovers" that went right through all the shallow tundra lakes, so fun! The local tour guides were quite a wealth of information, which added tremendously to the experience.





Believe it or not, the trip on the way to Churchill and returning to its endpoint in Rapid City, South Dakota was just as spectacular, memorable and exciting as the beluga whales and polar bears! Each small town, Swan River, Saskatchewan, The Pas, Williston and Medora, North Dakota and especially Rapid City's Black Hills proximity held their own special wonders. Far more than can be described here. Anyone on the trip can share the magic with you! A highlight for me was the truly awe-inspiring majesty of Mt. Rushmore. I was unexpectedly touched by this "shrine to democracy." Add to this the wandering herds of buffalo and prong-horned antelope, mountain goats, wild horses and the lure of the Wild West was complete!

Everyone on the trip will remember this astonishing and magical experience all their lives, as well as the warm and supportive group of fellow travelers who shared the journey! As with all our club members, everyone helped out when anyone had mechanical trouble or any other need, a great group!

Catheren Murray is going to put together a book of a sampling of everyone's photos. Thank you, Catheren! Ask to see the spectacular shots! Only a few can be included here and no brief article can even remotely describe this fabulous adventure! Thank you Tom, Nancy, Norm and Beth and all the people who made this dream come true for us all! Stay tuned for more trips!

Paso Robles Rally, June, 2023

Photos and text by Carmen Wendell



The June rally in Paso Robles offered not only beautiful landscape but fun times shared with old and new friends. Pat and Marcella Mayfield hosted this well organized and well attended rally (16 coaches). Marcella also spoiled us with her homemade tortilla lasagna Mexican-style, served with delicious wine and an egg and sausage casserole for a satisfyingly flavorful breakfast.



Our first fun outing was a tour of Pasolino Ranch; enjoyed tasting authentic extra virgin olive oil, learned the history of the olive trees, harvest and production of fresh olive oil and the authenticity of their certification. We had a lovely time and came home with bags of scrumptious olive oil!



Another fascinating tour was the Camp Roberts Historical Museum, where we learned that it was the largest Army museum in California, followed by a delicious Mexican lunch. And since we love military memorabilia, we went on another tour, this time of the Estrella Warbirds Museum, dedicated to all things related to military aircraft and vehicles.



One of the groups' favorite events was the wine and variations of paella tasting event. A fine selection of wines was shared and prizes were given to the best paella dish. It was fun and delicious!



Petting and connecting to alpacas at Capaldi Ranch made us giggle like children! We could feel their warmth and caring and laughed as we felt their tongues on our hands as we fed them. There's nothing like remembering how fun it is to play with animals!

ACA rallies are always fun, but this one was truly special. We always appreciate the wagon masters and their hard work and this one was a great success. New friends and old gathering in gorgeous places to make memories that last a lifetime. Happiness!



17 Days of Fun/Camaraderie & 3 Minutes of Total Darkness

April 5, 2024 to April 22, 2024

Jan Sandmire & Tom Polk are working on an ACA rally that will put the attendees in the “**Path of Totality.**” They will be one of the lucky few to witness a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The rally starts in Johnson City, TX. After six days moves to New Braunfels, Tx for five days. The last stop for six days will be on the gulf at Port Aransas, TX.

Mark your Calendars Now & look for the rally flyer in December, 2023. I think this will be a sell out like the Caravan was.

Tom Polk

