



Matterhorn

Alpine So Cal

A Chapter of FMCA

Issue #33

May 2013

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT GAIL STACY



As many of you know, this has been a sad time for John & I, as we lost our beloved Great Dane, Sammi, just before Easter. We miss her terribly, as the house seems really empty. Of course, with a big dog like that, it doesn't only seem empty, it IS empty. To try to fill the big hole in our hearts, we have put a deposit on a puppy that we will bring home at the beginning of May. She's a cream-colored goldendoodle, and just as cute as can be. We are looking forward to filling our hearts and home with joy again.

We are currently preparing for our long-awaited trip to Alaska. We will be traveling with the Weinheimers, Giddens and Mathews, leaving in late May. So, I'm busy making lists of what to take out of the coach and what to be sure to bring, and what to be sure to do before we leave. Since we don't live full time in our coach, I'm finding that there is a lot of planning needed. With a new puppy on the way, I'm adding even more things to our list. But, at least our motorhome won't be empty like the house is now...probably quite the opposite. Should be fun...both the puppy and the trip! Can't wait!

I know you are aware that this is an election year, and I hope you will all seriously consider being a part of the leadership of

this great club. I have been President for 6 years (by the end of this year), and have enjoyed every minute. It has allowed me to really get to know most of our members, and I really like that part of the "job". Please believe me when I say it is not an overly burdensome job, especially when all of the officers work so well together. It doesn't seem to matter who is in office

at any given time, everyone works to ensure that the club stays viable and that we all have fun. I tell everyone that this club has the most fabulous people as members; you can't help but have a wonderful time at every rally.

John & I wish you all a wonderful summer of travel, along with good health. Hope to see many of you at the Bayfield, Colorado rally in September!

For those of you that maybe have not heard, Gail and John's Sammi passed away recently. Sammi was an icon for SoCal travelers.

RIP SAMMI....



Good news is that they have found a little cutie to accompany them on their travels in the future. Not to take Sammi's place but to fill their hearts with more love.

**FROM OUR 1st V.P. MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTOR MARY LANGORD**



Greetings Fellow Alpiners

Our membership is still holding at 71 coaches. In today's market I feel our Alpine SoCal Club is doing very well, as most of the members have been with us for many years. However, many Chapters are seeing their memberships decline, so we need to continue to spread the word seeking new members. If you know of anyone who owns an Alpine, encourage them to join us. They can always e-mail me for an application at Langord@mac.com or find one on the Alpine SoCal Website.

As all of you probably know, our annual dues are \$15.00 per coach, and is payable prior to June 30 of each year. Many of you have paid for multiple years, but there are some who will need to make a payment this year. I've recently sent out the latest membership roster and it lists everyone's expiration date.

I've highlighted several members on the latest roster indicating a possible upcoming change in their status. There are possible sales of their Alpines for various reasons, and one of our members had a stroke and is no longer able to enjoy the RV. I'm sure that George and Lori Reynolds would enjoy hearing from you either via phone or a card to wish George a speedy recovery.

Joel and I have thoroughly enjoyed our club's activities, and look forward to many more. Participating in the rallies has multiplied our traveling friends and we hope to meet and get to know all of you!

Safe Travels!

**FROM OUR 2nd V.P. RALLY
DIRECTOR STEPHANIE ARCHER**



Before I talk about the rallies scheduled for the rest of this year and next, I'd like to thank Tris & Carolyn Swan and Rick & Judy Fisher for hosting our March rally at Mission Bay RV Resort and thank newlyweds Milo and Janet Prodanovich for cooking pork fajitas and chicken enchiladas that we enjoyed while celebrating their recent marriage. Carolyn prepared a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday night in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Thank you to the cooks and kitchen crew for all your hard work!

I'm sorry this year's rally schedule is so short. An April/May rally didn't work out because of family health issues. And so many people are travelling in October and November that it isn't practical to schedule a rally in either of those months. But have no fear...next year's rally schedule is filling up!

September 4 – 11 will be our final rally for 2013 (yes, the rally is starting and ending a day earlier than originally published because of a scheduling conflict with the campground). It is our week long rally in southwestern Colorado at Bayfield Riverside RV Park (www.pineriverrvcamp.com), 20 miles southeast of Durango. Bob & Connie Bowers, Jim & June Cheshire and Jim & Stephanie Archer are hosting the rally. The owner of the campground is currently working with local caterers and the Durango & Silverton narrow gauge railroad to coordinate meals, a train ride and a fireworks show for us. I hope to have the rally registration form emailed to everyone and posted on our website by the first of June. For further details, please read the separate article about this rally in this issue of the newsletter.

February 14 – 17, 2014, Joel & Mary Langord are hosting a rally at the Rodeo Grounds in Lake Havasu City, AZ, during the 25th annual "Winter Blast" fireworks show put on by the Western Pyrotechnic Association. A group of us attended this event in February. We enjoyed it enough to want to do it again. For further details, please read the rally flyer in this issue of the newsletter. Also, if you would like to co-host this rally with Joel & Mary, please contact them.

April 4 – 7, 2014, Mac & Anne McDougal and Sandy & Debi Johnson are hosting a rally at Golden Shores RV Resort (www.goldenshoresrv.com) in Long Beach, CA. This RV resort is located within walking distance of the Aquarium of the Pacific and many great restaurants; near the boat launch for trips to Catalina Island; within easy driving distance to Ports O'Call Village, the Queen Mary, the Scorpion Russian submarine and the USS Iowa battleship.

Our weeklong rally in 2014 will be held at the Napa Valley Expo RV Park (www.napavalleyexpo.com/f-rvs.html) in Napa, CA from May 21 – 28. This location is a great place from which to visit Napa and Sonoma wineries, San Francisco (rather than drive, ride a ferry from Vallejo to SF), Oakland and Sacramento. Bill & Patti Figge and Phil & Trudy Binley are hosting this rally.

To complete our 2014 rally schedule, I'm looking for volunteers to host rallies in September and October or November. If I can get volunteers for these two rallies, the new Rally Director who takes office in January 2014 will have an easy first year. So please help 'em out!

I hope to see you at one or more of these rallies. Registration forms will be emailed to you at least two months prior to each rally date and will be posted on both our Alpine SoCal website and the ACA website. Sign up early to be sure you have a spot reserved.

WEEK LONG RALLY

Due to a scheduling conflict with the campground, our weeklong rally will begin and end one day earlier than originally planned. The new rally dates are Wednesday to Wednesday, September 4 – 11, 2013. The campground owner has taken it upon himself to contact local food vendors on our behalf and to make train reservations for us on the Durango & Silverton narrow gauge railroad. He will have the details worked out sometime in May. The rally registration forms and rally schedule will be emailed to everyone and posted on our SoCal website and the ACA website by the first part of June. The registration deadline for the rally will be early August. At this time, I don't have a cost estimate for the rally. Friends are allowed to attend this rally as long as they are FMCA members.

We currently have 25 sites reserved at Bayfield Riverside RV Park (www.pineriverrvcamp.com), 20 miles southeast of Durango. The RV park is located in southwestern Colorado, 900 miles from Southern California. The elevation is 6900 feet. This is a beautiful 36 acre RV park with big rig friendly sites, lots of grass and shade trees, walking trails, streams and a pond for fishing. In early September, the day time temperature averages 75 degrees and the night time temperature averages 45 degrees.

In addition to several catered meals and the optional train ride from Durango to Silverton, we have an all day jeep run planned for those who have 4WD vehicles. Dave Shannon, a club member who lives in Durango, has volunteered to lead the jeep run. For those of us without 4WD vehicles, we are

planning to drive to Silverton for lunch, then on to the ghost town of Animas Forks (www.ghosttowns.com/states/co/animasforks.html). If the city of Bayfield approves the request, there will be a fireworks show at the RV park one evening. It should be a spectacular fireworks show, since the campground owner is a member of the Western Pyrotechnic Association, the group responsible for the Winter Blast fireworks extravaganza in Lake Havasu City each February. We are planning at least one gathering each day at which we can socialize. There will be plenty of free time for you to enjoy the area.

There are many things to do. The cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde Nat'l Park (www.nps.gov/meve) are a must see. If you are interested in Native America history, visit the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (www.succm.org) in Ignacio, Chimney Rock Archaeological Area (www.chimneyrockco.org) in Pagosa Springs and the Ute Mountain Tribal Park (www.utemountain.com/tribalpark.htm) in Towaoc. If you enjoy fishing, bring along your gear. The RV park has a stream, a pond and a river in which you may fish. Three fishing lakes are within a short drive of the RV park. A Colorado fishing license is required. White water rafting, zip lining and golf are available in Durango. For the jeepers, there are many off road trails. To relax in natural hot springs, visit a spa in Durango or Pagosa Springs. Sky Ute Casino (www.skyutecasino.com) is a short drive away in Ignacio. Shops and restaurants are plentiful in Durango.

If you have time on your way to or from the rally, consider visiting the surrounding area. Toward the southwest, stay at Gouldings RV Park and visit Monument Valley, UT. Toward the northwest, stay in Moah, UT and visit Canyonlands and Arches Nat'l Parks. Toward the southeast, ride the Cumbres & Toltec train in Chama, NM then drive on to Taos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Toward the northeast, stop in Colorado Springs to visit the Air Force Academy, ride the Pikes Peak cog railway, and enjoy the beautiful rock formations at Garden of the Gods city park.

Your rally hosts, the Bowers, Cheshires and Archers are looking forward to seeing you there.



Havasu Fireworks Spot Rally
By Stephanie Archer

If your favorite part of a fireworks show is the grand finale, then you need to attend next February's rally in Lake Havasu City. Each evening's hour long fireworks show will be like watching an hour of grand finales – lots and lots of unique fireworks shot off one right after the other and lots and lots of oohs and ahhs heard from the spectators. We know because we attended the Western Pyrotechnic Association's Winter Blast fireworks shows this year. Six couples from our club enjoyed the fireworks. Four couples dry-camped at the rodeo grounds, which is where the rally will be held next year. The Havasu Friends of the Fair volunteers did a great job managing the camping area, providing daytime activities and serving an excellent BBQ dinner. The campsites were large, big-rig friendly, well marked, easily accessible and almost dust-free. The fireworks were visible from our rigs. But we chose to either sit in a designated viewing area at the camping area or in the grandstands where the fireworks were shot off. The viewing area was a short walk from our rigs. The grandstands were a short drive from our rigs. Those of us who sat in the viewing area missed the ground display fireworks, which were only visible from the grandstands. We were told the ground displays were spectacular. Although the main fireworks show was between 8pm and 9pm each evening, random fireworks were shot off starting at 5pm and ending close to 10pm. Our pets that attended the rally completely ignored the fireworks. The Havasu Friends of the Fair volunteers served a delicious BBQ chicken and brisket dinner prior to Saturday night's fireworks show. We also ate well at the Elks Lodge (it was BBQ rib night) and at a local BBQ restaurant. Since the fireworks were in the evening, we had the daytime to explore the area. One day we drove to Kingman, went through a Route 66 museum and ate lunch at a 50's diner where they made their own root beer. On Saturday and Sunday, the Havasu jeep club led guided off road tours and a volunteer naturalist led hikes through the nearby wilderness area. There is a swap meet every Sunday morning that is not to be missed. We didn't have time to explore the ghost town of Oatman or take a drive to the Desert Bar. We'll put those on our list of things to do next year. Hope to see you there!



We hope you are planning to join us in Buffalo & Gillette WY for the Pre-Rally to the FMCA 50th Anniversary Celebration! Here are just a few reasons to go to the FMCA International Rally: Imagine going to one place where you can meet new friends, view new motorhomes, shop, learn technical information about motorhoming, and be entertained. That's an FMCA family reunion, often called an "international convention," in a nutshell. More specifically, FMCA's conventions are huge family reunions complete with social activities, informative seminars and professional entertainment.

Approximately 800 motorhomes representing a variety of styles and price ranges are on display. Manufacturers and dealers from across the United States and Canada showcase the latest luxuries and innovations in production-line units, bus conversion vehicles and custom-built motor coaches. In addition, one stop shopping! More than 350 companies fill booths with merchandise: RV accessories, motorhome components, camping supplies and home products — all the items that help you to enjoy this wonderful lifestyle. Everything a motorhome owner could ask for in one location, including new products, expert information and fellowship with others who enjoy the motorhome lifestyle. And FMCA's seminar program covers just about every aspect of the motorhoming lifestyle, as well as safety, crafts and special interests.

Here are just a few of the special things being planned for Gillette: Anniversary Cookbook, Fantasy Tours Giveaway, Flexible Bus Display, Geocaching Event, Jelly Bean Contest, An Expanded Reception, Nostalgia Room, & Pancake Breakfast.

Gillette is just a hop, skip and jump from Devils Tower National Monument, Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, & Medora Musical and Pitchfork Fondue in the ND Badlands. For more information about fun things to do while visiting this area, visit the Campbell County Convention & Visitors Bureau or

Wyoming State Travel Web sites and <http://medora.com/musical/tickets/>.

Meanwhile, register online or call (800) 543-3622 for the 30 amp parking so you can park with the ACA group. Get your registration in by April 29 to save \$30 off the gate registration. It is quite possible that this deadline will be extended if you are just now making up your minds to join us & don't already have your registration in.

We are going on from Gillette to Medora, North Dakota for the show on Tuesday June 25 and then up to Glacier in Montana. Think about joining us!

MEMBER BENEFITS & PARTNERSHIPS

A number of inquiries have been made to companies that may have an interest in developing a relationship with FMCA. Major grocery chains, sporting good chains and discount clubs have been contacted. A few companies have responded with questions on how we may see the relationship working. Costco and Dell Computers have expressed interest in developing programs geared toward our membership. Cabela's has expressed interest, but would prefer FMCA members to enroll in their Rewards credit card program. Orders remain strong with the sales of the 50th Anniversary edition of the North American Road Atlas & Travel Guide. All of the prior benefits are still in effect.

There still has not been an announcement of 2014 Summer Convention and nothing in the National Board of Director's Notes about negotiations. Last year there was talk about it being in Redmond OR during the Governing Board meeting but there seemed to be a problem. It will probably be discussed at this upcoming Gov. Board meeting in Gillette. However, the Winter 2015 is tentatively planned for Pomona and the 2015 Summer in Madison WI again, with 2016 Summer in Indianapolis IN.

That is about it for this newsletter! God bless & If we don't see you this summer in the Midwest – have fun, safe travels where ever you go and stay healthy!

Carolyn Swan

FROM THE ALPINERS' GALLEYS

Strawberry Pizza by Mike Collins

Since strawberries are in season and ripe and juicy, here's an easy and delicious dessert recipe given to me by my friend, Sharron. Enjoy!

Crust: 1 C flour, 1/4 C powdered sugar, 1/2 C softened butter (not melted, though), 1/4 C nuts (your choice, chopped, I used my small food processor)

Mix well, press into pizza pan or 9"x13" pan. Bake at 350

degrees for 10 - 12 minutes. Cool

Filling: 1 eight ounce package cream cheese, 1/4 C sugar. Mix well and then blend in 1 medium size Cool Whip. Spread over cooled crust.

Topping: 3 T cornstarch added to 3/4 C sugar (or more sugar if berries are tart) blend well then add 1 C mashed strawberries, 1 C water and 1 T butter. Cook over medium heat until thickened. Cool ,then pour over the filling. Chill well and garnish with whole berries for decoration.

Special note for the topping: I'm going to double it next time!

Oatmeal Breakfast Cake By Carolyn Swan

1 pkg. yellow cake mix (without pudding mix)
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie seasoning mix (nutmeg, cloves, allspice mix)
1/2 C stevia sugar replacement
1 cube butter. - beat in & add
4 eggs
1 C water - beat in til creamy & add
3 cups oatmeal. (1 1/2 Cups regular oats & 2 C boiling water & 1 C milk - cooked til creamy - set aside & let cool before adding to mix)

Stir in mixture of chopped dried fruits - I used 1 1/2 C of this mixture I had in cupboard:

(cranberries, yellow raisins, dates, peaches, mango, apricots, apples)

1 1/2 C mixed chopped nuts - pecans, walnuts & almonds, fine shred coconut

1 C chips - white choc, swirl & butterscotch (use whatever you have)

Rubbed butter on largest metal pan I had - probably 12"X 18"

Bake in 350 oven for about 55 minutes - use silver knife or wood pick to make sure done in center.

Serves 36 smallish servings or 24 larger servings. Cut recipe in 1/2 for smaller cake. Very rich, moist cake. Can bake ahead & store in refrig. - freezes well!

This was served for breakfast at the SoCal Mission Bay Rally in March.

I am a creative cook and make up recipes according to what I have in the cupboard. You can fiddle with this recipe and alter it according to your personal taste.

I got the idea for this cake from the Baked Oatmeal that was served to Tris and me & our Guest Helpers Team at a camp we worked at in Quito Ecuador about 5 years ago. It was sure better than the baked Guinea Pigs (their specialty) they tried to serve us at night!

LOW COUNTRY BOIL – GIDDENS AND MATTHEWS

Crab boil, 2 tps per quart of water
12 red new potatoes
6 (4 inch) smoked sausage links
6 ears of corn
3 lbs. fresh shrimp unpeeled

DIRECTIONS:

Fill a large pot with enough water to cover all of the ingredients. Add the crab boil and bring to a boil. Adjust the crab boil to suit your taste.

When the water boils add the sausage and potatoes. Cook on medium heat for 20 minutes. Add corn and cook for an additional 10 minutes. Add shrimp and cook for no more than 3 minutes. Drain and serve with warm bread.

ANYONE ON FACEBOOK?

ALPINE OWNERS PAGE

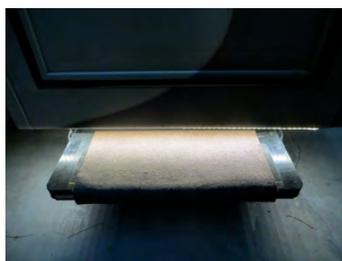
www.facebook.com/groups/AlpineOwners/?fref=ts

RV ROAD TRIPPERS

www.facebook.com/DriveFCCC?hcllocation=stream

OUR THANKS TO JIM WEINHEIMER FOR THIS ONE. HE HELPED FRANK INSTALL THESE ON OUR COACH.

**Light up
Your Entry Step**



Viv and I attended the rally at Prado Dam (Great Rally) and saw a great idea that Bill & Pattie Figgie had on their coach. So..... I went home and researched how to put lights under my entry door that shines on the step.

Here is what I found. The lights are a strip of Water proof LED lights that are available on the internet <http://www.superbrightleds.com/moreinfo/side-emitting/swfls-x60-series-60-side-emitting-led-waterproof-flexible-light-strip/102/> they come in different lengths and can be cut to size if necessary. I used the 39" (100mm) and they fit perfectly.

For Front Door Coaches: There is a large plastic section under the dash that is removable; there you will find a positive and negative cable on a post that comes from your battery compartment cable. This cable runs from your battery and is a perfect spot to get power for accessories. I installed a fused

bus bar from the positive post and have a bank of six fuses available for 12v accessories. From one of the fused connectors, run a wire to a rocker switch. On the other side of the switch, run a wire through the fire wall, (be sure to use some silicon to fill in any gaps where the wire goes through the fire wall) there should be an opening already where other wires were run by the factory through the fire wall, use one of those if possible.

Mid door Coaches.... Same for mid door coaches but need to get wire from switch to center of coach and down under door. Be sure to clean thoroughly the under step area where you will attach the light LED strip. Run it along the edge where the body goes under the coach. I used a solvent and cleaned it a couple of times. Peel back the tape covering the adhesive on the LED strip and carefully attach it all along the area that you previously cleaned. Attach the positive end of the LED light strip to the wire coming from the switch. Find a place on the fire wall to attach the negative side of the LED strip. The LED strip uses very little power and can be left on while dry camping, when out to dinner.

Turn on the Light.

Jim Weinheimer

Suggested RV Parks thanks to Vivian Weinheimer

While on a two month RV trip last summer, Jim and Viv Weinheimer stayed at these RV Campgrounds and wanted to pass this information on to our members.

If you have plans to visit Niagara Falls we would recommend **Four Mile Creek State Park** it is located just 15 minutes north of the mighty Niagara Falls. The 275 campsites average 50' x 50' in size and feature both shady and sunny settings. The sites are located near the shores of Lake Ontario and offer spectacular panoramic views. The park has hiking trails for campers along the densely wooded bluffs. With convenient access to Niagara Falls State Park you can enjoy all the park's attractions.

While visiting Nashville, TN we stayed at **Two Rivers Campground**, it is a quiet, peaceful place located just 2 miles north of Opryland. We of course visited the Grand Ole Opry and saw a fabulous show with Lee Greenwood and many other outstanding performers. We would recommend going on the tour of the Grand ole Opry prior to the show which gives you an interesting history and background of the many legendary stars that have performed there over the years. Nashville is a wonderful city so much to see and do we hope to go back in 2014.

Just in from Anne McDougal:

We had a fabulous time on our trip to the Florida Keys. We stayed at the Elks Club in Tavernier on Key Largo at \$35 per night. We had a great dinner in the Lodge for a whopping \$24 and the all day use of a washer and dryer for \$5.00. They have a million dollar view and the hosts are first rate.

Mac & Anne McDougal

Tavanier Elks from Dock



MORE GREAT TRAVEL INFO thanks to Dale Sullivan

Fort Benning

Paul and I joined the RV Toasters Club (the former Alpinelite Travel Club) at Fort Benning, Georgia for a fun filled week. The rally hosts, Jim and Linda Fivian, ACA and ACE membership, showed us all what Airborne and The Infantry are all about.

We stayed at the Uchee Creek RV Park just outside the gates of the post. Its a beautiful military recreational area with RV sites as well as cabins and boating facilities. We enjoyed the several get togethers and met new friends and visited with fellow ACA'ers Chuck and Marca Snook, Nadine Ogden, and Tom and Tina Sleys.

Our week was filled with lots of events we wish most Americans could experience.

Fort Benning is 192,000 acres and is filled with ranges of every description and is now home to Armor (tanks moved from Fort Knox) as well as the Infantry. It is a beautiful post with historic quarters (Gen. George Patton), stables, new classrooms, training facilities and everything a medium-sized community contains.

On our first morning we were privileged to watch as the training started for 750 new paratrooper candidates. Their training is exacting, tough, and successful with about 85% of the candidates completing. In just three weeks time they become proficient and jump 5 times including a night jump.(!!) We saw the entire process and were impressed with quality of

the instruction and the dedication of these fine men and women who keep our nation safe.

A guided tour of The National Infantry Museum was just a brush of the accomplishments of our fine military. After lunch we also toured buildings from another time. This area looked just as the post did during WWII. It includes original barracks, a chapel, supply depot and General Patton's HQ. Many of us remarked that we had seen similar buildings in family pictures from WWII.

The reason for this is that there was one master plan could erect 3 large buildings a day and have a new base finished in a very short time.

We rounded out the rally with a visit to The Naval Museum of the Civil War. Here we saw iron clad ships and every conceivable type of ship that was used during that conflict. We were all surprised to see submarines as well as traditional river and sea going vessels.

There were two side trips available: Callaway Gardens or Andersonville Confederate Prison and Museum. Some also went on to Plains and visited the home of Jimmy Carter. Paul and I opted to tour the Callaway Gardens and it was a thing of beauty. The azaleas were in prime bloom and the 13,000 acres were a picture of southern living.

This week was a unique experience and one that most Americans will never see. Linda and Jim opened the doors so that we could all see and come to understand our military in a new way.

We found that this group included people from all walks of life and that many had been traveling together for many seasons. But we felt so welcome and were immediately included in all the get togethers. As with most groups, we laughed, had some great food, told stories and exchanged great destination ideas, and hope we would meet again down the road.

In 2014, the FMCA RALLY will be in Perry, Georgia. Linda and Jim have gracefully agreed to host the ACA Pre Rally At Fort Benning. As you plan your travels for next year, keep in mind that you can include Fort Benning as one more great Alpine experience.

Dale and Paul Sullivan

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

We hope that you've heard about this years Rolling Rally (a SPOT Rally).

We'll be starting in Viroqua, WI and taking 46 days to get to Fredricksburg, TX with 8 other stops along the Way. For some more information, please see the ACA March 2013 Newsletter.

<<http://www.alpinecoachassociation.com/newsletters/20>

MARY'S MUSINGS

Spring has sprung for we lucky folks living in southern California. Flowers are bursting forth everywhere, and so is tree pollen for we hay-fever sufferers. Who can complain though with so much beauty happening all around us as we sneeze?

I love the outdoors and I succumb to the urge to photograph every field of flowers I see. Looking through a few of my "treasures" I thought I would comment on one of my favorite "flowers galore" trips. It's the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival held annually from April 1-30 in the Mount Vernon area north of Seattle, WA.

Every spring hundreds of thousands of people go to enjoy the festival as millions of tulips burst into bloom. As with all things governed by Mother Nature, the tulips bloom according to their own schedule sometime during the festival. The tulips showcase Skagit Valley agriculture and visitors are welcome to actually go into the fields for "close-up" encounters. It's a photographers' dream event.

It's designed as a driving tour as there is no one "site" that you go to for your visit. This is because the farmers in the valley raise tulips as an agricultural crop and the 100s of acres of blooming flowers are scattered throughout the Skagit Valley. You absolutely must put it on your "bucket list".

Joel and I have been to this gorgeous event at least five times over the years. We can say with certainty that April is not too early to visit the Pacific Northwest. Some years, it's actually been the best time. For more information visit: <http://www.tulipfestival.org>



FROM OUR OWN DONNA HALL

A big THANK YOU to Marcia Morrell for accepting the position (responsibility) of our Newsletter Editor! I have enjoyed putting the *Matterhorn* together for the past 6 yrs (or so). It has definitely been a labor of love. Thanks to all who contributed to

my efforts by submitting articles, pictures and information for your reading pleasure. I know you will all continue your support with Marcia.

I thank those of you who have encouraged me to learn to drive my coach and to continue traveling, not only with Alpine SoCal but with other friends.. It has been challenging but I did it! Now as I get older I find it is continuing to become more difficult to do all this by myself, especially since I sold my home, I no longer have my coach on my property. I am selling my coach (any takers??) so I will no longer be actively involved with Alpine SoCal but you will certainly remain in my thoughts. I will miss all of you and have made some really great friendships over these past ten years.

Safe travels and let's keep in touch.

Sincerely and with much love, Donna (dj)

I APOLOGIZE IF I COULD NOT INCLUDE ALL OF THE GREAT PHOTOS THAT WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER BUT I AM NEW TO THIS AND I HAD TO ELIMINATE SOME THINGS I WANTED TO INCLUDE IN ORDER FOR MY SERVER TO SEND THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL.

I PROMISE I WILL GET 'BETTER' BUT DONNA HALL IS A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW!

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT ARTICLES ON YOUR TRAVELS OR PROJECTS DONE ON YOUR MOTORHOMES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

CLASSIFIED ADS

Have anything to sell? Anything special you want to acquire? Be sure and check our 'Classified Ads' in each newsletter and submit anything you wish to sell or are looking for other than motorhomes. Remember 'one man's trash may be another man's treasure'.



FOR SALE 36' Alpine Coach

Selling due to Health reasons

- Year - 1999
- Mileage 62,500 approx.
- Cummins 330 HP Diesel Engine
- Alison 6 Speed Auto Transmission
- Auto Leveling System HWH
- 1 Hydraulic Slide - Living/Kitchen Area
- Satellite Dish w/3 Televisions
- Central Air/Heat
- Vacuum System
- Oak Cabinets/Corian Counters
- Leather Seats/Leather Recliner
- Combo Day/Night Shades
- Blue Ox Towing Hitch
- Color Back-up Camera
- No Pets
- Non Smoking
- New Carpeting
- Full Shower w/Skylight
- Newer Tires (2 years)
- New Batteries

• TOO MANY EXTRAS TO LIST!!!
This Coach has been meticulously maintained and must be seen to appreciate!! All paper work and private mechanic available. Call to schedule a showing in Mentone, CA.

714-425-3196

\$60,000



**2001 JEEP WRANGLER
FOR SALE ALSO
\$13,000**



Contact George and Lori Reynolds
shortlor@gmail.com

RALLY SCHEDULE 2013/201

2013			
June 14 – 17	FMCA Pre-Rally Buffalo, WY	ACA	Tom Cook rtcook@acegroup.cc
June 19 – 22	CAM PLEX Gillette, WY	FMCA* Int'l Conv	
Aug 31 – Sept 3	Mackinaw Island Bridge Walk	ACA Spot Rally	Tom Cook rtcook@acegroup.cc
Sept 4 - 11	Bayfield Riverside RV Park Bayfield, CO Week Long Rally	SoCal	Bob & Connie Bowers Rhb1106@gmail.com Jim & June Cheshire jcheshire@hotmail.com Jim & Stephanie Archer saarcher@cox.net
Sept 6 - 10	Viroqua, WI	ACA Rolling Rally	
Sept 10 – 15	Stoddard, WI	ACA Rolling Rally	
Sept 15 – 18	Mason City, IA	ACA Rolling Rally	
Sept 18 - 22	Pella, IA	ACA Rolling Rally	1027 miles and 7 days from Bayfield, CO
Sept 22 – 28	Kansas City, KS	ACA Rolling Rally	
Sept 28 – Oct 2	Hutchinson, KS	ACA Rolling Rally	
Oct 2 – Oct 6	Oklahoma City, OK	ACA Rolling Rally	
Oct 6 - Oct 13	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	ACA Rolling Rally	
Oct 13 – Oct 17	Waco, TX	ACA Rolling Rally	
Oct 17 – Oct 22	Fredericksburg, TX	ACA Rolling Rally	
Oct 22 – Oct 30	San Antonio, TX	ACA Heritage Pre-Rally	
Oct 30 – Nov 6	Lazy L&L Campground New Braunfels, TX	ACA Heritage Rally	Jan & Dean Sandmire jhsdds@earthlink.net
2014 January 8 – 12	Riverside County Fairgrounds Indio, CA	FMCA* WMHA	
Feb 14 – 17	25th Winter Blast Fireworks Rodeo Grounds Lake Havasu City, AZ	SoCal	Joel & Mary Langord Langord@mac.com
March 17 – 20	Georgia Nat'l Fairgrounds Perry, GA	FMCA* Int'l Conv	
April 4 - 7	Golden Shore RV Resort Long Beach, CA	SoCal	Mac & Anne McDougal Mcdanne2@gmail.com Sandy & Debi Johnson Firecapt98@hotmail.com
May 21 – 28	Napa Valley Expo RV Park Napa, CA Week Long Rally	SoCal	Bill & Patti Figge figgebp@mac.com Phil & Trudy Binley philbinley@yahoo.com

* Must register direct with FMCA