

February 2006 news



Roadrunner News

QUARTZSITE

FEBRUARY 2006

Although scheduled for a January 20 start, fifth-wheels and motorhomes began drifting into the Roadrunners' La Posa North encampment a couple days ahead of time with ten or twelve already set up by the official start. Wagon masters, Bill and Sheila Heath, quickly took gentle command of things and rustled up an informal work party to build a fire ring. The stack of firewood contributed by the incoming campers began immediately to grow. Morning coffee campfires and roaring evening campfires are a staple of the Quartzsite campout. Like a magnet they drew people together. It is also remarkable how a campfire stimulates conversation.

Opening night Bill and Sheila laid out the Wagon Masters dinner with a big pot of chili that simmered most of the afternoon. Sheila included not one, but many varieties of beans in the chili and even cooked up a second pot of the tasty stuff with several dollops of hot chilies in

stories, especially stories purported by the tellers to be true.

Diane Herschderfer told of her first house, a little place that came with a ghost. Lights coming on by themselves, a shower spraying water on its own, her sense of a presence---benign but clearly there in the house. Until she put the house up for sale and one day she got a call from the real estate agent saying she tried to show the house but Diane's "father" wouldn't let them in.

The lock box on the door would have provided a key but she saw an old man sitting in the living room and knocked. No response from the man on the couch. She knocked again. No reaction. Knocking a third time, she saw the man rise and walk to the hallway but still the door remained closed. Giving up in frustration she and her potential buyer left.

Diane was stunned by this...since she knew of no one, including her father who could

mushrooms, onions, peppers, and cheese scooped in with them and the whole affair dropped in a large pot of boiling water for 15-20 minutes. What came out were perfectly cooked individual omelets for each participant. Sweet pastries rounded the unique and tasty breakfast.

Dry camping for ten or eleven days creates other needs for RVers, so after a few days the honey wagon was making its rounds relieving bulging holding tanks. The Roadrunner water barrels were retrieved from storage and Utah Bentley hauled them in his truck helping to keep fresh water supplied. Jim & Linda Tadewald from Roy, Utah, stopped by Happy Hour one afternoon to say, "hello" and tell us they were new Alfa motorhome owners and camping near the entrance to La Posa North with friends. Of course they were warmly welcomed and everyone introduced themselves. When it was learned they had not joined

the mix. Served with chopped onions, shredded cheese and corn bread the repast was a hit that left the chili pot nearly empty and the corn bread pan empty. Dessert was a sweet cinnamon bread that was also neatly cleaned up by the grateful diners.

Another staple of campouts anywhere is roasting hot dogs so Sheila organized an impromptu weenie roast one evening. Most broke out their long hot dog roasting forks, but Dave Jordan, factoring himself more of a purist carved a long stick instead. All went well until the hot fire had its way with the dry stick and Dave's dinner ended up in the fire. Not in the least concerned, Dave picked it out of the ashes, retreated to his motorhome and washed the dog off before putting on the mustard.

Sundown still comes early in January, and in the desert once the sun dips below the Dome Rock Mountains west of Quartzsite darkness follows quickly. This early nightfall provided a perfect setting for camp chairs pulled up around the fire, crystal clear views of the stars above, and interesting campfire talk. So, after the hot dogs, a bag of marshmallows materialized and the conversation turned to ghost



have possibly been in the house. She returned home and addressed the spirit, saying, "I mean you no harm and I will let you remain in peace." With this appeal, the unexplained phenomena stopped and she eventually sold the house.

Quartzsite wouldn't be Quartzsite without several visits to the tents and booths to find those niceties and necessities we think we just cannot live without. After coffee and pastries around a morning campfire cars and trucks left throughout the day for some time spent trudging the aisles for treasures. Of course, in any flea market or swap meet there is much of dubious value, too. A camper who loves Roadrunner get-togethers but has little appreciation for Quartzsite "treasure," Pat Pintus summed up the entire extravaganza by saying, "I've never seen such a collection of junk in my life." But would we gather in the desert to dry camp if it were not for the heaps of stuff to be found in Quartzsite?

One morning, Bill and Sheila presided over a "boiled breakfast" morning event. Everyone brought their favorite omelet fixings and two or three eggs. Eggs were cracked into ziplock bags, ham,



the Alfa Sundancers or decided what chapter they wanted to be members of, they were regaled with the benefits of being Roadrunners. Needless to say, they were persuaded and Dori quickly dug out the membership form.

Before any Roadrunner gathering can conclude, the sheriff must be heard from, a duty Dan and Arlene Harris were tasked with. Earle Aeverman was nabbed for washing his rig and making everyone else look bad, Utah for impersonating a state, Betty Choate for her screaming purple running tights, Dorthey Collard for cutting Jim's hair without a license and Jim for cutting firewood without a license, and Carol Kiesig for excessive shopping. There were many others, culminating with Rick and Angie Radosevic being fined for showing up without a coach and begging showers. Seems their coach was in the shop and they didn't want to miss the annual gathering.

**Jim Collard



PAGE 2**A HOME THAT RIDES ON WHEELS**

You just don't know how good it feels,
To have a home that rides on wheels.

To watch the sun as it meets the sea,
To know there's no place you have to be.

To listen to the winter time rain,
To use a pool you don't have to maintain.

To know you never have to mow the
Summer grass,
Just look and watch it grow.

And if the washing machine breaks down,
Just use another, there's one around.

And if the neighbor complains all day,
Just hook up the rig and pull away.

You know that just around the bend,
You'll meet another longtime friend.

You just don't know how good it feels,
To have a home that rides on wheels.

*****Bob Pergrdn

**6/6/2000

HELPFUL TIP

*One can purchase a product called FOLEX at Wal-Mart. Put into a spray bottle & use on carpet spots. Works great!
by: Dave & Katie Reikofski

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.....

Hello, Roadrunner members. Quartzsite campout, once again has come and gone, and we had an awesome time. This was all due to our great Wagonmasters, Bill & Sheila Heath. They did a fabulous job and made our time there extremely enjoyable. Wonderful turnout, 35 rigs in all, with one S.O.B. Bud Serpa and his wife, in attendance. He was sporting his "red & white" Roadrunner S.O.B. chapter badge, this was because they were there in their Avion Fifth Wheel. They still own an Alfa, and are still members of our chapter. We were very happy to be honored with this "vintage" member in our presence. Bud was the original Roadrunner that started the Quartzsite Campout and picked out the area where we gather once a year out in the desert. Also, we welcomed several first-timers, plus lots of our seasoned "Q" campout friends. Thanks to all who came out for the fun.

Now, for some info on our next get together, the Roadrunner Pre-Rally Campout, which starts April 15th and ends April 19th. Activities schedule will be furnished by the Wagonmasters. Soon to be available to those who have e-mail access, otherwise in your welcome packets. Nomination of officers will be held at the business meeting after the Sheriff's Dinner. Will need volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Roadrunners will be assigned sites for the Pre and these sites will be theirs during the National.

Alfa National Rally starts April 19th and ends April 26th. Location of both the Pre & National is Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA.

Each RV is to contribute a gift to represent our chapter. Regarding the gifts, please bring something useful, keeping in mind that most of us live in our Alfa homes. Good suggestions would be jams, jellies, soup mixes, cake mixes, wines, cheeses, etc. These baskets (containers of different sorts), will be drawn for the last night of the Rally after the Awards Dinner. Here, I will need to ask for a VOLUNTEER chair person to purchase the basket or containers, to hold the gifts and put them together. Phyllis Wennerberg has volunteered to help collect the gifts.

Another area of concern, last year at the National, was the new members not understanding what the Rally is about and maybe expecting something like FMCA or an Escapade or a Good Sam Rally. Well, this it is not!!! Our Rallies are more of a social function, meeting new friends, renewing old friendships and getting input from other Alfa owners who maybe are experiencing the same problems that you are or just have had them and can offer a solution.

Now for the "Uniform", this means for us Roadrunners, our colors are RED, WHITE & BLUE. The RED being a vest of red or a red shirt, WHITE is a white shirt, if you wear a red vest and the BLUE is pants/capris/shorts, even jeans work. We will have "red" roadrunner shirts, plus other items of Roadrunner Inventory for sale at the events. Also, name badges are needed, to identify you. See "New Member Badge Order Form" in the newsletter.

On Thursday night, April 20th, is chapter night. The Roadrunners will have a catered

Registrations have been closed, but if you would like to attend, the Rally Masters, Jim & Johan Waidelich are taking names for a waiting list, in case of cancellations. Send your checks in, along with form and your name will be added to the list according to date check is received. Checks will not be cashed and will be returned to you if a spot does not open up. The park has cut our Alfa Rally sites available to 205, as they are starting construction early. Golf carts will be available during the National to ferry handicap attendees to and from the *tent* area, where the activities and seminars will be held.

Those of you attending the National, we will need for you to bring a gift for the ROADRUNNERS basket.

dinner, \$10.00 per person, to be held in the Club House at the Resort. Plates, silverware & napkins will be furnished. Will need to bring your own drinks. Prior to dinner we will have a "no host" Happy Hour (BYOB) in the clubhouse. Chapter business is conducted after dinner. Reading of minutes, financial status, election of officers, discussion of old business and new business. Hope, I have cleared up some areas that might be confusing to those of you who have never attended one of our National Rallies.

Looking forward to seeing you there. If you have further questions, just e-mail Dori or myself at:

weisstedybear1@aol.com or call 775-720-1135 and we will be happy to try and help.

Safe Travels & Happy Trails,
Tom & Dori

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HELPFUL TIP

Lightly wet a micro fiber cloth & use it on your carpets, for a quick clean-up.

**by: Anonymous*

HELPFUL TIP

When bringing groceries or supplies back to the motor home, try opening the outside garbage receptacle door, remove the garbage can & place the groceries in the opening. It is much easier & quicker to unload than bringing them to the steps & walking back & forth to bring them to the counter.

**by: Cal & Patti Chastain*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

alfa OWNERS CLUB

New Roadrunner members may wonder why we wear a "SUNDANCERS" patch on our vests. So, a little history may be in order. Back in 1974 about 100 invitations were extended to alfa owners to attend a campout at Salton Sea, CA. Out of this gathering came the first club chapter called the Sundancer Kids, with 14 member rigs. A couple of years later, in 1976, alfa Leisure hosted another campout. At this campout seventy-two alfa owners were organized into the National alfa Owners Club with four chapters: South Loafers, Alfa One, Wranglers and the Sundance Kids. The company sponsored campouts became the annual

HELPFUL TIP

**If you are having trouble with your cabinet shelf edges starting to wear & chip, take this preventive measure. Purchase clear vinyl corner protectors for protecting wallpaper. They come in long lengths which can be cut to size & apply to edges of shelves.*

**by: Geri Johnson*

FUTURE CAMPOUTS

Pre-National Rally
April 15-19, 2006
Emerald Desert Golf & RV
Resort
76000 Frank Sinatra Dr.
Palm Desert, CA
Jim & Marie Hunter
National Rally

NOTE

To Joe & Hannah Dubuc, for all their time spent converting the Roadrunner Data Base file to a more computer friendly program for my use, plus the various merging files that are used on the computer to make address labels, rosters, write letters, etc. more computer literate for me. This conversion and their training has saved me many stressful moments in the short time since the transition which was done during the Quartzsite camp out. Joe & Hannah have also volunteered to be of assistance to me, in the future, when I encounter problems. Thanks Again,
Dori Weissman,
Secretary/Treasurer

National Rally. Over the years new chapters were added and old ones disbanded. As a rule, each chapter served a geographic area. But the full-time RV'ers didn't fit this pattern, so the Roadrunners Chapter was formed for them. Currently there are nine chapters: alfa One, Mavericks, Lone Stars, Road Runners, South Loafers, Sunchasers, Sunrisers, Sun Seekers and Wranglers. The club bylaws, Article I, Section 1 states: "The name of the organization shall be alfa Owners Club. Members of the club shall be called 'Sundancers'."



April 19-26, 2006
Emerald Desert Golf & RV
Resort
76000 Frank Sinatra Dr.
Palm Desert, CA
Jim & Johan Waidelich
Spring Campout
May 17-22, 2006
Mountain Gate RV Park
Redding, CA
Rick & Angie Radosevic
Fall Campout
Sept 6-13, 2006
Osprey Point RV Park
Lakeside, OR
Dean & Jean Stubblefield

Stu Roadrunner News

Stu Knapp