

December 2008 Newsletter

Roadrunner News December 2008

**Alfa Owners Club
2008**

Roadrunner Chapter

December

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President's Corner

Dear Roadrunner Friends

I would be remiss in not thanking Jim and Dorthey Collard and Robin and George Minder for hosting the Roadrunner's Fall gathering in Durango, Colorado. From all reports it was another successful Roadrunner event! Thanks to all who participated!!

Just to re-confirm, the Roadrunner Chapter will continue to operate as a social group. Of course, the bylaws will need to be updated to reflect the demise of Alfa Leisure and until that happens we will continue as always. It appears that most of the other Alfa Chapters have also chosen to continue for the present time.

The annual "Alfa National" Rally is a go. It will be held at the **Bakersfield RV Resort** in Bakersfield, CA. The Maverick's are the hosts with Arnie and Emily Burras Rally Masters. They have done an outstanding job in putting this together under unusual and challenging circumstances. See attached Registration forms for hard copy or refer to our Web Site. www.alfa-roadrunners.com to print them.

As your representatives Dorthey and Jim Collard attended an "Alfa National Board of Directors" meeting with other Chapter Representatives to discuss the future of the National Board of Directors at the end of September. See their report for further details.

As I understand it, there will be ample opportunity to discuss the future of the above Board and/or the need for future annual Alfa National Rallies and what that might look like, while we are gathered at Bakersfield. I encourage you to attend and offer your input before any decisions are made. However; if you have thoughts on the direction you would like to see The National Board or future National Rallies take and are unable to attend, please email them to me and I would be happy to voice those thoughts and ideas for you.

Diane and Fred Hawley have been busy planning and organizing the Alfa Roadrunners Pre-National Rally. It will be held at the Bakersfield RV Resort as well SO no need to move again this year. See article and registration forms either attached or on our Roadrunner Web Site.

Dianne and Clayton Jones, the Wagon Masters are looking forward to seeing you at Quartzsite, the end of January. If you love to camp under the stars around a campfire sharing memories and stories this is your chance. See their article.

Bill and I send you all our Best Wishes for happy holidays and safe travels. (Now that fuel prices are a little more reasonable we can all start our happy wanderings again.)

See you at Quartzsite!!

Regards,
Sheila
President, Alfa Roadrunners

National Board

Alfa Owners Club National Board Meeting

The Alfa National Board met September 24 at the Bakersfield RV Resort in Bakersfield, California. Roadrunner National Board Representatives, club Vice President, Jim Collard, and club Secretary, Dorthey Collard attended the meeting and submitted this report:

To allay confusion over the national club name and the chapter names, the Board approved changing the national club's name from Alfa Sundancers to Alfa Owners Club. Chapter names will continue as they have.

Much discussion centered on the future of the Alfa Owners Club after the loss of support from Alfa Leisure following its demise. Besides the overriding question of whether the ALFA Owners Club should exist at all, additional issues included club organization and incorporation, liability insurance issues, corporate sponsor support, new member recruitment, the newsletter and its costs, inclusion of SOB owners, and financing future rallies, should they be held. No action was taken on these issues as the board agreed that the future of the Alfa Owners Club should be discussed by all at the National Rally to be held April 29 to May 6 in Bakersfield, California. NBD President, Bruce Mitchell, will further research club incorporation and the liability insurance issues before the national rally.

A decision was made by the board to continue the "Alfa owners only" policy for national rallies, however, individual clubs can make their own decisions about including non-Alfa owner members at their rallies or in their clubs.

Arnie and Emily Burr, wagon masters for the 2009 National Rally, reported they have many exciting events planned for the Bakersfield National Rally. Information is included on the registration form which has been delivered to the Chapters. The deadline for receipt of applications is January 15.

The Board approved the 2010 National Rally location, Rincon West in Tucson, Arizona, to be held from April 14-21.

Business

Request for member input

In an attempt to improve the value of your Newsletter, we need your input. Chapter members are encouraged to share their experiences, maintenance tips, product evaluations, etc. with the Chapter. Please consider writing down your thoughts and sending them to the editor. Any and all ideas will be considered.

Rally and Camp Out Reports

Alfa Roadrunner Fall Rally – Durango, Colorado

The beautiful and majestic San Juan Mountains, which tower over the Animas River Valley, stood watch as the Roadrunners gathered for their annual Fall Rally, held this year at the Alpen Rose RV Park which is just 6 miles north of the historic old town of Durango, Colorado. The rally was held from September 14 to September 19 with 12 rigs in attendance. Upon arrival we were given tote bags with the sign for our rig, agenda for the week and cute little fun items Jim and Dorthey Collard, our Wagon Masters, collected for everyone.

Jim and Dorthey, ably helped by assistant wagon masters George and Robin Minder, created a tasty Wagon Masters' dinner featuring hot pulled pork sandwiches, a full salad bar and a great cake for dessert. We ate and chatted and spent time with friends and took the opportunity to meet new friends. To finish off the evening, we were musically entertained by the very talented Will and Jean Bass.

Monday evening we gathered for our social hour and shared "heavy" hors d'oeuvres. Everyone brought lots of good appetizers and we all agreed on one thing – no one wanted dinner when we finally headed back to the rig.

Our wagon masters felt that we should expand our brains during the rally and provided brain teasers each morning with coffee and donuts and on two evenings, we gathered into groups to try and answer some of the hardest trivia questions any of us had ever experienced. All in all there was lots of laughter with most of us feeling pretty good about ourselves if, as a group, we could answer at least half of the twenty questions.

Tuesday evening was the ever popular pot luck dinner – again everyone outdid themselves on the creative and delicious dishes which arrived on the overflowing table. No one went home hungry that night either.

On Wednesday the majority of the group had the opportunity to relive history with the sights and sounds of yesteryear on board the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. The train winds through the breathtaking canyons in the remote wilderness of the San Juan National Forest. It is pulled by a coal fired, steam powered locomotive. The train line to Silverton was completed in 1882 so the Roadrunners were riding on the same tracks as did miners and settlers over a century ago. Once at Silverton everyone had time for lunch and shopping before boarding

a bus to return to Durango. That evening, we gathered around the fire pit for an old fashion hot dog roast.

Two other area attractions were popular with the Roadrunners during the week: one was the city of Durango, itself. Founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Company in 1880, downtown Durango is a Nationally Registered Historic District, home to historic hotels, award-winning restaurants, art galleries, and lots of interesting and unique shops that tugged not too gently on the purse strings. If you were in town, you always saw lots of rally goers wandering through the shops and comparing notes on where to eat lunch.

The other major attraction was Mesa Verde National Park, located an easy hour drive from Durango. This National Park, established in 1906, offered a spectacular look into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who made it their home for over 700 years, from A.D. 600 to A.D. 1300. The park protects over 4,000 known archeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings. These sites are some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States. Those who had the opportunity to visit the park were all very impressed.

On Thursday, part of the group played 18 holes of golf while the rest of us started to get our rigs in order as we had to depart the next morning. Thursday evening, our closing dinner, also known as the Sheriff's Dinner, was held at the Hampton's Chop House a few miles north into the mountains from the Alpen Rose. The setting was beautiful and dinner delicious. Of course, as we were sitting eating, enjoying and socializing with one another, we did have our quarters in our pockets and were wondering who the Sheriff was and what tickets we would be facing – in other words, what did we do wrong during the week and did the Sheriff see us. The Sheriff was introduced and turned out to be, of all people, my husband, Clayton Jones. Clayton had been busy noting infractions all week and missed absolutely no one in handing out tickets – including the one I received for making him go get me a donut every morning. Every ticket was given in fun and we all had a good laugh.

Too soon, Friday morning came around and it was time to leave. We had all experienced a great rally and were sorry to see it over. Thank you Jim and Dorthey and George and Robin for your hard work in putting together this memorable week and for picking such a pretty location. We wished each other happy trails and started looking forward to the time we can all gather together again.

Fall Rally Attendees:

Will and Jean Bass	Jim and Dorthey Collard	Dan and Arlene Harris
Fred and Diane Hawley	Nick and Patty Hollack	Clayton and Dianne Jones
Jerry Logan	George and Robin Minder	Gene and Penny Ryder
Ken and Patsy Teiken	Gary and Kathy Vest	Don Wigington and Netta Offord

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Jones

Future Events

Date	Campground	Locations	Wagon Masters
Jan 17-25, 2009	La Posa North – BLM	Quartzsite, AZ	Clayton & Dianne Jones

April 24-28, 2009	National Pre-Rally	Bakersfield, CA	Fred & Diane Hawley
April 29-May 6, 2009	Alfa National Rally	Bakersfield, CA	Arnie & Emily Burr

Quartzsite Campout

Clayton & Dianne Jones are your Wagon Masters for the 2009 Quartzsite campout. The Quartzsite campout dates are Sat. Jan. 17 to Sun Jan. 25th. Come out to the desert and rediscover dry camping, not just parking. Sit around a bonfire under the stars sipping hot chocolate or in the morning under the sunrise sipping coffee. Enjoy the largest flea market this side of the Mississippi where you can shop till you drop or run out of money or just hang out at the campfire, rekindling friendships.

Location: La Posa North – BLM

After stopping at Host Station and paying a \$40.00 fee which allows you two weeks of dry camping, proceed straight 7/10 miles. Turn right and proceed for 1 & 3/10 miles. You should see Alfa area now. Turn left and proceed 1/10 miles to parking area. Watch for Roadrunner signs after you enter the BLM area. They will help lead you to the correct area.

Bring empty waste tanks and full water and diesel tanks. Please bring a donation of 2 gallons of water for coffee and 2 bundles of firewood or as much as you can bring would be appreciated.

The first night there will be a Wagon Master's dinner. Plan for a breakfast in the bag, pancake breakfast and a couple of old fashion weenie roasts and one night of heavy d'oeuvres. The Sheriff's dinner will be a potluck Saturday, Jan 24. Don't forget goodies and spirits around the campfire each evening at 4:00 PM. Coffee and doughnuts will be available each morning. All of this for just \$20.00 per coach for the Wagon Master Fees, which will be collected upon your arrival.

This is a very laid back event. Almost anything goes! Respond by email your intention to attend preferably by Jan. 1st to seeya3159@yahoo.com or call us at (831) 419-8676.

Clayton and Dianne Jones, Wagon Masters
Will and Jean Bass, Assistant Wagon Masters

National Pre-Rally

*COME JOIN US FOR THE ALFA PRE- RALLY
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 24-28TH*

This is a great time of year in Bakersfield, after the winter fog and before it gets hot. It will be great meeting and greeting all of you again. There are lots of things do and see in the area, including the National Hotrod Association meeting, river rafting, wine tasting, golf, and honky-tonkin'. The food will be authentic area cuisine. As you can see on the registration form we have made some tentative plans and will schedule others if enough folks are interested. The park is great, centrally located, and set up to accommodate our rigs.

There will be a more specific agenda and information sent out after the 1st of the year to all of

you who are interested. If you have any questions, please contact us at 661-747-4795.

Fred and Diane Hawley
Wagon-masters

Gary and Kathy Vest
Assistant Wagon-masters

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!

National Rally

Alfa National Rally
April 29 - May 6, 2009
Bakersfield RV Resort
5025 Wible Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Hosted by the Mavericks
Rally Masters: Arnie and Emily Burr
E-mail: a.burr@sbcglobal.net

The Mavericks have been working hard to put together the upcoming Alfa National Rally. They are planning several seminars and vendors plus the opportunity for vehicle service and repair. *Please Note:* Any service work performed at the rally will be offered at a **discounted labor rate**. The Mavericks have also planned an opening and closing dinner, ice cream social and wine tasting. For an extra charge, and if enough interest is shown, there will be an opportunity to participate in several optional activities such as a Tour of the Ronald Regan Presidential Library; a Wine Tour to Paso Robles; a trip to the Buck Owens Crystal Palace Steak House, Museum and Show for dinner and a show; a golf outing; bowling; and a trip to the Kern County Museum and Black Gold Exhibit which includes a meal and the oil exhibit.

For all pricing and registration deadlines, please see the attached Pre-Rally and National Rally Registration forms for hard copies or refer to our Web Site, www.alfa-roadrunners.com to print them