

June 2008 Newsletter

Roadrunner News June 2008

**Alfa Owners Club
2008**

Roadrunner Chapter

June

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President's Corner

Dear Fellow Roadrunners

As you can imagine, with the closing of *alfa leisure* the end of April there has been a flurry of communication; some gossip, lots of rumours, a whole lot of "data" shared within a very short time. The network was "ahummin".

The 8 Chapter Presidents are unanimous on one thing: each Chapter will continue as the individual social groups that we are! Campouts and gatherings are being scheduled and planned.

To us Roadrunners that means Colorado and Quartzsite gatherings are ON and at present we have 40 reservations at the Bakersfield RV Resort which at present is going ahead with or without a "National".

I received a note from Bruce and Corrine Mitchell the President of the Alfa Owners Club Board of Directors on June 10th. The gist of the letter relates to the financial viability of holding the 2009 "Alfa Owners Club" National. Apparently, there would be some financial support in operating a National for 2009. Arnie Burr (The Rally Master for 2009 National in Bakersfield, Ca.) has some interesting ideas and activities lined up. Hopefully, there will be some sort of service crews at the Rally. For the first time Alfa will NOT be supplying the labour so that cost will be passed on to the customer. As the Alfa Owners Club is supporting this National financially there will be no SOB's invited.

The consensus among the 8 Chapters seems to be to leave the National Board of Director Representatives in place until the National Rally in April. Bruce and Corinne are planning on having a discussion session with representatives of the various Chapters at the rally regarding the club's future. What ever comes from that meeting, will be how we move forward.

The Roadrunners had, as it turned out, one of the best National rallies ever. What a way to close down the "shop" What a great group of Roadrunners we had present, pitching in when asked or NOT. Of course National's didn't have a chance at failure with the admirable talents of Pre-Rally Wagon Masters Richard and Karen Hugo and their very capable assistants Terry and Owen O'Neil with special assistance from last minute volunteers Dori and Tom Weissman.

What a GREAT party we had! Thanks to all.

Just received a note from Clara Bondie and Don Gilleran one of the recipients of our Roadrunner Baskets.

“Don and I want to Thank You and all The Roadrunners for the wonderful basket. When we are sitting by our fire pit, drinking our wine, snacking on nuts, watching our supper with the great light (Don can't say he can't see the meat burning) we will think of all the Roadrunners that made it possible. Thanks again. Don and Clara.”

Welcome Dianne Jones to the Roadrunner Officers. She was elected as the Editor of our Newsletter. Thank you to Allan Herschderfer for his time and contributions as the Editor for the past year.

Jim and Dorthey Collard were elected as your new National Board Directors and presently we have no idea what their duties will be. I am sure in whatever capacity they will represent our Chapter with gusto. Thanks to Garth and Jackie Thomas for many years of service representing the Roadrunners on the NBD.

Before the National is upon us we have lots of opportunity to meet new friends and old friends, share stories, offer help with those having Alfa problems and just have a plain good time.

See Ya then
Sheila
President
Alfa Roadrunners

National Board

National Board of Directors Meeting - April 24th. 2008

[Editor's Note: The NBD meeting took place shortly before the demise of Alfa. Some of the information below is no longer pertinent but has been left intact for interest sake.]

Status of Sunchasers:

A motion to disband the Sunchaser Chapter was made and carried. This means the Sunrisers will be the only Chapter East of the Mississippi and will have a membership of approximately 250. Current members of the Sunchasers will be given the opportunity to either join the Sunrisers or any of the other Chapters. Board Vice-President: Ron and Carol Davies of the Sun Risers were nominated and elected as Vice-President of the Sundancers Club. Their duties are to act as the President in his absence. Bruce had asked them to act as Vice Presidents since Jackie and Garth (Roadrunners) retired mid-term.

We discussed mileage reimbursement for NBD Members attending the mid-year meeting. The reimbursement is currently set at 40 cents per mile. In the past it was higher but broke the bank. Johnnie Crean will not give any more money to the Board. Bruce and Corinne hope that by doing away with the very expensive glossy Pre and Post Rally Sundancer Newsletter, money will be available for additional travel expenses. Their intent is to provide the Newsletter via the Internet with hard copies going only to non Internet users. It was indicated that several chapters help pay for their NBD Members costs for attending the mid year meeting. The Sunseekers actually increased their annual dues to help offset these expenses.

Alfa Work Crew:

Everyone was pleased with the efforts of the work crew. This may be their best National Rally to date. We all agreed that a posting of the work schedule would help the members to plan their days. Carol Smith asked that we add the serial number of each coach to the registration forms to facilitate the repairs. Also a listing of people that are not attending day-long, off site events would be very helpful for scheduling repairs. It was suggested that since most members would like to be present while work is being done on their Alfa, perhaps the off site tour could coincide with Alfa workers day(s) off. Bruce and Carol will be looking into this. Carol Smith, the Alfa representative to the NBD indicated that the hours of the Alfa Store, 10AM – 2PM worked well for her.

Communications:

Bill Ratterree reiterated the need for the Rally Master to meet daily with the Park Management as a minimum to discuss last minute changes or needs. Bob, KOA Manager met with Bill Sunday AM and then left. Just

before dinner Bill discovered that no wine was being served. Last minute scramble to sort this out with the result of wine being available.

Catering:

This is by far the biggest challenge in running the rally.

A lively discussion was held around the issue of the Alfa group eating everything in site. Dozens of doughnuts went missing the first morning and plates of tomatoes, not to mention plates of desserts before everyone had eaten. Because of this behavior, those who had "put on" the rally as in the Lone Stars went without some food groups. The outcome of this discussion was that the Alfa group must be served food or it will disappear.

Entertainment- Square Dancers, Coastliners & Mariachis:

Everyone agreed it was exceptional.

Ice Cream Social:

The famous Texas Blue Bell Ice Cream was served to grateful ice cream lovers. It was suggested that this event might be held after lunch instead of before dinner to increase attendance.

Pet Parade:

Very well attended making winning decisions difficult. Every pet entered received a gift bag. A bad taste moment was when a truck pulled up before the parade started and the driver helped himself to 4 of those bags

Prizes:

Alfa suppliers support was very limited in supporting prizes and events. However, donations for prizes from local business were overwhelming.

Some present felt that more of a fuss could have been made handing out the Chapter baskets and even a photo taken with the winners. It was felt that many people didn't know who had won their Chapter's basket. A discussion erupted on whether a couple should be able to win a door prize and a basket. Most of those present felt that once the door prizes were distributed, all names should be included in the draw for the baskets.

Registration:

There were 189 RV's in attendance at the National Rally. Bill Ratteree made a motion to increase the registration fee to \$100.00 per couple. (from \$75.00)

Seminars:

This year they started early and late. They need to start on time to eliminate confusion.

Comments were made regarding the lack of presentation skills and product knowledge of the presenters. This included the Alfa representative.

The blister seminar held on Sunday morning, was not properly communicated to all rally attendees.

Everyone who attended the RV cooking seminar was disappointed. It was advertised as cooking in an RV and it was a sales promotion for spices. Women were hoping to discover how to work their microwave convection ovens.

Rally 2010: South Loafers

Thomas and Christine Upton the Rally Masters, are actively looking for a park in the Tucson and Las Vegas areas, which meets all the criteria of hosting a National Rally. This is becoming increasingly difficult due to our size.

Rally 2009: Mavericks

Arnie and Emily Barr, the Rally Masters, and the Maverick Chapters are looking forward to hosting this event to be held at the Bakersfield RV Resort.

The Rally rate will be \$35.00 per night. Activities in the area include a great 15 mile bike and walking trail along the dry river bed, tours of the Black Gold Museum and the Crystal Palace. Along with new facilities there is a very good restaurant on site.

Roadrunners Turn:

Based on current schedule the Roadrunners will be hosting the National in 2013. We ask all members to start looking for an RV Resort or Park with 200+, full hook up sites and facilities/buildings with dining facilities for the 400+ attendees.

Respectively submitted by Bill and Sheila Heath

President
Alfa Roadrunner

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 well be considered.

Rally and Camp Out Reports

Alfa Roadrunner Pre-Rally 2008 to the National Rally

The pre-rally was held at the Lake Conroe/Houston North KOA in Montgomery, Texas, April 11-15. The facilities were excellent and the staff was friendly and helpful. All the sites were 50 amp and paved. We were fortunate to have our pre-rally and the national rally in the same campground so we were able to settle in for the duration.

Our facilities for the pre-rally included the clubhouse next to the indoor pool and a nice kitchen area. We had plenty of room for our social hours and dinners. Thank you Owen, Butch and Richard who were our parking crew for the pre-rally. By having things pre-paid, our group didn't have to stop and check in at the campground office.

Several coaches arrived early so we had a couple of extra social hours. Several couples went out to dinner together at local restaurants. By the time the rally started friendships were already forming among the new people. We had 34 rigs for the pre-rally, several of which were attending their first rally ever or at least their first Alfa rally.

The Wagon Masters, Richard & Karen Hugo, welcomed everyone to the pre-rally at the first social hour and introduced themselves, along with assistants – Owen & Terry O'Neill and Tom & Dori Weissman and the Roadrunner officers- Bill & Sheila Heath and Jim & Dorthey Collard. The Welcome Dinner consisted of smoked brisket, baked potatoes with all the trimmings, salad and dessert. The smoked brisket was cooked by Butch & Gerri Smith, newbies to the Alfa family. Everyone agreed the brisket was outstanding! The meal was served by the wagon masters and assistants.

Coffee and donuts were available every morning for those willing to get up early and socialize. Each day a different activity/class was held – a technical Q&A led by Owen; digital scrapbooking by Karen, and a tax info talk led by Owen. In the afternoons, several volunteered to do sewing for the charity *Sew Much Comfort* which helps our injured soldiers. Craig & Terilu Christen carry all of the supplies necessary to do the work. All they need are volunteers. Robin Miller taught a class on making bead jewelry one afternoon causing several ladies to make a run to Michael's and Hobby Lobby. About 20 men enjoyed a "men's only" breakfast one morning at King's Cafe. A golf outing was put together by Jim Collard and 17 Roadrunners participated. Based on the stories told later, everyone had a great time.

Saturday night the schedule called for heavy snacks and games. Terry O'Neill introduced us to what we lovingly called "the bag game." We each had a paper bag pinned to our clothing and the object was to feel the bag and decide what was in it. All of the items came from Terry's motorhome. As we made the rounds, we guessed the contents and wrote them down. Angie Radosevic was the big winner along with Craig Christen & Kathy Vest. Everyone agreed it was a "fun" game.

Sunday night we had a potluck dinner and as usual we had plenty of delicious food. After dinner, many came back to the clubhouse to play games.

Monday was a free day for those who wanted to get out and see the area with dinner on their own. Several who stayed around the campground gathered at the usual time for social hour.

Tuesday night was the Sheriff's dinner which was catered by Clint's Kuntry Katfish. It was representative of a true southern meal – fried catfish, French fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and pickled tomatoes. Many who professed to not like catfish stated it was the best catfish ever. We invited the Lone Stars to join us for dinner and 59 of them accepted our invitation. The finale to the evening was the Secret Sheriff who turned out to be Barb Zielke. The fines levied were heavy because the money was being given to *Sew Much Comfort*. We were pleased that the sheriff's fines raised \$218 for the charity.

Thanks to Robin Miller for being the official photographer for the pre-rally. John & Diane Tschumper also volunteered to take pictures of everyone and expand the Roadrunner Directory that they began in 2005 at Gillette. They provided a CD of the directory for each rig that also included the rally pictures taken by Robin, Karen and John.

Thanks to all the people who volunteered to help – Sheila Heath & Gerri Smith for preparing the baked potatoes, Butch Smith for the brisket, Tom & Dori Weissman and Owen & Terry O'Neill for everything they did! Most of all, thanks to all the people who came and participated in the pre-rally. We appreciate you.

Richard & Karen Hugo, Wagon Masters

Roadrunners National Report, Montgomery, Texas, 2008

The facilities at this KOA Park in Conroe, the site of the 2008 Alfa National Rally were superb. A covered grassy