

Fall 2007 Newsletter



Roadrunner News



Owners Club

Roadrunner Chapter

Fall 2007

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President's Letter

Greetings fellow Roadrunners.

What a great camp out Duane & Rita Dingman and Kathi & Norm Duarte hosted at Council Grove, Kansas. See the report in this newsletter for details. I do want to recognize first time attendees at a Roadrunner camp out. Welcome to: Robin & George Minder, Jim & Shirley Ellis, Reta & Richard Averill and Malcolm & Veronika Meekison. I would also like to introduce Dale & Maxine Weimer our most recent members. Council Grove is a pretty small town in the middle of the Kansas Prairie. Imagine Dale's (new Alfa owner) surprise when he notices all those Alfa's driving through his town. He was so curious he hopped into his car and followed a few of them. He was quite surprised to see 18 Alfa RV's parked together in a group area and wondered what was going on. We gave him the Roadrunner camp out 101course then invited him to dinner. He didn't hesitate to join our Roadrunner Chapter. Maxine was under the weather but they hope to attend the Alfa National Rally.

I know the fall wagon master for 2008 is out there. Now is the time to let yourself be known. Please contact me!

The registration forms and information for the Alfa National Rally in Montgomery Texas, at the Lake Conroe/Houston, North KOA (former Haven's Landing) April 16th to 22nd, 2008 are available on our website. For those receiving a hard copy of this newsletter your registration forms and information are included. If you are interested in attending, fill out the form and send it and your check in quickly as there are only 200 sites available.

Your wagon masters Karen and Richard Hugo with their co-assistants Terry & Owen O'Neill and Jackie & Garth Thomas have 40 sites reserved for the Pre-National Roadrunner Rally April 11th - 15th at the Lake Conroe/Houston North KOA. We won't have to move! See article and registration form in this newsletter.

Inventory will be available at the Pre and Alfa National Rallies. There will be new ball caps, ladies visors, white T-shirts with logos (we are looking into a white scooped necked ladies T-shirt with logos) and of course our red golf shirts. These will be available for viewing on our website by December. FYI: The Roadrunners wear the red shirts at National for the Welcome Dinner, Chapter Night Dinner and the Farewell Dinner. If you would like to purchase a red shirt, send Bill an email with the size and M or F, in order for him to arrive with a semi accurate inventory.

Plans for the Roadrunners Rolling Rally have been finalized. See article in this newsletter. I think that sums up the information for now!

SeeYa at Quartzsite. See article in this newsletter.

Sheila Heath
President
Alfa Roadrunner Chapter

National Board

National Board of Directors Fall Meeting

The Alfa National Board met in Reno, NV (Boomtown RV Park) on September 25th and 26th. Among the topics discussed were:

- The Club is instituting a new policy: anyone running for office (at the Chapter or National level) must currently own an Alfa vehicle. There was one issue (not in our chapter) that prompted this action.
- Websites: currently four Chapters (Roadrunners, Mavericks, Southloafers, and Sunseekers) have some sort of website. The Board wants every Chapter to have one. The immediate goal is for each Chapter to maintain their own, individual, website – there are no current plans to link the websites together. The Board directed the remaining Chapters to evaluate the four current websites and seek assistance from those Chapters in developing their own websites.
- The 2008 National Rally: the deadline for submitting minor repairs (the Wishlist) will be the end of February, 2008. On Saturday night there will be a 50's Vintage Auto Show and 50's entertainment with dancing – bring appropriate clothes if you have them. Be aware that the NASA-Lyndon Johnson Space Center tour is 'semi-strenuous'; the organizers recommend taking the Trolley/Shuttle tour first.
- Norm and Pat Benson, the National Board of Directors President and Secretary, retired. They received a \$1,000 check from Johnny Crean (which everyone attending thought was a very nice gesture). Bruce and Corinne Mitchell were formally elected and installed as the new Board President and Secretary. Bruce said he has a lot of new ideas he plans to implement in the future (and he looking for any additional suggestions as well).

Garth and Jackie Thomas, National Board Representatives

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

Kansas Fall Rally



**Kansas Santa Fe Trail Campout
AKA
"Crappy Trails"
Council Grove, Kansas**

October 1 – October 7, 2007

The Campout was held at the Canning Creek Cove Corps of Engineer Park in Council Grove. The group camping area used had full hook-ups with 50 amp service. The sites were located near a sheltered Pavilion meeting area that was located in the middle and no one was very far apart from each other or any of the activities. This made socializing very easy for all of us. Council Grove Lake was visible from the camping area and the park had plenty of trails and asphalt areas for our walkers to use in the park.

Duane ensured that all directions into the park had appropriate Alfa Roadrunner signage and on Sunday, September 30th we had 8 coaches that arrived early. Patti Chastain made a great spaghetti dinner for all the early arrivals and due to weather conditions that evening she seated and feed 15 in their coach.

On Monday morning, October 1st Duane, Norm and Joe Choate went to checkout the signs to see how they held up due to high winds during the night and one was found to be missing. As Duane climbed over a fence and checked out a pasture, Joe, using his many years as an airline pilot, calculated the wind direction and sent Norm on a course that took him directly to the sign, approximately 100 yards away. Good job Joe; anytime we lose a sign we know who to call. Returning to the park, Duane and his parking committee, Cal and Norm, handled the parking as the rest of the rigs arrived. We did have a couple rigs that missed seeing the signs, but they found us anyway.

Those attending the Campout were:

Averill, Richard & Reta
Bicknese, Neal & Patsy
Chastain, Cal & Patti
Choate, Joe & Betty
Dingman, Duane & Rita
Duarte, Norm & Kathi
Ellis, James & Shirley
Gatchel, Steve & Susan
Goble, Glenn & Barbara
Heath, Bill & Sheila
Hummel, Doti
Meekison, Malcolm & Veronika
Minder, George & Robin
Ogilvie, Paul & Anneliese
Ryder, Gene & Penny
Vest, Gary & Kathy
Weissman, Tom & Dori
Zielke, Sid & Barb



The first evening, after the usual Happy Hour, a Welcome Dinner was served by the Wagon Masters, Duane & Rita Dingman and Assistant Wagon Masters, Norm & Kathi Duarte. The dinner consisted of chicken, barbequed beans, potato salad, rolls and dessert and everyone had more than enough to eat.

Tuesday, after coffee and donuts, was scheduled as a free day with dinner that evening in Council Grove. Carpools were formed for dinner and everyone met at the Hays House for dinner. The Hays House had everything ready on time and the beef brisket dinner went well.

On Wednesday, in preparation for the big “Chip Throwing” event in the afternoon, a big bag breakfast was prepared. For some, this was the first time that had tried breakfast in a bag and it was great, with everyone bringing different food items that allowed for some really tasty bag omelets. Sid Zielke even made 3 loaves of homemade bread that was a special treat. Yum!

At 2pm everyone headed over to the mowed field where a Chip Throwing course had been laid out and Duane had positioned his utility trailer. The trailer was loaded with enough “meadow muffin” ammunition to allow everyone a sufficient amount to compete in 6 events. While not yet an Olympic event, the following events were scheduled: Men’s & Women’s Distance, Couples Catch (one tossing and one using a bucket to catch the toss, longest distance determines winner), Men’s & Women’s Accuracy Toss (closest to center of a target box at 25’) and Blind Couples Catch (the one tossing is blindfolded and longest catch is the winner). We had one person who was unable to participate due to recent surgery and two others who “pooped” out and did not toss, however everyone else was actively involved. A sanitation station was also set up to allow a little clean up between tosses. After all, we did not want contestants licking’ their fingers! The events were a lot of fun and Norm was even hit in the head by a bouncing chip thrown by Gene Ryder. I guess that would make Norm a #&*head! Winners were determined and they were:

Men’s Distance	-	George Minder	95’7
Woman’s Distance	-	Patti Chastain	62’3
Couples Catch	-	Glen / Barb Goble	41’3
Men’s Accuracy	-	Glen Goble	4” from center
Women’s Accuracy	-	Shirley Ellis	2.5” from center
Blind Couples Catch	-	Glen / Barb Goble	54’4



That evening around the campfire the Chip Throwing Awards ceremony were held. The winners were awarded prizes for their win. Although it was suggested that a “meadow muffin” be spray painted gold and ribbon used so it could be hung around the winners neck, it was decided that painted poop was probably not the best thing to hang around a person’s neck! Darn, it sounded like a good idea. It was clear that the Goble’s were the dominating team in this sport and it makes you wonder.....are they professionals? Maybe steroid testing is needed? This actually turned out to be fun, and we had lots of laughs. Richard Averill then brought out his guitar and put on a great performance, playing

and singing numerous songs.

On Thursday, it was coffee and cinnamon rolls in the morning. Duane always had the coffee ready before it was even light out and would get a campfire started to warm up too. At noon the carpools formed up and it was off to the Eisenhower Museum/Library in Abilene. At the Museum everyone was able to browse at their own pace, checking out the Museum, Library, the Eisenhower family home and the Chapel where the final resting place of the Eisenhower's is located.

After our time at the Museum, we loaded back up in our cars and went to the Brookville Hotel for dinner. The Brookville Hotel goes back as far as 1870 and became well known for their family style Fried Chicken Dinners in 1915. It closed as a hotel and was a restaurant only and was moved from Brookville to its present location in Abilene in 2000 to be closer to the interstate. Dinners are served on linen and Blue Willow china since the 1950's and they serve a great dinner. We even saw Joe Choate getting a "to go" bag and filling it with their creamed corn! Even though we were stuffed and dinner included dessert, we had one carload stop by Sonic on their way back and double up on more dessert!

Friday morning it was breakfast buffet at the Hays House. After breakfast some of the girls decided to walk the streets and check out the shops in Council Grove. Fortunately, the shop owners enjoyed their browsing as they were definitely creating quite the scene as they went from store to store trying on numerous items and posing for pictures in their "new" attire! After breakfast another group headed to the local golf course and got some golfing in.

That afternoon, a water fight took place at the campground that included all that were brave enough to come out of the security of their rigs. Weapons included water guns and balloons. It sure does not take much to entertain this group.

Saturday morning started out with Duane's coffee and muffins. It was a free day until the evening potluck dinner. At dinner, it was another food feast as everyone brought out their favorite potluck dishes. All we kept hearing from everyone was how much they had been eating and how full they were. After dinner, Trudi the Clown (AKA Doti Hummel) came out in costume and entertained everyone with her clown act. Another great evening and campfire!



Sunday morning started with coffee and donuts as the campout started winding down. The Sheriff's Farewell dinner was catered by "The Spot," a bar & grill located in nearby Herington by an old friend of

Norm's. After dinner, a Roadrunner business meeting was held and at the conclusion of the meeting the Sheriff was introduced as it was time to access fines for the numerous and varied infractions that were committed by the Campout attendees. No one was able to guess correctly who the Sheriff was, although Gene Ryder had gotten close by guessing the spouse of the Sheriff. The Sheriff was Barb Zielke! She then took over and began going through the list of heinous violations and her deputy, Sid, collected the money. It was very humorous listening to the violations and the pitiful explanations offered by some. Barb even auctioned off several photos of one particular violator. Gee, I wonder if that picture will ever show up again!

At the conclusion of the Sheriff's portion, the Wagon Masters and Assistant Wagon Masters had a drawing for door prizes. Gene & Penny Ryder won a scented candle; Doti Hummel won a glass cup and a Kansas ornament. Two \$25 cash prizes were then awarded to Steve & Susan Gatchel and Richard & Reta Averill.

The campout activities concluded and everyone was thanked for attending and helping to make the Campout a success. Sheila Heath, Roadrunner President, then thanked the Wagon Masters and Assistant Wagon Masters for their efforts in hosting the Campout and presented them with Wal-Mart Gift Cards.

Monday morning saw the rigs start leaving and heading to various locations as Roadrunners do enjoy their traveling! The morning was spent saying good-bye and wishing each other "Crappy Trails". The location was great, the weather was nice, the people who attended were wonderful, and we have a feeling they will be talking about the "Crappy Trails Rally" for many years with fond memories and chuckles.



A picture of the Kansas Roadrunner Campout at Council Grove Lake is on wibw.com, our local TV news website out of Topeka, KS. Rita took the photo on Oct 2, 2007 when the storm clouds were forming. Click the link below and VOTE for it as best picture.

<http://wibw.mycapture.com/mycapture/photos/JXImage.aspx?ImageID=127401&EventID=270433&CategoryID=28991&CollectionID=0&Sort>

Wagon Masters,
Duane & Rita Dingman
Norm & Kathi Duarte

Future Events

Date	Campground	Location	Wagon Masters
Jan 21-26, 2008	La Posa N/E (BLM)	Quartzsite, AZ	Harris/Ryder/Mallow
April 11-15, 2008 Pre-Rally	Lake Conroe KOA (Havens Landing)	Montgomery, TX	Rich & Karen Hugo Garth & Jackie Thomas Owen & Terry O'Neill
April 16-22, 2008 National Rally	Lake Conroe KOA (Havens Landing)	Montgomery, TX	Bill & Sheila Heath Jim & Dorthey Collard
End of National to ?	Montgomery, TX to Banff, AB	Rolling Rally	Bill & Sheila Heath
<u>Quartzsite Campout</u>			

Dan & Arlene Harris and Gene & Penny Ryder are your Co-Wagon Masters for the 2008 Quartzsite campout, along with George & Ann Mallow. The Quartzsite campout dates are Jan. 21st thru Jan. 26th. 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

Location: La Posa North - BLM

After stopping at Host Station and paying a \$30.00 fee, 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 and a couple of old fashion weenie roasts. The Sheriff's dinner will be a potluck. 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 \$5.00 per person for Wagon Master Fees, which will be collected upon arrival.

This is a very laid back event. Almost anything goes! Respond by email your intention to attend preferably by Jan. 1st to danandarl@yahoo.com or call us at 818-340-1070 / 818-456-3330 or Gene Ryder at generyder@yahoo.com or call 508-866-8538.

Dan and Arlene Harris
Gene and Penny Ryder

Alfa National Pre-Rally

The Roadrunners will have our Pre-Rally April 11-15, 2008, at the Lake Conroe/Houston North KOA in Montgomery, Texas. This is the same location as the Alfa National Rally and those attending the Pre-Rally will not have to change sites for the National Rally. The Rally Rate of \$23/night also applies to the two nights prior to the Pre-Rally. (Normal rate for this campground is \$35-\$45 per night.)

The Pre-Rally is a great opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships and have time to see the surrounding area before the activities of the National Rally begin. There is a lot to see and do in the general vicinity of Lake Conroe including shopping, golfing, fishing, sightseeing, and just hanging out with friends. The George H. W. Bush Library is only a 45-minute drive through beautiful bluebonnet country, a perfect day trip. In the Houston area, there is the NASA Space Center, the Museum District, the Galleria and other shopping malls. And, for those genealogy buffs, both the Clayton Library (one of the largest public genealogy libraries in the country) and the Montgomery County Public Library in Conroe are available for research. The town of Montgomery itself has an historic district for those interested in old buildings, antique shops, and Texas history.

Wagon Masters Richard & Karen Hugo, and Assistants Garth & Jackie Thomas, along with Owen & Terry O'Neill hope you will make plans to attend the 2008 Roadrunner Pre-Rally in Montgomery, Texas. We will be there to welcome you!

If you have any questions, please email the Hugos at KHugo@aol.com or call 918-914-2630. Please send in your registration as soon as possible so that you will be assured of a site.

Richard & Karen Hugo

Alfa National Rally

The registration forms and information for the 2008 Alfa National Rally in Montgomery, Texas are available on the Roadrunner website and attached to the hard copy of this newsletter.

Post- National Rolling Rally

The 2008 Spring Rolling Rally will start on April 24, 2008 from Montgomery, TX after the 2008 Alfa National Rally. Participants do not have to be in attendance at the National Rally. You may join the rally along the way and may drop out before we reach Banff, Alberta, a total distance of approximately 2700 miles. The purpose of this rally is to travel

north to Canada with the companionship and camaraderie of fellow Roadrunners. This is not a professional tour and only a small administrative fee will be collected. If a Roadrunner member wishes to join us at any particular stop, no administrative fee will be charged. Individual participants will be responsible for all of their expenses along the road. Participation will be limited to 20 RVs and the first 20 registrations will be accepted. Subsequent registrations will be added to a date sensitive wait list and checks will not be cashed until an opening occurs. Upon acceptance of your registration we will forward you a list of the campgrounds with contact information which will enable you to make the necessary reservations.

Bill & Sheila Heath, the Wagon Masters for the Rolling Rally, will be responsible for overall route, schedule, camping sites, documentation, and communication. Each participant will be required to act as Co-Wagon Masters during specific stops (eg, research points of interest/activities, restaurants, shopping, pot lucks, social hours, etc).

Registration Forms are available on the Alfa Roadrunners website.

Event Coordinator

For Wagon Master information, please contact Jim Collard at jim@collardscorner.com or 970-219-4745.

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