

Spring Newsletter 2007



Roadrunner News

Alfa Owners Club

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Roadrunner Chapter

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Spring 2007

President's Letter

This is our final letter written to you, the Roadrunners, our members and friends, as President and Secretary/Treasurer. We had a great time being "at the helm" of this fabulous chapter for the last three years. During this time we had lots of support from many of YOU, which are too numerous to name individually. We might add, met many wonderful people, made new friends, & had some fabulous times attending the many campouts and Rallies as your officers. All of this was made possible by the many volunteers who gave of their time to assist us with the many functions it takes to make a great chapter. Thank You, for the support that you have given us.

This years Pre-Rally at Canyon Vistas RV Resort in Gold Canyon, AZ was a great success, thanks to our Wagon Masters, Dick & Jane McEwan and their assistants Wes & Mary Kay Speight. We had great food & plenty of it, lots of visiting old friends and meeting new ones. Many commented how well planned & organized the events were. Our parking crew, headed by Bill Heath, did a terrific job. One or two of them was "on duty" assisting & directing the 36 RV's, as they arrived, in the parking of their RV's. On Sunday Morning, our Guys cooked their ladies breakfast. This was a great success. Felt so good being pampered, the food (again that 4 letter word) was delicious. We didn't even have to clean the kitchen or wash the dishes.

On Wednesday 18th, we caravanned to the National Rally, in Mesa, AZ at the Viewpoint RV Resort, about a fifteen minute trip. We departed in 30 minute intervals, in groups of 5/6 Alfa RV's. Again here without the help of Bill Heath, his crew and their organization, we could have got into some "commute traffic" hold ups. Once at the resort, our parking crew volunteers directed Roadrunners to their sites & assisted in the parking.

Viewpoint RV Park set aside a site between our RV and the Thomas' RV and this is where we had our Happy Hour each night with snacks. Well almost every night, as we had rain Saturday and we did Happy Hour with heavy appetizers in one of the meeting rooms furnished by the park.

For Chapter Night, Thursday 19th, Roadrunners ate a scrumptious catered dinner at the Viewpoint's Terrace Greens banquet room. Mickey Leone and his staff prepared and served us Roasted Rosemary Pork Tenderloin, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Salad, Vegetable Medley (Al Dente) and Hot Apple & Cherry Cobbler. After dinner, the business meeting was conducted, during which, elections were held and the upcoming Roadrunner new officers were elected. They are President Sheila Heath, Vice President Jim Collard, Secretary Dorthey Collard, Treasurer Bill Heath and Editor Allan Herschderfer. These five people make for an awesome team heading our chapter & leading us into the future. We know that they will do a fantastic job and we would ask that you give them the support that you have given to us. Alternate NBD Rep is Bob & Barbara Goble for a three year term. Also, the revised by-laws were passed, as published, and they are posted on our website. www.alfaroadrunners.com. Normally the night would be over after the business meeting, but we had a

delightful surprise. We had entertainment by band. Not just any band, but The Roadrunner Band, no relation to the Alfa Roadrunners. They provided us with great music and songs to dance and fun to or just sit & enjoy. Everyone thought this was a special surprise and treat, and all that stayed had a great time.

There are some special people I would like to recognize for their volunteering and hard work for our chapter at the National. Betty Martin collected the monies from the attendees for their part of the catered dinner. She was assisted by Danielle Gagnon. Thank you two very much. For the gift baskets on awards night, we had two beautiful ones with an assortment of goodies, plus gift certificates and this was all thanks to the Horvath's, Diane & Jeff. Diane did all the collecting, of the gifts members contributed or cash they gave in lieu of an actual gift. Then she & Jeff went to Camping World and purchased gift certificates to put into the baskets. The Roadrunners had two beautifully presented baskets for the awards dinner on Tuesday night, the 24th. Thank you so much for your help. Bernice Howard volunteered as our leader for the scavenger hunt. Sorry to say we didn't get to eat first, in other words we did not win, can't remember what position we took, but heck it was a lot of fun. Thank you, Bernice & Woody.

The 2007 National has come to a close and we had a great time. The Wranglers are to be commended for a great job.

God Bless You and Keep You Safe wherever your roads may lead you. We are looking forward to our paths crossing soon.

See Ya in Kansas in the Fall,

Tom & Dori

Wow, what have we done!

To all those who did not attend the National Rally in Mesa, rest assured that we saw Tom & Dori Weissman out of office with a standing ovation and a Campers World gift certificate of \$300. They were moved to tears.

Your new executive will endeavor to establish and maintain channels of communication through the available technology, in order to provide maximum organization and planning of all of our rallies/campouts, thus ensuring the mandate of The Sunchasers (The Parent Club) to socialize and have fun.

A little about your Roadrunner Officers:

Dorthey and Jim Collard, (Secretary/Membership Coordinator and Vice President) are the proud owners of a North South King Bed, Soo Long. I know they are still in shock over this purchase (it was an unexpected turn of events at National) but they will have plenty of time getting to know it on their long drive home to Juneau Alaska. They spend their summers there playing with grandchildren, visiting family and driving tour buses for Princess Cruise Line.

Allan Herschderfer (Editor) hangs out in the Southern California area of Palm Springs for the winter and tours the northern US in the summer. They might even venture into Canada one of these years. Diane loves cooking (which is great because we do love to eat) and Allan happily enjoys working on his computer.

Tony Monson (Web Master), although not an officer, is a valuable member of our Roadrunner team. His expertise allowed our Chapter to acquire and maintain our own Web Site (The Mavericks are the only other Chapter to have their own. That's 2 out of 9). Tony and his wife Sharon are Western Horizon members and spent the winter working at the 2 resorts in the Palm Springs area.

Look at what my propensity to raise my hand and volunteer has got us into now. **Bill, Treasurer** (an office he is more than capable of handling) and I, **President** (capabilities to be determined later). Bill and I spent the winter months touring Mexico and will spend the summer running back and forth from Ontario to Alberta visiting family and friends and anything else that suits us. If the weather is agreeable we hope to spend next winter in the Palm Springs area.

That's all of us. I think we are all approachable so please do so if you have any input that will improve our

Chapter.

For those of you that know Jim and Marie Hunter, fellow Road Runners, and Jim's fight with cancer over the last 2 years, I have to inform you that Jim's fight is over. Just 2 weeks shy of the National Rally, his life's journey ended, surrounded by his family and fiends. With messages like this, I am reminded again of how precious life is and how fortunate we are to have such a remarkable lifestyle.

In closing, I would like to remind you that our Web Site is user friendly and just needs users.

Everything you would like to know about our Chapter (and things you probably don't want to know) can be viewed there. i.e. campouts, reports and updates, registration forms and photos.

Just a note on photos. Tony would like all photos sent to him for posting to have a caption.

Don't forget the **Fall Camp Out, October 1 - 5 in Council Grove, Kansas** and the **Rolling Rally** scheduled for **April 2008 from Montgomery TX to Banff, Alberta** (e-mail or call me for further information).

Co-Wagon Masters Dan & Arlene Harris and Penny & Gene Ryder have asked me to mention that although the **Quartzsite** Rally has been reduced to 5 days (Yes, the Big Top will be open) they are planning to be there earlier and stay longer. The Roadrunner arrows which will lead you to the camping site will be up so go on out and join them. More in the Fall Newsletter.

I have been in touch with the President of the NBD and hope to have the registration form for The 2008 National Rally posted on our web site in the fall.

During my term of office I hope to eliminate the paper trail that seems to follow us Full Timers around the country, never to catch us. I know this will present some challenges for those who are not computer friendly and I encourage you to contact me or other Officers with solutions. We have 425 registered Roadrunners and mail outs are an onerous task for a volunteer. Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to any and all input.

"See Ya" on the road,

Sheila Heath

National Board

Alfa National Rally 2008, Lake Conroe KOA, Montgomery TX

The Alfa National Board met immediately following the 2007 Alfa National Rally in Mesa, AZ. Among the topics discussed were:

Preview of the 2008 Alfa National Rally

- 200 sites are reserved; there will be a standby list pending approval of additional sites
- A 50's Vintage Auto Show and 50's Night dance will be held on-site at the RV Park
- A tour of the Johnson Space Center is planned (details are TBD)
- The craft sale will be expanded
- The park has a good pool, so time will be allocated to allow for water aerobics
- Carol Smith (the Alfa factory rep) reported that requests for repairs (the Wishlist) will be closed 45 days prior to the start of the Rally (there was no hard and fast rule before); this will allow more time for emergency work when the crew arrives. As always, emergency requests still need to be submitted via the Chapter Wagon Masters
- More time will be allocated for the popular seminars; Alfa is considering using facilitators (Chapter Wagon Masters and/or Alfa reps) in an attempt to help control the flow of the seminars and assure they stay on topic

- In addition to the mechanical-oriented seminars, new topics are planned to cover kitchen appliances and components, maintenance techniques, and approved products

National Board news

- Norm and Pat Benson will be stepping down as The National Board President and Secretary; Bruce and Corrinne Mitchell of South Loafers were nominated and will be elected to 3 year terms at the Fall Meeting
- The Fall Meeting is scheduled for 9/25-26; site is TBD (candidates are Reno, Pahrump, and Las Vegas)

Garth and Jackie Thomas. National Board Representatives

Business

Membership Dues:

If you have not paid your dues yet for 2007, contact Dorthey Collard (Membership Coordinator) as soon as possible – don't let your membership lapse.

Rally and Camp Out Reports

Alfa National Pre-Rally 2007

The rally was held at the beautiful Canyon Vista RV Resort April 13-17. The facilities were excellent and the surrounding area was highlighted by the scenic Superstition Mountain. All the sites were spacious with 50 amp service and a cement slab. The hospitality from the campground staff was very helpful. We had full use of their spacious well equipped kitchen which was very helpful in preparing our meals. They provided large tables at the campsite for our Happy Hour.

We had 36 rigs at the rally. Our parking crew did an outstanding job in helping the people get to their sites. We want to thank Wes Speight, Jeff Horvath, Sherm Willard, Jim Collard, Ray Wennerberg, Clayton Jones, Paul Smith, Leon Skeelee, Chris Walsh, George Hall, Bob Kermode and Bill Heath for a fine job.

The Chapter provided the snacks for our Happy Hour the first night which was held at the nice patio by the pool. We were able to bring our own tasty drinks to all of our gatherings which we really enjoyed. The Welcome Dinner included spaghetti and meat balls, salad, and garlic bread and delicious homemade cookies made by Diane Horvath. We want to thank Jane McEwan and Mary Kay Speight for organizing the dinner. Also, we want to thank Carol Lee Hall, Betty Martin and Diane Horvath in helping to prepare and serve the meal.

Saturday was a free day for Roadrunners to visit some of the areas sightseeing outings and attractions. The more popular ones were Goldfield Ghost Town, The Dolley Steamboat ride, Tortilla Flat and the Mesa Market Swap Meet.

Sunday morning the men prepared breakfast for the ladies. We are blessed with so many men who have the expertise to prepare a very delicious breakfast. The menu included eggs to order, Garth Thomas' delicious biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, bacon and orange juice. We want to thank Wes Speight, Garth Thomas, Tom Weissman, Larry Heuer, Bill Heath, Dwright French, Don Kirkhart, Leon Skeelee, Jim Collard, Chris Walsh, Leon Martin, Vic Sopina and George Hall for helping to promote the breakfast.

Sunday evening was the Canyon Vista end-of-season Block Party. The Park graciously invited all of us to attend their pot luck dinner and dance. While their dinner conflicted with our own, a few of us headed over to check out the dance. We were surprised to see that music was provided by a live band – the Road Runner Rock-N-Roll Band no less. We had fun dancing to their eclectic mix of music and they got a laugh when they learned that we

Alfa Roadrunners were in attendance.

Monday Morning there were 13 men and women who played golf. We want to thank Don Kirkart for organizing the outing. During the evening we had our progressive dinner. The seventy-two attendees were divided into three different groups. One group was responsible for the salads, one the entrees and another for dessert. We had planned to have each course at three different site locations with first setting for salad, the second entrees and the last desserts. However, the weather did not cooperate so we had to move the dinner to the dining room. We want to thank everyone for helping to promote an outing that turned out to be very successful.

We had an open house (RV) on Tuesday. There were twelve rigs that 20 people visited. We want to thank the people who shared their alterations, modifications and ideas with other Roadrunners.

The Farewell Dinner Tuesday evening was catered. The menu included Walnut Crusted Salmon, Roasted Red Pepper Risotto, Whiskey Carrots, Garden Salad w/Ranch or Italian dressing, Parker House Rolls w/butter, Decadent Chocolate Brownies, Coffee and Tea. Our Sheriff, Phyllis Wennerberg, was the highlight of the evening. With her unique, entertaining personality and wit provided a good time for all. There were a lot of quarters collected.

We want to give a special thanks to Tom and Dori Weissman, Bill and Sheila Heath for helping promote this rally. We want to thank Jeff Horvath for taking the photos.

[Click here for photos.](#)

Wagon Masters,
Dick and Jane McEwan
Wes and Mary Kay Speight

Future Events

Date	Campground	Location	Wagon Masters
Oct 1-8, 2007	Canning Creek CoE	Council Grove, KA	Dingman /Duarte
Jan 21-26, 2008	La Posa N/E (BLM)	Quartzsite, AZ	Harris/Ryder/Mallow
April 11-16, 2008 Pre-Rally	Lake Conroe KOA (Havens Landing)	Montgomery, TX	Rich & Karen Hugo (need Assistants)
April 16-23, 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

Tentative Route

Montgomery, TX to Wichita Falls, TX to Santa Fe, NM to Taos, NM to Gunnison, CO to Vernal, UT to Flaming Gorge, UT to Grand Teton National Park to Yellowstone National Park to Shelby, MO to Glacier National Park to Radium Hot Springs, AB to Banff, AB

Route is subject to change. Continuing to Alaska is being considered. You may travel the entire distance or depart/join at your convenience.

Travel will be in groups of 4-6 RV's with compatible traveling habits. (eg, driving speed, breaks/rest periods, fuel stop requirements, etc). Driving time will be limited to 6 hours of driving time per day maximum. Most overnight stops will be in RV's.

to stay 4 -5 nights visiting that area in a full service park. There might be a few one night stops and an occasional boon docking.

Weather is expected to be cool at the higher elevations. Snow and other “Winter” weather will be avoided at all cost.

Wagon Masters for the Rolling Rally will be responsible for overall route, schedule, camping sites, fuel locations, documentation, and communication. There will be no Wagon Master fee. Each participant will be responsible for their own specific activities along the way. (eg, campground reservations, sight-seeing, etc). 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).

Event Coordinator

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