



Matterhorn

Alpine So Cal

A Chapter of FMCA

David Hobdon, President
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www.alpinesocal.com

Lorraine Foster
&
Ann Fleming

The President's Message



Have you ever taken on a job, or maybe just a specific task at a job that no one else wanted? And then found that job or task to be one of the most rewarding and fun-filled experiences you've known in a great while?!?...Well, that's how I feel with the position of President of the Alpine SoCal Chapter..I would like to thank everyone for the nomination and then of course - for your vote of confidence in me and my wife, Stilla. I promise to perform to the utmost of my abilities and be diligent in my duties. I vow to maintain the current healthy posture of our organization while striving to make improvements where needed in order to keep us viable in the future. It's great to be around so many like-minded, fun-oriented people. It's all about having fun, right? I will always do my best to keep things fun!

I would also like to give a special "THANKS" to our outgoing president Joe Darling for handing over such a fine organization. I'm sure everyone will join me in applauding Joe and his wife Micki for their leadership and mentorship over the years. I could never replace Joe... only follow in his footsteps. We all wish them the best for the future, especially in health and happiness. We hope to see you soon at a future rally Joe & Micki! Luckily, (for me) all the other board member positions have been filled with incumbents. This means that we already have "seasoned" and competent professionals in all the important board membership positions that will keep me on the right path and guide me if I falter.

It's only March and we've already had a number of superb rallies and get-togethers that I hope most of you were able to attend:

- FMCA Western Area Rally, Indio, CA
- 15th Annual "Desert Rat Rally, Quartzsite, AZ
- "Winter Blast" Fireworks Rally, Lake Havasu,
- Baseball Spring Training, Cotton Lane RV Resort, Goodyear, AZ.

In addition to this newsletter; please remember to check the Alpine SoCal website (www.AlpineSoCal.com) for all the latest on upcoming rally dates and places. And don't forget to thank our webmaster Jim Archer for all his hard work when you get a chance. I would also like to remind everyone that the Alpine SoCal website has a plethora of information for you which includes, but is not limited to: Future rally dates; Newsletters; Member rosters with names, email addresses and photos; Wagonmaster information and planning documents for rallies; Links to other valuable resources, i.e., iRV2.com, ACA's Alpine Tech Library, parks, campgrounds, RV resources, etc., Please, please... If your schedule doesn't allow you to join a SoCal event, there are plenty of other Alpine rallies. Don't worry, our feelings won't be hurt. The other Alpine groups can't all be cool like us and it's okay to associate. Remember, it's all about having fun, making friends, and enjoying our fine Alpine Coaches doing what we like to do....

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If you're on Facebook™, don't forget to join the Alpine Owners Group (www.facebook.com/groups/AlpineOwners) managed by our very own Mary Langord. It's a great forum to stay in touch with your Alpine friends and see who's doing what, where, and when...

Also if you missed any of the rallies, you can go to my blog website @ (www.UrbanEscapeVehicle.com) and type in the search words for that rally, i.e. "Desert Rat Rally" for a full recap, complete with pictures... lots of pictures... ☺

I'd like to close by thanking our previous newsletter editor Patti Warren, who with the help of her husband Jim have brought us many valuable and entertaining newsletters over the last 18 months. They definitely raised the bar with an award-winning format that has received many laudatory comments... their expertise will be sorely missed. Thanks Jim & Patti! This newsletter (March) will be the first product from our combined "team" that has stepped up to fill the void. Please give a round of applause to Ann Fleming, Lorraine Foster, Connie Bowers and Donna Hambarian. I'm sure their effort will be well received.

So here's looking forward to many good times ahead. Stay safe in your travels, keep the rubber side down and the shiny side up. Remember, if you see any Alpines in your travels, please make contact and tell them about our fine organization... we always have room for more friends, right? I hope to see you all at the next rally ☺

Faithfully Yours,
David Hobdon
Alpine SoCAL



Pineapple Upside Down Bundt Cake

Ingredients: ½ cup butter (1 stick), melted; ½ cup packed brown sugar; 1 cup pineapple rings in 100% juice (reserve the juice); 1 jar maraschino cherries; 1 box yellow or pineapple cake mix; 1 4-serving box instant vanilla pudding; 3 eggs; vegetable oil, milk.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare the bundt pan by generously with non-stick spray. Melt the butter and evenly pour into the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Cut pineapple rings in half and alternate with the cherries around the pan.

Set aside. In a large bowl, stir the cake mix and pudding together. Drain the pineapple juice into a measuring cup and add enough milk to make 1 cup, add this to the eggs and amount of oil cake mix requires, following the instructions on the box. Carefully pour the batter over the fruit and bake as instructed for a bundt cake. Done when knife inserted comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in the pan. Slide a knife around the edges including the inner ring. Invert the cake onto a serving plate. Slice between the pineapple rings & serve.





FMCA National Director...Alpine SoCal: Carolyn Swan

Well here we are again, just around the corner from another season's change, as we see all the signs of Spring arriving with the blazing bright colors of flowers everywhere and the fragrance from roses bursting forth in vivid bloom! We have over 50 rose bushes that I faithfully cutback and tend each winter for this very moment in the year when the yard is in all its glory at the beginning of spring! To me it is symbolic of Easter as Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

I have discussed & explained, in the recent past, how Alpine SoCal is a FMCA Chapter of the Western FMCA Area. That is why we participate and help with the Indio FMCA Rally in January every year to support it. The last 2 years the Western Area has had great leadership under President Dick Gibbs who was going to serve two more years, but is stepping down because of recent health problems. We wish him (& his wife, Charlotte) all the best, as well as our appreciation for their years of service to FMCA.

The FMCA / WMHA Indio Rally attendance was low again this year (supposedly because of the much publicized El Niño rains that have not occurred & the early January start) but we are hoping for a stronger turnout in January, 2017 (theme will be "BEACH PARTY"), as it will begin a week later, January 10th. Therefore we certainly hope you will plan on coming and volunteering!

The FMCA Perry, GA. Spring Convention is now history. I have confirmed with Lon Cross, Senior Vice President of the Western Area (and our next President), that the 2017 Spring FMCA 95 Family Reunion – will be Feb. 8-11, 2017 Chandler AZ.

The Governing Board recently received word that the FMCA Executive Director, Jerry Yeatts, has resigned & a new replacement is being sought.

This summer Tris and I are excited to be attending the Governing Board meeting in Springfield, MA, a new location for a summer Convention! Go to www.fmca.com to register on line for August 3- 6, 2016/ FMCA's 94th Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase. Afterwards, we will be visiting the great North East and the Maritimes and taking Sherry, our recently widowed daughter, with us!

Have a wonderful, safe Spring whether you are traveling or just enjoying a beautiful explosion of color in your garden when the flowers are popping open full of color!

Carolyn Swan, FMCA National Director



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Membership Report Mary Langord, 1st V.P.



Mary's Musings

This morning Joel and I tackled our calendars, not just for this year, but planning ahead for 2017. It seems that everything in life is now on a "fast track". Went into the office here at Cotton Lane to reserve our usual spot for next February and was told it is "no longer available". "Whoa....that's a full year out....How can that be?" Well, it seems that folks are reserving spaces earlier and for longer periods. So, it's decision time if we want to return.

The above challenge is just one of many when you enjoy life on the road. Joel and I have always "flown by the seat of our pants" so to speak. We make very few reservations ahead of time and have never found ourselves without a place to call home at night. Sure hope that this new experience isn't a vision into the future. If so, it will definitely change our flexible lifestyle.

We have enjoyed "riding with the wind" toward a new fishing hole, a different mountain vista, or wherever beckons. Between those idyllic spots, we fit in visits with family to nourish the soul, and try to attend as many rallies as possible to enjoy activities with friends. We also enjoy finding time and places to just sit together and enjoy wherever is!

One challenge rv'ers always face is finding an answer when folk ask "What is your favorite destination?" It's a hard question to answer because at each spot there is a new sunrise, a different sunset, and a myriad of differences, yet the same awesome scenery of a world so beautiful in so many different ways. Is it just possible to love it all? See it all? We're gonna try!!!

We will not be attending the Newport Beach Rally, as we will be well up the road enjoying the Oregon coast. We are planning to see everyone in Paso Robles the first week in June. Until then, dig out your calendar and make sure you've scheduled an Alpine SoCal Rally to attend. Our SARC Committee has been working to give us great travel opportunities with a wide variety of rally experiences. Please check our website; alpinesocal.com and look at the rally schedules. You'll find all the information you need. Sign up and your Alpine friends will be happy to see you!



Mary & Joel

New Members Report Pg 5

New Members



Brian and Diane

Barry & Debbie

I'm really pleased to say that we currently have 73 members in Alpine SoCal. While at Lake Havasu, we were joined by Brian & Diane Enbom who reside in Discovery Bay, CA. Brian and Diane did as so many of our wonderful Alpine owners do. They jumped right in and fully participated in all of our activities. I'm sure we will all get to know them better at many future rallies.

Also Barry and Debbie Lacy, Anaheim Hills, CA joined us at Desert Rat Rally in Jan

As you can see, we have a wide variety of member snapshots. Do we have a fairly recent picture of YOU? Please open up your albums, pick out a nice picture and send it to me so that I can update our website with current pictures. Some of our member photos are 10 or more years old, and like a good bottle of wine, we've only gotten better with the passage of time. Lets make this the summer that we update our photos. Go to the Member Only section of our website and check out your picture.

We also have at least one additional couple who just recently purchased their first Alpine. They attended the Winter Blast and I'm sure will be joining our Chapter soon. I'm looking forward to receiving their info!

Continue passing the word about the fun we enjoy in Alpine SoCal and together we'll keep the number of members rising. Safe travels!

SARC MARCH 2016

SARC would like to give a big shout out to the Guhse's and Lisec's for the wonderful rally they put on for the Havasu Blast 2015. Rumor has it that a great time was had by all. The 3 F's, Fun, Food and Fireworks were the order of the week. Thanks again to our great Wagon Masters.

SARC would also like to thank the Langord's for their help at the Indio FMCA Rally. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

SoCal is proud to let you know we supported the 15th Annual ACA Quartzsite Rally as "Mixologists" for Fiesta Night Margarita's.

Remember there is now a simplified – user friendly, Wagon Master Accounting procedure and forms. And we have an enhanced WM Site Fees reimbursement. It is now simpler for you to volunteer to be a Wagon Master.

Update on the 2016 Rallies:

- Registration deadline for Newport Dunes Rally sign up is March 11.
- Coming soon – Registration for Paso Robles Wine Country Rally on June 1-8 2017 Rally Schedule is under final construction. Most rallies already have WM, SARC is seeking WM for the following rallies
- A Co-Wagon Master for 2017 Winter Blast, Lake Havasu, AZ
- Wagon Masters for Chula Vista, CA*
- Wagon Masters for Temecula, CA*
- Wagon Masters for a SoCal Pre-Rally Chandler, AZ FMCA RALLY

Recent procedural enhancements can be checked out on SoCal's website and there is now the elimination of supplemental rally fees for visiting Alpine Club members.

*these are merely suggestions, if you have another area you like, please let us know.

Sincerely SARC, Bill Figge, Stephanie Archer and Ramona Escamilla



Hey, I've got an idea -- Be a Rally Host !!!

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Alpine SoCal Rally Schedule Revised 2/18/16

Stephanie Archer

2016			
Apr 22 - 25	Newport Dunes RV Resort Newport Beach, CA	SoCal	Mike & Donna Hambarian GRBGMIKE@aol.com Greg & Marcy Vaughan gregvaughan@aol.com
Jun 01 - 08	Wine Country RV Paso Robles, CA	SoCal	David & Nicole Guhse daguhse@yahoo.com Sandy & Debi Johnson firecapt98@hotmail.com
Sep 29 - Oct 03	Pahrump Wine Crush Pahrump, NV	SoCal	John & Gail Stacy gjstacy42@gmail.com Nick & Ramona Escamilla ramona324@hotmail.com
Oct 31 - Nov 05	Betabel RV Park San Juan Bautista, CA	SoCal	Mike & Mike Collins alpinemikes@2mikeys.com Phillip Binley & Trudy Greenlaw philbinley@yahoo.com
2017			
Feb 16 - 20	Winter Blast SARA Rodeo Grounds Lake Havasu, AZ ***Need Co-Wagonmasters	SoCal	Joel & Mary G Langord marylangord@mac.com
Mar 31 - Apr 03	Alpine SoCal 15th Anniversary Chula Vista RV Park Chula Vista, CA ***Need Co-Wagonmaster	SoCal	Milo & Janet Prodanovich jmacneillo1@att.net Jim & Stephanie Archer saarcher@cox.net Jerry & Toni Smith geraldsmith18@hotmail.com
May 15 - 22	Jackson Rancheria RV Park Jackson, CA	SoCal	John & Lorraine Foster fostrfreez@aol.com Mike & Ann Fleming meflemin@pacbell.net
Sep 07 - 14	Mammoth RV Park (9/7-9/11) Boulder Creek RV Park (9/11-9/14) Mammoth/Lone Pine, CA	SoCal	John & Lorraine Foster fostrfreez@aol.com Mike & Ann Fleming meflemin@pacbell.net
Oct 13 - 23	TENTATIVE DATES !!!!!!! 10/13-10/16 or 10/20-10/23 Temecula Area, possibly Pechanga Temecula, CA ***Need Co-Wagonmasters	SoCal	Dean & Susan Vargo dunejumper221@gmail.com
*Last day listed is date of departure			
*Must register directly with FMCA			



Engineer Mike's .02 cents

Starting batteries don't get enough respect. Constantly, motorhome owners figure that if the coach starts, Voila! That's all I need. Truth is the start batt's work in tandem with the alternator while driving, and the starter when starting. If the batteries tax their partners, that can mean early wear and early break down.

Worn out or weak start batteries (read that low voltage) pull more amps from the alternator while driving, and also make the starter pull more amps while starting. Amps x Volts = Watts, and the starter needs a certain number of Watts to turn the engine over; if volts are low then amps have to go high, which taxes the insulation on starter windings and other parts causing early death. If the batteries constantly pull high amps from the alternator because they are getting weak, ditto on alternator windings & diodes.

I recommend keeping a close eye on start batteries. If they are 5 years or more old, you've got your money's worth, and if you let them discharge regularly, you are killing them early and risking a no-start or run-problem condition. I recommend 950 CCA per start battery, Interstate or another quality brand. Why hassle with bad starts, getting stranded and expensive parts replacement? That's my \$0.02.

EngineerMike 916-240-2141

Webmaster Report **Jim Archer**

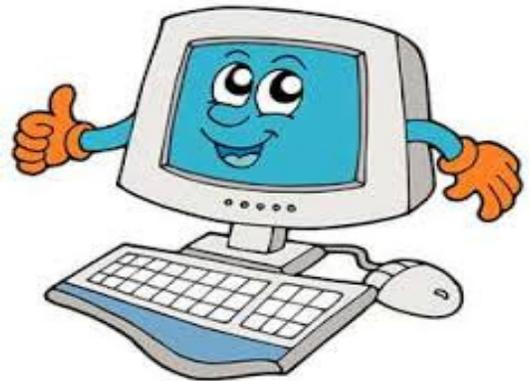
The website is continuing to function in spite of my changes! For those who have not logged into the members only section lately, there are a few new items. The minutes from recent membership meetings are now being posted by our secretary. (For the board members, you can also access the board meeting minutes.)

We have also posted our club documents, such as the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Policies. You will find these items in the "View Club Documents" link.

The online rally schedule is more accurate than ever. The schedule of rallies is created and maintained online, so what you see is what the SARC committee is using. This same schedule is used to create the PDF file for downloading as well.

The best news as far as I am concerned, all the above as well as all of the membership functions, can be done without me!!! I can sit here at the Spring Training rally without a care in the world. That alone improves the accuracy!

Please check out the rally schedule, and find a rally to attend.



Jim Archer

949-874-1082

Alpinesocal.com

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Quartzsite, AZ
Jan. 19-25, 2016

15th Annual Alpine Coach Association (ACA) Desert Rat Rally was held in Quartzsite, off of Plomosa Road. Hosted by ACA members Frank and Dessa Halaz along with Norm and Beth Cannon. Great job Wagonmasters.

ACA Desert Rat Rally hosted approximately 54 coaches – The exciting news is that Alpine SoCAL had about 24 coaches attending, **GREAT TURNOUT SoCAL.**

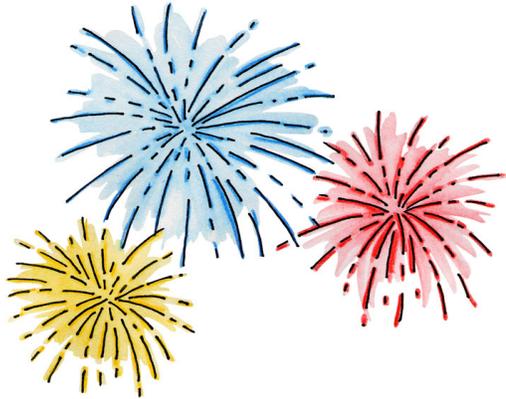
It's Quartzsite, it's the desert...always fun and you can do just about whatever you want. Rally activities included: Wine and cheese provided by Guaranty, golf outing, crafts, games, swap meet, gearhead session, night of Music and dancing (what fun). The "Always a Great Trip" Jeeping to the Desert Bar, guided by Greg Vaughn (and from what I heard it truly was in a few cases **"OFF THE ROAD"**). Jeeping to Dripping Springs, MAC the Fire Guy, and many, many trips to the "Big RV Tent" in town.

Food Great, some catered and some provided by the "Great Alpine Cooks" Yummy!!!



Love Dancing in a tent in the Desert

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ALPINE SOCAL WINTER BLAST
February 11-15, 2016
Lake Havasu City, AZ

FIREWORKS, Fireworks, fireworks!!!
Having never been before I couldn't believe there could be so many fireworks of all shapes, sizes, colors and formations! Simply gorgeous! The rally was February 11-15, 2016 at the S.A.R.A. Fairgrounds in Lake Havasu, AZ. We had 25 Alpine coaches enjoying a wonderful time dry camping, socializing with a little bit of food and beverage, of course. Some hardy souls even did a little hiking on the trails to a slot canyon or up the mountain to the high bluff.

A hearty thank you to our Wagonmasters Dave & Nicole Guhse and Paul & Katie Lisec for a wonderful time, great meals and providing our nightly entertainment of fireworks as we all gathered to ohhhh and ahhhh!

If you haven't been before put this on your calendar for 2017. Of course all Alpine outings provide a wonderful time to reconnect with our friends, this one was a blast!

Lorraine Foster



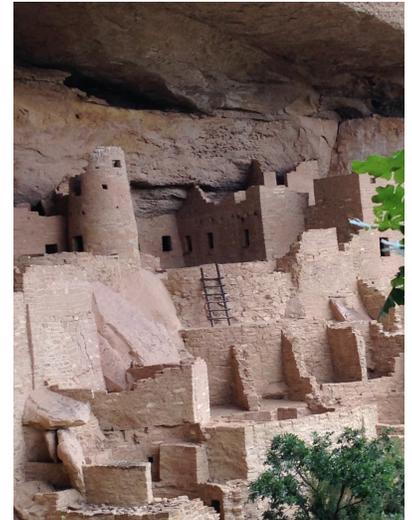
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Here we go, fire up your Alpine, hold on to your britches and let's hit the Colorado State Parks, mostly, along with some sites to see along the way. There are 42 State Parks in Colorado which can be found on their website cpw.state.co.us. Our goal was to see as many National Parks, National Monuments and sites as we circled Colorado! Now if you see this symbol ▲ it means a "travel tip" is next and this symbol means a place to visit. Jump in anywhere in the state, but I'm starting at the south west side of Colorado coming from New Mexico. One important thing to keep in mind, 90% of Colorado seems to have 5th wheels or trailers and camp every Friday and Saturday nights. So our habit of planning a week or so out for stops made that a little challenging so KOA was our expensive backup plan or an Elks Lodge.

★**Train enthusiasts** – Ride the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR Steam Train! We stopped in Chama, New Mexico and rode to Antonito, CO and back or ride the opposite starting in Antonito. This ride is half the \$price\$ of the Durango & Silverton RR, same gorgeous scenery and mountains. We rode them both and loved both except the \$\$ difference!

Colorado here we come! John & I started in Durango (at the KOA, whoops, no reservation).

Make the drive to Mesa Verde National Park, see Balcony House & the Cliff Palace and see how the Ancestral Pueblo people lived. Well worth the 137 mile round trip. ▲ Buy your tour tickets at the Visitor's Center before driving down. Living in Mesa Verde began about AD550, remodeling in AD1200 and leaving around AD1300 for unknown reasons.



Mesa Verde NP

Next stop was to go east to central Colorado over Wolf Creek Pass at 10,850' but an Alpine has no problem. ▲ If you can't see the end of the turnout don't turn in (don't ask how I know this...) The scenery was beautiful in every direction. Quick stop at Chimney Rock National Monument near Pagosa Springs, then on to camp in Alamosa so we could see 🌐 the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. A very unusual and unique site as the sand is trapped between two mountain ranges with opposing winds and is fed from two rivers into one with an ebbing current!



First state park we used was Lathrop State Park, very nice, wonderful bike trails, nice lake and very nice staff. They suggested we buy the ▲ Colorado State Park pass for \$70 if we'd be staying for more than 11 days at any state park. It covers your park entrance for your vehicles so you just pay the nightly camping fee between \$15-\$25. ▲ Make sure your toad is connected to your coach so it's one vehicle! We totaled 55 nights at state parks so the pass more than paid for itself. As I was on my family heritage

trail we visited Walsenburg and Pryor with our next stop Pueblo. The Museum of Friends & the Walsenburg Mining Museum were hidden treasures. Another surprise was the County Court House in downtown Pueblo. The building is beautiful with a gold dome and exquisite paintings inside. Also the Steelworks Museum was rich with history.

We now turned north up the 'Front Range' of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains towards Denver. ★**Train enthusiasts** – train ride, the Royal Gorge RR in Cañon City. Beautiful scenery along the river gorge! A better deal and views than driving up and paying the price to just walk the bridge.

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We had the beauty of all the bridge views and so many more on a train! Continuing along the canyon, enjoying the beautiful drive up the mountain to Cripple Creek and Mueller State Park with aspens, pines and rolling ridges to view and good paths to hike. We saw herds of 18+ elk and deer in the fields mostly on our evening drives to view wildlife. Beautiful!!

Back down the mountain and city life hits you from Colorado Springs north to Fort Collins, ugh! If you're an Elks member the Colorado Springs Lodge is wonderful with hookups, pool, good food & drink. Near by is the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, great to interact with the animals. On to the Denver area, Golden has two private parks across the street from each other. Worst park ever, Golden Terrace RV – never stay there, drive to anywhere before you stay there. Even if you have to go to Alaska for your next stop..... Across the street the Dakota Ridge RV Park is one of the very best we've seen but \$\$\$\$. By Golden is the Colorado Railroad Museum of old trains. Again, if you're an Elk the Westminster Elks Lodge has hookups and good food. Wild Animal Sanctuary with lions, tigers, bears and many other rescued animals was very nice to see in Denver.

In Loveland is Boyd Lake State Park which is nice, flat, with great paved bike paths surrounding the lake. We did a day trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, well worth the 119 mile trip seeing the views, elk and deer. Moving on through Fort Collins and up Highway 14 and the Coche la Poudre River Canyon to camp at State Forest State Park at 9,000' elevation in the Rockies. It is five miles of dirt road and very cold at night with large pine and rock mountains all around. We enjoyed hiking and fished Ranger Lakes and the river.

Look for Part II in the coming issue of the Matterhorn and we will travel the west side Of Colorado!



Elk in the meadow!



Rocky Mountain State Park

View at the top!

Over the pass, ending Part 1 of Traveling Colorado..... John and Lorraine Foster



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To all our Alpine friends, old and new, and those we haven't met yet.....we'd like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to produce the SoCal Alpine Matterhorn for you! I can say it's been a blast (Winter Blast)! We've traveled some low and rocky roads (Quartzsite) on to the lake and dam (Lake Powell). May we sing our Swan song with Carolyn as Mary enlightens us or even travel to Colorado. Yes, we do believe we have followed our President David well, we've Searched All Rocks and Crevices (SARC) putting our rallies together as Jim posts on our Web page and tried to listen to Engineer Mike to keep our Alpines running smoothly! Sometimes it wasn't a cakewalk, but who can resist a bright red cherry to keep us smiling? Welcome to all our new members as we start another year, and please to one and all, come join us on our travels! The only thing that's sweeter than rolling down the road and seeing another Alpine is to be doing it as a group!! Please join us in making the Matterhorn shine with your articles and tales of traveling, we welcome all you have to offer!

Again, thank you from your editors,
Ann Fleming meflemin@pacbell.net
Lorraine Foster fostrfreez@aol.com

