

MATTERHORN

Alpine SoCal Newsletter

A FMCA Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Grass Valley, Jun 1-6, 2022
- FMCA 106th Int'l Convention Lincoln, NE, Aug 24-27, 2022
- 20th Anniversary Rally, Borrego Springs, CA, Oct 30-Nov 4, 2022
- San Diego Rally, March 2023-Tentative
- Paso Robles Pinot & Paella Festival, Jun 1-6, 2023
- Bend/Sisters, Sept 5-17, 2023 Tentative
- Pechanga, Temecula, CA, Nov 5-10, 2023
- Shaver Lake CA-Sept 2-15, 2024, Tentative

• Add Value to Your Newsletter

President's Message

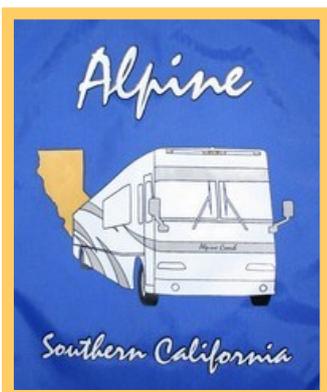


Spring has sprung! At least I thought it had, until one morning a few weeks ago, when we woke up to 4 inches of snow here in Portland! After spending 4 months in sunny Palm Springs, we thought we had missed winter, guess not. Happy Birthday to us! SoCal is 20 years old. Our first rally was held in March 2002

and hosted by Jim and Polly Klinko. To celebrate this milestone Milo & Janet Prodanovich along with Jim & Stephanie Archer will be hosting an anniversary rally at The Springs at Borrego RV Resort. Mark your calendars for Oct. 30th—Nov. 4th for great food, thrilling Jeep rides, a competition bean-bag toss, bocce ball, golf and much more under the warm desert skies. Watch for registration details in late summer. Our Grass Valley Rally will be coming up soon which is being co-led by our NorCal and ACA friends June 1-6. Registration is now

open. Forms are available @ http://alpinesocal.com/media/contentbuilder/upload/rally/Grass_Valley_Registration.pdf or https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rxqMZiFiNM3obVGm6dBtC4DpxM-E_aeT/view

The summer FMCA International Convention is to be held Aug 24-27, in Lincoln, NE. We need a club member to represent SoCal at this rally. As you may know, the SoCal FMCA National Director position remains unfilled at this time, and as an FMCA Chapter we are required to have representation at their annual board meeting. Please consider stepping into this void for this one rally. Your registration fees are paid, along with a cash stipend to help with travel costs. This might be a good opportunity for those planning to attend Tom Polk's "Bucket List Caravan"—you'll be in the "neighborhood!" Contact me for details-503-985-8501. As always, it is my pleasure to serve this great club. MANY thanks to our Wagon Masters, board members and the many members at large who contribute in big and small ways!



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by: Janet Prodanovich/1st. V.P. Membership

Our current membership is holding at 60 members with 2 of those being honorary life-time members. Reminder to all members that dues come due at the end of June. Currently our dues are \$15.00/year. Please consider a multiple year renewal. We have been finishing up with a kitchen remodel, so no travels to report on! Can't wait to get back into the kitchen and do some cooking. Here's a little cat and wine humor to share with you all! <https://dawgonnit.com/2021/11/09/the-winemakers-cat-video/>

WEBMASTER ARTICLE

by: Jim Archer

Greetings! It has been good to start getting out on the road again. We just returned from attending the Morro Bay rally. Thanks to the Collins and Smiths for putting on a great rally.

There is nothing exciting to report on the website, which I consider a good thing! There have not been any problems created by the routine software updates. All the features continue to function. As always, I encourage everyone to go to the website frequently to view the list of upcoming rallies. Those new to the club can also see a list of past rallies.

The rally committee has access to update the rally list, so you can be assured that the rally list is up to date. Please note that some rally dates may be tentative, but those should be marked as such.

I have a couple of projects to add a couple of features that have been requested. More on those next time! Happy Travels!

SARC 4th QUARTER 2021

by: Debbie Lacy

Happy Spring and Happy Trails to all of you from you SARC Committee. This year started off with the 20th Anniversary Desert Rat Rally in Quartzsite, Arizona, which might possibly be the last DRR to be held in Quartzsite. Norm Cannon, the Rally Director for ACA is looking into a new location for next year. We had a good showing of So Cal members at the rally this year. We would like to thank Bill & Rhoda Barr and Jerry & Marilee Fichera for hosting the Yuma Pre-Rally to the FMCA Rally in Tucson this past March. We really appreciate the Ficheras for stepping up after the passing of Steve & Gayle Picha. We would also like to thank the Mike & Mike Collins and Jerry & Toni Smith for hosting the Morro Bay Rally. You will find recaps of both rallies here in the newsletter. Our next rally on the schedule is another joint rally with NorCal June 1-6 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California hosted by the Jerry & Marilee Fichera and the Mayfields. You should have received your registration for this rally in the past week. Our last rally this year is our 20th Anniversary Rally, October 30th --November 4th, at The Springs at Borrego, Borrego Springs, California hosted by the Milo & Janet Prodanovich and Jim & Stephanie Archer. More information is here in the newsletter. We hope to see you all there. Our rally schedule for 2023 is coming together nicely. See the schedule below. We have a few that have the dates as tentative as the wagon masters are still finalizing the details. We hope that everyone is doing well and looking forward to attending some of the upcoming rallies.

2022-2024 Rally Schedule

<http://www.alpinesocal.com/media/contentbuilder/upload/rally/master-rally-schedule37.pdf>

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RALLY REMINISCINGS

Desert Rat Rally, 20th Anniversary Quartzsite, AZ- Jan 19-25, 2022

by: Marcia Hicks

Crazy Hat Contest



The desert whispered and we once again gathered for the 20th anniversary of the Desert Rat Rally in Quartzsite, Arizona. Just over 70 Alpine coaches from across the country rolled into the sandy site and the fun began! The tent was raised, and we were ready to party!! The festivities included lots of great food, line dancing lessons, crazy hat

contest, crazy t-shirt night, movie night with 007, the burning of the ACA effigy and much more! Thanks to Steve Maurmann and his great team for a fabulous rally.

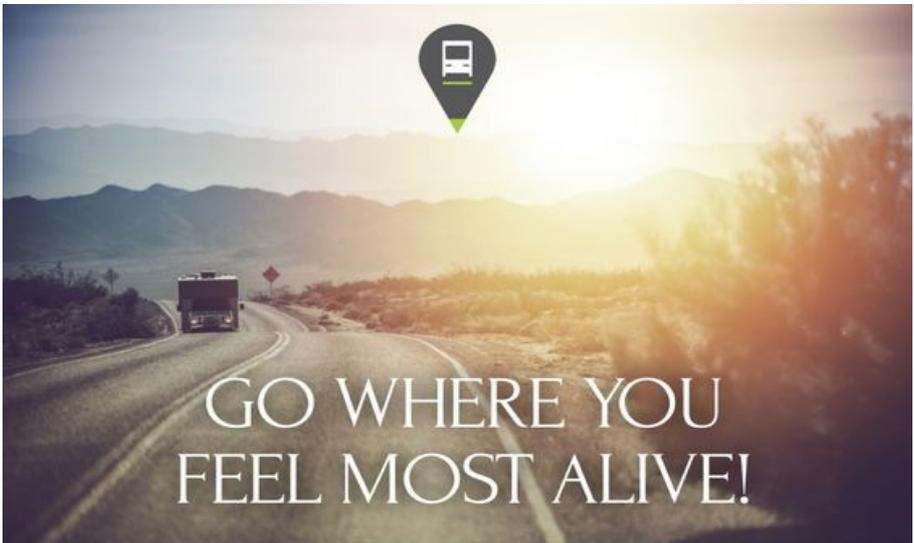


Line Dancing Lessons

20th Anniversary Desert Rat Rally-Group Photo



Additional photos of the fun at Desert Rat Rally can be found at this link: [:https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipO0kyt9pn2V7jdArCwXs-2Mn80tqxdpAIJl-ipJi6VgurAQYFHkYZo1JzJW2nAdLw?](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipO0kyt9pn2V7jdArCwXs-2Mn80tqxdpAIJl-ipJi6VgurAQYFHkYZo1JzJW2nAdLw?)



FMCA Tucson Pre-Rally, Yuma, AZ- March 15-20, 2022

by: Jerry Fichera



Well, if you missed the Fichera/ Barr rally to Yuma, you missed another successful one if I do say so myself. We had 10 rigs attend, some of who we have not seen for a while and was nice to catch up. We had some issues with the park, a couple of members had power problems and because it was a resident park, we had to check schedules for club house availability. The park was very accommodating, and it all worked out.

The tour to the mining town of Castle Dome, which was built in 1878 was very cool. We walked on the original board walkways. The town was small but had 5 saloons! We all have our priorities, I guess. Visited the family-owned Peanut Patch. They no longer raise their own peanuts because of white flies but now ship in the peanuts. The woman, forgot her name, told us about the history behind the peanut and the different kinds of peanuts and what they were used for. The gift shop had everything peanuts-peanut brittle, peanut butter, candy covered peanuts, peanut fudge, along with a bunch of other nuts. I'm talking about the shop, not the group, but that's it in a nutshell! Also took a tour of a date farm on a tractor pulled wagon, learned the history of dates, and tasted date ice cream. I know what you're thinking, YUCK. But it was actually pretty good. All in all, everyone had a great time in Yuma.

FMCA Int'l Convention, Tucson, AZ- March 23-26, 2022

by: Jerry Fichera

The FMCA rally in Tucson was good, especially if you like goat heads. They are 3-sided thorny pain in the tush that stick to EVERYTHING. If there is only one in your coach, your bare feet will find it. Anyway, some of us got to drive the golf carts bringing the people to and from,



which is always fun meeting everyone from around the country. There were several vendors selling everything from awning replacement to vacation spots. There were a lot of, new and used RV's for sale as well. 10 coaches were sold in one day! A couple of our members were part of that 10, yep, congrats to the Grindstuffs and Arnolds on their purchase of new-to-them coaches!

The music was good this year, but our 5:00pm happy hour every night was better. Our free time gave of plenty of time to visit Tombstone and the surrounding Tucson area. all departed with goat heads stuck in our shoes and socks. Until next time, safe travels...



Morro Dunes RV Park, Morro Bay CA, March 30-April 5, 2022

By Stephanie Archer

THANK YOU, Mikey & Mike Collins and Toni & Jerry Smith for bringing together 17 coaches for 5 fun days at Morro Dunes RV Park in Morro Bay, California! We ate lots and lots, played golf, walked along the beach and into town, antiqued, tasted wine and olive oil, visited a “rookery” of nesting white egrets and great blue herons. Attendees came from as far north as Ukiah, CA; as far south as San Diego, CA and as far east as Peoria, AZ.

THANK YOU, Bob, and Helena Mazzocco, for arranging a day of golf as well as a day to visit Cambria and enjoy lunch at Linn’s, famous for their olallieberry pies.

Good thing the RV park is directly across from the beach, so we could walk off all the calories we consumed.

by: Mike Collins

Greetings from Morro Bay, California, and the folks at the Alpine SoCal/NorCal Morro Bay Rally! We had a free day and, at the highly informative suggestion of Helena Mazzocco, several of us moseyed up the coast to Cambria for the afternoon. It was a gorgeous, sunny day for it, too! After strolling through town, about twenty of the approximately thirty-three attendees of the rally met at Linn’s for lunch (and pie!) We all had wonderful time! And thank you Helena & Bob for all the information and encouragement to visit beautiful Cambria! We will be back!



Morro Rock/Beach View

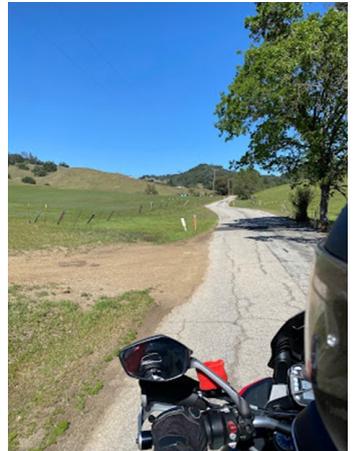
by: Helen Hillix & James Feathers

This was our third ACA Rally, having owned our Alpine for only 6 months. All of them have been extremely well organized and to say that everyone



Helen Hillix & James Feathers

is always well fed is an understatement! Morro Bay was no exception. And the Morro Dunes RV Park is a gem! It’s right across the street from a gorgeous beach and The Rock that gave Morro Bay its name. Morro Bay is a jewel of the central coast, close to everything you might want to do, bicycling, motorcycle-friendly backroads, great hiking trails, shopping, and restaurants galore (both in Morro Bay and surrounding hamlets like Cambria), kayaking, ranger-guided nature tours, Hearst Castle, elephant seals, whatever catches your fancy, you’ll find it there. We did almost all of it!



Our first delight was just across the street and over the sculptural sand dunes to the beach. There were curlews, sandpipers, pelicans, and sea gulls that sparked our endless curiosity as we watched them hunting in their peculiar ways.



Strewn over the beach were sand dollar treasures and a view of the surrounding hills to complete the ambience. Cont. pg. 6

This was our first trip with our motorcycle, carried on our custom, James-designed and built platform and we were so glad we brought it! Perhaps our favorite outing was a spectacular backroads trip on the motorcycle from our park up into the mountains on Old Oak Rd/Santa Maria Creek Rd on a circuitous, little-travelled route to Cambria. Breathtaking views of the hills/meadows/ocean added to the windy, oak-lined road and an occasional wild turkey made for a magical experience! We met the gang in Cambria for lunch and perused the quaint and unique offerings in the shops and galleries there.



Trip to Cambria

Bicycling from the RV park was made easy with great bike paths that took us

around The Rock and into the town of Morro Bay,

along the marina and harbor where we saw the most adorable animal on earth, the sea otter, languishing in its safe home. Herons, egrets, peregrine falcons, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, besides the usual ground rodents and lizards kept us company and delighted us with their antics.

Our second motorcycle ride took us down the coast to Montana del Oro, part of Los Osos State Park, which is 8000 acres of mind-blowing beauty and variety. Don't miss a chance to see it. We were delighted to see the care they were giving the forest to keep it healthy and prevent wildfires, too.

Great Blue Heron



San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens

Our lovely hosts had arranged for a fascinating tour in the Morro Bay State Park, where our interpretive rangers, Robin, and Derek, educated us about their heron rookery and marine estuaries. It was a great treat watching these graceful birds tend to their enormous nests high above us. And estuaries where not only do humans farm oysters, but a huge variety of animal life thrives, including providing a nursery for leopard sharks, an important part of the ecosystem.

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens, complete with a hike that led us toward Eagle Rock and a view of several of the other volcanic plugs

they call The Sisters offered our final delightful outing.

As we drive along the Pacific toward home with our beloved pups and our fabulous Alpine coach, we are grateful for yet another extraordinary experience! Thanks to all who made it possible!



Morro Rock @ Morro Bay

Group @ Lin's Restaurant



Submissions to the newsletter can be made at any time. Articles and photos can be sent to: marcia.hicks56@gmail.com. Articles in .pdf or Word format, photos as.jpg.

Marcia Hicks, Editor

I will be publishing this newsletter every three to four months. If you wish to contribute something, please send it to:

When submitting articles and photo, please senphotos separately as jpg files. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me any time. Until next time, live, love, laugh and keep on camping!