



Matterhorn

Alpine So Cal

A Chapter of FMCA

Gail Stacy, President

gjstacy@cox.net

Issue #32

Winter Feb 2013

Donna J. Hall, Editor

dchall002@gmail.com

Notes from President Gail.....



Gail & John Stacy

John and I had wonderful holidays with our family, and I certainly hope all of you did as well. We started the New Year out with our

usual caravan into the FMCA Western Area Rally in sunny Indio. There were 23 coaches in our caravan, primarily from SoCal and NoWACA with a couple of NorCals thrown in. Two more Alpiners joined us on Thursday, so we ended up with a total of 25 rigs this year.

As always, we had a good time wandering around the vendor booths, attending seminars and gathering together at day's end. Well, except for the extreme winds we had on Thursday...but at least there wasn't any flu this year! While there, 22 of us volunteered to help with rally chores, which were not really much work. We manned the monitor table in the craft hall and several of the other seminars. And, as reward, were treated to a dinner courtesy of Western Motor Home Association.

Due to a conflict, I was unable to attend Quartzsite this year. It seemed really strange to go home from Indio, and I'll miss seeing everyone there. I also have a conflict for the next SoCal rally, unfortunately, as my dear daughter gave me plane tickets for Christmas...we leave for South Africa on March 15, and I am quite excited. Of course, I will be sorry to not be able to see those of you who do attend the Mission Bay rally. But, I know you will have a wonderful time.

John & I hope you all have good health and fun trips 'til we see you again!

* * *

1st VP/Membership Director

Mary Langord

marylangord@mac.com

It's been fairly quiet the last couple of months. We currently have 71 members, and I've heard that there are two families considering our Chapter. Now we just have to come up



with the right motivation to get a higher percentage of our members actively involved in our chapter activities. Keep spreading the word of "How Great we Alpiners are!!"

* * *

"JOB" OPENING – Help Wanted! Need someone to step forward and assume the position of **Newsletter Editor**. Things are changing in my "world" and I won't be able to continue with these duties much longer. You'll need fairly good computer skills. Don't worry, I'll help you. PLEASE contact either Gail or myself. I've enjoyed doing this for these past years but it's time for some new blood. Think about it. You'll have full editorial license as to format, content etc! Thanks, **Donna (dj)Hall**, Editor

* * *

2nd VP/Rally Director

Stephanie Archer

saarcher@cox.net

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. **Jim, Zozey** and *I* certainly did. Since



Christmas, we've been up to our eyeballs in home improvement projects. The beautiful Blue Louise granite we fell in love with at the St. George rally was delivered

the day after Christmas. This motivated **Jim** to start building the cabinets for our two bathrooms. The cabinets are sitting in our living room. Unfortunately, that project got stalled when we discovered a slab leak under our living room (didn't cause any damage, but it was the second slab leak in less than two years). We had our house repiped to move the water lines into the attic. Naturally, that led to additional work for us – installing a new water heater; repainting walls that had been patched and re-textured after the new water lines were installed; and building, installing and painting a wooden cover for the new copper water pipe that runs up the front of our house! We missed the FMCA rally in Indio because of the repiping project. And we missed the Desert Rat rally because **Jim** was inducted into the local Elks lodge during that time. We are more than ready to hit the road in the RV for a little rest and relaxation!

February 13 – 18 will be our first outing with the club. We will be dry camping for five nights at the rodeo grounds in Lake Havasu City, AZ. The Western Pyrotechnic Association's Winter Blast fireworks extravaganza will take place during that time. It is 4 nights of firework displays (Thursday – Sunday). Saturday's and Sunday's show are each over 2 hours long. A flyer with more details about this event is posted on the ACA website (www.alpinecoachassociation.com/UpcomingEvents). If you would like to camp with us, reserve a camping spot via the Havasu Friends of the Fair website (www.havasufof.com) or call Sandi Nagel at 928-208-2093. Pay for four nights camping (\$100 total), mention Alpine

SoCal, and Sandi Nagel will make sure we get parked together. If you are in the area and would like to come to one of the firework shows, visit the Havasu Friends of the Fair website for details on parking, entrance fees and road closures. Give me a call (949-874-1081) to let me know you're coming and hopefully you can join the group to watch the fireworks.

St. Patrick's Day weekend, March 15 – 18, 2013, we will gather at Mission Bay RV Resort in San Diego (www.missionbayrvresort.com). Sea World, Old Town San Diego, Seaport Village, San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, Coronado Island and the San Diego harbor are points of interest. There will be plenty of opportunities to eat during this rally. Friday evening we're having a potluck desert at 7pm. On Saturday evening, we'll celebrate with newlyweds **Milo & Janet Prodanovich**. They are providing the entrée for a Mexican potluck dinner. And on St. Patrick's Day, we'll feast on corned beef and cabbage. It's a good thing there are many things to do near Mission Bay. We'll need lots of exercise to work off all the calories we'll be consuming! The last day to sign up for this rally is February 14th. The rally registration form is posted on our Alpine SoCal website (www.alpinesocal.com) as well as on the ACA website. Thank you, **Milo** and **Janet** for providing the Mexican dinner entrée. And thank you **Tris & Carolyn Swan** and **Rick & Judy Fisher** for hosting this rally.

September 5 – 12, **Bob & Connie Bowers, Jim & June Cheshire** and **Jim & Stephanie Archer** are hosting our week long rally in southwestern Colorado at Bayfield Riverside RV Park (www.pineriverrvcamp.com), 20 miles southeast of Durango. This is a beautiful RV park with big rig friendly sites, lots of grass and shade trees, streams and a pond for fishing. At this time of year, the day time temperature averages 75 degrees and the night time temperature averages 45 degrees. Possible activities include a guided tour of the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park, a train ride from Durango to Silverton on the narrow gauge railroad, a tour of the narrow gauge train yard, a guided off road drive in the area above Silverton, a melodrama at the historic Strater Hotel in Durango. There is plenty to see and do on the way to and/or from this area. Do plan to spend some extra time visiting the surrounding area. Toward the southwest, stay at Gouldings RV Park and visit Monument Valley, UT. Toward the northwest, stay in Moah, UT and visit Canyonlands and Arches Nat'l Parks. Toward the southeast, ride the Cumbres & Toltec train in Chama, NM then drive on to Taos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Toward the northeast, stop in Colorado Springs to visit the Air Force Academy, ride the Pikes Peak cog railway, and enjoy the beautiful rock formations at Garden of the Gods city park.

Because so many of our members will be traveling outside of California during the month of October, the Golden Shores RV Resort rally in Long Beach, CA has been rescheduled for April 2014.

I'm looking for two volunteers to host a rally during either the second or third weekend in November. To make the planning easier, I'd like to suggest a few possible locations: Newport Dunes RV Park, Newport Beach, CA; East Shore RV Park, San Dimas, CA; Yucaipa Regional Park, Yucaipa, CA; Indian Waters RV Resort, Indio, CA; Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA; Golden Village Palms RV Resort, Hemet, CA.

I'm also looking for two volunteers to host a rally in either February or March 2014.

Mid-April 2014, **Mac & Anne McDougal** and **Sandy & Debi Johnson** are hosting a rally at Golden Shores RV Resort (www.goldenshoresrv.com) in Long Beach, CA. This RV resort is located within walking distance of the Aquarium of the Pacific and many great restaurants; near the boat launch for trips to Catalina Island; within easy driving distance to Ports O'Call Village, the Queen Mary, the Scorpion Russian submarine and the USS Iowa battleship.

Our week long rally in 2014 will be held at the Napa Valley Expo RV Park (www.napavalleyexpo.com/f-rvs.html) in Napa, CA from May 21 – 28. This location is a great place from which to visit Napa and Sonoma wineries, San Francisco (rather than drive, ride a ferry from Vallejo to SF), Oakland and Sacramento. **Bill & Patti Figge** and **Phil & Trudy Binley** are hosting this rally.

I hope to see you at one or more of these rallies. Registration forms will be emailed to you at least two months prior to each rally date and will be posted on both our Alpine SoCal website and the ACA website. Sign up early to be sure you have a spot reserved. And PLEASE, if you've never hosted a rally, consider doing so. It is a lot of fun and you really get to know your club members better.

* * *

FMCA Western Area Rally – Indio, Ca. By Gail Stacy, President

There were about 1,100 motor homes in attendance at this year's WMHA rally in Indio, of which 25 were with SoCal. Most of us arrived at the Fantasy Springs Casino on Monday, the 7th and spent the night there. We caravanned over to the fairgrounds on Tuesday morning. We go in a day early as we volunteer to help with rally seminars, and there is always an organization meeting that afternoon and a volunteer "thank you" dinner that evening.

Wednesday, the 9th was the first day of the rally and there were not many activities planned by WMHA, as they always assume that is arrival day. I would bet that more than half of the attendees arrive early...of course, that is because a lot of people volunteer their time to make the rally successful. Coach displays opened in the afternoon, so some of our group browsed there. I heard some talk about a beautiful Newell for only a half million...wonder who will buy it?!

Thursday was the first day that everything was in full swing, including the wind! I left my coach about 9:00am to head for a seminar...it was quiet then, but about 5 minutes later the wind came up...and I mean it really came in with a whoosh! It created a dust storm throughout the fairgrounds, blowing hats and other items all over. It lasted all day, so there was no happy hour that evening. As it was, I was taking mud out of the corner of my eyes all day!

Friday and Saturday found everyone out and about, with calm winds and just slightly cool temperatures. A turn around the vendor tent allowed me to discover our own **Mary Ann Ratliff**! She and **Orville** were selling their "campfire in a can", which some of you may have seen before. The afternoons ended with happy hours that allow us to share anything of interest we learned or found during the day. WMHA always has entertainment in the evenings, but I'm a party pooper and never go...perhaps others did and can share their experience.

On Sunday, everyone wandered off to local RV parks to while away the time before Desert Rat, or on to Quartzsite to wait for DRR to start, or on to Havasu or other destinations. I enjoyed my time there, and I think everyone else did as well. Perhaps you can join us next year...it's a great way to spend a week in the desert in January, with the added bonus of being with Alpine friends!

* * *

Welcome to our newest members:

Lets all welcome our newest members **David & Stilla Hobden**. Many of you have met them, as they attended



both the SoCal rally in Utah, and the ACA Desert Rat Rally in Quartzsite.

They are residents of Colorado Springs, Co and enjoy their Alpine

activities. We look forward to seeing them on our future outings.

Robert (Bob) King joined Alpine SoCal this past September. He lives in Ojai, Ca. So, again welcome Bob. We hope to see you at an upcoming rally real soon.



* * *

**A Word (or 2) from our FMCA Director
Carolyn Swan, National Director**
swansnest2@verizon.net

Well here it is, another year and we are already off to a running start! **Tris** and **I** spent the last two months of

2012 getting moved in and settled in our new home in North Tustin. We were delighted to have our son's family of 8 come



for a visit from Oregon over Christmas week. After they left it was cleaning up and more unpacking so we could be ready to leave January 7th for the Western FMCA Rally in Indio that week. However, our plans went awry as we had engine problems with the Apex and spent the next 3 days limping to Cummins in Rialto and then to Redlands Truck, and back to Cummins and back to Redlands. Alpine SoCal's good friend, Keith Shomaker, saw that we were well taken care of and they actually diagnosed the problem for Cummins to fix!

We didn't get to Indio until Thursday, so we actually only got in on the activities that day (the windiest day of the week). **Gail Stacy** headed up a group of Alpines (about 30 coaches) from SoCal and other visiting ACA members, which we briefly visited in between making our rounds of the Exhibits/Vendors and the Coach Display. We thought the Fairgrounds looked packed this year but

there were actually fewer than 1100 coaches. It was a chilly week and there has been a lot of colds and flu going around this month, which could have accounted for the less than optimal number of coaches. The Dealers with Display Coaches reported there were upwards of twenty coaches that found new homes at our rally.

At the end of the day we headed for Quartzsite and stayed at the Quails Run RV Park on Hwy 95 for only \$30 a night. It is a very nice park with all the hook-ups and clean laundry for only \$2.25 wash & dry. Our first night there (Friday) it was only 27 degrees, and it warmed up to 33 by Wednesday night when we went out to Plomosa Road for ACA's Desert Rat Rally. **Beth & Norm Cannon** were wonderful hosts and put on a great Rally for about 80 ACA coaches (about 13 were SoCal members). We headed towards home Monday night after a great Mexican dinner catered by Casa Fernandez out of Lake Havasu City, as we had to stop at Redlands again Tuesday morning to complete our "fix"!

We are now back home – still unpacking more boxes and organizing our accumulation of "stuff" collected over 45 years in our prior nest – so that we can leave again February 2nd. This time we are flying off to Guadalajara Mexico for a week mission trip with our "Guest Helpers" team of 16. We will be taking a bus 4 hours north/west to Tepic where we will be doing construction work at a church, painting and planting a garden. There is always lots of work to be done and when we leave, they are always amazed at how much work "old white haired workers" have accomplished.

We will be home from this trip 3 days when we pack up again and head to Pahrump NV to attend Front Sight's 4 day Defensive Handgun Training class we are taking with our Grandson Harrison, who is flying in from North Carolina to attend. We will be home Feb 19th to start finalizing the details of our SoCal March Rally in San Diego! This brings me to the next thing I want to remind you about...

ALPINE SOCAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY RALLY – Mission Bay RV Resort in San Diego – March 15-18. 2013

This is a 3 night Rally starting on Friday and ending on Monday. You must have your registration and money into me by Monday February 18. The cost for 2 persons in a rig is \$155.00. We will be doing a potluck Dessert on Friday night, a Mexican Potluck Dinner Saturday night - celebrating the Prodanovich's wedding, and a St Patrick's Corned Beef dinner Sunday night.

One last thing, start planning now for the FMCA 50th Anniversary Bash in Gillette WY, June 19-22, 2013 – go to FMCA website and register now.

That is it for me this time – travel safe and we hope to see you in March in San Diego!

Carolyn for the Swans

* * *

Mary's Musings

By Mary Langord

As I sit here in my comfortable lounge chair in my Alpine "home away from home", I am reminded once again how connected friends become through the various FMCA Chapters. Our Alpine SoCal group now has 72 wonderful members. We've not met all of them, but we have made many great friends through attendance at the various rallies and activities.

This month we made some last minute travel plans to go to Quartzsite. We were fortunate enough to be able to meet up with a fellow Alpiner and participate with his friends in another chapter. We were welcomed and have found once again that the shared love of travel and the outdoors have led us to a whole new group of friends. RVers are just such great folks. You never know until you get into new situations how much we all have in common.

Sitting around the table enjoying good Mexican food in Quartzsite, Joel discovers that he and the person sitting across from him not only graduated from San Diego State University at the same time, but they also attended and graduated together from Sweetwater High School. How cool is that?

Final thought: Work with your calendars, plan ahead and attend as many rallies as possible. The more you participate, the more benefits and new friends come your way.

Hope to see you just down the road always!

* * *

ALPINE COACH FOR SALE.....

2005 36' MidDoor, 2 Slides Coach

- Under 20,000 miles original miles
- 6 NEW Michelin Tires
- 6 NEW batteries - includes 2 new House batteries
- Platinum package from WRV - handsome traditional real wood cabinets.

- Side-by-side refrigerator S/S, S/S sink,
- micro/convection oven & gas stove top.
- Slim-sliders, custom made and installed in Idaho
- Blue OX installed on coach - tow car can be purchased along with the coach - 2008 red CRV/Honda with Blue Ox installed for extra \$\$
- Braking system installed to sense downhill speed.
- Heat/AC
- Awnings on all windows along with the large ones
- Koni shocks and motion control sensors on air bags.

This is **Rick Coleman's** coach and he was a stickler for having the latest and greatest. If you or a friend are in the market for an Alpine, they don't come any better than this one!!! \$125,000.00

Contact **Sue Coleman** – she is listed in the Alpine SoCal Membership Roster.

* * *

Suggested RV Parks

While on a two month RV trip last year, **Jim and Vivi-an Weinheimer** stayed at these RV Campgrounds and wanted to pass this information on to our members. If you'd like more information about their trip please contact them.

College Park, Maryland – As the closest RV Park and campground to Washington, D.C., [Cherry Hill Park info@cherryhillpark.com](mailto:info@cherryhillpark.com) is the perfect place to stay while camping and exploring our nation's capital. Transportation into the city is available from the campground multiple times daily. It is a nice safe park with many amenities.

Memphis, Tennessee – The Memphis-Graceland RV Park & Campground gracelandrvpark@elvis.com is located on 19 acres just off Elvis Presley Blvd behind Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel and conveniently located across the street from Graceland. The Graceland tour is very well organized and a definite must see. Another interesting event to visit while in Memphis is a trip to the Peabody Hotel to watch the famous "Duck Walk". Nearby is the famous Beale Street, home of the blues where Elvis performed with the local musicians when he was young.

* * *

Have you Co-hosted a rally lately/yet? How 'about volunteering? Contact **Stephanie Archer** for more information!

THE BRIDGE WALK TO WURSTFEST "Rolling Rally"

By Paul & Dale Sullivan



Since some of us were planning on heading to Texas for the Heritage Rally in New Braunfels on October 30th, we decided that the trip would make a great ROLLING RALLY. So **Dale** and **I** have put our heads together along with **Mike & Mike Collins,**

and have come up with the following WARNING: This will be a pretty laid back Rally, light on the scheduled events and heavy on the free time. **Another difference is that you can go all the way, one stop or any combination.**

Tom Cook is handling the Bridge Walk at Mackinaw, so look for his information on that and Jan Sandmire is handling the Heritage Rally and she'll have registration forms available soon.

We will meet in Viroqua, Wisconsin on **September 6th**. A suggestion is to stop at the famous HOUSE ON THE ROCK for a day en route. No need for reservations in Viroqua, we'll give you directions to the County Park where there are ample sites on a first come basis. Viroqua was highlighted in an ACA Newsletter article <http://alpinecoachassociation.com/newsletters/2011-09-ACA.pdf> so check it out and let us know when to expect you. Probably find a golf course here, too.

Next we go to Goose Island County Park, only 25 miles from



Viroqua and on the Mississippi River. We will get to watch the barge traffic, find a local fish fry and drive back

to Viroqua for the Vernon County Fair (<http://www.vernoncountyfair.com>). I am guessing that with all the Amish Crafters in Vernon County it will be well worth a visit.

If you remember the musical The Music Man and RIVER CITY, we will find it when we reach Mason City, Iowa. We will stay in a Municipal Park, also a first come basis where the supply exceeds demand this time of year, and it is right on the river. The historical sites here are many. If you want to spend the day in 1912 style, visit The Music Man Square where you can learn all about Mason City's very own "Music Man" Meredith Wilson who was born here and went on to create famous musicals and songs that are beloved all over the world. This is also home to the Iowa Traction Railroad, one of the few remaining railways that are still using electric locomotives for freight transport.

Next stop is Pella, Iowa, which was a Dutch settlement that still has the flavor of Holland. See the wooden shoe making machine, the Glockenspiel, and the working windmill (imported from Holland and assembled on site) which grinds the flour for the local bakeries where we'll all want to stop. We will stay in a Corps of Engineers Park, and we'll give you directions and booking instructions when you let us know you are planning on attending.

Next we will go to Kansas City and stay in an RV Park to be determined. We are planning on a visit to Fort Leavenworth and see this historic Military Post. They have a Memorial to the Buffalo Soldier and a wonderful Museum. We'll do a dinner at an original KC BBQ Joint and have an opportunity to tour historic KC and The Truman Library in nearby Independence.

Staying in Kansas, we'll go across the state to Hutchinson and park at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Hutchinson is home to the only Salt Mine that allows tourists. <http://www.undergroundmuseum.org/index.php> We'll go down 650 feet and explore various parts of the mine adjacent to the Museum. It is mind boggling to realize that the mine extends 13 miles under Kansas. We will also visit The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center www.cosmo.org with the largest collection of space artifacts outside the Smithsonian, and the largest collection of Soviet space hardware in the Western world; you'll be surrounded by the sights, sounds, and thrills of man's journey to the stars. The Cosmosphere was also recently named one of the 8 Wonders of Reno County, as well as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas!

Restored by the Cosmosphere, authentic V-1 and V-2 rockets are displayed in the German Gallery and set the stage for the acceleration of rocket development in the 20th century. The Cold War Gallery's display of technology testing, Sputnik, and Sputnik II highlight Russia's early dominance of the space race. And much much more! There may be a Golf Course here, too!

From Kansas our next stop will be Oklahoma City. Visit the [Oklahoma City National Memorial](#) in the northern part of Oklahoma City's downtown and the inscription on its eastern gate says, "To honor the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were changed forever on April 19, 1995". The outdoor Symbolic Memorial can be visited 24 hours a day for free, and the adjacent Memorial Museum, located in the former Journal Record building damaged by the bombing, can be entered for a small fee. We'll also have a guided tour, with lunch at The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/. This is a museum with more than 28,000 [Western](#) and [American Indian](#) art works and [artifacts](#). The facility also has the world's most extensive collection of [American rodeo](#), [photographs](#), [barbed wire](#), [saddlery](#), and early rodeo trophies. Museum collections focus on preserving and interpreting the heritage of the [American West](#).

We'll also do a lunch or dinner in the Stockyard area, and it is still a working Stockyard.

On to Dallas and Fort Worth where we'll be staying at the North Texas Camp Resort, a Jellystone Park, in Fort Worth. We'll visit the Stockyard Historic District, Billy Bobs and a host of other Dallas sites. Since we're there a week and have access to a great room, look for a BBQ and potluck, Alpine style.

Heading south from Ft. Worth on I-35 we will stop at the I-35 RV Park in Waco. The Texas Ranger Museum (www.texasranger.org/), along with the Dr. Pepper Museum (www.drpeppermuseum.com) will be great stops before we go to The Homestead Heritage (www.homesteadheritage.com/) for a tour of this unique place and lunch supplied by their farm gardens and dairy. This is an amazing area that many of us have driven through and missed a great place to visit.

The last stop will be in Fredericksburg, Texas in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Alpiners Barb and Will Rathke are residents here and they have laid out a great visit. We will see the Museum of the Pacific Theatre www.nimitz-museum.org/, go to the diner at the Hangar Hotel (truly one-of-a-kind), and tour and taste the local vineyards. The Lyndon Johnson Ranch and National Park is nearby and not to be missed. Wildseed Farms is a great opportunity to view blooming flower fields and buy Texas flower seeds and other garden items. We will do a dinner at a great German Restaurant.

San Antonio will be our last stop and serve as the Pre Rally for New Braunfels. We will have full hookups at the KOA, just a few miles from the Alamo. We will have 7

days to leisurely tour this historic city.

The Alamo, Cradle of Texas Liberty, should be our first stop; this Mission has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. You cannot help but be moved as you walk these hallowed halls.

We will lunch together at famous Mi Tierra and then tour the Market Square District and El Mercado.

No visit would be complete without a cruise down the San Antonio River and discover the Riverwalk. It is replete with shops, foliage and boutiques.

An evening poolside party and hors d'ouvres will give us a chance to visit with new friends and catch up with old friends. We will also BBQ one night and enjoy a famous Alpine potluck.

On your own there is a never ending list of attractions. These include the Japanese Sunken Gardens, Mission San Jose, King William Historic District, Gunther House, Fort Sam Houston, The Buckhorn Saloon and Museum, and the La Villita Historic District.

And there is always time for golf at Fort Sam Houston.

Remember, that you can go all the way, one stop or any combination. This will be a leisurely tour of middle America with old friends and the opportunity to make new friends. The goal is to see as much as you want at your own pace and arrive in New Braunfels ready to PARTY!

For more information, or to indicate your participation, contact: *CO HOSTS: Call Paul or Dale Sullivan 619-857-1673 or Mike or Mike Collins 559-816-0684*

acarollingrally@gmail.com

* * *

RECIPE

"Better than popcorn" finger food.....

12-16 oz plain oyster crackers
1 pkg Ranch Buttermilk Salad dressing mix (dry)
¼ tsp lemon pepper
½ - 1 tsp dill weed
¼ tsp garlic powder
¾ - 1 cup salad oil

Combine ranch mix and oil; add dill weed, garlic powder and lemon pepper, mix well. Pour over crackers, stir to coat. Spread on a cookie sheet and place in warm oven (250° - 300°) for 15-20 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Enjoy. This "keeps" well.

* * *

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is currently being formed. We will be electing new officers later this year so when they call you PLEASE consider becoming a Board Member. Without your participation our chapter will not exist. Thank you.

* * *

Valuable words of wisdom

By Jim Archer

We recently had a problem with our slides. We were fortunate to be able to finally get the slides to retract, and made our way home. Once home I spent some time trying to troubleshoot the problem before taking it to the repair shop. I learned a whole lot from reading *IRV2* and the HWH Service Manual and was able to diagnose the problem. I avoided a trip to the repair shop, and have sent the control box to HWH for repairs. But we dodged a bullet in that we almost could not retract our slides for travel. That might have caused a call to a mobile mechanic for help. But as usual, if you have enough time to research IRV2 you can find answers to problems. But I thought a little heads up article might be worthwhile reading for our members and maybe help you to be prepared in the event this problem strikes when you don't have the time to search IRV2 or call *Engineer Mike!*

Heads up for your consideration

When we were in AZ recently, we had a problem with our slides. Once in a while in the recent past the slides would not retract or extend with the press of the button. But if I pressed it a second time, it would work. Needless to say that was a warning! As we prepared for travel the slides would not retract. I could hear the solenoids click but the pump did not come on. I got lucky, and after 20 pushes or so it finally kicked on, and the front slide came in. But the back slide still would not come in. I pushed the button for the front slide again until the pump kicked on, and was then able to run the back slide in as well. The jacks retracted with no trouble.

After we got home I did some checking, and found that the jacks would not extend now as well. Again I could hear the solenoids click but the pump did not come on. I suspected either the pump relay was bad, or the pump motor was giving up. I was wrong, of course. In reading some postings on IRV2 and the HWH Service Manual troubleshooting procedure, I found out that the HWH 625 con-

trol box had failed. The circuit that is supposed to turn on the pump relay was not functioning. Fortunately mine was not a total system failure like some have experienced. Just one little part of it. But a critical part! The control box was removed and shipped to HWH for repair.

But the reason for this article is that I learned from IRV2 (where else!) that it is relatively easy to bypass the HWH control box to operate the slides as an emergency procedure in the event the box fails. The control box really does not do anything to operate the slides except turn the pump on when needed. The room slide solenoids are NOT controlled by the control box. They are controlled by the switches directly. Someone has written a procedure describing how to do it. It is a heck of a lot easier than trying to wench in the front slide!! I tried the procedure before I removed the control box, and it works beautifully as described. You can even retract the jacks using the procedure was well, as opposed to bleeding the pressure off by opening the solenoid valves.

You might want to take a look at this procedure and carry it with you in the event your HWH control box ever fails. Even if you don't use it yourself, it might help a clueless service technician get you on the road. The emergency procedure is in *Engineer Mike's* Technical Library on the ACA website, as is the HWH 625 Service Manual if you want to do some troubleshooting. Those pretty LED's on the control panel really will tell you some useful things.

* * *

Editor's note: If you have experienced a problem with your coach and have been successful in correcting it, and if it would be of benefit to our members, how 'bout writing up what you did etc. like *Jim* did. Make it concise and send it on to me and I'll keep it for the next *Matterhorn* issue.

* * *

"Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder. Let the challenges make you strong." Got this off Facebook...thx Marcia Morrell.

* * *

ALPINE SOCAL OFFICERS 2012-2013

Please refer to your Membership Roster for additional info

President	Gail Stacy
1 st Vice President	
Membership Director	Mary Langord

2nd Vice President
 Rally Director Stephanie Archer
 Treasurer Rick Fisher
 Secretary Michele Collins
 Nat'l Director FMCA Carolyn Swan
 Alt Nat'l Director FMCA Joel Langord
 Board Members with no voting privileges
 Newsletter Editor Donna (dj) Hall
 Webmaster Dave Fernandez

Your Board would like to hear from you. Your ideas, suggestions and/or comments are important. So don't hesitate to contact any of us. Also, we'd like to say THANK YOU for your support.

* * *

Next issue will be Spring Apr/May. Deadline in mid April. PLEASE send me something for the next issue. A recipe, someplace you've stayed, a place to visit while on the road, etc. Remember send items as a .doc attachment and pictures as a .jpeg attachment.

Alpine SoCal website: www.alpinesocal.com

Consolidated Rally Schedule 2013 - 2014

2013 February 13 – 18	Western Winter Blast Fireworks Extravaganza SARA Park Rodeo Grounds Lake Havasu City, AZ	SoCal Spot Rally	Jim & Stephanie Archer saarcher@cox.net
March 15 – 18	Mission Bay RV Park San Diego, CA	SoCal	Tris & Carolyn Swan Swansnest2@verizon.net Rick & Judy Fisher JudyRFisher@gmail.com
June 14 – 17	FMCA Pre-Rally Buffalo, WY	ACA	Tom Cook rtcook@acegroup.cc
June 19 – 22	CAM PLEX Gillette, WY	FMCA* Int'l Conv	
September 5 - 12	Bayfield Riverside RV Park Bayfield, CO Week Long Rally	SoCal	Bob & Connie Bowers Rhb1106@gmail.com Jim & June Cheshire jcheshirej@hotmail.com Jim & Stephanie Archer saarcher@cox.net
2014 April	Golden Shore RV Resort Long Beach, CA	SoCal	Mac & Anne McDougal Mcdanne2@gmail.com Sandy & Debi Johnson Firecapt98@hotmail.com
May 21 – 28	Napa Valley Expo RV Park Napa, CA Week Long Rally	SoCal	Bill & Patti Figge figgebp@mac.com Phil & Trudy Binley philbinley@yahoo.com

*Must register directly with FMCA or ACA