



Matterhorn

Alpine So Cal

A Chapter of FMCA

Issue #35

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT JOE DARLING



As many of you know I have just been installed as your new President and am looking forward to serving my term and getting involved in as many projects as practical. Micki and I would like to get to know all of you, and we plan to attend as many rallies as possible. Unfortunately we are unable to make the Napa Rally as we have a granddaughter graduating from High School in Tucson on May 22, 2014.

My hat goes off to Gail Stacy as she held this position for six years and was able to accomplish many projects for the betterment of our club during her presidency. When I told Gail she has difficult shoes to fill, she told me that all of you made her job easy because you were always there to lend a helping hand.

If at any time you have questions and or suggestions of things we can do to make our club better, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the board. It is your input and vast knowledge that help us grow.

Micki and I have traveled extensively throughout the western states and have visited many of our great National Parks. We usually spend the summer months in the White Mountains of Arizona at 7,000 ft and enjoy the cool climate

in the pines. We love to fish and have a canoe fully equipped for fresh water fishing on the many lakes all within a few miles from our campground.

We just returned from a great "Spot Rally" in the Quartzsite Desert where we had 45 rigs attend. Engineer Mike did his very informative Gear Head session with several of our favorite vendors participating. As usual many questions were asked.

On February 12 we will be in Lake Havasu City attending their annual Western Pyrotechnics Association Fireworks Extravaganza. Mary and Joel Langord are the Rally Masters and have done much work in putting this Winter Blast together.

And lastly, if and when you hear of another Alpiner who would like to join our club, please contact Mary Langord our Vice President Membership at 949-300-0335

May all your travels be safe.

Joe Darling

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!!



**FROM OUR 1st V.P. MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTOR MARY LANGORD**



Greetings Fellow Alpiners

Since the last publication of the Matterhorn, we have been blessed with two new members. John & Lorraine Foster of Palmdale joined us in November, and at the Indio rally, Paul & Katie Lisec of Tehachapi were welcomed into our group. Unfortunately, pictures were not taken but will be before the spring issue, so you can look forward to "seeing" them. Please give them a hearty Alpine SoCal Welcome!

RALLY INFO:

SoCAL ALPINE RALLY COMMITTEE

Hello Fellow Alpiners!

I would like to introduce you to the SoCal Alpine Rally Committee (SARC). SARC was formed to take over the vacancy of the 2nd VP/Rally Director position on the Board. This position was never filled, so myself, Ramona Escamilla, Anne McDougal and Bill Figge came together to fill the position. Thus, SARC was born.

Its chief purpose is to ensure that 4 – 5 Rallies per year are organized and conducted for the benefit of all Alpine SoCal members. Collectively, the 3 SARC members will solicit and provide guidance to Wagon Masters in holding rallies. SARC will promote rallies to SoCal, ACA and other Alpine Clubs.

SARC members will be familiar with and engaged in all functions as needed but each will have a key responsibility and supportive duties in 1 of 3 areas.

MOTIVATOR: WAGON MASTER
RECRUITMENT

SARC Chair will be Bill Figge

MENTOR: WAGON MASTER LIAISON
THROUGHTOUT RALLY PROCESS

SARC Chair will be Anne McDougal

MARKETER: PROMOTION &
COMMUNICATIONS

SARC Chair will be Ramona Escamilla

All SARC Members will be available for anything relating to the 2nd VP/Rally Director position. Feel free to call or e-mail any one of us with your concerns or questions.

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Bill Figge 805-300-0033
figgebp@me.com

We are and always will be looking for a permanent 2nd VP. So, if you or anyone you know is interested, please contact one of us. We will also be sending out a member questionnaire by March to seek your important preferences and ideas about our rallies. And we are seeking everyone's thoughts about future venues for rallies and are asking veteran and first time wagon masters to think about partnering a rally in late 2014 or 2015.

Thank you, Ramona Escamilla

WMHA Indio Rally – Gail Stacy

We started the new year out with a caravan into the FMCA Western Area rally in sunny Indio. There were 15 coaches in our caravan, 8 from SoCal and the others Alpine owners from other areas of the country. Then, we found another Alpine a few rows away and invited them to come join our social hours. It always amazes me how we Alpiners can always provide food to share, even when we don't have anything formal planned. We bring chairs, a few bring along tables, and the food just shows up! The new owners, Paul & Katie Lisec from Tehachapi, had such a good time with us, they decided to join SoCal right there. We all had a good time wandering around the vendor booths, spending money, attending seminars and gathering together at day's end. While there, 20 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 a reward, we were treated to a

dinner courtesy of WMHA (Western Motor Home Association, as the Western Area of FMCA is known).

This is the 6th year we have caravanned into the Indio rally and the 5th year we have volunteered as monitors. Everyone always has a good time, so I feel sure that we will do this again next year, so plan to join us if you can. I'll announce the dates as soon as I know them.

**Alpine SoCal Fireworks Rally
By Mary Langord**

In February, 14 coaches will be in attendance for the 25th Annual Convention of the Western Pyrotechnic Association in Lake Havasu City, AZ. The Alpine SoCal Weekend Rally is from Feb 14-17th, and promises to be a "blast" There will be fireworks each evening from dusk to 10:00 pm. Look for more details and pictures in the next issue of the Matterhorn.

From Bill Figge

Before hearing our story, you may want to think of William Cowpen who once said, "Change and variety are the very spices of life even though you may want to strangle the SOB who instigated them"

Now for the story: As you know the Napa Rally had been planned for May 21-28 at the Napa Valley Exposition RV Park. Last week we were contacted by park management informing us that the last place we want to be was in their park beginning on May 23 and extending to June 1st. Our quiet, tidy tucked away location is being transformed into a very noisy, disruptive construction zone as the entire park builds a rock concert pavilion. (<http://www.bottlerocknapavalley.com/>). Although we believe that the Expo Management did not anticipate this development; they and the Event group have acted in good faith to support a new plan for our rally.

Our new plan is to extend the rally to 8 nights, beginning two days earlier on May 19 and split our time between two park locations in Napa.

Here's the good news:

1. We will stay at the Napa Expo four nights from May 19-23 and the site rate has been reduced.
2. There is a nearby acceptable location, Skyline Wilderness Park (<http://www.skylinepark.org/>) which can accommodate our group for the remaining four nights of our stay, May 23-27. The rock concert management is covering the site costs. All sites are either Full or Partial (Electric/Water) hook-ups. The Wilderness Park offers additional outdoor activities and a clubhouse.
3. Although this all came as a surprise, we think the

resolution of having an extra day for the rally, using two unique venues, and with cost savings of about \$150 outweighs the inconvenience.

Next Step:

We will again ask for a "show of hands" by Feb. 21, 2014 of your interest and plans to attend.

We will provide a revised Rally Registration and Tentative Schedule of Events to you by next week.

So, remembering William Cowpen, our desire to enjoy good times among old and new friends and our passion for Alpine coaches and Adventure will always prevail.

Thank you for your patience as we make these changes.

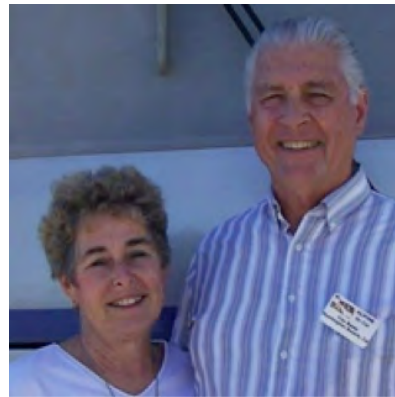
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FMCA NEWS FROM CAROLYN SWAN OUR FMCA NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Greetings, fellow Alpiners! 2014 seems to be passing just as quickly as 2013 "came & went & was gone!" About 18 Alpines went to the Indio Western FMCA together in January and participated as Volunteers in the Seminars. It was a busy 5 days, as we enjoyed wonderful weather with lots of sunshine & NO WIND!

Now for FMCA news – As of year-end 2013, we had 76,991 members and January saw a gain of 148 new members! FMCA is still working out the details of a Roadside Assistance Membership plan with Allstate Motor Club and they hope for a launch of the program soon. The pre-registration for the Perry Convention in March is up 19% over the 2011 Rally. FMCA is allocating more time for members to preregister for the [Perry, Georgia, Family Reunion](#) — more time to save \$30 off the gate

registration price. The new early-bird registration deadline is **Monday, February 17** & I hope you're planning to be there March 17 to 20 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter for the "Passport to Perry" Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase. Now is a great time to preregister for all the fun, and save too. IMHO – the Texas Tenors, who will be highlighted there for entertainment, are worth the cost of the Rally! The ACA Pre-Rally at Fort Bragg is also a NOT TO BE MISSED event! It is not too early to start planning your summer travel plans. Do plan on going to Oregon in August for the Redmond Convention and the Pre-Rally being planned in Portland area! Another, not to be missed event! That is it for this Newsletter. Wishing you safe travels and a healthy and blessed year in 2014 –

Carolyn & Tris Swan

ALPINERS TRAVEL NEWS

FROM BOB BOWERS

Hello fellow SoCal Alpiners! Since Marcia needs information for the Winter Newsletter, we thought we'd share some of our travels through southern Florida in case some of you are thinking about making a similar trip.

We actually started our Fall/Winter venture in late October by traveling down to south Texas and participating in the New Braunsfel Rally as well as hanging out with the Figge's. We still find it hard to believe how much celebrating can be done around "SAUSAGE"! But a good time was had by all and big thanks to the Sandmires as wagonmasters.

We headed to our daughter's home in Crestview, Florida up in the panhandle area just east of Pensacola to hang out through the holidays. It was quite interesting being in "FLORIDA" and yet experiencing such cold temperatures thanks to the "Polar Vortex". We made it through 16 degree lows on many occasions with the furnace going full blast.

Once the holidays were behind us, it was time for our southern Florida trip. We actually headed down US 98 along the Gulf hoping for some good scenery. The scenery was VERY nice and would highly recommend it. You need to expect a rather slow time consuming trip since speed limits lower to 35 in many small towns. We had an appointment at Alliance Coach in Wildwood or else we would have liked to park for one or more overnights along the way. We would most definitely recommend planning a stay along US 98 south & east of Panama City right along the Gulf coast.

We left Wildwood and headed to Avalon RV Resort in Clearwater. Like most parks throughout Florida, the parking spaces are grass which is damp every morning making it difficult to keep from tracking it into the coach. We

recommend the Avalon RV Resort for visiting the Clearwater area even though there was major highway construction that won't end until 2015. The parking spaces were a little tight requiring back-in but the people were very friendly and provided planned activities. You will get great rates if you stay for a week at a time.

Of course we had to visit the Tampa RV Super Show where we linked up with Classic Coach Works and ended up ordering many upgrades. The upgrading process is currently in progress as I'm writing this letter so can't comment as yet on their work. They came highly recommended. We're without our coach for 2 – weeks, bummer!

We like driving the toad along seaside roads and found great beach sightseeing from St Petersburg north to Honeymoon Island as well as from Bradenton south to Sarasota. The northern sightseeing was definitely better with several interesting seaside towns involved. Once we reached Honeymoon Island State Park, we walked out on the Osprey Nature Trail where tons of Ospreys are perched on nests situated on top of dead trees. However, the best sight was a nest of Bald Eagles found at the end of the trail. They have it fenced off because their nest contained 2 – chicks with the mother standing over them occasionally. Unfortunately, we were too far away to get good picture and I had forgotten to take the camera but the experience was GREAT!



On the Bradenton seaside trip we came across the DeSoto National Monument. We found the monument interesting in that DeSoto explored much of the southeastern area but his actual mission was to find gold which of course never materialized. There is a historical movie, a nature trail, and some excellent scenery.



We were originally going to park a few days in the Keys but decided to stop in Homestead, Florida and eventually drive down to Key West in the toad. It has the most southern point in the US. It's best to use bikes if you want to explore Key West since parking is a premium and difficult to find. The cost at campgrounds in the keys will run about \$100/night and must be booked well in advance.

Next was the Everglades National Park which is several miles north of our RV Park. The first interesting aspect of the park is the fact that most cars in the parking lot had blue tarps over them. It turns out that vultures tend to land on your car and chew any rubber objects such as windshield wipers.



We parked at the Southern Comfort RV Resort in Florida City (on the edge of Homestead). This time we had a pull-thru spot but still on grass. It's another very friendly park with some planned activities and a Tiki Bar located in the center. It's open Tuesday through Saturday evenings. The campground is only minutes from Biscayne & Everglades National Parks.



We started with the Biscayne National Park just south of our RV Park. The visitor center was nice but the best sight turned out to be along a canal next to the park entrance. We rode our bikes about 3 – miles to view 6 - Manatees just floating around in the canal.

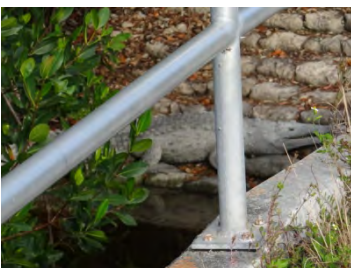
First we listened to a ranger speech about alligators. Very interesting! He assured us that we would see one or more alligators on the Anhinga Trail. He wasn't kidding! We saw a couple of alligators lying along the trail apparently getting some sun. We reached the end of the main trail and there were over 30 – alligators just lying around even on top of each other.



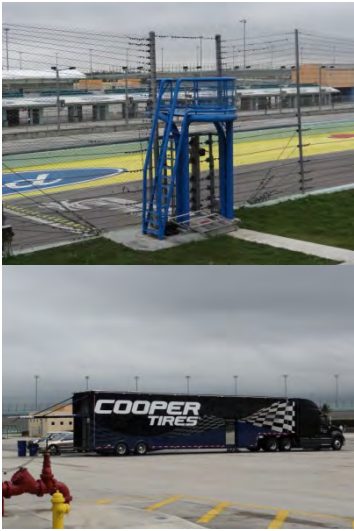
stopped to take pictures and suddenly realized that we could hear one or more race cars using the track. We were able to walk into the spectator area that provides 65,000 seats (3 – times bigger than the population of Homestead!). There were 2 – open wheel Indy style race cars periodically running around the track. A photographer along pit row hollered at us that we could gain inside access via Gate 18. We drove around and sure enough we were “up close and personal”! One driver was learning to drive Indy style cars and one driver was testing Cooper tires. AWESOME!!!



We drove out to the end of the park (about 30 – miles) to visit the Flamingo Visitor Center and marina. We didn't find the center all that interesting since they're still trying to renovate the facility after damage from a hurricane. However, we did find a crocodile lying along the bank of the entrance to the marina. He was big & gray.



We also ran across the Homestead Miami Speedway where many types of motorized racing events are held. We



We've had a great time including our stay at the Sanlan RV Resort in Lakeland while waiting to drop off our coach at Classic Coach Works. It's a great park with lots of big spaces and very secure. It has an accompanying golf course and a nature trail where we saw turtles and one baby alligator while riding bikes.

We're still hoping to travel along the east coast from Titusville up to Jacksonville but time is running out. We need to pick up our coach and head to Arizona for Spring Training where we'll also meet up with some SoCal folks in Goodyear, AZ.

FROM CAROLYN SWAN

After Indio, Tris and I came back home prepare to fly to Guadalajara, MX for a missions trip with 9 others of our Guest Helpers teammates! We drove from Guadalajara to Tepic, a three hour van drive, to stay at the Hotel Fray Junipero Serra at night while we worked during the day at a Huichol village called Alta Loma Colony, which was situated on the side of a mountain, nearly an hour away by van. There were almost 35 family units there and our mission was to build each of them cement ecological ovens where they could cook their tortillas and beans (their main staple) with just 1 piece of wood. So for 5 days I worked with 9 others as a "Cement Mason" with my gloved hands in "red mud" all day long! Tris, however, who actually had been a cement mason in his younger years, had a special assignment as a carpenter. He and another man built 2 wood pulpits to be used in their church, an open air structure with thatched roof. Tris did work with the cement teams the first day – coaching us on the pointers of how to work out a pattern for building the ovens. Then, in the next 4 days, they built 2 lovely finished, adjustable pulpits. In 5 days we built about 26 ovens. The Indians were overwhelmed with gratitude and amazement at how much work these old silver haired people could produce in such a short time! We came home weary but satisfied with a very blessed and productive time after trudging up and down the

mountain side in order to make the Indians life a little easier!

Pictures from their travels to Tepic MX building Ecological Ovens for a poor village there.

Here is a picture of the ecological oven with the large plate for cooking tortillas and the smaller plate for a bean pot and Separate fireboxes below each plate. In the corner is stamped "Calvary Church Guest Helpers 2014"!



Tris behind the 1st pulpit they made – with hinged top.



Carolyn with Huichol Indian woman with woven jewelry she made for us.



I couldn't tell if the hot air balloon hovering above wanted to participate or just going by. Who knows though, perhaps a future Alpine owner checking us out?

FROM MARY LANGORD

Sights and Sounds From Quartzsite.

By: Mary Langord

What happens when you put 45 Alpines together for a Non-Sponsored, Non-Rally, Desert Rat Rally-Gathering in Quartzsite?

Well, that question was answered with a resounding "Hooray"!! The first ever, non-rally, rally turned out to be huge success. Everyone in attendance had a lot of fun with great food, good friends, "wine and whine" sessions, and a very informative Gearhead Session. Plus, lots of free time to sit back and enjoy absolutely gorgeous Quartzsite weather. This year everything from nature went exceedingly well, and was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Those who have attended other Quartzsite Rat Rallies in the past know of what I speak. Weather this year was "perfect". I personally am ordering more of the same for next year's resumption of the ACA Desert Rat Rally!

Several of us arrived early, and staked out our Alpine space just off of Plomosa Road. Immediately following the ACA Balloon Rally at Lake Havasu City, the bulk of those attending drove the short distance and the fun began.

Here are several highlights:



This snapshot of an early morning "invader" was taken by Alpine SoCal member, Dick Bunting. The Langords had chosen to sleep in and manage to miss it. "Thanks Dick for sharing."

The well-attended Gearhead session featured our very own Engineer Mike, with support from Redlands Truck & RV (an iRV2.com sponsor), a Koni shocks rep, a K&N filters rep, and HWH rep Paul Maddox, all of whom gave great informative presentations. Plenty of coaches got repaired & upgraded



My personal thanks to all who participated as well in our wonderful Pot Luck dinner. Never mind the mixed assortment of tables, the food was plentiful and delicious.. It was proven once again, that Alpine owners have their own unique brand of hospitality and a sense of sharing that can't be matched. Made me proud to be an Alpine owner!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Have anything to sell? Anything special you want to acquire? Be sure and check our "Classified Ads" in each newsletter and submit anything you wish to sell or are looking for other than motorhomes. Remember 'one man's trash may be another man's treasure'

These are details on the 2005 Alpine Coach. (manufacturer described it as 36FD2S) 36 foot front door with 2 slide-outs.) The coach was purchased new in Southern California (Orange County) in 2007. It has 27,000+ miles on it, We put on all new tires and batteries prior to our winter trip to California and Arizona. It has a Cummins 400 Diesel engine, an Onan 7500 generator, an Alison 6 speed Transmission, an engine breaking system (jake break), an HWH Hydraulic system for auto leveling and slideouts. It has an inverter. There are two slide-outs, one for the galley and one for the bedroom. Color rear view back up camera screen on the dash. Central heating (Furnace and Heat Pump) and two Air Conditioners with thermostat controls. A large propane tank, side by side refrigerator freezer with ice maker, Microwave/Convection oven and gas range. A central vacuum, all leather seating: recliner, sofa bed and passenger seats that swivel and recline. Carpeting and tile flooring, Corian counters, Maple cabinetry, Day/Night shades throughout. 100 gal. fresh water tank, 178 gallon combined waste tanks. Control panel that detects fresh water, gray water, black water, propane and battery levels. Queen size bed. Large closet and drawers in the bedroom. Additional closet and drawers in powder/shower area. Large shower with skylight. Enclosed toilet area. Sliding privacy doors between bedroom and bathroom/powder room and sliding door between Bathroom/Powder room and galley area. Two TV's, surround sound system, DVD player, receiver and King Dome (satellite finder). large automatic outdoor awning. Large capacity carpeted basement storage with five large doors. Blue Ox tow package. The coach has full exterior paint, no decals. Dark green with three shades of silver. Well maintained. Non-smokers. Small pet. We have manuals and records for everything.

**\$100K for an Alpiner or Alpiner recommendation?
Contact Stephanie McCain: myruby555@gmail.com**

2014 RALLY SCHEDULE

Jan 7 – 12	WMHA Riverside Fairgrounds Gail Stacy (Caravan Only) gjstacy@cox.net Indio, CA (WMHA)	FMCA*
February 14-17	25 th Winter Blast Fireworks Rodeo Grounds Lake Havasu City, AZ Joel & Mary Langord Langord@mac.com	SoCal
March 17-20	Georgia Nat'l Fairgrounds Perry, GA	FMCA*
April 4 - 7	Golden Shore RV Resort, Long Beach, CA Mac & Anne McDougal, Mcdanne2@gmail.com Sandy & Debi Johnson, Firecapt98@hotmail.com	SoCal
May 19 – 27	Napa Valley Expo RV Park/Skyline Wilderness Park, Napa, CA Week Long Rally Bill & Patti Figge figgebp@mac.com Phil & Trudy Binley philbinley@yahoo.com	SoCal
August 16-13	FMCA Redmond, OR	FMCA*
Sept 26-30	Pismo Coast Village Pismo Beach, CA Mike & Mike Collins alpinemikes@2mikeys.com Jerry & Toni Smith geraldsmith18@hotmail.com	SoCal