



ALPINE COACH
ASSOCIATION

A View From The Summit

Volume 18 Issue #9 December 2009

CHECK OUT THE RALLY
SCHEDULE ON PAGE 7

The Sound of Freedom—Miramar Rally By Renée Perrault

The Miramar Rally gave attendees an up close and personal look at what makes our nation great. As the first coach club to ever be hosted on base, we were able to watch the air show from a private tent on the Tarmac with the added bonus of having them fly over our camping area. They were so close we could almost count the fillings in the pilots teeth! The thrill of seeing our nations finest young men and women perform amazing aerodynamic feats right above us was spectacular.



We started with a pre-rally in Chula Vista, proceeded to Miramar and with 54 Alpines, started the Air show festivities. There was the usual gathering and feasting on tasty appetizers, lots of talk and laughter and meeting of new members.

Included in our activities, a trip to the "Flying Leatherneck Museum" and a harbor cruise around the San Diego Bay or a tour of the USS Midway. The highlight for

No, this picture is not upside down.

everyone was our private tent on the tarmac. We had our own attendant serving unlimited food and beverages from 8:00am to the end of the show. Combine that with the Marine Marching band, a visit from a Blue Angel, and watching firefights right in front of your eyes, it was an unforgettable experience best summed up by a member that said **"This rally wasn't expensive...I would have paid ANY price to see it!"** (continued page 2,3,4)



Louie Burch auditioning for the air show.



A PICTURE IS WORTH A 1,000 WORDS

Here we are in our private tent
on the tarmac.



Have ACA Members gone wild?

No, just having a little fun after
the Harbor tour!

Vic and Willy Egg
Mac and Anne McDougal
Gary Arnold & Renée Perrault
Bill & Patti Figge

(photo taken by a laughing stranger)



Our neighbors
to the North,

The Canadian
Snow Birds

Here's a happy group of Alpiners



Location, Location, Location

A private air show flying over your coach! Does it get any better than this? Got Earplugs?

Below: Members on the Tarmac in our private tent watching the action.



Nothing like a visit from an Angel! This one was Blue! Phil Hengels getting an autograph with Gale Stacy waiting in the wings! (sorry, couldn't resist the angel joke)





A SHOW OF FORCE—

A simulation of a strafing run and a fire support run. Thankfully only a demonstration NO live rounds were fired.

You need nerves of steel to be a pilot for the Blue Angels!



Preflight maneuvers for the Blue Angels Pilots and Ground Support

Thank you to our very own dedicated photographer, Louis Burch

As we celebrate the holiday season, let us all remember to be grateful for the brave men and women in the United States Military, past and present. Their sacrifices make our freedom and lifestyle possible.

May you have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a joyous New Year. Let us all pray for peace



From Our President —Paul (Sully) Sullivan



Dale & Paul Sullivan

Dear Friends:

For us this year has gone by quickly. It seems as if we were just getting ready for the FMCA Rally and now I am about to write my check for DRR 2010. Dale and I were able to attend three Rallies this year and we enjoyed seeing many of you along the road. We started our year at DRR and wrapped up with the being the first coach club to attend the Air Show at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. Every place we visited was a new and fun experience.

Along with enjoying our travels in our Alpine, Dale and I are celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary with a three week cruise to the Panama Canal. We feel very blessed to be able to continue to travel and enjoy our country and our friends.

The New Year brings lots of opportunities to visit new places and explore. We hope you will all join us at some of our planned club events. DRR is always a unique occasion and our Heritage Rally in the fall will be in Texas and is already looking like a "must do and not to be missed" event. Can you say Wurst Festival? Look for more information on our Web Site.

During this season we are especially grateful for our family, country, health, and friends. And we want to say a special thank you to all our military; it is because of them we are able to enjoy our freedom. So we wish you a safe and healthy Holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Paul Sullivan

Need to Contact a Board Member?

Name	Board Position	Cell Phone	Email
Paul Sullivan	President	619-392-8775	sobersully@hotmail.com
Dale Wilson	Membership Director	602-618-6106	ddewco@aol.com
Frank Halasz	Secretary	505-263-1930	fhalasz@swcp.com
Tris Swan	FMCA Asst. National Director	714-357-0505	swansnest2@earthlink.net
Debbie Bragg	Treasurer	817-994-3998	dbragg@swbell.net
Fred Royce	Director	360-460-0154	fhroyce@olypen.com
Louis Burch	FMCA National Director	214-534-0399	labsr@aol.com
Renee Perrault	Newsletter Editor	206-919-3805	reneegary@msn.com

ALPINE RALLY CALENDAR 2010

Your New Year's Resolution????? Easy, hit the road and attend as many Alpine Rallies as possible!

January 5th	SoCal caravan into the FMCA Rally in Indio, CA	SoCal	John & Gail Stacy gjstacy@cox.net
January 20—25	Desert Rat Rally IV Quartzsite, AZ	National	Gary and Diana Shanander dedebray@hotmail.com
February 12-15	Oasis Resort—Las Vegas	SoCal	John & Gail Stacy gjstacy@cox.net
March 17—21	FMCA Pre-Rally Central KOA Albuquerque, NM	National	Louis Burch labsr@aol.com Frank & Dessa Halasz fhalasz@swcp.com
March 22—25	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park	FMCA	Check FMCA Website
March 26—29	Pueblo El Mirage Phoenix Metro area	SoCal	Mac & Anne McDougal mcdanne2@gmail.com Ollie & Katy Hundelt okhundelt@esedona.net
May 12—16	Spring Rally—Wenatchee, Wa Wenatchee Confluence State Park	NoWACA	Linda & Jay Emory
May 16—23	Distant Drums RV Park Camp Verde, AZ	SoCal	Jim & Stephanie Archer searcher@cox.net Ed & Donna Mathews Ejm_mathews@msn.com
August 11—14	Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center Redmond, OR	FMCA	Check FMCA Website
September 8—12	"Name Pending" Alpine Rally Bellingham, Wa	NoWACA	Kurt & Linda Schroeder lbschroeder@embargmail.com Linda Cain & Ron Bailey info@open-rd.com
September 16—19	East Shore RV Park San Dimas, CA	SoCal	Mary Ann Ratliff & Orville McGee hidija@aol.com Noel & Carol Peck noelpeck@aol.com
October—TBD	Summerdale, AL	ACE	Fred & Grace Taylor justme1943@yahoo.com
October—TBD (late October)	San Antonio, TX	National	Dean & Jan Sandmier jhsdds@earthlink.net

THE ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION BOARD



Franklin & Dessa Halasz

How I spent my summer vacation:

Okay, retired people don't have vacations anymore. Two years ago (age 70) I retired again, this time finally, irrevocably, irretrievably and forever.

So there we were in Montrose, CO, camped out with motorhomeing friends. The cell phone woke me from my afternoon nap.

The lady at the other end, president of a small business organization, asked whether I'd be available for a three- or four- week stint in Denver, doing the same sort of work I'd been doing all my working life, and by the way it would be for good money. Three to four weeks? That almost sounded like fun.

Instead of going home we drove the Alpine to Denver, holed up in Dakota Ridge RV Park, and I commenced working, ten hours a day, six and a half days a week, for what turned out to be very nearly four months. A couple of months after I started, Dessa was invited to work there too; it was the first time either of us had seen the other in a work environment. It was a joy to see how everyone in the workplace appreciated her. And we learned that our 34-foot motorhome probably is large enough for fulltiming.

We left Denver a week before the snow flew, joined dozens of Alpiners at Miramar MCAS just outside Chula Vista, CA, and enjoyed our first air show. What a location, just off the end of the runway! It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Well, the Alpine is sitting at home now, getting a few maintenance items done (we just put in a set of Lifeline batteries) to get ready for Quartzsite.

Speaking of Quartzsite, we have just finished preparing a mailing of about 32 flyers for DRR IX, together with bylaws change proposals, for those who don't (yet) have email. I can't imagine how we could have done mailings for all 425 members. Thank you all who get ACA information electronically!

By the way, it's not too early to make plans to join us in Albuquerque for the FMCA pre-rally, March 17-21. See you then if not at Quartzsite!

May you have a most Merry Christmas, happy New Year, and safe travels.

Frank Halasz

Have a suggestion for the ACA Newsletter?

Send it to:

Renee Perrault—Editor at reneegary@msn.com

Fred Royce - Director

Rally Fees. Too High?

By Fred Royce, Vice President



Fred & Carol Royce

I felt and heard several times that the fall rally fee featuring the Miramar air show was too high!! I even bent our President's ear. He tried to convince me that the fee was not out of line. Well, I calmed down, dutifully registered and drove the rig to San Diego.

What did my wife and I experience? We saw the largest air show in the country with thousands attending. It was a first class performance with the Blue Angels and the Ca-

nadian Snowbird air teams skillfully demonstrating precision flying, helicopters able to fly upside down, the army precision parachute team, and on and on.

We took all this in with seating inside and outside a large tent (chalet) located on the flight line. The Blue Angels squad was parked directly in front of us where we could see the activity before and after their performance. There was a caterer who made sure all had mid-morning snacks and lunch with an ample supply of liquid refreshments to quench our thirst throughout the day.

Our coaches were parked on grounds just outside the Marine Base. Of significance is that ACA is the first organization permitted this privilege. Bus transportation was provided to and from the base. We were also given tickets to tour the aircraft carrier USS Midway or to take a cruise of the San Diego Harbor. The event was rounded out with fellowship and social activities at the parking site.

Did we get our money's worth? Yes!! Would this experience have been possible for the same price without ACA Members who knew the right people and how to get things done? No!! These Members made sure we got the most for our money. With such talent in ACA, who knows what other ideas and events may take place in the future.

This rally may be offered again in a few years.



Debbie and Jim Bragg

Debbie Bragg— Treasurer

All is well with ACA and I look forward to seeing everyone at Quartzsite. We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas.

....And now from the Membership Corner



Dale & Ed Wilson

This is going to be a fun and learning experience! I accepted the Membership Director position in San Diego at the Annual National Meeting. The meeting was combined with a wonderful time at the Mirimar Air show. We were nose to nose with the Blue Angels, exciting time on the tarmac. The Canadian SnowBirds, were there to present more of the air show. To be right where the action is happening is so interesting, to watch the Marines go through the procedures they would use during action on the field, was a very eye awaking sight. This really gave us (me) an insight to what is going on overseas. I am very glad these fellows are on our side! We will not forget the endless supply of food and drink

which was available to us for the whole day! We will be going back in 2012 and do remember to sign up if you are interested in a very special experience! This is just a sneak peak at some of the things we did with the gathering of ACA members. Thank you to Dave and Donna Fernandez, Chuck and Pat Zulugla, with Paul and Dale Sullivan for putting this extravaganza together. As is always the case, many others did a lot of planning and working during this fun time.

Past Membership Director, Earlene and Jerry Bloomquist did not come back from their Alaska trip until the first of November, so on November 3, Ed and I went to North Ranch in Congress, AZ to get our paper work and learn what to do...WOW! Using the whole day, we processed 11 applications! Earlene had everything laid out. I am very impressed with the system she used to get the great packets out to you. Thanks, Earlene and Jerry; it is a 2 person operation! Now, I need to learn more about my computer, Access (spreadsheet program) and how to lay out the processes and time used to get back to you in a timely manner. Please bear with me while I am learning. I have now done 4 on my own, and one rejoining our ACA. To you all, we say WELCOME!

Renee Perrault and I are working on redesigning our membership applications. Renee has had some great ideas to brighten the forms...be sure to watch for them. Right now we are awaiting the results of the vote taking place in Quartzsite. We will be voting on changing the time of when our dues will come due, realigning us, since we are now working with FMCA. We would like to see our dues come due the end of December. This would also give us time to properly work and compile the lists and updating files without being on the road.

There are also some other By Law changes planned, please read and if you don't understand what is happening, please speak or ask one of the Board members. Please plan on being in Quartzsite! It is such a laid back and fun outing, if you have not attended before, consider doing so this year.

I cannot close without mentioning the fun 'Fred Sez'Rally we attended with the NoWACA chapter in Washington State this year. We met at the fairgrounds in Port Townsend, traveled a part the Olympic Peninsula on a day bus trip to learn about this part of WA State. It was a great program for the whole weekend, complete with good music, plenty of great seafood and all the trimmings. Thanks for the wonderful treat of learning about your part of the country. Please stop and visit with a local ACA chapter, if they have a rally and you are in the area! This is a great way to meet and greet new people.

If you see an Alpine in a rest stop, restaurant or in a campground, please don't let that Alpine get away, visit and invite them to join our great ACA organization. If we don't approach them, they may not approach us. We want to share our good times.

May your travels take you to magical places!

Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule Changes.

By Fred Royce

At the upcoming Quartzsite business meeting, you will be asked to approve two amendments to the Bylaws. One of these is to change the membership renewal date from June 30 to December 31. The objective is to simplify dues handling for Members and for general administration. Approval of an amendment to the Standing Rules will be requested to enable collecting \$6 during the first quarter of 2010. The other amendment to the Bylaws is to eliminate prorating dues for new members by quarter.

At the January 2009 business meeting, the membership voted to extend the \$35 dues paid July 1, 2008 to be in effect through June 30, 2010, which meant annual dues were reduced to \$17.50. Members at the October 2009 Miramar rally business meeting set dues at \$15. The addition to the Standing Rule enables making the transition from a June 30 cutoff date to December 31, and by collecting only \$ 6, we are adhering (to within 25 cents) to the agreed \$15 annual dues. Dues for 2011 and thereafter will be collected at the end of the year.

There is one correction to the Section 2, Member Fees. The proposed Item C should state "Upon revision of ARTICLE III" instead of "ARTICLE II".

Thank You to our Retiring Board Members Earlene Bloomquist & Andy Lewis



Earlene & Jerry
Bloomquist

A big thank you to Earlene Bloomquist who has served as your VP Membership Director since January 2006. Earlene was a tireless recruiter for ACA, knocking on many an Alpine Coach door to give out an application and successfully recruit new members. For many of you, she is the first person you met in our club and a wonderful representation of what this club is all about. Earlene, you will be missed but we know we will see you at future rallies and don't stop knocking on doors!

Andy Lewis served on the ACA Board from January 2007 as Special Projects Director. His extensive knowledge of fire safety has helped many members. Andy worked extensively behind the scenes on policies and procedures as well as many other special projects that benefited ACA Members. Thank you for your time and service, we'll look forward to seeing you at future events.



Andy & Suzan Lewis



Have Pictures from Rallies?

Carol Schock is our Alpine Coach Association Historian. Please send your pictures to her at: yumatrailertrash@hotmail.com

Include as much information as possible, place, names of people in photo, what rally etc.

Your contributions are appreciated. Be sure and take a look at all of the photo

Bosch Brakes on Early Alpines



By "Engineer Mike" Fleming

There has been discussion on iRV2 and at rallies about Bosch pin-slide brakes, and the fairly massive recall of Workhorse chassis motorhomes using the Bosch HydroMax brake master cylinder and Bosch brakes. Here is a quick update from what I have been able to discern.

Background: Alpine sales brochures show Bosch pin-slide brakes were used on early coaches up to and including model year 2000. Remember this is the sales brochure, so it is possible there may be some 2001 coaches with the Bosch brake, and there may be 2000 model year rigs with the later

Meritor 4-piston brake. The brakes are easily distinguished by looking at them. On the ACA Tech Library web page, under Brochures> 2001> GO, you will find a photo of the Meritor brake on page 10 (don't be alarmed that the photo is upside down, oops!). A simple look-see will tell you which brake you have. If you have the Meritor brakes, this discussion does not affect you.

The Workhorse brakes under recall are 66mm piston brakes. Alpines use the larger 73mm piston calipers according to 98, 99 & 00 sales brochures. Outside of the piston diameter, the calipers use the same design. The Bosch/Workhorse recall is to address the piston material inside the caliper, i.e. the pistons are coated with a phenolic plastic that can absorb water, swell, and get stuck in the piston bore causing a "stuck" brake. There have been reports of stuck brakes on Alpines. To be fair, I need to mention that those reports also include Meritor brake coaches as well as Bosch.

The Alpine configuration usually differs in two ways from the Workhorse setup. First, the 73mm pistons on the Alpine brakes are not within the current Workhorse recall. Second, Alpines are usually found with a PacBrake in the ISC engine equipped rigs, and Workhorse rigs mostly don't have auxiliary drive-line braking. Therefore methods of driving are likely to mean Alpiners use our service brakes less, relying on exhaust braking significantly.

What to do: I don't recommend doing anything other than first- identifying your brake type at this point, second- keeping up with regular brake fluid changes (I recommend yearly for this type of brake, no more than biannually for the Meritor brakes), and staying tuned. NHTSA is apparently looking at other motorhome brands that include the Bosch brakes, and looking into extending the recall as may seem needed. One Workhorse source close to the issue considers the extension of the recall likely, but who knows. Open questions include:

- 1) are there any issues with the 73mm (Alpine) calipers when looked at in a systematic way?
- 2) If yes to #1, what can NHTSA do about it if the coach manufacturer is out of business? Will Bosch be compelled to do something?
- 3) If yes to #1, and nothing/no to #2, what should Alpiners do?

Of course, the answer to #1 could be no. More of this discussion can be viewed at:

<http://www.irv2.com/forums/f104/bosch-zoh-t-slide-pin-caliper-brakes-56119.html>

and there is a useful link on that thread in Post #11 to Workhorse documents discussing the mechanics of the brake issue, and what to do in mountain driving.

Mike

Alpine Coach Logowear Returns!

Good news ... many of you have asked, and the ACA Board of Directors has approved the return of Alpine Coach Association logowear. We are in the process of selecting garments and preparing an order for the Desert Rat IX Rally. When the items have been selected an e-mail broadcast will be sent for you to preview the items. We will be taking "advance orders" to help ensure we have the proper sizes and quantities. You pay for the garments at the rally. Purchasing at a rally will provide a lower cost based on bulk producing and no shipping charges.

In addition to the ACA logo, the Board has approved the use of the old WRV logo with the crossed flags.

It is our intent that the garments available will be featured on the www.alpinecoachassociation.com website. An order blank will be available which you can fax or mail along with payment. We are working on shipping via the US Postal Service with Priority Shipping boxes to guarantee shipping at a minimal cost.

Watch for further information regarding this option in the ACA Newsletter and future e-mails.

Carl and Kathy Nichol森

Satin Stitch, Inc.



Have a Mechanical Problem and Need A Quick Answer?

Mark has contracted with ACA to field questions from members and help guide them to a solutions. He has replied to hundreds of emails to help members with coach problems. Emails range from simple part questions to trouble shooting gen slides and Vansco questions.

When contacting Mark, he prefers a detailed email to start; email him at:

racer_s10ss@yahoo.com This is a service for ACA members only, include your name

and ACA Membership number in your email. Please remember that Mark is doing this as in addition to his regular job and will return your call ASAP but on his off hours. Also keep in mind he is on the West Coast so a call at 7:30 am in the east will probably interrupt his sleep and affect the quality of his answer.

Mark can be reached at 509-901-2015

For answers to questions and advice from other Alpine Coach owners visit www.IRV2.com and click Alpine Coach Owners Forum.

REGION CONTACTS

ACE East Coast	Tom & Peggy Bacome 731-935-2303 pjbacome@aol.com	NorCal Northern California Northern Nevada	John & Barbara Knox 408-356-5267 jdknbak@verizon.net Cell 408-218-8192
Full-timers	Maureen Dahl 425-466-1445 wandern.two@verizon.net	NoWACA Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana	Larry & Barbara Smith 360-437-2913 typsmith@olympen.com
Mid-west	Ted & Kay Watts 636-926-0024 themowatts@aol.com	SoCal Southern California Southern Nevada	John & Gail Stacy 702-858-0400 gjstacy@cox.net

Many ACA members belong to local regions to participate in activities closer to home. We encourage and support our Regions but please remember, the Alpine Coach Association provides benefits such as Tech support and the Technical Library that are open **only** to Alpine Coach Association Members. Alpine Coach Association offers unique rallies, fellowship and an array of support for Alpine Coach owners.

New Alpine Coach Association Members—

An enthusiastic welcome to our newest members, we look forward to seeing you at future rallies. You will enjoy meeting other Alpine owners and taking advantage of the benefits that come with being an Alpine Coach Association member. Check out the 2010 Rally Schedule on page 7 and start planning your route to fun!

John and Susie Balistrieri	San Diego, CA
Ernie and Shirley Campbell	N. Las Vegas, NV
Ed and Sue Hawley	Stewart, FL
Robert and Beverly Heaton	Atascadero, CA
Matt and Sara Janssen	Bozeman, MT
Larry Lantis and Shari Knutson	Yakima, WA
Jerry Mitstifer and Ann Magee	Grapeview, WA
John and Malinda Nolt	Alvarado, TX
Jim and Sandy Owens	Fairview, NC
Vee and Susan Petrescu	Canoga Park, CA
Leon and Jackye Powell	Wickenburg, AZ
Daniel Rodwell	Livingston, TX
David Rameden and Jaime Theobald	Overland Park, KS
Tony and Helen Thomsen	Onalaska, WA
Wayne and Doris Trutna	Fresno, CA