



**ALPINE COACH  
ASSOCIATION**

# A View From The Summit

Volume 19 Issue #1 March 2010

**CHECK OUT THE RALLY  
SCHEDULE ON PAGE 5**

## **QUARTZSITE 2010 – A FIRST-TIMER’S ESCAPADE**

By Wilma Egg



For five years we were hearing the same refrain: “Have you been to Quartzsite? You have to experience it!” Okay, it sounds like it could be fun . . . dry camping, dusty, nothing around? It has to be warmer than Oregon in January, so, okay, we are in!

We left Bend on January 15, stopped in Redding, CA to travel with Tom and Nancy Polk, and as we headed south the forecast was daunting: 90% chance of rain, high winds, below average temps, and something about El Nino havoc. Oh Boy! I can’t wait . . .

It’s Tuesday morning, driving east on 10, tanks are full/empty, extra water on hand, menus planned, refig full, we are ready for 6 days of dry camping in the desert. Over a rise we see miles and miles of white dots . . . can they all be RVs??? Yup! And traffic to match, past outdoor booths full of “stuff” for sale. Finally, left on 95 N for 8 miles out of town to right on Plomosa – there’s an ACA sign, we are almost there, two miles, more signs and open desert stretching all the way to the mountains.

Where do we park? Anywhere? Even with over 100 coaches expected, there’s plenty of room, just park on the stones (in case of flash floods). It just can’t rain, it’s our first time! Gary and Diana Shanander ordered a tent for this year, and it was rising like a beacon with its pointed hat glistening in the sun and the center of activity. The Shananders were busy organizing, the Sullivans greeting, Louie Burch and volunteers pitching in, and everyone getting acquainted.

Wednesday morning we picked up our packets and headed for Quartzsite with the Polks to “experience” the FMCA tents . . . and so we did, stopping for pizza at Silly Al’s and enjoying the local flavor. Many thanks to the volunteers manning the “front gate” as coaches arrived all day; some cancelled due to weather – what do they know that us first-timers don’t? By sunset, spirits were high and tummies full from a usual spread of great pot luck hors d’oeuvres under the big top tent. But the temperature was dropping and the wind picking up . . .

Back to our coach and early to bed . . . what’s that pitter patter on the roof? Just an overnight sprinkling of rain? NOT!!! Thursday morning we woke to torrents of rain blowing every which way and town crier Louie going door to door canceling the Membership Meeting at 9:30 AM. The weather broke and the meeting was rescheduled for 11:00 AM. Still cold, damp and windy, hardy Alpiners turned out in force, laughing at Pres. Paul’s jokes, and very happy to be under the big top! The rain returned but the tent was a bevy of activity, SOB Norm cooking burgers people picking up their dinner, running between the rain drops, and trying not to have their plates blown away as they scurried back to their coaches for an indoor BBQ. (continued page 2 )

## QUARTSITE (continued from page 1)

Tornadoes in the area, Quartzsite flooded, the weather continued to rage, and the tent was becoming a concern. Soooo, volunteers banded together and took down the tent in all that wind and rain. And the next day, after the Gearhead Session (Hydro-Hot and Amazing Creations reps and Q/A session), they raised it up again! Very special thanks to SOB Norm and Amazing Creations' Bobby and Scott for their muscle and manpower, as well as the Alpine helpers. Even though the wind was not going away, the sun came out and everyone was smiling . . .

Friday afternoon from Noon to 2:00 PM our coach was part of the Open House . . . A great opportunity to meet other members, see their ideas and improvements and welcome others to see ours. Uh-oh, time to get busy cooking for the pot luck supper, how much water do we have left? Alpine members sure know how to put on a feed and fill their plates – always more than we can eat, but it tastes so good!

I love breakfast! Saturday morning's pot luck breakfast at 8:30 AM was a yummy experience. Oatmeal, pancakes, quiche, fresh fruit, the best! Those who slept in missed another ACA culinary delight. Today was a free day, so back to the FMCA tents one more time and even ventured into one of the flea market areas for a few bargains. After a walk in the desert sunshine it was time for cocktails and platters of cheese, cold cuts and crackers. I'm still full from breakfast, but there's always room for . . . popcorn!! The bonfire was huge, Rick the Music Man played lots of sing along and memorable hits, aided by Carol Hinkley's hand jive, she never missed a beat! I felt like a hot dog on a spit, turning slowly to keep all sides warm. As an added bonus, Louie called Obama and arranged for the space station to fly over at exactly 7:28 PM – what a guy!

Carol Reimer provided music and Louie Burch led devotions on Sunday morning after donuts and coffee under the tent. Since the 4-wheel and motorcycle trip was cancelled due to washouts on Saturday, we decided to drive via Parker to the Nellie E Desert Bar. We arrived early, took some photos, and even got the guys to check out the Ladies Restroom UNIQUE!

Former Alpiners Ray & Ann Koistenen stopped by, rejoined ACA, and stayed for our catered Former Alpiners Ray & Ann Koistenen stopped by, rejoined ACA, and stayed for our catered BBQ of chicken, ribs, potato salad and beans. The wind died down and the stars came up, a great night for Rick the Music Man to return. SOB Leonard Dunevin and his guitar joined in and played well into the night . . . a hidden talent, bring him back again!

Monday morning we were all packed and on our way. Carl and Kathy Nicholson will be planning to make DRR #10 a special event, and we hope we will be able to join them. Now we "get it" and we are happy to join the ranks for DRR enthusiasts. Next time someone asks, "Have you been to Quartzsite?" we will enthusiastically reply, "Yes, it was the worst weather, and we had the best time ever!"

A HUGE Thank You to Gary and Diana Shan-ander for all their planning, hard work, and endurance. Louie and Linda Burch are like energizer bunnies, devoted wagon master, jack of all trades, and even garbage collector . . . thank you for all you do! To Pres. Paul and Dale Sullivan, our devoted Board members, upcoming rally hosts, and all the volunteers that pitched in to help – Thank You for making our first Desert Rat Rally one we will not soon forget! This rally more than any other proved no matter what the weather provides, ACA members make the best of the worst and a good time was had by all!



ACA thanks Gary and Diana Shanander who stepped up to the plate (a plate that was blowing in the wind) to put on a terrific rally hitting a home run. Below Diana and Gary pass the Rally Hook up to next years Desert Rat Rally hosts, Carl and Kathy NicholSEN.



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT —Paul (Sully) Sullivan



**Dale & Paul Sullivan**

Dear Friends:

It has been 15 months since I became President of our club, and I am glad to report that our club is strong and growing. Our latest roster shows that we total 441 Members. By the way, Dale Wilson & Renee Perrault have designed a new Membership Application, that is available on line, should you come across a potential new member. ACA's growth and rejuvenation has not been accomplished in a vacuum. I would like to thank all who have served on the Board and volunteered to serve in the many, often thankless, capacities that allow ACA to function.

Rallies of necessity have had to change. Gone are the days when we could attract many thousands of dollars in rally subsidies from WRV and their dealer network. In this new environment we rely more on volunteers than hired help in organizing meals and entertainment, but our goal is to continue to provide the outstanding rallies we are accustomed to. We are not alone in this as this is the same situation in the other clubs. I assure you that your Board and I are looking to maximize the dollar value for each rally and as always suggestions are welcome. If you have a Rally idea or suggestion please let Louie or me know, and we welcome your input.

Speaking of rallies, my hat is off to Louie Burch our Rally Director/Co-ordinator. Louie has put together a great group of volunteer Rally Masters who have put on really great rallies and have more scheduled through 2012. You'll read about Quartzsite in the next newsletter, but Dale & I had more fun than any other Quartzsite Rally in the most fickle weather we have experienced in the desert.

The Board approved and the Membership ratified a new Dues structure at Quartzsite. The Dues have been reduced from \$35.00 per year to \$15.00 per year. Also the dues year had been from July 1 through June 30, and we have changed to the calendar year to simplify accounting. Instead of collecting a full year this July we will collect only \$6.00 for the balance of 2010. You may do what most did at Quartzsite and pay \$21.00 which makes you current through December 31, 2011.

I hope this finds you all well and that we see you at an Alpine event soon.

Paul "Sully" Sullivan

## NEW ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

We enthusiastically welcome our newest members and look forward to seeing you at future rallies. Check out the 2010 Rally Schedule on page 5 and start planning your route to fun!

Gerald & Carol Thompson  
Larry and Liza Grizzard  
Robert and Joan Townsend

Bellingham WA  
Oxford AL  
Scotia NY

**Alpine Coach Association Logo wear is back,  
contact Carl and Kathy Nichol森 at  
[knichol森@comcast.net](mailto:knichol森@comcast.net)**



## ALPINE RALLY CALENDAR 2010

**Spring is just around the corner....spring into action and get registered for the upcoming rallies!**

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 lindaemory@verizon.net Doug and Debbie Hallander dchdrh@easystreet.net
May 16—23	Distant Drums RV Park Camp Verde, AZ	SoCal	Jim & Stephanie Archer searcher@cox.net Ed & Donna Mathews Ejm_mathews@msn.com
July 8—12	Crown Villa RV Resort Bend, Oregon	NoCal	Harold and Carroll Borland chborl@juno.com
August 5 –10	FMCA Pre-Rally Premier RV Resorts Salem, Oregon	National	Tris & Carolyn Swan swansnest2@earthlink.net Jim & Elaine Ellis Jeellis7@msn.com
August 11—14	Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center Redmond, OR	FMCA	Check FMCA Website
September 8—12	“The Bellingham Rally” Bellingham (Ferndale) 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

## SALEM PRE-RALLY AUGUST 5-10, 2010 at PREMIER RESORTS

By Carolyn and Tris Swan

Summer is fast approaching and we will be having the ACA Pre-rally at Premier Resorts in Salem, Oregon August 5-10 leading into the FMCA International Rally in Redmond August 11-14. The **Swans and Ellis's** will be your Hosts and they have planned a lot of fun things to do. We will tour a lovely Victorian Estate; the Evergreen Museums (Spruce Goose) & IMAX with lunch included on Monday in McMinnville, Oregon Gardens and touring a Frank Lloyd Wright home on Sunday and an Ice Cream Social in the evening, and there are many vineyards and orchards to visit so there is plenty of free time to even go "picking".

Premier has a terrific Caterer on site who will be doing a great breakfast and final dinner for us. Daily continental breakfasts are included

The general theme of our Gearhead Session will be 'Coach Maintenance & Updating'! We already have 6 great "EXPERTS" committed to come and speak and answer questions on Saturday. (Silverleaf – HWH – Henderson's Suspension – Les Schwab – Tires, alignment & sipping - Coach Maintenance & Entertainment System – Extended Warranties). This will be followed by a lunch in the Tent Pavilion.

Guaranty has promised to come and bring some coaches. They will be hosting an "Ice Cream Social"!

Registration Forms are included in this Newsletter so send it right back quickly because we are limited to 55 spaces & they will fill up fast. Premier is offering a 15% discount for as long as you want to stay prior or post Rally.

## HABITATE FOR HUMANITY by Wilma Egg

Would you like to spend a day working for Habitat for Humanity? This is a chance for ACA Members to give a little back to a community. Since most members are nomads, it doesn't matter what community and since we'll be near Bend at the FMCA Rally it's a great opportunity.

Volunteer! Help hard-working local families in Bend Oregon experience the pride and stability of homeownership. Learn new skills, meet great people, and make a difference!

No construction skills required, Habitat for Humanity have the all tools and ACA men and women that are interested, will supply the sweat and muscle. All you need is a pair of closed-toe shoes, clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and a desire to help others.

We are putting together a list of ACA members that would like to volunteer for one day during the FMCA Convention at Redmond, Oregon. The date will probably be Friday, August 13, (we're waiting to get the FMCA schedule to determine the best day) from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Habitat site located on the north side of Bend, OR, about 20 minutes from Redmond.

Two of our ACA Members (that I know of), Rita and Larry Lewis, have been helping Habitat for Humanity on various projects around the country and love it. If you have an interest, please send an e-mail to Wilma Egg at [vwe734@gmail.com](mailto:vwe734@gmail.com) or call her cell phone at 201-370-8041.



# ACA PRE-RALLY in SALEM, OR August 5-10, 2010 Registration Form

Please return by May 18, 2010  
LIMITED TO FIRST 55 REGISTRANTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Spouses Name                      ACA Number                      FMCA Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address                      City                      State                      Zip

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Year \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Length \_\_\_\_\_ # Slides \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Model \_\_\_\_\_

Coming in early? Y N (arrival date) \_\_\_\_\_ Staying late? Y N (departure date) \_\_\_\_\_  
(MUST MAKE OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE RESORT – INFORM THEM OF RALLY ATTENDANCE – 15% discount)

Will you CARAVAN to Redmond FMCA International Rally with our group? Y N

Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_ First Rally? Y N

Dinner Entrée 8/09: Salmon w Marion Berry Sauce: # \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Pork Tenderloin: # \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat 4 Humanity Build in Redmond on Aug 13 (Fri) Y # \_\_\_\_\_ N Aug 14 (Sat) Y # \_\_\_\_\_ N

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**RALLY FEE:** \$320 ACA Members (2 people) includes 5 nights camping, 3 meals +  
continental breakfast each morning, 5 excursions, prizes, fun.

\$220 ACA Member (1 person in coach)

\$100 Additional Person in coach (seniors only – call Carolyn for kids prices)

\$360 Non-ACA Members & S.O.B. coaches after May 18

Please mail completed form along with a check made out to ACA RALLIES to .....

Tris and Carolyn Swan  
16251 Serenade Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
714-842-6989

# THE ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION BOARD



## Franklin Halasz—Secretary

No secretarial news as such; so what follows is just ordinary news.

You may wonder why there are no photos of the tent blowing away at Quartz-site. Two reasons: just before everything started coming apart the weather was REALLY lousy – couldn't see more than a few yards in rain and wind. And then when the tent had to be rescued, everyone with a camera was too busy with the rescue to take pictures. At least Louis and I were.

### Franklin & Dessa Halasz

It was a confused time. Perhaps my most vivid memory is of Louis still cooking burgers and brats over charcoal while the wind and rain howled about him and sparks flew everywhere. Dedicated or just stubborn?

Well, after the weather cleared we headed to California for a couple of weeks, then home for a couple of days, and then Hawaii (leaving the Alpine behind). We didn't get warm until we got to Hawaii! Fortunately, our stay there ended before the tsunami warnings came. Now we're looking forward to welcoming a dedicated band of Alpiners to Albuquerque for the FMCA pre-rally. We're hoping for good weather, of course; but in New Mexico we have four seasons: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Wind. March is definitely wind season.



## 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 Dir.	714-357-0505	swansnest2@earthlink.net
Debbie Bragg	Treasurer	817-994-3998	dbragg@swbell.net
Fred Royce	Vice President	360-460-0154	fhroyce@olyphen.com
Louis Burch	FMCA National Director	214-534-0399	labsr@aol.com
Renée Perrault	Newsletter Editor	206-919-3805	reneegary@msn.com

## Fred Royce - Vice President



**Fred & Carol Royce**

### Standing Rule Changes Approved

By Fred Royce, Vice President

Changes to the Standing Rules were approved at the Quartzsite business meeting. These included: one, provide a transition for collecting dues this year as result of changing membership year from June 30 to December 31; two, made the newsletter editor a non-voting member of the Board; three, allow appointment of other Members as non-voting members of the Board; and four, eliminate partial fees reimbursement to Board members for attending business meetings at fall and winter rallies.

The latter three items are recognition that ACA is now a different organization seeking broad based participation. While elected officers have overall management responsibility, other Members also play major roles in the success of ACA. Thus, remuneration for a few does not serve the interests of ACA. We also now have the ability to bring more talent to the Board for the benefit of all. Having the newsletter editor as part of the Board means that person is privy to all actions and discussions and can thus better inform Members of ACA activities.

We believe these changes will contribute to the long term success of ACA.

## Debbie Bragg— Treasurer



**Debbie and Jim Bragg**

Hello from the mostly sunny and warm desert of southern California. What a difference a year makes! We have had some rain here in Palm Springs this winter. But all in all, this has been the best place to be in the country when you look at the weather elsewhere. DRRVIX provided us with very diverse weather. We had a little rain Tuesday and Wednesday, tornadic winds and heavy rain Thursday, which blew down our tent, and then gorgeous weather Friday through Sunday. So we had a little bit of everything. The best thing about rain in the desert is that the ground soaks up all the rain almost immediately and you never have muddy feet unless you are walking in a wash!!

On page 10 is the 2010 Audit Results report done by Gail Stacy, Kay Watts and Giles Lenzmeier. We are starting the year with a little more than \$46,000 in the bank. There are three more rallies

planned for this year. Frank and Dessa Halasz are hosting the Albuquerque pre-rally to the FMCA in March. Tris and Carolyn Swan are hosting the Salem, OR pre-rally to the FMCA in August and

Dean and Jan Sandmire are hosting our Homecoming Rally in October in New Braunfels, TX. This rally is planned in conjunction with the annual Wurstfest party in New Braunfels, which is a really fun event. So make your plans now to attend one or all of these fabulous events.



## Membership Director—Dale Wilson



Dale & Ed Wilson

Greetings from Sunny Phoenix!

As your ACA Membership Director, I sent a letter which did not come across as I was hoping. Let me reiterate:

The yearly ACA dues were reduced from \$30.00 a year to \$15.00 at the October 2009 business meeting. Then at the General Meeting in Quartzsite, January 2010, the dates of when dues would be due, was changed from July 30 to December 31. This would coincide with FMCA and many of the Chapter dues. At the same time there was authorization for \$6.00 to cover from July 30 to Dec 31 2010. (or the second half of 2010)

The majority of the members present at Quartzsite decided to pay the \$21.00 to take them all the way, with paid dues, to Dec 2011. This sounded good to me, and I could get our email, addresses and phone numbers up to date. Most of you accepted my letter as I had intended and helped with sending in a check and updated your information. Thank you for your assistance. I hope this will clear up the confusion.

Look for our new ACA Membership applications. These will be on-line at your 'Alpine Coach Association' web site. Renee Perrault did the great colorful work on the brochure. We are sure you will like the new look. Please download and print one or two to carry with you. This is the way to introduce new Alpine owners to ACA. If you see an Alpine Coach, don't let them get away....take time to say 'Hello.'

A thought: "People rarely succeed at anything unless they have fun doing it." ~Unknown

That's it for this month, and I look forward to hearing from you! Thanks for your cooperation during this learning time.

Dale Wilson

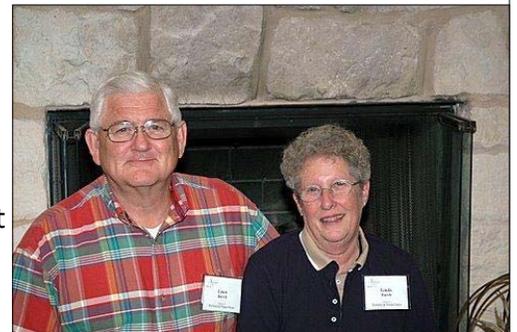
## Louis Burch—FMCA National Director & ACA Rally Coordinator

The first rally of 2010 is now completed. It was a wild and wooly time at the Desert Rat this year. The weather was a mix of all of the previous years and more. It was at times wet, dry, cold, warm, windy, calm, and at other times, all of the above. First the tent was up, then it was down, then returned to up again the next day. But at the end of the day, the over 100 coaches in attendance had a blast. Our host this year, Gary and Diana Shanander, did an outstanding job of planning and pulling it all together for us. A BIG, SPECIAL thanks go out to them.

The plans for the remaining three rallies this year are quickly firming up. Host Frank and Dessa Halasz have a fun time lined up for us in Albuquerque, March 17-21. The Spring FMCA rally will follow March 22-25. Tris and Carolyn Swan along with Jim and Elaine Ellis will be our host for another great rally in Salem, Oregon August 5-10. The second FMCA rally of the year will follow August 11-14 in Redmond. The fourth and final rally of 2010 hosted by Dean and Jan Sandmire will be held in New Braunfels, Texas October 26-31. The highlight of this rally will be attending the 50th anniversary of Wurstfest on 29 October.

So come on - make plans now to join us at one or more of these great rallies. Registration documentation is available on the ACA web site as soon as it becomes available. All I can promise is a good time with a bunch of good people. Remember, only you can make it a fun rally.

Louis Burch



Louis and Linda Burch

## ALPINE COACH AUDIT RESULTS—January 21st 2010

Records were provided by Debbie Bragg, Treasurer

### RECORDS REVIEWED FOR GENERAL AND RALLY ACCOUNTS:

Bank statements and monthly balanced reconciliations  
Support Documents for checks written on account  
QuickBook reports: Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statements

### IN OUR OPINION:

The record keeping process was consistent and correct  
Records are accurate, complete and the paper audit trail was extremely easy to follow  
Bank reconciliations balanced every month  
Checks are pre-numbered and authorized signatures were affixed on checks written  
Support documents matched expenses

### RCOMMENDATIONS:

No recommendations, Debbie Bragg keeps excellent books and all expenses and all monies were accounted for in an extremely efficient manner.

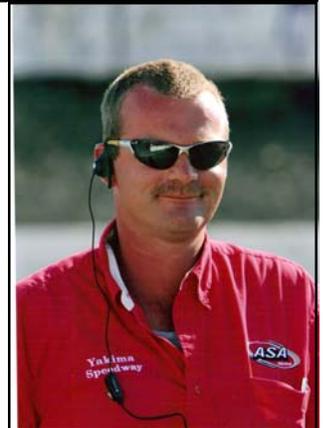
Audited January 21, 2010 at Desert Rat Rally in Quartzsite, AZ by:  
Kay Watts, Giles Lenzmeier & Gail Stacy

## WHO YOU GONNA CALL? Mark Harrah

Mark fielded a 154 calls in 2009 with 48 follow up calls. Questions were all over the board, a lot of brake questions, batteries, fuel gauge, windows, inverter questions, maintenance and ending with window issues. Mark handled all the calls and President Paul Sullivan received many emails of praise from ACA members.

When contacting Mark, please send a detailed email to with as much information as possible; email him at: [racer\\_s10ss@yahoo.com](mailto: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



## Have Friends that are jealous of all the fun you're having in your Alpine Coach? Let them know about:

### FOR SALE BY OWNER -2000 38' Alpine Coach

In excellent condition with only 47,000 miles. Upgrades include a washer and dryer, two fold out couch beds, engine is the Cummins 450. Asking price \$80,000, which is below the NADA blue book value. The coach has been maintained in tip top shape and is located near Roseburg Oregon. For pictures of the coach email Al Townsley at [alvint@centurytel.net](mailto:alvint@centurytel.net) or call 541-817-3525.

**For answers to questions and advice from other Alpine Coach owners visit [www.IRV2.com](http://www.IRV2.com) and click Alpine Coach Owners Forum.**

## HANDLING EMERGENCIES by Fred Royce

Recently I received a video outlining a new and simpler way for resuscitating individuals whose heart and/or breathing stopped. The technique can greatly improve the odds for saving a life.

It made me think of the need and importance of considering how we can deal with emergencies at ACA and other RV group events. While we are all young at heart, the reality is that incidents can occur. Basic training and presentations on safety related topics warrant consideration as part of rally activities. In addition, there is merit in asking participants to list an emergency contact on their rally application. Advising attendees of actions to take in an emergency should continue to be standard practice at all rallies.

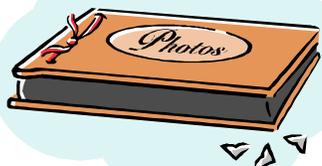
This article is not meant to cover all the aspects of dealing with emergencies, but rather, to open the topic for further discussion.

### REGION CONTACTS

<b>ACE</b> East Coast	Tom & Peggy Bacome 731-935-2303 <a href="mailto:pjbacome@aol.com">pjbacome@aol.com</a>	<b>NorCal</b> Northern California Northern Nevada	John & Barbara Knox 408-356-5267 <a href="mailto:jdknbak@verizon.net">jdknbak@verizon.net</a> Cell 408-218-8192
<b>Fulltimers</b>	Maureen Dahl 425-466-1445 <a href="mailto:wandern.two@verizon.net">wandern.two@verizon.net</a>	<b>NoWACA</b> Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana	Larry & Barbara Smith 360-437-2913 <a href="mailto:tysmith@olympen.com">tysmith@olympen.com</a>
<b>Central States</b>	Ray & Chris Schemanske 734-474-0762 <a href="mailto:cschemanske@yahoo.com">cschemanske@yahoo.com</a>	<b>SoCal</b> Southern California Southern Nevada	John & Gail Stacy 702-858-0400 <a href="mailto:gjstacy@cox.net">gjstacy@cox.net</a>

You may have noticed a change...."Midwest" has been revised to Central States, which include Texas/Louisiana to the Canadian border. Ray and Chris Schemanske will be beating the bushes looking for Alpine owners to join the region. If you live in the Central States give them a call!

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.



### Have Pictures from Rallies?

Carol Schock is our Alpine Coach Association Historian. Please send your pictures to her at: [yumatrailertrash@hotmail.com](mailto: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 albums when you are attending a National ACA Rally.



## RV WATER TREATMENT By "Engineer Mike" Fleming

Our editor requested some thoughts. Fortunately, I have a few.

Moving around from place to place, we encounter varying quality of utility services. Electricity suffers low voltage, or spikes, so RV'ers add Surge-Guard or autoformers to monitor power and protect valuable RV systems to help us live uninterrupted by these problems. Water quality at parks is a similar crap shoot. We find extreme hardness, acidity, salinity, and systems of questionable sanitation on occasion. Many RV'ers choose to treat incoming park water for health and convenience. Here are some basics.

Pure water has two main benefits- no questions as to healthfulness of what we drink or put in cooking, and pure water cleans better. Healthy water is a very simple matter- less pollutants = less health questions about what we drink. Cleaning with pure water vs. local tap water must be experienced to recognize the difference; many RV'ers (both men and women) remark on how fast & easy it is to clean the coach, or simply rinse down the shower spot and streak free. So how do we get these results?

First step is to filter incoming water for particles that can be trapped and tossed. Water contains various "stuff," small pieces of varying size. Sand, hardness scale, lint, hair, algae, decomposing insects, etc. all find their way into municipal and private water supplies. These can be trapped in inexpensive canister or cartridge type filters with replaceable filtration media. In addition, chlorine and a variety of other chemicals that are questionable for our health and may impart bad taste to water can be removed or improved with carbon filtering.

A good filter system has two separate filter canisters (some do three stages), with the first for particulates or "sediment" and the second for carbon media. Filter elements sell according to micron rating of the particle size they block, and the quality and construction of media. For most RV water sources, 10 micron filtration is a minimum, and 5 micron rating is preferred. If you have reason to fret over sanitation of incoming water, 0.5 micron filter media will block many bacteria including those "cyst" forms of giardia and cryptosporidium that exhibit extreme chlorine resistance.

I recommend "depth" or "depth-wound" sediment filter media. You can buy pleated paper sediment filters at most home improvement stores, but once you consider the volume of the media (paper thin vs. ~1/2" for "depth" type media), you'll find the depth media presents a considerable bargain. Oddly the paper elements sell for about the same price as depth media, probably due to packaging and handling costs. A good depth-wound sediment filter is basically polyester string wound around a perforated plastic core to build up media depth that will trap stuff as water passes through. This tried and true formula is very cost effective.

Second step is to remove chlorine &/or other chemicals and bad taste constituents. Carbon media comes in two kinds- GAC or granulated activated carbon, and "carbon-block." GAC filters contain granules or chunks of carbon; block types have a reconstituted carbon pipe or tube. Water flows through (and between) the granules in the GAC elements, but must flow thru the tube wall for carbon-block. Granules move around and abrade each other, so GAC elements have carbons wash-out, tiny black carbon pieces that go into your piping, and come out faucets, shower heads, set in your water heater, etc. Carbon-block elements don't suffer this problem. Because of the manufacturing step to produce the carbon pipe, block type elements cost more than the granule types, but I feel the difference is substantial while the added cost is small.

After sediment and carbon filtering, you still have "dissolved solids" in the water, usually a variety of salts. These can come from the water source (well, river, lake), or may have been added during treatment. Measurement for this is called TDS or Total Dissolved Solids. Local TDS varies from a low of about 40 parts per million (ppm) to a high over 1000. Quartzite, AZ, has around 830ppm, for example (most of the southwestern U.S. is very high in TDS). Depending on the locale, and what treatment has been done, TDS may (usually does) exhibit "hardness" characteristics. Hard water leaves calcium type spots after cleaning if not fully dried off, and requires use of substantially more soap, detergent, etc. Portable water softeners can be used to treat hardness; they "exchange" salt ions for the hardness components in the water passed thru the softener. The exchange doesn't lower TDS (a common misconception), it just trades one thing in the water for another. Purity remains whatever it was. Portable water softeners are available at Camping World and online. They require periodic "recharge" with granular salt. Some on low sodium diets recharge with potassium salts, usually at a higher cost. (continued page 14)

RV WATER TREATMENT (Continues from page 13)

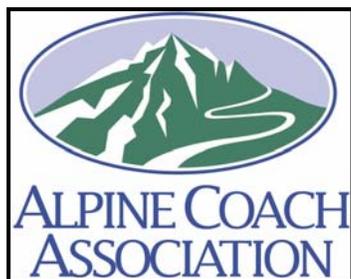
Finally, you can lower TDS using "reverse osmosis" or RO. This process forces water thru a semi-permeable membrane that allows small water molecules to pass, but not larger TDS molecules. You can expect in excess of 95% TDS reduction from proper RO treatment. So in Quartzite, you would read 830 TDS on the incoming city water, and about 40 or a bit less on the RO water going into your tank. That's quite a difference, and one you will taste and feel.

RO systems come in two main types. "Under-sink" RO units have small membranes, slow recovery capacity and use a small pressure tank to contain the RO water. These units cost \$200-400 and require a small spigot type faucet next to your main sink faucet. "Whole house" RO units have much larger membranes, higher make rates, and use your RV water tank to receive the purified water. Now when you run your house pump, you are pumping RO water for all uses. Whole house RO is a luxury. These systems will cost \$800 to \$2,000 depending on level of automation, capacity, etc. When we got our first whole house RO system on an 06 Alpine, we fell in love w/the results. That is not an uncommon reaction from RO users.

The type of RV water treatment you chose depends on your health needs first, and your desire for freedom from water issues. As a minimum, I recommend two-stage filtration (sediment and carbon) discussed above. This allows you to select filter media to meet minimum sanitation needs you are likely to encounter. For example, when Ann & I head into Mexico, I change the filter cartridges to 0.5 micron sediment, and 1.0 micron carbon to account for the lesser sanitation standards we will encounter. You can also get highly refined cartridge types for iron removal and other needs you may find at favorite landing spots. And if you crave freedom from lousy water, you can graduate to RO.

Hope this was informative, EngineerMike

*Editors note: We installed the RO water system last year. Love it for the health reasons but also love it for how easy it is to clean! Not water spots in the shower, when Gary washes the coach, he rinses with RO water and no water spots! Best upgrade we've ever done!*



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