



ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION

A View From The Summit

Volume 24 Issue 27 June 2011

SEE RALLY SCHEDULE ON
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Start planning your Rally fun!

ACA/ACE Pre-Rally at Ft. Benning, Georgia – March 7-11, 2011

By Wilma Egg

Welcome to Uchee Creek Army Campground/Marina!

Vic and I arrived on Sunday afternoon, a day early, and right off we knew this pre-rally was off and running. Eight out of nineteen coaches were already parked on large treed lots with full hookups, so it was impromptu party-time with pizza in the Camper's Cove for dinner. All day Monday the remaining eleven coaches arrived and it was old home week at the Lodge for a burger and brat supper. Jim Fivian, the rally host, gave a rundown of the planned activities:

Tuesday 8 AM breakfast at the Lodge (enough to feed an army!) and a free day that included an informal tour of the base led by Jim Fivian and a get-together at 5 PM at the Cove to view the first half of Louie's 10th Anniversary slide show.

Wednesday at 9 AM we lined up to caravan to the National Infantry Museum. It was still under construction two years ago and worth the wait to finally tour. We viewed an IMAX National Geographic film on Lewis & Clark, then a most informative docent tour (she usually caters to children, so no gum chewing or touching each other!) The \$100 million facility traces Infantry history from colonial to desert wars today. The entry called "the final 100 yards" pinpoints key battles in Infantry history and replicas of

fighting men were cast from current Ft. Benning soldiers – very moving, it made us all proud! Then lunch at the Officer's Club and a free afternoon. Many returned to the museum for a self guided tour at a slower pace. Others returned to their coaches to find ceiling water leaks from a heavy downpour while we were in the museum. We closed the day back at Camper's Cove for more snacks and the second half of Louie's slides, plus photos by Tom Cook of Ranger jumps from aircraft the week before most arrived.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT —Paul (Sully) Sullivan

First let me thank Tom & Janice Cook and Dean & Jan Sandmire for putting together SPOT (Special Theme Or Place) Rallies around our FMCA Pre Rally and Rally in Madison Wisconsin, as well as the ACE Rally at Mackinaw Island. This is a perfect example of how a members' knowledge of an area can open an opportunity for us all, and I salute their initiative.

Dale and I have had a very interesting Spring. After Quartzsite we headed to Key West with the Sandmires' after stopping in Hudson, Florida for window defogging. We love Key West and ate our way up and down the Keys. If you haven't seen the sunset and entertainment on the wharf in Key West you are missing a real treat.

After the Keys we headed north to join a Beaver Club Rolling Rally of the Civil War Battlefields. The Beavers have a program like our SPOT rallies, only theirs are on steroids. This was a 23 day rally with 15 coaches that went from Vicksburg Mississippi to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Corinth Mississippi was where we not only got stuck in the mud and had to be towed out, but the tornado sirens kept us in the shelters for most of one day. A tornado did touch down 6 miles away, and as we left Corinth we drove through some very sad scenes of devastation. We left the area with a greater appreciation for Mother Nature's power. At the conclusion of the 23 day rally, we continued on with a second stationary Beaver Rally in Gettysburg for four days. We had a great experience with the Beavers; we learned so much about one of our country's most significant wars, saw beautiful but haunting memorials, watched a battle reenactment, and came to appreciate once more the history of this great country. But we sure did have a little battle fatigue when it was over!

We will spend June in New York State visiting the Bellingers' in Howes Cave and then heading back south with them to spend the 4th of July at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey. We're having a family holiday picnic with a front row seat for the 125th anniversary of THE LADY with a special Macy's Fireworks display on the Hudson. It's a once in a lifetime event and we can't wait.

After all that we will head to the Madison rallies via New England and after the ACE Rally we will be going to Albuquerque for the Heritage Rally. The Balloon Fest is going to be a great way to end the year's rally schedule.

Hoping to seeing all of you someplace in our expanded rally schedule and look forward to having more people step up and add a SPOT of something you do that is worth sharing. The one thing that is constant is motor homing is the fun we share visiting new places along the way.



Paul and Dale at the Beaver Rally



Paul—Beavers like mud....Alpines... not so much!

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Alpine Coach owners visit
www.IRV2.com and click Alpine Coach Owners Forum.**

NEED TO CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER?

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Tom Cook	First Vice-President	231-920-2606	rtcook@acegroup.cc
Renée Perrault	Newsletter Editor	206-919-3805	reneegary@msn.com

ALPINE RALLY CALENDAR 2011 - 2012

August 3—8 2011	Fidalgo Bay RV Park Anacortes Wa.	NoWaca	Renee Perrault & Gary Arnold reneegary@msn.com Lynda and Carl Hjort carllynda@gmail.com
SOLD OUT WAIT LIST FULL			
August 4—8 2011	Pre Rally near Madison, WI		Phil and Ginny Hengles pghengels@ameritech.net
Sept 7—13 2011	Zephyr Cove RV Resort Zephyr Cove, NV	SoCal	Jerry & Toni Smith geraldsmith18@hotmail.com Mike & Ann Fleming mike@fleming.cc
Sept 9—13 2011	Mackinac City MI	ACE	Tom Cook
October 5—9 2011	Balloon Festival & Heritage Rally Albuquerque, NM	ACA	Frank & Dessa Halasz fhalasz@swcp.com
January 19 –24th 2012	Quartzsite XI	ACA	
July 19 –23rd 2012	Sequim Lavender Festival Sequim Wa	NoWaca	Larry & Barbara Smith typsmith@olypen.com
September/October 2012	Miramar Air Show	ACA	Renee Perrault & Gary Arnold reneegary@msn.com Vic & Wilma Egg vwe734@optonline.net

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT

- ◆ **ACA PRE RALLY IN WISCONSIN**
- ◆ **ACE POST RALLY IN MACKINAC**
- ◆ **ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA**

CHECK OUT PAGES 10 AND 11

Membership Director—Dale Wilson



Greetings from Warm/almost Hot Phoenix!

We will be leaving here shortly to go to Wisconsin. Two fold, our granddaughter is getting married July 9, and to attend the ACA Pre-Rally being held in Watertown, August 4- 8th, prior to the FMCA in Madison.

We have been watching with wonderment our Mother Hummingbird with her two babies. She built her nest outside our kitchen window, on the patio; the process has been special to watch. I imagine they will fledge perhaps the week we want to leave!

We sure don't want to miss a thing! This is a real privilege to be a witness to such a grand sight as two baby hummers being fed and growing every day. The Mom does this all on her own; Dad did his thing and then takes off to leave the Mom to do it all. Certainly glad it is not that way in the human families.

I just noticed on IRV2 someone wondered if we (ACA) were still in business, they had sent a check to Yakima made out in April, I did get mail in early May, but apparently your letter did not arrive in time. I have only been getting mail once a month, trying to help keep our costs down. Please be patient, if we get company, I do play with them....so that may delay your packet! But your packet will be put together with caring and love! Please be patient!

Our ACA dues will be due in December 2011. The \$15.00 Check will be sent to the address in Yakima, I will be getting mail more often during this time of many letters. So mark your calendars...in December ACA dues will be due. If you are going to have your Newsletter mailed to you, at this time you can include your \$25 for mailing privileges. As you set out on your summer travels, stay alert, watch the speed, make sure you have your equipment checked for safety and for the best summer ever! Enjoy!
See you down the road.



New Members

Alpine Coach Association is happy to welcome our newest members. We hope to see you all at a rally soon!

Dwight and Carolyn	Blevans	Rush	CO
Doug/Marilyn Bellessa	Duell	Newburgh	IN
Jerry and Marilee	Fichera	Mariposa	CA
Mike & Amy	Francis/Sphear	Durango	CO
Dave & Bobbi	Greer	Cornelius	NC
Tom and Cindy	James	Bass Lake	CA
Don and Linda	Lusby	Grand Junction	CO
Vee and Susan	Petrescu	Canoga Park	CA
Terry & Jeanne Allshouse	Quival	Santa Cruz	CA
John and Amie	Stevenson	Butte	MT

From Your Editor — Renée Perrault

I recently taught a class called "100 Years of Laughter" at Bellevue College in Bellevue Washington. The program is called Telos, for students 55 and older. My "students" ranged in age from 55 to 92 years young. Their backgrounds were very diverse but they all had one common goal, more laughter in their lives. And laugh we did, one woman even told me that she had been laughing so much from the class that she took herself off her antidepressants. The point is, we all need laughter and if it doesn't come to you everyday, you need to seek it out. There are many websites with a joke a day, here is one and a joke to get you started.

<http://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Seniors.htm>

Wish and ye shall receive: A RVing couple, both born the same year and month, were celebrating their 60th birthdays. During the celebration, a fairy appeared and said that because they had been so loving she would grant them each one wish. Very excited, the wife said that since she had already visited most of North America in her RV she would like to visit Europe. The fairy waved her

Then it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, then said with a sly look, "Well, I'd like to have a woman 30 years younger than me." The fairy waved her wand, and presto, he was 90.

ACA/ACE Pre-Rally at Ft. Benning, Georgia – March 7-11, 2011

Continued from page 1 by Wilma Egg

Thursday another 9 AM caravan, this time to Warm Springs, GA for an early lunch at The Bulloch House Restaurant built in 1893 and featuring southern fried chicken, green tomatoes, turnips and a chocolate dessert. We toured Roosevelt's Little White House, a State Historic Site, an area where FDR originally came for relief from polio, stayed to build the Georgia Warm Spring Foundation, and where he died on 4/2/1945 while sitting for a portrait (on display still unfinished).

Thursday afternoon we were on base at 4 PM at the Red Cloud Range to observe a demonstration of fighting techniques and static displays of a M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, M2a2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and a M1126 Stryker Combat Vehicle. Following a briefing on characteristics and capability of these vehicles, we witnessed a live firing of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Stryker – ear plugs required! Some braved the cool afternoon and stayed to live fire a 50 cal machine gun and/or the 25mm Bradley weapons that were set up for this purpose– go Carolyn Dees! Another casual evening with Carolyn's movie of the day's events and the parachute jumps last week. Friday everyone needed a down day to get ready for Perry and dry camping, so the trips to Plains and Andersonville were pushed off to Sunday from Perry. The final night dinner was held in the officer's club and was outstanding. A perfect close for a truly great pre-rally.

Fivian, Bill and Carolyn Dees, Tom and Janice Cook, and Louie and Linda Burch.



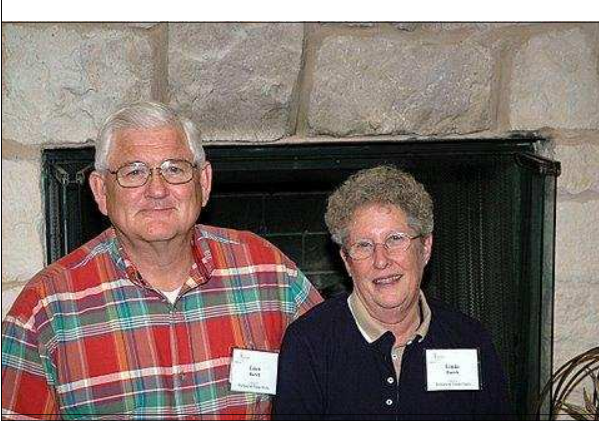
The Infantry Museum



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Louis Burch —FMCA Director



Louis & Linda Burch

Hello Fellow Alpiners! As you can see in several of the other news articles, "...those rallies keep rolling along." Another outstanding rally at Fort Benning, thanks largely to Jim and Linda Fivian, is now behind us. The Madison pre-rally has come together well and promises to be a memorable event also. Thanks go to Ginny and Phil Hengels and Tom and Janice Cook. We will be caravanning on to the **Madison Family A'Fair** FMCA rally following the pre-rally.

Several "native-to-the-area" folks have also developed a few SPOT (Special Program Or Theme) rallies to supplement your before and after time in Wisconsin. Paul has sent out informa

tion about these recently. And don't forget the open invitation to join the ACE folks over in Mackinaw, MI on September 9-12. Collectively, these rallies make for a great 'destination' during the summer of 2011. If you have not yet signed up for some/all, better hurry or you will miss a wonderful, hopefully cool, summer in the upper Midwest.

Remember also that July 1 is the drop dead date for ACA to define the attending numbers for the balloon fiesta being held in October. Frank and Desa have pieced together a great venue for us. The early cut-off date is set by the balloon fiesta committee and can not/ will not be missed due to severe cost penalties for ACA. So sign up now and we will see you there for another of the "1000 things to do before I die" that should be on your tic list.

Rally planning for DRRXI is also coming together due to efforts by Rod Sprague, our 2012 rally host. He has contacted several folks who volunteered to assist him with the details and they are working hard on your behalf. Plans also include having many of the folks who do coach repairs and preventative maintenance back again this year. Mark you calendar now for Jan 19-24, 2012 so you too can come on out and enjoy a few days in the desert with us.

Let me put on my National FMCA director hat for a moment and give you a couple of updates there. Number one is that the dates for the FMCA's 87th Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase to be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Indiana have been changed to August 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2012. Previously the dates were over the 4th of July weekend and many folks did not like the timing including the Motorhome manufacturer's who typically release their new designs late in July. They will now be able to show the latest and greatest.

Another change effective January 1, 2011, is the replacement of **MEDEX** as FMCA's medical evacuation program with **Travel Guard** and then effective April 1, 2011, with **On Call** coverage. Travel Guard could not arrange to cover the members in all states. The evacuation coverage has been continuous and the emergency telephone number, 877-202-4176, will remain the same as before.

Effective May 1, 2011, FMCA's free AD&D (accidental death and dismemberment) coverage has also been moved to **On Call**. Again, there was no lapse in coverage for the FMCA members.

The Executive Board and the Board of Directors for FMCA spend a lot of time and do a great job of providing benefits to the membership. They deserve your thanks.

Until we see you at the next rally, be safe and remember, *Innovate... Don't Stagnate*

Debbie Bragg—Treasurer



Jim & Debbie Bragg

Hello Alipiner's from Fairbanks AK.

We are enjoying some cooler temps than the sweltering heat in Texas. We are traveling via plane, train, and boat rather than the RV on this 2 week trip.

Did you know there really is a North Pole AK and Santa and his reindeer do live here? Check out the picture of Rudolph on vacation.



Even Reindeer get vacation

All is well with the ACA treasury. Frank is doing a great job organizing the balloon fiesta. Get your money in now if you

plan to attend this fabulous rally in Oct. In the immediate future is the Wisconsin pre-rally. Tom cook is coordinating this terrific event. Actually a pre and post rally is being planned, There is so much to see and do in Wisconsin Jim and I hope to see you in Wisconsin.

Tom Cook —1st Vice President

The next few months many activities have been planned for ACA members to participate in. August 4th – 8th the ACA Pre-Rally will be held at River Bend RV Resort in Wauwatertown, WI. From there we will caravan to Madison for FMCA, August 8th -14th. Following FMCA, ACA members have planned a couple SPOT (Special Places Or Themes) Rallies around the Wisconsin area.

Jan & Dean Sandmire have organized a SPOT Rally for a tour of Wisconsin's Amish Country including Viroqua's Wild West Days.... www.wildwestdays.info Jan has already started making maps with suggested tours of the area, places to buy Amish goods including those wonderful baskets and yes, places to eat. Those of you who followed Jan's tour maps in Texas know what a treat you are in for. Another SPOT Rally will follow to Door County, WI, with a chance to partake in a "Fish Boil" dinner. For those going



Tom & Janice Cook

on to the ACE Rally in Mackinaw City, MI, a tour of the U.P. is being discussed by a few members on the way to the ACE Rally, September 9th – 13th. Currently we have about 6 or 7 members that plan on walking across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day, the only day foot traffic is allowed on the bridge. Several will stay longer to observe the Antique Tractor Parade across the bridge on September 17th. One ACA member is bringing 3 antique tractors to drive across the bridge with the help of a couple other ACA volunteers.

Leaving Mackinaw City, several members plan on caravanning to the ACA Rally in Albuquerque, NM for the Balloon Fiesta, September 30th to October 5th, which is being organized by Frank and Dessa Halasz. Make plans to join in on the friendship and fun.

ACA HERITAGE RALLY AND ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA October 5—9 2011

Why should I travel all the way to Albuquerque just to see some balloons?

Well, first of all, it's not SOME balloons; it's 500 at a time - and the effect defies description. Secondly, there's more to the Fiesta than balloons flying around; spectators are welcome on the launch field so they can have the whole experience, from unloading and unrolling the balloon envelope to the inflation and the launch. And we will be parked at the south end of the field, which is the most likely direction for the balloons to go when they do launch; you'll see hundreds of balloons pass by close overhead.

There are many events in addition to the mass ascensions that are scheduled for three of the four days we're there, including balloon glows (tethered balloons at night, looking like giant holiday ornaments) and fireworks.

But why limit yourselves to driving to Albuquerque and back? Admittedly we find the Southern route, especially from the East, quite dull; but the Northern and Western routes are awesome. We just came from southern California via Utah and Colorado (with a tiny bit of Arizona), driving the western segment of I-70 for the first time. That is an incredible road! Just short detours will take one to several of the National Parks in Utah - at least a day's worth of scenery in each one. What's more, if one enters New Mexico from the North in middle-to-late September, the aspens will be putting on a show. Stop in Durango, Colorado and ride the narrow-gauge railroad; even better (in our opinion) go to Antonito, Colorado, or Chama, New Mexico, and ride theirs. And we're not even mentioning the Northern border states, or Canada - September would be somewhat chancy, perhaps, but the scenery is worth it!

So come TO the Heritage Rally but don't just come FOR the Heritage Rally. The trip itself is what you bought your Alpine for!

Don't wait too long; we have to release the remainder of our reservations by July 1st so we'll have to get yours by the week before -- stop reading this and call us to get your name on the list.

Franklin & Dessa Halasz
505-263-1930/505-400-1431 (cells)
fhalasz@swcp.com



The Rally will include:

4 Nights Camping on
the Fiesta Grounds
Minimum 3 meals, Entertainment
Admission to all Balloon Festival Events

Rally Cost:

\$490 2 per coach for ACA Members
\$380 for 1 per coach

ACA PRE-RALLY IN WISCONSIN, AUGUST, 2011

The ACA Pre-Rally, August 4th. to 8th. before the Madison FMCA International Rally will be held at the River Bend RV Resort in Watertown, WI. (www.rbresort.com) This park is located about one hour from Madison and Milwaukee, WI. We will caravan to the FMCA Rally to be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. We have reserved 50 sites for ACA. and are currently planning many activities. In addition, some ACA members have discussed a Post-Rally to Door County, WI. Make your plans to attend today. Registration form will be placed on the ACA website and IRV2 in the near future, or contact Ginny & Phil Hengels pghengels@ameritech.net



Rally Includes:

- 4 nights camping
- Cheese & Wine Tastings
- Tour to the Kohler Factory, Design Center and The Kohler Co. Art Center

ACE RALLY – MACKINAC CITY, MICHIGAN - SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2011



Join us for our fall ACE Rally this fall after the Madison FMCA meeting in Madison, WI. Following Madison, tour Door County, WI, then the Michigan Upper Peninsula and join us in Mackinaw City. A great time is planned to enjoy northern Michigan, Mackinac Island and a boat tour of the Sault Ste. Marie International Locks. We will be staying at the Mackinaw Mill Creek Camp - www.campmackinaw.com
Hosts will be Jim & Sandy Munsil and Tom & Janice Cook

Friday Sept. 9 th .	Arrival
Saturday, Sept. 10 th .	Boat to Mackinac Island, Island Carriage Tour and Lunch at Grand Hotel
Sunday, Sept. 11 th .	Pancake Breakfast and tech talk.
Monday, Sept. 12 th .	Sault Ste. Marie Boat Tour of International Locks.
Tuesday, Sept. 13 th .	Donuts/ Coffee – Check-Out

REGIONS

ACE	East Coast	Peggy Bacomé 731-935-2303 pjbacomé@aol.com	NoWACA	Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana	Terry McGuire 509-952-7880 Terry_4444@hotmail.com http://www.NoWACA.com
NorCal	Northern California Northern Nevada	Dave Seidl 925-454-3019 daveseidl@comcast.net	SoCal	Southern California, Southern Nevada	Gail Stacy 702-858-0400 gjstacy@cox.net
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