



**ALPINE COACH
ASSOCIATION**

A View From The Summit

Volume 16 Issue #7 June 2009

ELECTION EDITION

2009 ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Please refer to page 2 and 3 for biographies of the candidates running for office. Kathy Nicholson chaired the Nominating Committee and unfortunately, was unable to recruit enough members for two candidates for each position. If you were not approached, and have an interest in serving on the ACA Board, please advise Paul Sullivan and Kathy Nicholson, there will be another election in 2010.

According to Roberts Rules of Order and the ACA Bylaws, a ballot must be provided to all Members. You have the right to vote or write in a candidate. Please read the ballot information and don't forget to put your membership number on the back of the envelope.

2009 ACA Ballot

(Voting is one Ballot per coach)

Make a selection for each position by placing an X in the blank or write in your choice in the designated location.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

* Dale Wilson _____

*(write-in) _____

SECRETARY

* Franklin Halasz _____

*(write-in) _____

ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

* Tristram Swan _____

* (write-in) _____

You have the right and are encouraged to submit a ballot. Mail to:

ACA Election
326 West Columbus Ave.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Envelope must be postmarked no later than August 3, 2009. ACA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER MUST BE ON THE BACK OF YOUR ENVELOPE OR YOUR VOTE WILL NOT COUNT.

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL ON ACA CANDIDATES FOR 2009 ELECTION



**DALE WILSON— Running for ACA Second Vice President,
Membership Director**
Joined ACA in 2004

Hello, my name is Dale Wilson,

I want to be your ACA Second Vice President. It is time to step up and volunteer, I feel I am up to the challenge! As ACA Second Vice President I would be in charge of Membership. I would relish the chance to meet and greet as many of you ACA members as possible.

Ed and I married in 1973 and we have 4 children in our blended family. We have nine grandchildren, at this time, 7 great grandchildren. We have winter headquarters in Phoenix, summer is spent on the road. We have 2 sons, one in Wisconsin, one in San Antonio, TX, and daughters in Washington, one in Bonney Lake, and one in Ellensburg.

Ed and I have been active with motorhome clubs since 1990. Ten years within the National Bounder Club, we have been Northwest Reps, Nomination Chairmen; I was Registration Chairman on two National Rallies, one in Seattle, and one in Tucson. We had over 500 motorhomes registered in each of the two rallies. Prior to the Northwest Rally I wrote the history of Bounders United.

2001-2003 we joined with the Newmar club and attended many of their rallies, regional and National.

We have been in ACA since we purchased our 2004 Alpine. Currently we have our 36' 2006 Alpine. We have followed and watched the progress of ACA. We have attended many of the rallies, and currently belong to SoCal, and NoWACA. I have headed one of the ACA nomination committees.

I believe we need to be aggressive and continue in the direction in which we have taken with ACA. We have many well qualified people within our club and I would like to see us remain a fun organization, a good 'family' with great values to invest in our future of ACA.

Looking forward to working with each of you! Thank you for your confidence.

Dale Wilson

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL ON ACA CANDIDATES



FRANKLIN HALASZ - Current ACA Position: Secretary

Running for re-election

Joined ACA 2004

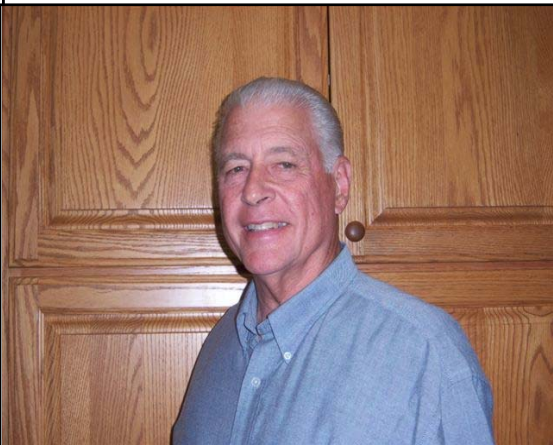
I'm Franklin Halasz, and I'm running for Secretary because it is a good opportunity to serve the ACA, which has provided fun, friendship, fellowship, and many useful tips on keeping our Alpine running smoothly.

Most of you remember that I was serving as Secretary when the President resigned, and was elected President by the Board of Directors. It was a turbulent time, but as soon as things steadied down somewhat I returned to my Secretary role and Paul was elected President by the membership. I am now seeking my second term as Secretary and hope my past service has been sufficiently satisfactory for you to elect me.

I'm now 72, married to Dessa for the past 50 years; we have 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren. The eldest grandchild just graduated from Oberlin college; the next oldest, from high school in Atlanta. When not on the road, we and our 2 dachshunds may be found in Albuquerque.

Oh yes, my previous experience: In a former life, I was secretary for one term in one professional organization and President of another for multiple terms. I have been secretary of a few organizations in my church, as well.

The dachshunds own an '01 Alpine, which we bought for them in '04, and are kind enough to let us drive it. It now has accumulated 87,000 miles, of which we contributed 67,000.



TRIS SWAN - Current ACA Position: Appointed January 2009 as Alternate Governing Board Director.

Running for: Alternate National Director

Joined ACA 2003

Tristram R Swan, AKA "TRIS", born in 1939 and resident of Huntington Beach, CA.

Graduated from Brethren High School and CSULB with a degree in Criminal Justice and Administration, as well as Safety Education with Lifetime Teaching Credentials.

In 1994 I retired from Huntington Beach Police Department as a Senior Sergeant after a 33 year career in law enforcement. I currently hold a Class A Commercial License and since retirement have worked as a Commercial Driver, an electrician, a carpenter, a plumber, and currently works in the HBPD Auto Shop part time when we're not traveling. I was a Lay Elder of a large local church and Chairman of the Mission Board for over 20 years. Currently, I am President of the Predator Callers of Orange County and FMCA Alternate Governing Board Director representing ACA.

I have been married to Carolyn, my high school sweetheart, for 48 years and we have a son and daughter and 8 grandchildren. Carolyn and I have been privileged to be on 8 short term Missions projects in Africa, Mexico, the Philippines, and Ecuador where I have done construction and she has done medical work. Among RVing adventures, I enjoy hunting, fishing, shooting, and hiking.

HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FMCA by Tris Swan

Of course, FMCA is feeling the pain of the sliding economy, just as each of us have experienced. In May the Board of Directors decided to go with a proposed deficit budget for 2010 in order to not have to cut any benefits like MEDEX. This deficit will be covered by operating reserves, which is their "Nest Egg". In 2010 the Family Convention registration will increase \$15 in order to help cut some of the losses.

March 2010	Albuquerque, New Mexico	
August 2010	Redmond, Oregon	Pre Rally Harrisburg Oregon at Rivers Bend Resort
March 2011	Perry, Georgia	
July 2011	Loveland, Colorado	86 th International Convention at "The Ranch"
March 2012	Pomona, California	Fairplex
July 2012	Indianapolis, Indiana	State Fairgrounds

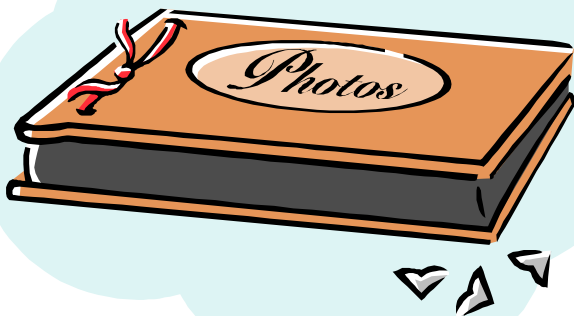
These Conventions are considered a member benefit. They provide educational opportunities for members and enhance the motorhome life style. If you have not attended an International Convention, join us this year in Bowling Green, Ohio and the ACA Pre-Rally at the Harbortown RV Resort in Monroe, MI. July 15 thru 19 and see what fun we have. Go to FMCA & ACA websites to register!

Beginning at the 83rd Convention in Albuquerque, there will be a "Talent Night" for 1 evening of entertainment. I propose that some of our talented members get together and work up an act or something. Maybe a Barber-shop Quartet or a Golden Girls' Follies?

The last item I would like to bring your attention to is the free "Trip Routing" on the FMCA website under "Members" tab. It took all of about 6 minutes for us to get a proposed route to Bowling Green, Ohio and points of interest on the way! Really slick!

I think it beats AAA trip routing by a long shot. **See you in Michigan & Ohio???**

Have Pictures from Rallies?



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

Be sure to 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.

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

Have a suggestion for the ACA Newsletter?

Send it to:

Renee Perrault—Editor
reneegary@msn.com

ALPINE RALLY CALENDAR 2009 & 2010

Time to start planning your travel route so you can attend as many rallies as possible this year.

July 20—23 2009	Bowling Green, Ohio FMCA Pre Rally	ACA	Contact Louis Burch for information or to volunteer. labsr@aol.com
July 22 –26 2009	1st Annual “Fred Sez” Rally Port Townsend Wa.	NoWACA	Fred & Carol Royce Mike & Charlotte Gamble Larry & Barbara Smith For info email: nowacainfo@yahoo.com
September 14-18 2009	Sea Pirate Campground Long Beach Island, NJ	ACE	Harry & Nancy Jensen 973-202-7229
September 25-26 2009	Prosser	NoWACA	More info to come
September 25 –27	Club Royal Oak Kingsburg, Ca.	SoCal	Tom & Patty Dietrich, tpdietrich@sbcglobal.net Nick and Ramona Escamilla rescamilla428@yahoo.com
September 27—30 (Tentative)	Pre Rally Chula Vista RV Resort	National	Info to come
September 30th — October 5th 2009	ACA Heritage Marine Air Station Miramar near San Diego, CA	National	Dave Fernandes d2dfernand@verizon.net
November 7—9 2009	Newport Dunes Newport, Ca.	SoCal	Bill & Patty Figge figgebp@mac.com Jack/Linda Giddens crazysingerkg@yahoo.com
Januar 20—25th 2010	Desert Rat Rally IV Quartzsite, AZ	National	Gary and Diana Shanander dedebray@hotmail.com
February 12-15 2010	Oasis Resort—Las Vegas	SoCal	John & Gail Stacy gjstacy@cox.net
March 17—21 2010	FMCA Pre-Rally Albuquerque, NM	National	Louis Burch labsr@aol.com
March 22—25 2010	Albuquerque Ballloon Fiesta Park	FMCA	Check FMCA Website
March 26—29 2010	Pueblo El Mirage Phoenix Metro area	SoCal	Mac & Anne McDougal mcdanne2@gmail.com Ollie & Katy Hundelt okhundelt@esedona.net
May 16—23 2010	Distant Drums RV Park Camp Verde, AZ	SoCal	Jim & Stephanie Archer searcher@cox.net Ed & Donna Mathews Ejm_mathews@msn.com

FIND more 2010 rallies at our website at
<http://www.alpinecoachassociation.com/info/events.htm>

From Our President —Paul (Sully) Sullivan



Dale & Paul Sullivan

I just attended a meeting at The Marine Corps Air Station with the Air Show Facilities Manager and the Heritage Rally Committee of Dave Fernandez, Chuck Zulegar, and Dan Oriente. We are the first RV club to rally on the base for the Air Show. The base staff is going out their way to make sure we will have a great experience because they are planning to use our schedule and comments as a template to attract others for future shows. Therefore we are getting the red carpet treatment and at a special price. Being first has its advantages!

Space for the Heritage Rally is still available, but half the spaces are already sold and we should be full soon, so if you are planning on going please let Dave know soon, we'd hate to start without you. We have also added a golf date on the base course for Wednesday September 30th at 12:30 pm, with Carl Nichol森 as coordinator.

If you check the ACA web site you'll see that Louie Burch has scheduled rallies through next year and we are still looking for volunteers. Also don't forget SPOTS, if you have an activity or event that you'd like to invite ACA Members to, contact Louie to set up a SPOT.

On another note we are in the same position as last year; we have very few people stepping up to run for office. The club has come through a transition period and things are different now. Club officers are not spending hours and hours on tasks; we have divided the work so that no one is over-worked. The club events do not just happen; there are many people working all the time to ensure our success. Please remember to thank these people and consider joining us in making ACA all it can be. Making new friends and seeing great places is a common goal of RV'ers. We are going to have great rallies in new places in the coming year. Please consider stepping up and joining in the fun of your club. Remember that our club is for the mutual benefit of all our members in providing information, a social experience and hopefully helping to retain value of our coaches. There is still time to volunteer to help with a rally or run for an office. Call some of the committee members or current office holders and ask them about the fun and satisfaction they have gotten by volunteering. Then volunteer. I have found I have always gotten more than I have given.

Remember, if you have a complaint or a problem please call or write me or any Board member. If you think things are going well tell someone who has dropped their membership.

Thanks,
Paul "Sully" Sullivan

Need to Contact a Board Member?

Name	Board Position	Cell Phone	Email
Paul Sullivan	President	619-392-8775	sobersully@hotmail.com
Earlene Bloomquist	Membership Director	509-969-2503	jebloom@earth-comm.com
Frank Halasz	Secretary	505-263-1930	fhalasz@swcp.com
Andy Lewis	Special Projects Director	702-682-5278	Firemans@embarqumail.com
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
Tris Swan	FMCA Assistant National Director	714-357-0505	swansnest2@earthlink.net

THE ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION BOARD



Earlene & Jerry Bloomquist

Earlene Bloomquist—Membership Director

Jerry and I have been in Calgary AB for 10 days and headed to Banff BC tomorrow. We will be on our way to Alaska by June 10th for the next 4 months.

I wanted to let you all know since you will not be paying yearly dues this year that if you have any address, email, or phone number changes please either email the changes to me at the following email address je-bloom@earth-comm.com or mail it to the following address by June 25:

Earlene Bloomquist
Alpine Coach Association
5808A Summitview Avenue, #337
Yakima, WA 98908

I hope you all know how very much I have enjoyed being your membership director for the last 4 years and I'm sure Dale Wilson will do a good job when she takes my job as Membership Director in Oct.

Our total membership as of June 3, 2009 is 375 members. Don't forget to ask your friends who are past ACA members and now own other coaches, that if they can rejoin if they have been past members of ACA.

Jerry and I will not be at the Heritage Rally in Oct. as we will just be returning from Alaska. We will see you in January at Quartzsite. Have fun a wonderful summer and enjoy your travel trips.

Debbie Bragg—Treasurer



Debbie & Jim Bragg

Hi all I really don't have much news to report. Things are rocking along smoothly from a Treasury standpoint. For those planning on attending the Bowling Green Pre Rally in July, please get your money in as soon as possible. The campground is hounding Louie to release some campsites immediately.

Fred Royce - Director



Fred & Carol Royce

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
Fulltimers	Maureen Dahl 425-466-1445 wandern.two@verizon.net	NoWACA Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana	Larry & Barbara Smith 360-437-2913 typsmith@olympen.com
Midwest	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. Maintaining your ACA membership gives you added benefits and support. A big bonus is 2008 dues are good through 2009! If you have friends that have left ACA let them know about the 2 years for 1 and tell them to rejoin.

New Alpine Coach Association Members—

Let's extend a big a big ACA welcome to our newest members. If you haven't already checked out the Rally Schedule on page 5 please take a look and start making plans! There are many events to attend in 2009 and 2010. New 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.

John and Pat Baptista	Stevinson	CA
Gary and Mary Bohinc	Havasa City	AZ
Marvin and Donna Cavaness	Eagle	ID
Norm Duncan	Banks	Or
Ted and Dene Greer	Nampa	ID
Steve and Sue Harrison	Antioch	CA
Scott and Marcia Hicks	Portland	OR
Mike and Carol Jensen	Cooperstown	NY
Jerry and Kathy Lousberg	Longmont	CO
Dick and Joyce Lund	Lake Angelus	MI
Jack and Josie Pellegrino	Austin	TX
Cor and Liz Stakenborg	Summerfield	FL
Harvey and Catherine Tedford	San Clemente	CA
Dwight and Roslind Warner	St. George	UT
Del and Berta Zander	Mission	TX

ALPINE COACH CORNER

\$1,000 REWARD

I am offering a \$1000.00 Reward to the Club or Club Member that helps me find a Buyer for either of two remaining new 2008 Alpine coaches. We were extremely disappointed at Western RV's decision to exit the RV business as we believe the Alpine coaches are among the best driving and best handling coaches in the world. We have two remaining new Alpine Limited Series that **we are willing to sell at a loss** and we are including Four Year Service Contract with each coaches. We'll trade for most anything, the price is right, the Reward's for real! Call John Cathey, Dealer, at 828-312-0056 for more information. PS: Both coaches are in pristine condition.

2008 (New) Alpine Limited Series, Stk # 3343, 36' lg, 2 Slides,
425 Hp Cummins, , MSRP \$343,748,
Sale Price \$189,916

2008 (New) Alpine Limited Series, Stk # 3326, 34' lg,
2 Slides
400 Hp Cummins MSRP \$346,236,
Will sell below original Factory invoice.



Carolina Coach & Camper I-40 Exit 135 Hickory, NC

More details at
www.carolinacoach.com

Have a Problem and Need a Quick Answer?

Own Resident Expert, Mark Harrah

Mark has contracted with ACA to field questions from members and help guide them to a solutions. So far, in six months, 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





Steering Bracket Update (2004-09 Models only)

By Mike Fleming aka Engineer Mike

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration is studying the flexibility of 04-09 steering gear brackets at this time, based on a number of complaints made by Alpine owners. Their process doesn't have a definite time frame, since access to data and analysis of how much data is needed is very issue dependent. Injury accidents increase the priority of NHTSA's concentrations, but thankfully, we are not burdened with an injury related accidents attributable to Alpine steering that we know. So in short, what will transpire at NHTSA and how long it will take is unknown. At this point they are simply studying the complaints & issues raised based on their time line & priorities.

Possible actions by NHTSA include:

- 1) Finding that the steering bracket needs to be reinforced *somehow*
- 2) Finding that the bracket needs *some specified fix*
- 3) If #1 or 2 above, then some liability is assigned to WRV
- 4) No finding (probably w/a note to those whose complaints are on file)
- 5) Other conclusions & outcomes are also possible

I contacted Gary Jones, the architect of the Peak Chassis (that was the idea of our fearless leader, Paul Sullivan), late in May to see if he would be interested in collaborating on an improvement to the steering bracket. Gary politely declined to get involved in WRV issues. I have proposed a one-piece, bolt-on solution to NHTSA that changes the basic method of stress transfer from the steering gear bracket to the chassis frame, eliminating torsion & >90% of the bending. And independently of all of the above, at least 3 other ad hoc solutions I've seen have been applied by Alpine owners and/or their frame shops, and another handful of solutions are proposed. Some include welding, and one includes bolting on two independent stabilizers.

Although it would be nice to have a definitive solution to this issue, sanctioned by NHTSA, if that happens it won't be immediate. Alpine owners can take a wait and see approach, or seek an individual solution at your local truck frame shop. The thread "Caution Late Alpine Owners" on www.iRV2.com shows 4 of the solutions applied so far. You can use those for direction if you want to do something right away. One word of caution- if you apply some solution of your own or something your local frame shop advises, AND NHTSA rules that some particular solution is needed to clear your vehicle of an unsafe condition, you will likely still need to apply that specific solution causing possible redundant repair cost and time.

Under any circumstance until a final solution & repair is done, I personally recommend semi-annual inspection of the bracket by a qualified frame shop or engineer of your choice. This is the standard of practice in several industries, including a version of the same in the over-the-road trucking industry. Your inspection should include:

- 1) Overall condition of the rear area of the bracket (a good clear photo each time would be useful)
- 2) Examine the rear bracket face/rear flange fold for any sign of fatigue crack; if this appears it will most likely start at the upper end of the fold or very near it.
- 3) Note the condition of the bracket paint (corrosion is highly contributory to initiation of fatigue cracking, so the inside & outside corners of the fold should be maintained with a good coat of rust inhibiting paint); this may mean you will need to apply rust inhibiting paint if your bracket has allowed the paint to start peeling.

Stay tuned to www.iRV2.com for developments. If anything significant comes up, you will also receive an email from our fearless leader, Paul Sullivan after his discussion w/Board members.

Mike Fleming ACA2005777

ALPINE SoCAL STRIKES GOLD! By Anne McDougal Rally Director SoCal

Well, not really, but we did have an exciting time at our May one week rally at Plymouth, in the heart of the Gold Country. It began with a Friday evening social, which was well attended as were the subsequent socials held every evening.

Activities included the world famous Calaveras County Frog Jump, Fair and Rodeo; a Jazz Festival & Wine Tasting held at four different wineries and pizza lunch and stroll in historic Placerville followed by the Gold Bug Mine tour. Additional activities included a guided tour and tasting at the Montevina/Terra d'Oro Winery followed by lunch on their patio and a catered dinner on the final night.

One of our social evenings included a silent auction to benefit the American Heart Association and we raised about \$600. In addition, President Gail Stacy won a money raffle; very deserving considering all of her hard work this past year.

Our hard hats are off to Jim & Polly Klinko and Noel & Carol Peck for orchestrating a fabulous rally.



Checking out the mine



SoCal enjoying a little wine tasting

DO YOU KNOW FIRST AID? By Renee Perrault

At a recent NoWaca Rally one of the members was choking on a piece of meat. Unable to communicate, fortunately another member assessed the situation and performed the Heimlich maneuver, managing to expel the piece of food. Choking is most likely to occur with children and older adults. Are you ready to help if needed? Here's some basics for the Heimlich.

1. For a conscious person who is sitting or standing, position yourself behind the person and reach your arms around his or her waist.
2. Place your fist, thumb side in, just above the person's navel and grab the fist tightly with your other hand.
3. Pull your fist abruptly upward and inward to increase airway pressure behind the obstructing object and force it from the windpipe.
4. Repeat the Heimlich maneuver until the foreign body is expelled.

Practice this maneuver on each other so if a situation occurs, you're ready. Everyone should make sure they are proficient at basic first aid including CPR. There may be times in your travels that you are in remote areas where outside help will take time to get to you.



c/o Renee Perrault—Editor
2520 Park Place North
Renton, Wa. 98056