

# Ramblin' NoDaks

April 2023

## Inside this issue:

- ◆ 1—Rallies
- ◆ 2—BD & Anniversaries, recipe
- ◆ 3—Offericers
- ◆ 4—President Dave's report
- ◆ 5—Memorial, Int. Convention, member books
- ◆ 6—National Director John's report
- ◆ 7—Recipe, Website, Tri-folds
- ◆ 8—Dues
- ◆ 9—Humor
- ◆ 10 & 11—Tribute
- ◆ 12—Gillette registration

Hello, and Happy Spring!

Where has the time gone! I hope your winter was a good one. It's time to get those RV's out and shined up and stocked up! I know we all look forward to seeing everyone again. See you soon. The registration and schedule for Mandan is attached.

Pam

## Rallies for 2023

May 4-7, 2023—Mandan (Ringland/Hoirup)

June 9-18, 2023—Rolling Rally to and from WI (Eckenrode) (more info coming)

June 13-16, 2023—Midwest Area at Chippewa Falls, WI

July 13-16, 2023—Grafton (joint CNL and RN), hosted by CNL

August 18-20, 2023 - Spearfish, SD (Roberts-Titze)

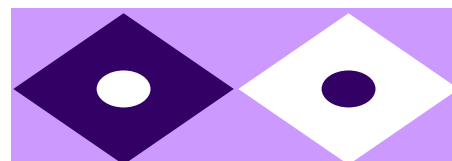
August 21-27, 2023 - Gillette, WY (International Convention)

September 7-10, 2023— Hazen (Beckman)

## Rallies for 2024

June (mid-late), 2024—rolling to Chico, MT (Richard)

July 11-14, 2024—Icelandic Park, Cavalier, ND (Hunt)



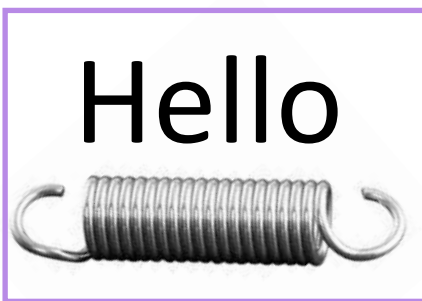
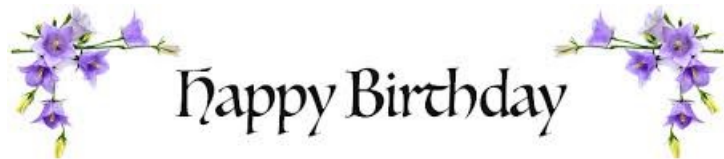
## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2—Adeline Wettlaufer  
4—George Jaeger  
10—Clara King  
10—Jenean Baumann  
11—Ginny Swenson  
11—Kitzan—1966  
14—Little—1979  
23—Rod Baumberger  
24—Dennis Richard



## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

2—Dale Paquin  
4—Gene Grimm  
5—Irene Beckman  
11—Janet McMillian  
14—Izzy Burdeniuk  
14—Champagne  
15—Ken Roed  
18—Gordy Wettlaufer  
20—Irene Hellman  
21—Mark Hunt  
22—Gerold Hoff  
23—Peggy Roberts-Titze  
29—Kathleen Hepworth



John & I made 4 jars of this with our Grandkids at Christmas. It was fun and also delicious. We made, vanilla, caramel, chocolate, and strawberry.





## **Our Ramblin' NoDaks Officers for 2021-2023:**

President—Dave Eckenrode—701-202-5411

Vice President—John Meier—701-440-1359

Secretary—Sandy Eckenrode—701-426-7757

Treasurer—Duane Heinrich—701-535-0830

Parliamentarian—Karen Grimm—701-371-3093

FMCA National Director—John Emmett—605-228-4075

FMCA Alt. National Director—Wayne Bohnet- 701-400-3258

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor—Pam Meier-701-440-1189

Chaplains—Kathy Heinrich, Kent Roehl

Security—Bill Sommers, Larry Grindy, Dean Little

Nominating Committee—John Ringland, Darlyne Roed, Karen Grimm, Pam Meier



**President's report for April 2023 newsletter      By David Eckenrode**

Happy spring (at least that is what the calendar says) to everyone. I hope everyone had a good and healthy winter. I'm pleased to say we are having a rally every month this year starting with a May rally in Mandan and ending with a rally in Hazen in September. I want to thank the members that have volunteered to host a rally this year. We are also excited to be having a joint rally with the Canadian Northern Lights in July. It will be great to see our northern neighbors again.

Pre-Registration is required for all the rallies.

It's also time to start planning rallies for 2024. If you have suggestions on dates, locations or would like to volunteer to host a rally in 2024, please contact me. Here's the rallies already schedule for 2024.

Mid-Late June 2024 – Rolling Rally to Chico Hot Spring and other parts of Montana  
(Yellowstone, Livingston, Bozeman,) Hosted by Dennis and Beth Richards

July 11-14, 2024 – Icelandic State Park, Cavalier ND, Hosted by Mark and Kim Hunt.

This year is the election year for Ramblin' NoDaks officers. We will typically hold elections at the August meeting. If we don't have enough members present at the August rally, we will hold the election at the September rally in Hazen. If you are interested in running or rerunning for an elected office, please contact someone on the nominating committee. The Nominating Committee members are Darlyne Roed, Pam Meier, Karen Grimm and John Ringland.

Hopefully we can see everyone at one of the rallies this year. Please be healthy, drive safely and have a wonderful summer.

**Update on June Rolling Rally for April 2023 newsletter**

**By David Eckenrode**

Planning continues for June rolling rally to Chippewa Falls, WI. As of today, we have 15 RVs attending the rolling rally. Our plans include staying the nights of June 9-10, 2023, at the Wagner Campground in Barnesville, MN and then the nights of June 11-12, 2023 at Treasure Island RV Park in Welch, MN.

I currently have 15 full hookup sites set aside at the Wagner Campground of which 13 are taken. There is still room for 2 more RVs at Barnesville, MN. I currently have 20 hookup sites set aside at the Treasure Island RV Park of which 15 are taken. There is still room for 5 more RVs at Welch, MN. We will be caravanning to Chippewa Falls on June 13, 2023. I am still planning the activities/events for Barnesville and Welch, MN, more to come later. There is still time to get in on the rolling rally, please contact me if you're interested. The actual registration will come out in the May newsletter.



**Our deepest sympathy to  
Bill Sommers on the loss  
of dear Becky.  
We will all miss her!**



**International Convention (Gillette)  
information**

Registration is now open for the FMCA 107th International Convention & RV Expo in Gillette, WY on August 23-26, 2023. The Ramblin' NoDaks will be volunteering to serve coffee and donuts. Our August rally will be held at the Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort in Spearfish SD on August 18-20. We typically go into Gillette on Monday, August 21. Information on registration for the Convention is on Page 12.

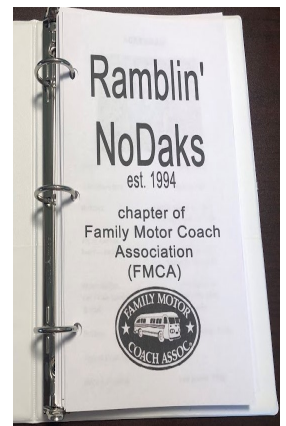


**Ramblin' NoDaks membership books for sale**

We have membership books for sale. They are \$10.00 each. There is a page designated to each member unit. In the book you will also find the chapter standing rules, the by-laws, past Presidents, and Charter Members.

If you have a book and in comparing it to the roster you find that you are missing someone, please let me know and I can email you their page. You can also contact me if you need the information changed on your personal sheet.

To purchase a book or to have pages emailed, contact Pam Meier, [jpmeyer@midco.net](mailto:jpmeyer@midco.net) or 701-440-1189.



## **FMCA National Director Report—John Emmett**

Greetings from the Big Apple. I am in New York City visiting our daughter for Easter. New York is such an interesting place. Great to visit but not a place I personally would like to live.

Cathy and I had a very nice trip to Perry GA for FMCA's 106<sup>th</sup> International Convention and RV Expo. This is our fifth or sixth trip to Perry. It was a great experience and I encourage everyone to make a trip to Perry. The Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter is an excellent venue for a rally of this type. In fact, Perry GA was the site of the largest FMCA rally in history with over 6,200 coaches in the late 1990's.

Check in at the rally was smooth and easy. We were parked on grass which always a little disconcerting with a coach as heavy as ours. We got about 2" of rain on Friday night. We left on Sunday morning and things were still pretty muddy.

I am going to quote some statistics from our Midwest Area meeting. At the Perry rally there were a little over 1,600 coaches. This is down from previous years but well over the number of coaches at the Lincoln NE rally in August.

Midwest Area Vice President John Jacobs reported at our meeting that approximately 16% of the FMCA membership are towable and that about 3% of all RV's nationwide are members of FMCA. All of these statistics are from memory as I don't have my notes here with me, but they are very close.

We all know Gary Milner. He is candidate for the office of International President. We will be voting on this at the rally in Gillette.

The entertainment was OK, not great. Wednesday evening was the Andrews Brother Dueling Pianos. Thursday night was the evening for Block Parties and there were several. A sock hop was also held on Thursday night. Friday night was Kenny Ray Horton. He performed in Lincoln at an afternoon show. We missed seeing him because it was raining bucket loads. And Saturday was Tom Becker who at one time was with the New Christy Minstrels. He did a tribute to John Denver. It was very enjoyable.

To finish up this recap, all of the usual vendors and seminars were available for all to attend. There were many first timers as well as seeing many old friends. Cathy and I look forward to the rally in Gillette. In fact, the registration is open and there will be many full hook-up sites available.

**Crab Salad or Dip**

**14 oz. crab meat**

**1/2 cup mayonnaise**

**12 stalks celery (finely chopped)**

**1/4 tsp. celery salt**

**1/4 tsp. paprika**

**1/2 tsp. dill**

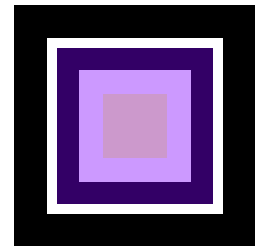
**Salt and pepper to taste**

Separate crab into individual pieces and chop into 1/2 inch pieces. Add remaining ingredients and gently stir until well combined. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate. Enjoy!



Don't forget to check out our website:

[www.ramblinnodaks.com](http://www.ramblinnodaks.com)



From Sandy Eckenrode:

Our chapter has tri-folds to hand out to prospective new members. If you would like to have some, please contact me and I will mail them to you.

701-426-7757

We all have a great time and love our rallies. Will you please consider hosting one? Let President Dave know if you would be willing to host one in 2024? The NoDaks will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary!

**From Treasurer Duane:** Dues for 2023 were due by January 1st, 2023. Please mail your dues at your earliest convenience to: Duane Heinrich, 4333 47th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58104. Remember you can pay more than one year at a time.

**The following owe \$15.00 for dues.**

- Champagne
- Coulson
- Davis
- Emmett
- Grindy
- Heen
- Hoff
- McDonald
- Morgan
- Sperbeck
- Stainbrook



**The following owe \$10.00 for Honorary annual dues.**

- Ackerman
- Carvell
- Sigurdson



**Dropped Members:**

- Davis
- Hepworth
- Hodgson
- Jaeger
- King
- McMillan
- Morrow
- Mychasiw
- Pierce
- Paquin
- Rutledge

**FMCA Bylaws Article III #4E**

**ARREARS:** Any member whose dues remain unpaid for more than 6 months after becoming due shall be considered delinquent; after 12 months, membership is cancelled.



## **A little humor:**

A man walks into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him.

The waitress asks for their orders. The guy says, "A hamburger, fries, and a coke," and turns to the ostrich, "What's yours?" "I'll have the same," says the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$18.40 please."

The man reaches into his pocket and, without looking, pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the guy and the ostrich return to the same restaurant and the guy says, "A hamburger, fries, and a coke." The ostrich says, "I'll have the same."

Again the guy reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change. This becomes routine until one night they enter the restaurant and the waitress asks, "The usual?"

"No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato, and salad", says the guy.

"Me too," says the ostrich.

The waitress brings the order and says, "That will be \$42.62."

Once again the guy pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress can't hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?"

"Well," says the guy, "several years ago I was cleaning my attic and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there."

"That's brilliant!" says the waitress. "Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!"

"That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the guy.

The waitress asks, "But, sir, what's with the ostrich?"

The guy sighs and answers, "My second wish was for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say."

At our park in Mesa, AZ, they honored anyone that was at least 90 years old. At the celebration, there was a story that was told about each honored attendee. I was honored to be the one to write and read the story of two very special people. (Gordy & Adeline helped with the story) Twelve of our NoDaks family were present to help them celebrate!

February 10, 2023

### **Gordon & Adeline Wettlaufer**

It is an honor for me to introduce to you these two wonderful people from North Dakota. Gordon Wettlaufer is 91 years and 9 months old. Adeline Wettlaufer is 91 years and 10 months old. They have been married for 70 years and 8 months.

Gordy lived on a farm for 13 years and then moved to Bottineau, ND. At about 14 years old, in 1945, he started working at a grocery store. At that time, he received 20 cents per hour. At the age of 20, Gordon was drafted into the Marine Corp. In Gordon's words... "the best of the military!!". After Boot Camp, he came home on furlough and married the love of his life, Adeline Dunderland on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1952.

Adeline was a cute hometown Bottineau North Dakota girl. She spent her early years working and helping various people. She volunteered at her church. She was very involved in music at school and also the Valedictorian of her class.

Gordon returned to the service. He was stationed for 10 months in South Korea during the Korean Conflict. During the 2 years that Gordon was serving our country, Adeline was at home teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and keeping the home fires burning.

When Gordon came home from his military duties, they purchased a small run-down grocery store in their hometown of Bottineau, North Dakota in the year of 1954. Their first day of business, they sold \$47.00 of grocery. After lots of hard work, they moved across the street to a large building built by Nash Finch Company, and it became the Piggly Wiggly grocery store. This was a dream that they had really worked for. Gordon ran the store and Adeline did the bookwork and she also made many window banners and in-store signs for the shelves.

Ten years later, they built their own Piggly Wiggly store back across the street where it had all started 16 years prior in the little run-down store. They both state that they put in many long hours of hard work through the years, but it was worth it all. Business was good and the store did well, and they met many wonderful people along the way.

They sold their store and retired in 1984, both at the age of 53. After retiring, they began traveling in their motorhome. They spent about 2 weeks at a location and then moved on traveling between Florida and California and many places in between. Their travels have taken them to Alaska, to Europe multiple times, and on several cruises.

In 2012, at the age of 83, they decided to settle in one place for the winter and that is when they purchased their park model at Val Vista Villages. They say that it is a great place to live, enjoying old and new friends. They love the warm weather rather than the cold in North Dakota. They are both still very active. Gordon goes to pottery and the wood shop making beautiful vases, bowls and ink pens which many of us have been blessed to receive. Adeline loves to do puzzles, read and she is an accomplished piano player and still plays. She just played a duet with her daughter at her Granddaughter's wedding in New York. She makes the best divinity. Another blessing that many of us have received. They love gatherings and getting together to play games and cards. One of them can be quite competitive!

Gordon and Adeline have built a legacy of 4 wonderful children (2 boys and 2 girls), 10 smart Grandchildren, and 5 perfect Great Grandchildren. The love in their family is very obvious!

This couple is special beyond measure to many people. When they are in our midst, there is never a dull moment. They are still active in our North Dakota RV group, the Ramblin' NoDaks. In the summer months, Gordy still drives their 40' motorhome to our rallies at various locations. They keep busy in their hometown enjoying family, visiting, and volunteering.

So Happy Birthday to these two wonderful people that will soon be 92 years old! We treasure your friendship, and we love you dearly!



# FMCA

Your RVing Family



FMCA'S 107TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO

# Celebrating Sixty

AUGUST 23-26, 2023

CAM-PLEX MULTI-EVENT FACILITIES • GILLETTE, WYOMING

## Gillette Registration

# OPEN

Registration is officially open for **FMCA's 107th International Convention & RV Expo**, August 23 through 26, 2023, in Gillette, Wyoming. Join us for on-site camping, learning, live entertainment, shopping, meeting new friends, and FUN!

### Be A Super Early Bird

Register by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, and you will be entered into a drawing to receive free registration for the convention, a \$195 value. The drawing will be held live on FMCA's Facebook and YouTube accounts Thursday, April 13. Register early for your chance to win!

- Visit [FMCA.com](https://www.fmca.com)
- Mail in the registration form, located in your April issue of *Family RVing* magazine, download [here](#)

Call the FMCA Events Team at **(800) 543-3622**