

# Ramblin' NoDaks

July 2016

## RAMBLIN' TO RUGBY

It's time to think about our next Rally already!! Dick & Alice, Don & Sheri and Jim & Sandy are hosting us at the fairgrounds in Ruby August 4-7. Look for the schedule and the registration form at the end of this Newsletter.

As I sit here in the Amana Colonies of Iowa, over 200 coaches registered for the MAC Rally, I look over some of the tallest corn I have ever seen! The Amana Colonies RV Park has been a wonderful rally site...full hookups for everyone, an air-conditioned building for meetings and seminars, some great entertainment and lots of time for visiting and meeting fellow MAC members. And the Amana Colonies have been most interesting to visit .. and oh my, the restaurants with delicious German food has been a favorite for us all! Oh, did I mention the wineries, cheeses, jams, quilt shop, ice cream shops to name a few of our shopping spots?!! Gene, our MAC representative and Duane, our FMCA National Director have written articles covering this rally. You will enjoy learning all that they have to share.



I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to Dave & Barb Kitzan for hosting a fabulous rally at Hazen Bay. Everyone had a wonderful time — and we were kept busy every minute of the day! They were assisted by their daughter, Gaye and her husband Dwight, Wayne & Jackie Bohnet, Bill and Laurel Tveit and Larry & Margaret Gjerstad (who did the least). Thanks to all of the host couples.

Also Thanks to Karen Grimm for agreeing to write up a story about the Hazen Rally! For those of you who were not able to attend, you will see what all you missed!!

Margaret

## CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS LIST

Please make the following changes to your address list:

Borowski, Ernie & Darlene—email: pennerng@gmail.com  
cell phone: 204-371-6452

Emmett, John & Cathy—F number should be F57676D

Gunter, Dick & Alice—email: alicegunter5@gmail.com

Richard, Dennis & Beth—phone should be 701-575-4714

Wood, Butch & MaryLou —delete 701-462-3564 and add  
701-460-0657 (MaryLou)

If any of you notice other errors on the address list, PLEASE let me know so that I can get them corrected for the new list. Thanks so much.

## NEW MEMBERS

While in Winnipeg, we happily signed up two new members! The Cohn's and the Cooper's. I have made pages for them for your Directory and they are also on the new address list.

Verlyn & Brenda Cohn are from Nebraska

Brian & Henny Cooper are from Winnipeg

\*\*\*A WARM NODAK'S WELCOME\*\*\*

## Remaining 2016 Rally Schedule

August 4-7	Rugby
Dick & Alice, Don & Sheri	
Jim & Sandy	
August 18-21	Brandon, MB Gun Club
Canadian Northern Lights	
September 8-11	Fargo
Dave & Jenean	

## HAZEN BAY RALLY .. GREAT FUN

Many good times were had at Hazen Bay. Thank You to Karen Grimm for writing up a report on this great rally. Her report is found on another page of this Newsletter. Here is a picture of a very happy Frances handing over her coveted trophy to the new recipient, Dennis Richard!



## DROPPED MEMBERS

We regret to report that the following members have dropped their membership:

Jerry & Betty Hopfauf

Ralph & Ruth Rutledge

## HAZEN BAY AND KITZAN RESIDENCE RALLY

Hosted by Dave & Barb Kitzan, Wayne & Jackie Bohnet, Bill & Laurel Tveit, Larry & Margaret Gjerstad

Twenty six coaches were parked at the Hazen Bay Campgrounds. The NODAK EXPRESS provided excellent transportation to and from the campgrounds and the Kitzan residence.

Activities included:

**Tours:** Knife River Villages National Historic Site and the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery.

**Entertainment:** Bonfire, Comedian Act "Idiot on the Prairie" and the "Kitzan Granddaughter Singers".

**Meals:** (and we did eat): Breakfast at the Kitzans, lunch at the Knights, ice cream at the Crab Apple Ice Cream Shop in Pick City, dinners—potluck and the brand new Iron Oar in Riverdale.

**Business Meeting:** We welcomed new members Brian and Henny Cooper from Winnipeg.

**Sunday Morning** activities included: Presentation of the dumb ass award by Frances Fritz (who received the award for backing into the shelter at Glen Ullin) to Dennis Richard. For the record, water had been left running in the coach so that it ran out of the tank overflow.

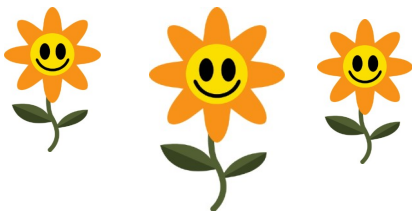
**Church Service** was held and our goodbyes were said.

Four coaches left for the MAC Rally at the Amana Colonies in Iowa. Those attending the rally are Gjerstads, Meiers, Hellmans and Grimms.

See you at Rugby in August.

Submitted by Karen Grimm

the NoDak Express!



## OFFICERS FOR 2016

President	John Meier
Vice-President	Gene Grimm
Secretary	Becky Sommers
Treasurer	Pam Meier
Parliamentarian	Karen Grimm
FMCA National Director	Duane Hellman
FMCA Asst. Director	Larry Gjerstad
MAC Representative	Gene Grimm
Wagon Master	Duane Hellman
Security	Bill Sommers
Chaplains	Judy Boe, Alice Gunter, Shirley Sommers
Nominating Committee	John Ringland, Ardell Lynne, Karen Grimm
Web Master	Pam Meier
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Gjerstad

## NEWS FROM PRESIDENT JOHN

Greetings from South Central Iowa. All the way from the Amana Colonies. By the time you read this, we will be on our way back to Southwest North Dakota. We had a great rally at Hazen Bay and then four coaches traveled on to Amana, Iowa for the MAC Rally.

I am happy to welcome New Members to our club. Welcome Brian and Henny Cooper from Winnipeg and Verlyn and Brenda Cohn from North Platte, Nebraska. We look forward to getting to know you and making you a part of our group.

Our summer and rally dates are quickly coming to a close. If you haven't attended a rally, please do so. You don't know what you are missing. The August Rally will be held in Rugby, North Dakota. The dates are August 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. Registration can be found in this Newsletter. The September Rally will be held in Fargo on September 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. Please make plans to attend either or both of these rallies.

If anyone is willing to host a rally in 2017 or 2018, please let me know. I am in need of a few months to fill the schedule.

Safe Travels and God Bless,.

John

## Why We Love Children

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear", she said. "I have to sleep in daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice, "The big sissy."

# Joint Rally

TO: The Canadian Northern Lights

FROM: The Ramblin' NoDaks

A huge THANK YOU! Wow .. what a Rally! From beginning to end, it was great. The hospitality shown to us was exceptional ... you sure know how to entertain☺

Most of us arrived on Monday, got checked in and parked. There were 10 coaches from the NoDaks and 10 coaches from the Canadian Northern Lights, plus several drive-ins. We also signed up two new members while there. See separate article regarding that!

The Rally "officially" started on Tuesday afternoon with a Happy Hour at the "tent"! There were so many wonderful goodies that we munched on them until the Wine and Cheese Reception at 7:00! Brian Little then went over the Itinerary for the week.

Wednesday found us meeting at the Tent to convoy to the Canadian Mint — very interesting tour with a great guide. We had lunch on our own and met again to convoy to the Manitoba Legislative Building...again very interesting with an excellent guide. We even got in on a little "demonstration" from some union members!!

Then to the Forks — place where the Red River and the Assiniboine River meet. There were lots of very interesting little shops and restaurants. After supper on our own, we headed to the baseball stadium. The Winnipeg Gold-eyes were playing the Texas Airhogs. Unfortunately, the home team was defeated☹ After the game, we were awed by a great firework display.

On Thursday morning the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association brought a few old coaches to the RV Park for us to see .. the guys enjoyed this!! In the afternoon we toured the Western Aviation Museum .. another very interesting place to visit ..that evening several folks journeyed to a neighboring town to enjoy a real German dinner at Oma's Café! Then there was ice cream back at the campground.

Friday took us to the Winnipeg Fire Fighters Museum, then on to the Assiniboine Park Zoo, where the polar bears stole the show. Off to the Assiniboine Down Race Track for the horse races!

On Saturday we toured the Canadian Human Rights Museum...interesting architecture and much to learn. Back to Happy Hour followed by a catered pork supper—delicious! We were then entertained by the "Irish Cowboy" .. what a hoot! A good time was had by all.

Sunday morning breakfast of juice and muffins was followed by an Inspirational Gathering with Bryan Paquin sharing.

Time to say Good Bye and Thanks Again to the CNL!!

Oh, did I mention that it rained — and rained again!

Margaret



**Family Motor Coach Association**  
Enhancing the motorhome lifestyle!

## NOTES FROM OUR FMCA NATIONAL DIRECTOR

As everyone is busy with their summer travels and making plans for next winter, remember the 95th FMCA International Convention, March 7-10, 2017, at Chandler, AZ. Maybe you can work this into your schedule. For some of us "Arizona Snowbirds" it will be right next door and very convenient to attend. FMCA is even talking about accepting convention registration fees in portions. You will be seeing more on this later.

In February I mentioned that our executive director had resigned. A 5 person committee is doing a search for someone to take this position.

Everyone watch your mail for a "window envelope" from FMCA. This contains updated membership cards and a booklet explaining all FMCA benefits and updates. One change is Bridgestone Tires, as well as Michelin tires, now offer discounts. This covers all your vehicles, not just the motorhome.

FMCA is now experiencing a slow steady increase in membership, instead of the regular decline of the past several years. So everyone keep doing your part in inviting new members to join the chapter and FMCA also. FMCA is in the process of offering "auto renewal" as an option for paying annual dues.

Everyone should have gotten a email from FMCA about RVillage. This is a free social media website created by RVers for RVers. It is a good way to keep in touch with your RV friends. I'm sure there will be more about this at our chapter meetings.

Duane Hellman  
FMCA National Director

## Little Humor from John

A week after John bought a bull, he complained to his friend, "All that bull does is eat grass. Won't even look at a cow."

"Take him to the vet," his friend suggested.

The next week John is much happier. "The vet gave him some pills and the bull serviced all of my cows!" he told his pal. "Then he broke through the fence and bred with all my neighbor's cows! He's like a machine!"

"What kind of pills were they?" asked the friend.

"I don't know, but they've got a peppermint taste."



# Report from Gene on the MAC Rally

Following the Ramblin' NoDaks Hazen Bay Rally and an overnight in the Fargo area, Larry & Margaret Gjerstad, John & Pam Meier and Gene & Karen Grimm set out on a leisurely 2½ day journey to the MAC Rally—held this year at the Amana Colonies near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We encountered some frenetic winds that removed an awning from the Gjerstad coach. Duane & Irene Hellman joined the group on the second night. The journey, despite challenges, was enjoyable and included good food, great socializing, aggressive card games and even a stop at an outlet mall. Upon arrival at the Amana Colonies MAC Rally, we were escorted to four side-by-side parking slots — all with water, sewer and 50-amp power.

## AMANA COLONIES OVERLOOK

On Wednesday evening (July 13), an excellent history of the Amana Colonies was presented. The colonies consist of seven villages whose residents are primarily of German ancestry whose common thread is a religion which is an off-shoot of Lutheranism (not Amish). In Germany, the group faced persecution (both economic and confinement) since they did not conform to the dominant Catholic or Lutheran religions. (They obviously were not the last group to face persecution in Germany). The group decided to move to the new world for a better life. The rich and the poor pooled their money so that everyone could afford the journey to an area near Buffalo, NY. They later elected to move to their present location in Iowa where they could have more room to grow, yet be close enough to sales markets such as Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. The original intent was to return the balance of the relocation funds to the investors based on the percentage that each had invested. It became apparent, however, that the poorest individuals would have to leave the group to find work on the outside. To keep the group together, it was decided to form a communal lifestyle. The 7 villages currently have 70-80 businesses. The original Amana household appliance business is still part of the colonies, but it is operated by Whirlpool. Other businesses include farming, woolen mills and weaving, furniture making, bakeries, beer/wine making, general stores and other shopping, handiwork & arts, lodging, restaurants, meat processing and others. In 1932 the colonies underwent a major change from communal to capitalistic.

## FMCAssist (TRAVEL MEDICAL ASSIST)

FMCAssist is a major benefit that is included as a benefit to all FMCA members that is operated by Seven Corners. Check your FMCA magazine!! The address should include your name AND your spouse's to ensure that the use of this valuable service is available to you both! It is also critically important that any family member who is likely to be involved with the illness of you or your spouse (or the death of either) understands the procedure to implement this and has the phone number for SEVEN CORNERS. In the event of a major illness, major injury or death, Seven Corners will return your coach, towed rig, spouse, grandchildren (& their guests), and pets to your home base. They will also transport the sick, injured or deceased member to their home area in many instances. The occurrence must be at least 100 miles from your home base (except for full timers). Ensure that a "Release to Fly" document is signed by the doctor when you are leaving the hospital. In the event of an accident or illness, be sure to follow the following three easy steps

1. Call 911
2. Contact your doctor
3. Contact Seven Corners (877—202-4176)

(World Wide 0.317.582.2619)

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM (CHARLIE ADCOCK)

FMCA spends 47 cents/month for each couple for FMCAssist. Seven Corners spends 100% of that amount on return benefits to our members. That is not a workable business unit for Seven Corners. The program will continue next year, but the charges to FMCA will rise to 70 cents/month per couple. Charlie believes that it is critically important to keep this program in place for our members. Membership retention is extremely important. As with most organizations, membership has over the years from a peak of 129,189 in 2004, to 102,511 in 2009, to 70,154 in 2016. The economic downturn has played a major roll in that decline as has higher fuel prices. To combat that negative trend, benefits have been increasing in recent years. Michelin's tire discount program has been expanded to include Bridgestone and B F Goodrich (both owned by Michelin). Of course, FMCAssist is also a major benefit. In a positive note, there has been a net gain in membership for five of the past 6 months of 2016.

**Calls to Members:** Members of the office staff are making periodic calls to FMCA members to listen to complaints or suggestions and to find out how they might better serve the needs of individuals. If you put the FMCA Home Office number (800-543-3622) into your phone, you will be able to identify the incoming call.

**FMCA Store:** The store no longer stocks items such as wearing apparel, mugs, member number boards, etc. Those items will be provided by each respective supplier, thus eliminating waste from obsolescence as well as handling costs.

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FMCA is now a part of "rvillage.com", a social networking tool. You will be able to go to rvillage.com, FMCA, and to Ramblin' NoDaks. If you log in, you will be able to find FMCA members who are currently in your area. President Charlie recently logged in and was surprised to discover members visiting in his "remote" area. He went to knock on their door, spent time getting acquainted and took them to breakfast the next morning!

#### MAC ANNUAL MEETING—AMANA COLONIES—7/16/16

President Jim Vitte called the meeting to order with 13 chapter delegates present. This represented a quorum. Officers in attendance included Myron Dagley, VP; Pat Stein, Sec; and Bernie Bauman, Treas. The secretary's report was presented and approved with no corrections or additions. The Treasurer's report was also approved and is on file for those interested in reviewing it. Note: no new budget was prepared for the current Amana Colonies Rally. Instead, the budget prepared for the cancelled 2015 Lincoln rally was used. Under old business, the old MAC trailer has been sold for \$500. The purchase of a larger new unit is now pending with the cost expected to be \$5,000 to \$7,500. New Business: The nominated committee chaired by Nelson Stubbs selected candidates Myron Dagley (Treasurer) and Gary Milner (Vice President). With no additional candidates nominated from the floor, those individuals were elected for their nominated positions by the 13 member delegates. At that time, President Vitte proclaimed the nominating committee disbanded. A new nominating committee was formed to select candidates for next year's election. The new group consists of Bob Carini, Ned Bostin and Penny Dagley (Chair). After a lengthy and spirited discussions, a motion was approved to return rally fees (fees less \$25 administration fee) to registered individuals unable to attend rallies due to sickness or death in the immediate family.

#### 2017 RALLIES:

National: March 7-10 Chandler, AZ

National: July 12-15 Indianapolis

MAC: Aug 9-12 Amana Colonies

Respectfully Submitted

Gene Grimm, MAC Rep



That's some pretty tall Iowa Corn!!

#### ONE MORE WHY WE LOVE CHILDREN

A small boy is sent to bed by his father. Five minutes later .... "Da..ad"

"What"

"I'm thirsty. Can you bring a drink of water?"

Five minutes later: "Da...aaaad"

"What?"

"I'm THIRSTY .. Can I have a drink of water?"

"I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to spank you."

Five minutes later: "Daaaa.aaaad"

"WHAT?"

"When you come to spank me, can you bring a drink of water?"