

Ramblin' Nodaks

July—August 2015

The Regent Rally Report

The Regent Rally was held June 11-14, 2015 and was hosted by Pam and John Meier. There were 12 coaches and one drive-in. The campground had full hookups (30 and 50 amp) for everyone. Great for a small community.

Activities

Meals and meetings were held at the Enchanted Castle Hotel and Medieval Tavern.

Friday: A driving tour took us on the Enchanted Highway. We visited the "World's Largest Metal Sculptures" and the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Lefor. A poker run was held during the driving tour. Karen Grimm won with a full house with Aces up. The chapter meeting was held before Happy Hour at the Castle. Gary Greff, (artist) sculpture of the Enchanted Highway and owner of the Castle (Regent's old school) gave a very interesting tour and discussed his work and fielded numerous inquiries. We then dined at the Enchanted Restaurant.

During the four-day rally, members made numerous trips to Mott for golfing, listening to special event speakers, touring a very old combination house/barn, shopping, car washing and watching movies. The theatre has the most wonderful seats!

Saturday: A visit to the huge Regent museum with a guided tour, an ice cream social at an excellent ice cream shop, dinner at the American Legion and some of the previously mentioned Mott activities.

Sunday: Breakfast and church service at the Castle, breaking camp and saying good-bye. Hoping to see everyone as we meander to Madison for the National Convention and/or at the Washburn Rally September 10-13, 2015.

Thanks to Pam and John for a wonderful rally in Regent!!

submitted by Karen Grimm

A "TIP" FROM BECKY

Those cone-shaped coffee filters make excellent "cups" for snacks at Happy Hour!
(She learned this from the Canadians!!)

***THANK YOU ***

The Ramblin' Nodaks is one of the greatest groups that we could ever belong to! And that is because of the willingness of so many to pitch in and help whenever needed! So this goes out to each and every one of you who work so hard to keep us the wonderful, smooth-running group that we are—

THANK YOU

Rolling Rally

I am writing this as we sit in Madison waiting for the Convention to start....it has been a really fun Rolling Rally. We started with 4 coaches in Fargo and by the time we rolled into Madison this morning, we were 13 coaches strong! The parking went really smooth this year and they seem to be very organized! Tonight we enjoyed Pizza delivered to our sites. Don and Sherry Updyke have "connections" and we thank them for making the arrangements! Tomorrow will be our Volunteer Orientation Meeting and a nice dinner tomorrow evening for all the Volunteers. By Thursday everything is in full swing and we start our mornings off at 6:15 serving up coffee and donuts. After the Convention is over, I will add a few more comments about our trip — found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Margaret

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Our last (how can that be?) Rally will be held in Washburn with Butch and MaryLou Wood as our hosts. It will be held at their farm **September 10-13th.**

You will find a full Rally Schedule and a Registration form on the last page of this Newsletter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This will be the LAST Newsletter you will receive by "snail mail" — Because the cost of postage continues to rise, we are going to send the Newsletter by email (except, of course, for those of you who don't have email.) As an experiment, I will also send this Newsletter by email so yes, you will get one by mail and one by email. . this time only. If you DO NOT receive this Newsletter by email, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

701-425-1877Margaret

RECIPES BY REQUEST

Crock Pot Breakfast Casserole

- 26 oz. frozen hash browns
- 1 c. milk
- 16 oz. ham, bacon, or sausage (cooked)
- 12 eggs
- 1 TBsp. ground mustard
- 16 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper

Spread hash browns evenly on the bottom of the crock pot. Put meat on top of hash browns and put cheese on top of that. (Next time I will mix these 3 items in a bowl and put them in the crock pot). Mix eggs in bowl and add milk, mustard and plenty of salt and pepper. Pour egg mixture over the ingredients in the crock pot. Spread out evenly. Cook on low for 6-8 hours. You may also add salsa.

Devine Toffee Squares

- Bottom:** ½ c flour
 ¼ tsp. baking soda
 ⅓ c. packed brown sugar
 ⅓ c. melted butter
 pinch of salt
 ¾ c. rice krispies

Thoroughly combine all the above ingredients. Press into greased 8" pan. Bake at 350° for 10-15 minutes (until it starts to brown)

- Middle:** 1 can Eagle Brand
 ½ c. butter
 ½ c. packed brown sugar

Combine the 3 ingredients in heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil for 5 minutes stirring continuously. Pour over crust.

- Top:** Melt 1 c. milk chocolate chips. Stir in ¼ c. rice krispies until well coated. Spread over caramel gently. Chill several hours to set.

from the kitchen of Pam Meier

FOR SALE

Falcon 2 Hitch complete with safety cables, power cord, hitch pins, lock
 (All that you would need is the base plate for your car)
 New \$700 — asking \$250
 Denys Powell
 He did not include an address or phone number

A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN

Greetings from Southwest North Dakota:

We have just returned from our rolling rally and the convention in Madison, WI. As usual, we had a great time. We served mini doughnuts, doughnut holes and doughnuts until we were blue in the face!! We served about 600 dozen and 155 gallons of coffee! What a great bunch we have...we had lots of laughs and fun.

I would like to welcome our newest members to our club.... Michael and Mary Kuchenski from Dickinson, ND. We look forward to meeting you.

All members should be aware of the FMCA Assist Program. It is a great medical assist program that is a membership benefit to us, but few people are aware of. If we can get it worked up, Pam and I will try to give a little presentation on the benefits of FMCA at our September Rally.

We have one more Rally this year and then we are onto our winter months. The September Rally will be in Washburn, ND at the home of Butch and MaryLou Wood. You will find your registration elsewhere in the Newsletter. As always, I ask that you try to attend at least one rally per year. We always have a great amount of fun and the more the merrier. Elections will be held at our September meeting.

My sympathy to Dennis and Beth Richard on the lost of their sister-in-law, Rosie Richard. It's sad when something happens so suddenly.

For now, God Bless. Hope to see you in Washburn.

John Meier, President



ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN SEPTEMBER!

OFFICERS FOR 2015

President	John Meier
Vice-President	Alice Gunter
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	Darel Harrington
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Gjerstad

MADISON RALLY NOW A MEMORY

Everyone who was able to take in the Rolling Rally and the FMCA Convention in Madison said they had a good time. Only 4 coaches started the Rolling Rally from Fargo. We enjoyed an interesting tour of the Microsoft Facilities on Monday morning and then went to Perkins for brunch. We were rolling on our way to St. Cloud early afternoon. We had nice facilities at the St. Cloud RV Park and enjoyed fellowship and lots of good hour devours for our evening meal. We were all ready to move on early Tuesday morning. It was a short jaunt to the Nelson Brothers Restaurant and Bakery in Clearwater—we fueled our coaches and our tummies and were back on the road heading to Red Wing. We parked at the Treasure Island Casino RV Park where 4 more coaches joined the caravan! We drove through some very pretty country as we journeyed on to the Wisconsin Dells. We had 4 days in the Dells and we each found things to do that were of interest to us. Some went to the Oshkosh Air Show, others enjoyed a delightful cruise, or the Circus including a magician and an entertaining show in the Big Top. From there to the city of Baraboo for their 3rd annual Circus Parade. And some took in the Tommy Bartlett Water Show — all reports were that everyone had a good time! By Sunday night, there were 13 coaches, all ready to head into Madison on Monday morning. We were very fortunate to get there early, got parked and all set up and everything went smoothly! The coffee/donut volunteer project was fun! We were entertained by the Frustrated Maestros every morning which brought a lot of pep to those early morning hours! Many interesting seminars were there for us, as well as shopping for many “gadgets” for our coaches! Oh, some of the items for sale were “necessary” I guess!!

The folks in Madison in charge of all the arrangements did a fantastic job. There were fewer coaches there than they had anticipated...but it was a good group. The weather cooperated — no rain! It was hot and more humid than we are used to, but our air conditioners worked well — the power supply was more than adequate. There were shuttles and golf carts readily available for those who didn't want to walk — and the evening entertainment was excellent. Yes, we were all a little tired by the time Saturday night came around, but it was a good tired! Sunday morning we each headed out in different directions ...saying good-bye until we meet in Washburn in September at Butch and MaryLou's.

Each of us would like to say a great big THANK YOU to Pam and John for all the planning and preparation to make everything run so smoothly.

Our Sympathy

We would like to extend our sympathy to John & Pam and Dave & Barb. Pam and Barb's uncle was killed in a pickup/train accident shortly before the rolling rally. We were happy that John & Pam were able to meet up with us in Red Wing.

A Little Humor from John

Doug Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons are with him. He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes. He begins to speak, “My son Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses. My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the East end. My son Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the city center. Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river.” The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings. As Doug slips away, the nurse says, “Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been a hard working man to have accumulated all this property. Sarah replies, “Property??? The old bugger had a paper route!!

After we visited St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Lefor and they so graciously let us use their facilities, we sent a small gift in appreciation. We have received a nice

Thank You note from them...they will use the money towards their Preservation Fund.

UPDATES AND DIRECTORY PAGES

I am trying to get the Directory Pages as up to date as possible — please look over your information and let me know if you have different phone numbers, winter addresses, etc.

One change you should make:

Dick & Alice Gunter — remove 701-537-5137

Dick's cell—409-656-1927

Alice's cell —701-537-3332

TREASURER PAM SAYS

Please remember that your 2016 dues are due by January 1st. They can be mailed to me or paid at the September Rally. Dues may be pre-paid for up to five years. Dues are \$15 per year. Thanks

Pam Meier

9605 133rd Ave SW

Scranton, ND 58653

2016 Rally Schedule

May 12-15—Mandan Bill & Becky Sommers, Mike & Shirley Sommers, Ernie & Frances Fritz

June—Rolling Rally to Winnipeg (more info to follow)

July 7-10—Hazen Bay—Dave & Barb Kitzan

August 4-7—Rugby—Dick & Alice Gunter

September 8-11—Fargo—Dave & Jenean Baumann

**A MESSAGE FROM DUANE
OUR FMCA NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Hello Everyone!

Our trip to Madison for the 92nd FMCA Family Reunion is over and it was a very good Convention as well as a fantastic trip. Our team, John & Pam, did a great job of arranging our rolling rally on the way there. It takes a lot of work and they certainly handled it well. The convention ended up with right at 1600 motor homes on site. Down a bit, but it was still a great gathering. Many RV displays and lots of vendors that all had great displays and products to sell.

The Governing Board had a good turnout with 68% of a possible 404 voting members present. With the President, Senior Vice President and Treasurer running unopposed, the election was over quick. There was a very close vote tally for the Secretary position between two very capable candidates, where Gayle Young ended up beating John Ferrari.

FMCA is still doing well. Operating on a seven million dollar budget with eleven (plus) million in invested reserves.

One very important item we need to be aware of is our free member benefit that we all receive as part of our annual dues, that is FMCAssist. If you are a paid up FMCA member or an Associate (if you can't drive anymore or don't own a motorhome anymore) you are covered as soon as you are 100 miles away from home no matter what mode of travel, on vacation, cruise, airplane — no matter what — homeland or abroad. If an incident happens call the medical authorities first and then call FMCAssist next before you make any other plans. Keep the following phone number with your important items 1-877-202-4176 for USA and Canada and 0-317-582-2619 to call Collect Worldwide. So if you need medical transportation, equipment returned, family, pets or companion transportation call these numbers. The company is Seven Corners and the word is, "Wesley" is the best Agent ever! At our Chapter meetings you will be hearing more about this from John, our President, I am sure. This program costs FMCA approximately 1/2 million dollars a year in premiums and that is paid for with part of our earnings from our investments.

Another new product available to us is FMCA Road Assist. You can learn more about this on page 19 of the new August issue of our FMCA magazine.

Both proposed amendment by-law changes, #1 (deals with chapter voting) and #2 (deals with temporary delegate appointment), were discussed at length and passed.

FMCA membership is constantly dropping, not from the lack of new members, but from existing members dropping out. Most of that is due to age, but also the members that don't belong to a chapter just need to be reminded of our fine organization's new benefits. By not belonging to a chapter and attending meetings they usually are not aware of these changes, unless they read the magazine regularly or are told so by us.

Duane Hellman, National Director

**WE HEAR FROM OUR MAC REP
GENE GRIMM**

The annual meeting of the Midwest Area Co-op (MAC) was held on Saturday, August 1st at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI during the 2015 FMCA International Rally.

Outgoing president, Bob Nebel, opened the meeting and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Myron Dagley offered the invocation. There was a roll call to ensure that there was a quorum of MAC representatives present.

Copies of the minutes of the previous business meeting along with the current balance sheet (December 31, 2014) were distributed to the reps who approved both as presented.

Newly elected officers:

- President—James Vitte replaced Bob Nebel who is retiring and moving to Florida
- Vice-President— Myron Dagley and
- Treasurer—Bernie Bauman were re-elected to one year terms.
- Secretary—Pat Stein was elected to a two year term.

The 2016 MAC Rally will be held at the Amana Colonies near Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 13-16, 2016. This site was selected partially due to the innumerable amenities offered by the colonies as well as to make it more accessible to the western clubs, such as the Ramblin' Nodaks. Numerous chair persons are needed for this event. Details will e presented as they become available.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Grimm

**CANADIAN NORTHERN LIGHTS
FALL RALLY**

The Fall Rally of the Canadian Northern Lights will be held at the Peace Gardens, August 20-23. You should make your reservation as soon as possible. The phone number is listed in the CNL Newsletter on the Peace Garden web site.

(This information was taken from the minutes of the Regent Rally.)

I will try to get one more Newsletter out after our Washburn Rally — it will be the last until next spring so if you have anything you want to share please let me know — thanks — Margaret



WELCOME TO

'DOWN IN THE BOON DOCKS!'

September 10-13, 2015

Woods Farm

584 29th Avenue SW

Washburn, ND 58577

Hosts: Butch and MaryLou Wood

701-460-0657 or 701-460-0143

THURSDAY 9/10/15

Arrive and get Parked

4:00 Happy Hour

5:00 Bring Appetizer to share for supper

FRIDAY 9/11/15

8:30 Breakfast — rolls, juice, coffee, tea

10:00 Tour Falkirk Mine

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 Tour Ethanol Plant

4:00 Happy Hour

5:30 Potluck (bring your favorite dish that you like to make)

After supper — visiting, cards, horse racing, etc.

SATURDAY 9/12/15

8:30 Breakfast — pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, coffee, tea

9:30 Meeting

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 Games — Boon dock style!!

4:00 Happy Hour

6:00 Catered Dinner

7:00 Games

SUNDAY 9/13/15

8:30 Church (Brika Church)

10:00 Breakfast — Egg bake, juice, coffee, tea

Say Good-Byes for the season

REGISTRATION FOR
"DOWN IN THE BOON DOCKS"

Send to MaryLou Wood
584 29th Avenue SW
Washburn, ND 58577

BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST.

We will have limited plug ins so if you need one, let us know.
We will save a space.

Name: _____

Rally Fee: \$ 4.00

Catered Dinner \$13.00 each _____ x 13.00 _____

Breakfast \$6.50 each _____ x 6.50 _____
(includes all 3 days)

Total Due: _____

Make checks payable to Ramblin' Nodaks

DIRECTIONS:

North from Washburn or South from Underwood on Highway 83....
north or south turn West at Mile Marker 134 towards Coal Creek Power Plant.
3+ miles from 83. At end of road turn left. Go 1 mile south to stop sign. (Ignore GPS!)
Go south 1 mile after Stop. Middle of curve turn left. 1 mile south, turn left by
Mailboxes into our driveway.
We will have FMCA Signs up to help you!

Friday, June 12, 2015

Regent, ND. 4:00 pm.

A Quorum was determined and President Meier called the meeting to order and the pledge was said. Two guests were introduced. They were Carly Meier and Taundra Ranken .

Secretary , Becky Sommers , read the minutes from May and they were approved as read.

Treasurer Pam Meier passed out the treasurer's report to the members. There were no questions , so it was approved.

National Director, Duane Hellman, didn't have much to report because he doesn't hear much from the new National Administration. As far as the election of officers at the Madison Convention, all resumes are printed in the July F M C A magazine and if you have someone that you would like Duane to vote for, call him.

FMCA Senior National Vice President, Jon Walker, commented to Duane about our great newsletter.

Gene Grimn did not have anything to comment on for MAC. There has not been any communication with them.

Pam said that 2 styles of women's shirts have an issue with the printing. The heat plate shows through the printing. For those that ordered these styles, the company gave back a refund of \$15.00. Contact Pam if you have the one that the heat plate is showing through.

Bill volunteered at the last meeting to check with Capital RV about storing the trailer for the winter. He hasn't done anything about it yet, because there is a possibility it can be stored at Woods for the winter. Tabled until the next meeting.

We still need hosts for the September Rally in Washburn. Call Mary Lou or Becky if you can help.

Becky Sommers reported on her breast cancer rummage sale in July.

There will be 15 coaches going to Madison. Five will be leaving from Fargo and the rest will meet up along the way. There are no Canadians going from the Northern Lights so Larry Gjerstad will be filling in as their alternate National Director.

John Emmet approached Pres. Meier to see if a life time membership to the Ramblin NoDaks was a possibility. After much discussion a motion was made by Ardell Lynne, to let it stand as is and seconded by John Ringland. Motion carried.

The Canadian Fall Rally will be held at the Peace Gardens, Aug. 20-23. You should make your reservation as soon as possible. The phone number is listed in the CNL Newsletter on the Peace Garden web site.

Margaret Gjerstad is updating our membership book with new pictures and information. If you want changes made please contact her.

John Ringland, Ardell Lynne and Karen Grimn are the nominating committee for the up coming election in Washburn Sept. 10-13th.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.