

Ramblin' NoDaks

May 2017

THIS FROM PRESIDENT JOHN

Greetings from SW North Dakota,
As I write this today, the wind is humming along pretty good. It would be great if you were traveling west!
We had a great rally in Mandan. Somehow we can have so much fun when we are together. The weather was very nice with some of the warmest weather so far. Plans are in full swing for our June Rally. We're hoping to have a great turnout. We will spend 4 nights at our place and then travel to Dennis & Beth Richard's farm for the fun they have planned and to take in Medora. All the information is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I don't have much news for this time, so I will share two jokes instead of one (the joke probably generates more interest anyway!)©

For now, God Bless!
John Meier, President



A LITTLE HUMOR FROM JOHN

ARE YOU KIDDING?

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Person asked a young Engineer, fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?" The Engineer said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, a company matching retirement fund for 50% of your salary and a company car leased every 2 years — say, a red Corvette?" The Engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?" And the interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it!"

PUNCTUALITY

A company owner was asked a question, "How do you motivate your employees to be so punctual?"

He smiled and replied, "It's simple. I have 30 employees and 29 free parking spaces ...One is paid parking."

MANDAN RALLY

Eight coaches and 3 drive-in's were at the Midway Lanes in Mandan on Thursday night. It was a beautiful weekend for a rally and everyone had a good time. There were no tours on Friday, so after breakfast everyone was free to do their own thing. Some shopped, rummaged and just ran errands. "Happy Hour" brought us all together again for a few snacks and beverages. Supper was soup and sandwich followed by laughs with the "Match Game." Darel Harrington and Frances Fritz were the contestants and Darel ended up walking away with the grand prize. (A box of Hostess Twinkies!)

Saturday morning was filled with breakfast and the meeting. A lot of business was brought up after the long winter. Meiers won the door prize of a lawn chair given by Capital RV. After "Happy Hour" we served supper of scalloped potatoes and ham. We had guests for supper and the evening. Sandy and Dave Eckenrode from Bismarck joined us. It was so nice to meet them and have them there.

The Christmas party was cancelled in December, but I still had the "Saran Wrap" Christmas ball, so we had a great time, with so many laughs trying to unwrap it with gloves on. We finished the evening with the "Kentucky Derby Horse Races." After breakfast Sunday, we had a very nice church service. Thanks to Pam and John and our other musicians, Bill Sommers and Darrel Borud. We said our good-byes until June.

Submitted by Becky Sommers

2017 RALLY SCHEDULE

JUNE 8-11—Scranton (combined and rolling)
hosted by Meiers—we will then roll to
Richard's farm and travel by car to Medora

JULY 6-9— Canada—hosted by Jaegers and Morgans

AUGUST 3-6—Bottineau—hosted by Wettlaufers

SEPTEMBER 7-10— Aberdeen, SD—hosted by Sommers
and Sommers

Keep this schedule handy as you plan
your summer activities!

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	Jenean Baumann, Alice Gunter, Shirley Sommers
Nominating Committee	John Ringland, Ardell Lynne, Karen Grimm
Web Master	Pam Meier
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Gjerstad



Remember to check our website for information and forms. It has been recently updated. If you have forgotten the password, please contact our webmaster, Pam Meier, to receive it.

www.ramblinnodaks.com



Family Motor Coach Association
Enhancing the motorhome lifestyle!

GENE — our “Roving Reporter”

Greetings Ramblin’ NoDaks from your “Roving Reporter.” Prior to last month’s article, I had just completed a 3000 mile motorcycle trip (through floods, hail storms, snow storms and extreme winds) across Texas, New Mexico and Arizona prior to the annual move from Texas to North Dakota. We are currently in the motorhome in Indianapolis for the month of May and the Memorial Day Indy 500. This will be the 101st running of the 500. Karen and I both will have attended 49 of the 101 races (although not the same 49.) After the race, we plan on a trip to Niagara Falls, visits with friends in Michigan, a golf outing with friends in Wisconsin, and return home with only one day to prepare for the NoDaks Rally in Scranton. We look forward to seeing many of you for the first time in 2017.

But I digress — my intention is to discuss the 2017 MAC Rally which is again scheduled at the Amana Colonies RV and Convention Center near Cedar Rapids, IA, August 9-12. Repeating venues is unusual, but there are good reasons for this. The Amana RV Park is a professional facility with full hook ups (including 50 amp electricity) for all attendees. The one hic-up at last year’s event was noise interference from one class room to another. That issue has been addressed by reserving additional conference room facilities for this year’s event. I have attended many MAC Rallies. All have featured great educational events and very good entertainment (often on par with that of the National Rallies.) This year’s entertainment will include a well-known polka band as well as the South West Surfers from Arizona. Many tours will be offered through this culturally rich area. Self guided tours into the nearby Amana Villages are also rewarding. The Amana Colonies are quite easily accessible (centered in the Midwest region.) I would encourage you to add this event to your summer schedule. We hope to see you all in Scranton!

Greetings Everyone,

Since my last note, I mailed my ballot for National Vice President, Midwest Area. Gary Milner was running uncontested, so I voted for him. Wish him well at his new job. Looking forward to meeting him at a future event and working with him. At the Convention in Chandler this spring, we missed having a Midwest Area Meeting. Maybe this will change.

Did you know the new FMCA Atlas and Travel Guide is now available? It is different than a regular Atlas in that it points out big rig friendly locations, FMCA Sponsored Campgrounds, Sponsored fueling places, many City Maps and the list goes on and on. So if you are going to replace your Atlas, keep this in mind.

For all Pet Owners — you can now get a discount on your Pet Insurance through FMCA. You can get all the details by contacting FMCA Membership Benefits Department.

Since the Governing Board will be voting on whether to allow towables to join us at the upcoming Convention at Indianapolis in July, we should prepare ourselves to answer lots of questions from all our friends who own towable RV’s and will be anxious to join us. Assuming that it will pass, some of the benefits we can tell them about and the reasons for them to join us are, free Medical Emergency & Travel Assist, free FMCA Magazine, tire discount programs with Michelin and Continental tire companies, RV Insurance with great rates, Roadside Assistance at a very competitive rate, mail forwarding, Campground discounts and much more. So if this does pass, we can all be ready to welcome them!

I am still looking for someone to take my place at the 96th International Convention July 12-15 at Indianapolis, Indiana, since I won’t be able to attend. If you are planning to attend, please contact me.

This year at the Convention they do have a full schedule of events for Youth. Some of the events they have planned are a day at the Zoo, Children’s Museum and an Inter-active Park. So don’t leave the children or grandchildren at home.

Safe travels —

Duane J Hallman, National Director



I am sitting here in sunny, and soon to be HOT, Arizona! We won't be heading back "up north" until the third week in June....and we are feeling a bit sad that we will miss the Rolling Rally ... (we will be sailing through the Fjords of Norway at that time!!) The schedule, registration form and all the other information that you need is found on another page of this Newsletter. I know that John & Pam and Dennis & Beth have all been working hard to make it a fun time for everyone. You can count on a memorable week!

Also included in this Newsletter is the information you will need regarding the July Rally in Killarney, Manitoba. George, Margaret, Mark & Donna have made arrangements for us at the Killarney Agricultural Society Campground...you will have to make your own reservations, but all that information is also included. Another fun time for us NoDaks (we are going to make it to that one!!) ... Never fails, when the NoDaks get together, there is fun to be had!

So, please get your Registration for the June Rally in to Meiers by May 31st.. And the Registration for the Killarney Rally needs to be emailed by June 20th. So keep those dates in mind.

Happy Rolling☺

And remember — I am always looking for stories, jokes, recipes, etc. for the Newsletter!!

Margaret, Newsletter Editor



PRAIRIE PIONEER DAYS

Saturday & Sunday—July 8 & 9

There will be threshing demonstrations, log sawing and machinery displays. Wander through a variety of displays that include a toy show, a working blacksmith shop plus there will be local food fare and entertainment. The pride of the Pioneer Days is the Sunday afternoon parade in front of the Grandstand. There is a heritage Village, Heritage House as well as a stationary engine museum. Camping is also available for Sunday night for those who wish to stay and take in Sunday's parade and activities.

We hope the weather will cooperate for this weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone.

George & Margaret Jaeger

Mark & Donna Morgan



June 16-17

Becky is having her annual Breast Cancer Awareness Rummage Sale June 16-17. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please bring it to the June Rally!

Ramblin' NoDaks Rally at Killarney Manitoba
Killarney Agricultural Society Campground
July 6, 7, 8, 9

Thursday—Coaches arrive and get parked

Evening—Hotdog Social—hotdogs & fixings supplied
(weather permitting)

Friday— 8:00 am—Breakfast — toast, bagels, coffee

Lunch on your own

4:00 pm—Happy Hour

6:00 pm—Homemade Chili Pot Dump

Please bring your homemade chili by 2:00

Buns, butter & sour cream supplied

Saturday—8:00 am—Breakfast in a Bag

Prairie Pioneer Days start— Displays and Activities are within walking distance of the campground.

4:00 pm—Happy Hour

Supper on your own or sample some of

the local food fare available on the grounds

Sunday— 9:00 am—Breakfast —toast, bagels, coffee

PLEASE BRING PLATES AND UTENSILS TO ALL MEALS

Rally fee: \$5.00/coach

Meals: \$5.00/person for the weekend

Camping: \$25.00/night—full hookup

\$20.00/night-electric only

No credit or debit cards are accepted. Call to reserve as soon as possible. Contact the

Killarney Agricultural Society Campground
42 Water Street, Killarney, Manitoba, Canada
1-204-523-4699

Tell them you are with the Ramblin' NoDaks!

PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE BY JUNE 20th

George/Margaret Jaeger 1-204-466-2882 or

cab@mymts.net

Mark/Donna Morgan 1204-922-0002 or

mdmorgan500@gmail.com