

Ramblin' NoDaks

April 2016

A Note From President John

Greetings from Southwest North Dakota. If we had to stay home this winter, I guess this was a good one. No snow, no below zero temps, and no blizzard (yet)! I hope everyone had a good winter. It's almost time to fire up those coaches and meet in Mandan.

I want to offer my condolences to 5 members who lost their Moms this winter. Sympathy to Shirley Johnson, Betty Hopfauf, Ardell Lynne, Barb Kitzan and Pam Meier. Also my sympathy to Larry & Margaret Gjerstad on the loss of Larry's brother. May they all Rest in Peace.

The May Rally will be held in Mandan on May 12-15 and hosted by Becky & Bill, Mike & Shirley and Ernie & Frances. They always have a great rally. Please plan to attend. The Registration form is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Chapter by-laws and the Chapter standing rules have been updated. There aren't any major changes, but when we were in Madison, FMCA recommended that we update them and make them more current. A copy of them will be emailed to you. Please review them and we will vote on them at our May meeting.

As usual, one of my goals for this club is that everyone makes at least one rally in the year. Please mark your calendar for the dates of upcoming rallies.

The MAC Rally will be held in Amana, Iowa in July. Please contact Gene Grimm or myself if you have an interest. Looks like a great place for a rally.

Remember to check out our website. It is full of information. www.ramblinnodaks.com

I am still looking for someone to take rallies in August and September of 2017. Step right up — you're the next contestant!

I would like to welcome the newest members to our group. Welcome to Duane and Sandra Brasch from Fargo, ND. We look forward to meeting you this summer.

For now, God Bless. Hope to see you in Mandan!

John Meier, President

Texas
South Dakota
Minnesota
Florida
North Dakota
ARIZONA

GREETINGS!

Wherever you spent your winter, I hope it was great!!

It seems that this winter has whizzed by a bit faster than usual ... does it seem that way to you too? It's hard to believe that we are about to embark on another rally season. And it looks like we have a really fun schedule!

I am writing this from Mesa where the temps are in the high 80's this week. But soon we'll be heading back up north to somewhat cooler weather, I'm afraid. But the good news is that we have sold our home in Mott©. Now the work begins — but by the first of June we will be "foot loose and fancy free" and we are looking forward to that!

Remember, the Newsletters will no longer be sent by snail mail — so you'll have to print off the Registration form so you can get it sent in.

The Mandan Rally Schedule is included with this newsletter and it will have all the information you need.

In June we will have a Joint Rally in Winnipeg. There is more information about this included with this newsletter. The Canadian Northern Lights have a great rally lined up for us!

I am always looking for articles, recipes, jokes, etc. to use in our Newsletter, so if you have anything to share, please email me at grandmagj3@gmail.com

Also, when it is your turn to host a rally, please send the rally information and registration form information to me at the above email address. Thank you for your cooperation!

Margaret — your Newsletter Editor

2016 Rally Schedule

May 12—15	Mandan
Bill & Becky, Mike & Shirley, Ernie & Frances	
June 13—19	Winnipeg
Joint Rally with CNL	
July 7—10	Hazen Bay
Dave & Barb, Wayne & Jackie Bill & Laurel, Larry & Margaret	
August 4—7	Rugby
Dick & Alice	
September 8—11	Fargo
Dave & Jenean	

July Rally at Hazen Bay

Hopefully, all of you received the email from Dave Kitzan about the camping registration at the Hazen Bay Campground.

It looks to be a great rally — a nice campground with a lot of activities planned.

If you have not reserved a spot and would like to attend this Rally, contact

Dave at 701-590-0011

to see if there is still a possibility of getting a site. There will be more information about this Rally in the next newsletter —



BEGINNING 2016 IN MANDAN

Midway Lanes
3327 Memorial Highway
Mandan, ND

MAY 12—15th

Thursday

Arrive and get parked. Meals on your own.

Friday

8:30 Breakfast—caramel rolls, toast, juice and coffee
9:30 Line up for Tour
10:00 Tour Laughing Sun Brewery (107 N 5th St)
Lunch on your own
Afternoon free for shopping, rummaging,
golf, whatever!
4:00 Happy Hour (bring a snack)
6:00 Supper — Sloppy Joe's, baked beans, chips,
ice cream w/wafer cookie
Evening fun??

Saturday

8:30 Breakfast—sausage, scrambled eggs, toast,
juice and coffee
9:30 Meeting
Lunch on your own
Afternoon free for whatever
4:00 Happy Hour (bring snack)
5:30 Supper— scalloped potatoes, ham, cole slaw
and bars
7:00 Wacky Bowling (pay on your own)

Sunday

8:30 Breakfast — Hard boiled eggs, toast, juice and
coffee
9:30 Church Service

Please bring plates and utensils to all meals!



A Little Humor from John

I rear-ended a car this morning ... So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and the little things seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it — he was a DWARF! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!" So I looked down at him and said, "Well then, which one are you? (And the fight started)

My wife and I were sitting at the table at her high school reunion and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink. I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes," she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since." "My gosh", I said "who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" (And then the fight started)

"LET'S RALLY IN WINNIPEG"

The Rally dates are June 14-19, 2016 with check-in registration beginning at noon on June 14th. There will be a Wine & Cheese reception at 8:00 pm and the presentation of the Rally Itinerary" at 8:30.

On June 15 through 18 there are many Day Events to enjoy with social gatherings at 4:30 pm each day.

On June 18 there will be a Saturday Night Pig Roast with entertainment by Tucker Mcdermott, the "Irish Cowboy".

On June 19, there will be a morning Spiritual gathering and good-byes at 10:00 am.

CAMPING

Thirty 50 am full service sites have been reserved at the Town and Country Campground (sites 180-186, 206-215, 216-225) Rates are \$34.64/day or \$212.42/week, tax included.

RESERVE YOUR SITE by calling 1-888-615-1995 or go to www.townandcountrycamping.com

Please let Town and Country know that you are booking for the Canadian Northern Lights FMCA Rally. Bookings **must be in before May 15, 2016**. After that date, placement will be as close as possible, pending availability of sites.

Registration forms will be forthcoming, once all rally costs have been determined.

1-888-615-1995 or go to
www.townandcountrycamping.com



A Reminder from our Treasurer, Pam

The following haven't paid their 2016 dues:

J Ackerman

D Ackerman

Boe

Brackin

Burdeniuk

Grindy

Hiebert

Hopfauf

Morrow

Mychasiw

Pierce

Rutledge

Unger

Widmer

Zimmerman

Please remit your dues amount of \$15.00 (make checks payable to Ramblin NoDaks) to:

Pam Meier, Treasurer

9605 133rd Ave SW

Scranton, ND 58653

If you have paid your dues but haven't received your card, cards will be handed out at the rallies to save on postage.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the cards, prayers and phone calls that we received regarding the loss of my mom. God Bless you all.

Betty & Jerry Hopfauf

Ramblin' NoDaks Website

Don't forget to check out our new website for all the latest information~ Pam has taken over the position of webmaster and has designed a new and interesting website for us.

www.ramblinnodaks.com

If you go to a password protected page, the password is:
thegoodlife



PERRY GEORGIA RALLY INFORMATION

The travel to Georgia took us through the Commonwealth of Kentucky to visit two of our daughters and their families. We got to spend some time with our newest grand daughter. She is such a cutie.

The trip "Down South" was uneventful other than John having an issue with setting the brake on the tow vehicle and forgetting to release it! Four new tires later we made it to Perry.

We attended the FMCA Rally in Perry two years ago. It is a nice place for a rally as the Georgia National Fair Grounds are large enough to handle all the activities. In fact, the largest ever attendance at an FMCA rally was held here a number of years ago with over 6,000 coaches. This is the ninth time this rally has been in Perry. And Perry is a town of only about 13,000 people.

The official number (as of Saturday so it might change) is 2,186 family coaches and 415 show coaches for a total of 2,601 motorhomes. I can't remember a national rally with this many display coaches. Cathy and I didn't even come close to seeing them all.

The only downside to this facility is that everything is VERY spread out. In fact, from the handicapped parking that we were in, it is about a 10-minute walk to the breakfast facility. There is plenty of "golf cart" transportation, and Cathy had her scooter, but poor John wore out his shoes. No one is feeling sorry for me, I know, but

One of the nice things about a national rally is that there are plenty of vendors willing to provide coach service. I was able to have the Aqua Hot system on my coach rebuilt. That was a real plus. And speaking of vendors, my personal feeling is that there are fewer here this year than there have been in the past few years, although the "official" word is that is about the same as in Madison. There were several open spots in the vendor area which was split between two buildings.

The entertainment was good. Friday night was a comedian named Lee Marvin Adams. Saturday night was quite a show, Lorrie Morgan, Mark Chestnutt and Joe Diffie. This was an outstanding show. Sunday night was Pamela G. and Jackie B., a duo singing a variety of music.

MAC Report

The Midwest Area Cooperative meeting was attended by 20 people. The main topic of discussion was the July MAC rally scheduled for July 13-16 at the Amana Colonies in Iowa. I was quite surprised to learn that there will be very limited vendors or show coaches (if any). It is a "back-to-the-basics" rally. The rally fee will include one breakfast and one supper, there will be a chili cook-off and a flea market/craft sale. Also, there will be entertainment each night. The official registration form will be in the April FMCA magazine. They are expecting between 150-200 coaches. Full hook-ups will be available.

(Continued top of next page)

There are currently 24 chapters in the Midwest region, down from 29. There are currently just over 69,000 FMCA members. We are gaining about 600 per month and losing around 1,000 each month. A new program using door hangers was presented and door hangers were distributed. I have several and will provide them at the Mandan Rally.

Lastly, it was stressed to not let your FMCA membership lapse as your FMCA Assist will also lapse at the same time. The program was described at one of the seminars and seems like a very good member benefit.

submitted by John Emmett

THANK YOU John for the very interesting information on the Perry Georgia Rally – sounds like the rest of us missed a good time☺

FMCA News from Duane

Greetings Everyone!

As we begin to switch from our winter travels to summer, many of us will be taking our motor homes out of storage or tuning them up for all of our summer activities and travels, it is time to think about the many benefits FMCA has to offer. Some are FMCA Assist, RV insurance, Michelin tire program, Roadside Assistance and Mail forwarding to name a few. So keep this in mind as you plan for another busy, fun, "worry-free" summer of events we plan to attend.

I was informed that our Executive Director, Jerry Yeatts has resigned his position. He had been employed with FMCA for the past 16 years. Until he is replaced, a management committee (which consists of the National Officers) is overseeing operations.

As I am writing this, FMCA's 93rd Family Reunion is going on in Perry, Georgia. As far as I know, John and Cathy Emmett are the only ones attending from our chapter. I contacted John and he sent a report that you can see in another part of this newsletter.

Don't forget about the Midwest Area Rally, July 13-16, 2016 in Amana, Iowa.

On the lighter side:

Camping is where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person!!

Duane J. Hellman, National Director



OFFICERS FOR 2015

- 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

1. pencil is missing 2. bunny is missing 3. shirt is different 4. can is smaller 5. picture is different 6. ruffie is different



REGISTRATION FORM FOR MANDAN RALLY 2016

Please send in registration by May 7th – checks payable to
 Ramblin' NoDaks
 Send to: Becky Sommers
 2214 Harding Avenue
 Bismarck, ND 58501

Name _____

Meals \$12.00 per person x _____ persons \$ _____

Room Rent @ \$10.00 per coach \$ 10.00

Rally Fee @ \$4.00 per coach \$ 4.00

TOTAL: \$ _____