

# Ramblin' NoDaks

July 2017

## A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN

Greetings from SW North Dakota!

We have just finished the rally up at Killarney, Manitoba. What a great rally it was! 22 coaches!! Thank you to our hosts (Jaegers and Morgan/Harper) for the wonderful job.

As I write this, Bohnets are on their way to Indianapolis to the International Convention. They will be our voting delegate for this year. We will be anxious to hear their report as there seems to be changes being made in FMCA.

Election of officers will be held at our August Rally in Bottineau. There are several positions open, so I'm asking if you will please consider taking one.

There are only two rallies left for this summer. August is in Bottineau and September is in Aberdeen, SD. Let's finish this year out with a bang and have great turn-outs for both rallies.

Several people in our club are dealing with health issues. I ask that you keep them in your prayers.

I think that's all for now. Stay safe and God Bless.

John Meier, President

## JUNE ROLLING RALLY

13 coaches and 1 drive-in found their way to Meiers in June. Friday found the guys heading to the fracking load out facility and to observe the 230 miles of Keystone pipe. They enjoyed their time up until they were abruptly dismissed from the premises! They stopped at Gascoyne at the Yellowstone Auto Trail marker and at the ND/SD border markers, and then had lunch in Scranton. Meanwhile—the girls headed to the beautiful 13,000 sq. ft. Krinke home for a tour. They then proceeded to Bowman for lunch, shopping and drinks at Lasting Visions Flower Shop. The evening was topped off with a style show by the women and several great rounds of horse racing. Saturday we held our business meeting and had a fun game of Corn Hole/Ladder Golf with John E, Margaret J, Bill S, and Cathy E as winners. We enjoyed a wonderful buffet at the Dam Marina and topped the night off with card bingo. A beautiful church service and music was held on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon — it was a hilarious time playing the "Not So Newlywed" Game. The judge and scorekeeper were Darel and Butch, and they did a fabulous job. Pries were awarded to each couple. High score went to Wettlaufers. Monday we traveled to the Dennis & Beth Richard farm. A wonderful supper was served to the 42 people in attendance. Tuesday we had breakfast at Trappers Kettle in Belfield and then the day was spent in Medora. The musical was attended by 40 NoDaks and was enjoyed by everyone. We were so fortunate that the weather was cooperative. Wednesday breakfast was great and everyone said their good-byes until we meet again. The Jack A\$\$ award was on the move during the rally. It switched coaches 3 times, finally making its home in the Wettlaufer coach for now. Thanks to Meiers & Richards for a grand time!

submitted by Pam Meier

## AUGUST RALLY

It's hard to believe that we are already planning our August Rally — the summer has gone by much too quickly, hasn't it?

Gordon & Adeline Wettlaufer have graciously agreed to host this rally in Bottineau, August 3rd–6th. You will find all the information you need towards the end of this newsletter — but a reminder —

***REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE JULY 25TH.***

I'm getting an early start on this Newsletter as we will be on the go for some time after the Killarney Rally. As I am writing this article, we are parked at the Red Trail Campground in Medora. We didn't get to be here with the rest of you in June, so we are enjoying all Medora has to offer this 4th of July weekend.

There will be one more rally after Bottineau — the one in Aberdeen, hosted by Sommers and Sommers! And after that rally I will put out one last Newsletter for this season — then it is someone else's turn to be the editor. . . time for new blood, new ideas, new look! So if you are so inclined, please let a member of the nominating committee know that you are willing to take the job. It is not an elected position — but the job is listed with the officers of the Ramblin' NoDaks. I know there is someone out there who would love to take on this job! If you have any questions, I will be more than willing to get you started! I can't wait to see who steps up to the plate!

Margaret Gjerstad



## A Little Humor from John

As I stepped out of the shower I heard someone in my kitchen downstairs. Knowing that my wife was out, I grabbed my 1903 heirloom rifle—which no longer works—and crept downstairs, forgetting the fact that I was in my birthday suit.

I came around the corner with the gun raised, only to find my wife loading the dishwasher.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I thought I heard an intruder. I came down to scare him."

Scanning the contours of my doughy, naked body, she mumbled, "You didn't need the gun!"

**FROM OUR MAC REP—GENE GRIMM**

.....freshly back from a very enjoyable rally at Killarney, MB and still trying to get on track. The border crossing north of Rolla was not busy and the crossing agents (both Canadian and US) were very pleasant. The Rally Hosts (George/Margaret Jaeger and Mark/Donna Morgan) worked diligently to make everyone feel comfortable. "Combined" chili and breakfast in-a-bag were the featured meals. An old time farm show on the Killarney Agricultural Society grounds (especially the tractor pull) was very interesting and a Friday evening lake cruise was fun and exciting. Despite being gone for 8 days, our lawn was still quite presentable upon our return, since it was too hot and too dry for it to be really creative.

Upcoming Events include:

- August 3-6 — Bottineau Rally
- August 9-13—MAC Rally at the Amana Colonies in Iowa

For anyone interested, a caravan will leave Fargo on the morning of August 8th for Iowa. MAC rallies feature quality entertainment and good seminars. The grounds feature a professionally maintained full hook-up campground. And, the colonies offer interesting tours, plus very good shopping and great home-style dining. If you can work this one into your schedule, call me (Gene 616-443-0442). You will not be disappointed.



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



ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
AT THE BOTTINEAU RALLY  
BE SURE TO ATTEND!

**2017 RALLY SCHEDULE**

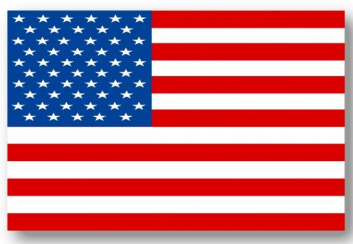
**AUGUST 3-6—Bottineau—hosted by Wettlaufers**

**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



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*Countries*

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*Happy  
Family*





# Family Motor Coach Association

*Enhancing the motorhome lifestyle!*

Greetings Everyone,

I had a phone call from Wayne Bohnet. He and Jackie are parked with the Governing Board at the FMCA 96th Convention in Indianapolis Indiana. The Convention runs from July 12th through the 15th. On Wednesday, July 12, starting at 9:00 am is the actual Governing Board Meeting, which usually lasts most of the day, with a noon lunch right there for all the attendees. Tuesday, July 11th at 8:00 am is the National Directors Briefing, which Wayne, and maybe Jackie, will be attending as a "temporary delegate" since I am not able to attend and so grateful that Wayne and Jackie were able to fill in. Following the Briefing there is a "Candidates Forum" where all the Candidates for National Offices will give talks (Campaign speeches) and try to convince all the delegates to vote for them. This year there is only one contested position; that is National Treasurer. Both men seem to be excellent candidates for the position. So Wayne gets to make the decision as to which one he thinks will do the best job. Besides the Election, there are several proposals and by law changes that will be voted on. This is where the meeting sometimes gets long and boring, as there are some delegates that just love to make trips to the microphone and like to hear themselves talk — much like politicians — oops, did I say that? Anyway, one proposal that most of us are familiar with by now is whether to allow "All RV Owners" to join FMCA, not just motor homes, as it has been. I suggested to Wayne that if I would have been there, I would be in favor. We know lots of great people that own towable units that would be good for our organization.

This is my Farewell note to you all from this Column as your National Director. Our election is coming up in August, and I told the Nominating Committee at the May Rally that I would not be seeking re-election. It has been a fun approximately 7 years of doing this. At times it was difficult to write a column when the National Administration doesn't provide much information to write about. Some Administrations were very open with the "goings on" at the National Level, but others not so much, which leaves very little to write about.

Whoever replaces me, I will be available for help in any way I can provide.

Duane J Hellman, National Director

## KILLARNEY RALLY

From start to finish, the Rally in Killarney was just a wonderful time for all of us who attended. The weather cooperated (we did have a rain shower Saturday night), the campsite was nice and there was much to do. Several of us enjoyed an hour and a half pontoon ride around Killarney Lake, thanks to the caretaker of the RV Park. There was ample time for lots of visiting and catching up with friends we hadn't seen in a while. Some went shopping, some went to the tractor pull and some took in other activities that were available during their Pioneer Days celebration. A few intense games of Jenga entertained many of us! And the food — what can I say? It was delicious...including home-made French Fries along with all the other wonderful treats! Thanks again to George & Margaret, Mark and Donna! We will all remember this rally!



This year the FMCA Convention is in Indianapolis and we are so grateful that Wayne & Jackie are there representing the Ramblin' NoDaks .. Rumor has it that next July the Convention will be in Gillette Wyoming ... wouldn't it be fun to caravan there again like we did a few years ago? More information to follow ....

## SUGGESTED ITINERAY FOR THE RAMBLIN' NODAKS AND CANADIAN NORTHERN LIGHTS

### **Thursday -**

Crazy Days Merchant Sidewalk Sales

Thunder Mountain Speedway Car Races @ 7:30 p., Bomber/Enduro/IMCA Hobby Stocks & Sportmod

### **Friday**

Crazy Days Merchant Sidewalk Sales

Concert in the "Park"ing lot—live music started at 4:00 pm; four bands play until 8:00 pm

Food Venders

Classic Car Cruise Night

### **Saturday**

Crazy Days Merchant Sidewalk Sales

Car, Tractor, Motorcycle, Snowmobile Show 10:00—4:00

Street Fair & Music

Farmer's Market

Food Vendors

Raffles and 50/50 Raffle

Retailer Passport game

BBQ Cook-off, 11:00—4:00, followed by a community feed, Groups must RSVP

### **Area Attractions**

Scenic Byway 43 through the Turtle Mountains

- Mystical Horizons—21st century Stonehedge
- Strawberry Lake
- Annie's House Adaptive Program—tours by appointment, hiking trails
- Lake Metigoshe State Park—hiking trails, picnic area, beach, fishing piers, amphitheater
- Lake Metigoshe—hiking trail around lake, unique gift shops, fishing piers, scenic drive
- Coghlan Castle, National Historic Site—North Dakota's one and only standing castle

**Bottineau Country Club**—9 hole golf course with scenic views

**Bottineau County Historical Museum**—open Saturday & Sunday 1:00—5:00, or tours by appointment

**Pride Dairy**—the best ice cream parlor, also the oldest and only regionally operated dairy & creamery in ND

**Downtown**— Murals, Four Chaplains Monument,\* Pierre Bottineau statue

**Dakota College at Bottineau**—greenhouse & aquaponics

**Butte St Paul Historical Site\***

**Lakeside Chapel**, Lake Metigoshe—Saturday night Mass, Sunday morning service with Camp Staff

**J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge**— auto tours, birding, hiking, photography

**Sky Dancer Casino & Resort**—Belcourt

**Turtle Mountain Heritage Museum**—featuring Chippewa history, Belcourt

**Tommy (3) Turtles Tour**—in Bottineau, Dunseith and Boissevain, MB

**International Peace Garden**

**Deloraine, MB**—"Flags of the World" , historical landmarks, parks, birding

**Boissevain, MB**— Tommy Turtle museums, art galleries, gardens

**Killarney, MB**—Killarney Lake, museums, harness racing (August 6)

\* — see Wettlaufers for more information about these two attractions