



SMART FMCA

September 2023

Greetings! Hope everyone is getting relief from the Summer heat and enjoying milder Fall temperatures. We're preparing for our trip to the SMART National Muster in Amana, IA, and hope to see a lot of you there. If you're attending, be sure and stop by our table and say "hello". Also, visit the caravan table and take a few minutes to review the amazing caravan options available to SMART members. In particular, I'll make another shameless plug for the 2024 Canadian Maritime Caravan lead by our chapter president. Tony, and Gina have done an amazing job planning this caravan - we know because we're serving as Tail Gunners. Together we are striving to make this the best Maritime trip ever!

Joe and Pam Faubion, Secretary/Treasurer SMART FMCA

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tony Mason

During FMCA's Celebrating Sixty 107th Convention, Gina and I set up a SMART FMCA Chapter Fair table designed to inform veterans of the opportunities SMART has to offer them and grow SMART membership. There were no other SMART members present in Gillette to assist us, until Joseph Adams, a member of SMART and the FMCA Veterans Chapter came to our rescue. The three of us spoke to over 50 Veterans that stopped by our table about SMART. They learned about our chapters and local musters, our regional and national musters and our caravans. Every individual was given a Traveler and a trifold. Even with three of us at the table, we were simply spread too thin, and I am certain we had missed opportunities. Four individuals said they were joining and one couple that were former members, shared they may rejoin SMART for the Caravan opportunities.



After breakfast donuts and coffee, provided by Roadmaster, we attended classes, both educational and crafty. Ladies could choose to attend a luncheon. (cont)

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

Tony Mason



There was INDOOR PICKLEBALL! What a blast! Each night there was entertainment; movies, dueling pianos who took requests, an outdoor concert on the lawn, wonderful a cappella singers, and a full-fledged band playing everything from gospel to rock.



Each day we looked for folks sporting Veterans hats as we strolled the complex. All veterans were asked if they knew about SMART and were given 2 trifolds. We asked them to pass one on to a friend that served. We will never know the impact we had, but folks were glad to talk to us and share their stories.



If you have not attended an FMCA convention you are missing out on the fun, and opportunities to purchase needed RV gear and attend free education classes! You get to see new models of RV's. The next FMCA SE Rally is being held in LAKELAND, FLORIDA, February 7-10, 2024. It is a smaller event but promises to be just as much fun! Check out FMCA.com for future rallies in your area. Join in the fun!

Tony Mason, President SMART FMCA

Save the Dates

**FMCA Southeast Area Rally
February 7-10, 2024**

**Sun 'n Fun Expo Campus, 4175 Medulla Road,
Lakeland, Florida**

To register:

FMCA SE Rally 2024

Contact HQ for copies of SMART Traveler and TriFold brochures.

**FMCA 108th International Convention
and RV Expo
Tucson, AZ**

March 20-23, 2024 *

- **Note – these are revised dates**

Registration coming soon.....

Contact HQ for copies of SMART Traveler and TriFold brochures.

UPCOMING CARAVANS

2023 Autumn in the Appalachians

Enjoy 33 days, 575 miles of adventure in 7 RV parks. It will run right after the SMART National Muster in Amana, IA which is about 850 miles from our start location in Helen, GA. Traveling along routes close to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail. This caravan is full – wait list available

2024 Grand Canyon and Beyond

Come join fellow SMART members on April 13, 2024 for a 21 day Grand Canyon & Beyond Caravan. We will see and visit some of the most beautiful sites in all of Northern Arizona and Southern Utah. These sites have a natural wonder that is unmatched.

*We will make the most of this road trip by stopping at some of these majestic sites along the way. We will see red rock formations, canyons on the Colorado River, and some great gems of history. Additionally, we will learn a considerable amount of Navajo history and culture by visiting the sites in this area. **Registration is Open *it is filling quickly***

2024 Whiskey and Water Caravan

*This caravan will visit several select distilleries and hike to select water falls along this 31-day 365-mile trip across middle America. Additionally, you will visit key museums, sites, and activities along the way. Hiking to see waterfalls is also included as well as time to visit Ft. Knox for their Memorial Day activities and the General George Patton Leadership museum. More detail online **Registration is Open***

2024 The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime Experience

This caravan promises to be a truly remarkable adventure and will provide memories that will last a lifetime. Spend 74 days traveling throughout the four Canadian maritime provinces. Some of the activities scheduled:

*In **New Brunswick** you will see majestic brown-sugar beaches, culturally rich Acadian villages, quaint coastal islands and vast tracks of forests brimming with wildlife. It is also home to the world's highest tides at Hopewell Rocks. During low tide we'll walk among the "flowerpot" formations. We'll visit the beautiful Kingsbrae Gardens – a multi-award winning, horticultural masterpiece. Those brave of heart will have the opportunity to traverse the ocean bed to Ministers Island during low tide.*

***Newfoundland**, which is impossible to adequately describe briefly, is where you will have 33 days to explore some of the most unique geology, breathtaking vistas, wildlife galore, icebergs, whales, and puffins. You will immerse yourself in the region's extraordinary history while touring the ancient Viking settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows. And shhh ... we'll visit a Secret World War II Officers Club and a World War II Bunker.*

*In **Nova Scotia** we'll attend a variety of unique offerings to include; attendance at the Royal International Tattoo, enjoy a Ghost Tour of Annapolis Royal National Historical Park, and, whether you are a believer or not, Oak Island. We'll take a memorable underground mine tour and attend the Men of the Deeps Concert. You'll have time to explore Cape Breton, rated one of the world's most beautiful road trips with 22 stops for unique crafts or sightseeing. There will be whale watching tours, city bus tours, and a harbor cruise on a tall ship. We'll attend the*

159th Antigonish Highland Games to watch competitions of traditional Scottish Heavy Events plus Pipe and Drum, and Highland dance.

Prince Edward Island is the home of Anne of Green Gables. We will attend the Musical and tour the places that inspired the legend. Spend an afternoon at the stunning Cavandish National Park. You can enjoy their Lighthouses, museums and some of the finest seafood in the Maritime. We will conclude our trip back in Trenton where Tina's Great Maine Lumberjack Show has extended their season for us. On our last night we will enjoy a lobster dinner and distribute your memory book to share with friends and family back home. Join us on this caravan and make memories that will last a lifetime!.

Click the link for a video preview of the caravan:

[2024 The Great Canada Maritime Experience](#)

Registration is Open

** NOTE For the long ferry there will be a few rooms available that will allow pets or separate kennels for pets only – as the date draws near, we will advise on availability and pricing.*

2024 Veterans Unite in Branson

November in Branson turns into America's Christmas Tree City! Tinsel, Lights, and Ornaments cover the entire town, but this isn't all they have to offer. We are also privileged to learn from Honor and reconnect with fellow Veterans from around the Country at this event.

*Branson's Veterans Homecoming week is America's largest Veterans' Day celebration, and we'll be there to participate from November 6th until November 15th. Although events do change from year to year, there's always a handful of activities to keep the focus on Veterans. Throughout the entire week of celebration we'll enjoy various planned activities and shows. We're in the early stages of planning this exciting and fun filled week and now is the time to make your plans to attend. **Registration is Open***

2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise

First SMART at Sea Cruise on board the beautiful Celebrity Eclipse. Celebrity is known for its fine dining, service, and spacious public areas. There are also nightly shows and entertainment throughout the ship. Special perks for early booking.

*9 nights Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale Ports of call include Labadee, Puerto Plata, D.R., St. Thomas, St. Maarten and Antigua **Registration is Open***

**For additional information or to sign up for
any of these caravans go to:
www.smartrving.org/Caravans**

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell 10 - Sept

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rick McHenry 26 - Sept
Sue Werner 29 - Sept

If you would like to have your birthday and/or anniversary recognized, please ensure the dates are listed in your SMART member profile under birthdays and anniversary.

**“We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us.”
– Unknown**