



# SMART FMCA

**March 2024**

**Goodbye Winter – Hello Spring!**

This year's FMCA International rally in Tucson was advertised to be a wonderful event and the FMCA Executive Board sure did deliver! Between the entertainment, seminars, and social gatherings it was difficult to decide what to do. The rally committee and volunteers did a wonderful job coordinating and parking the 1100 RVs. Enjoy this newsletter and please review the list of rallies and caravans, we're sure you'll find something that fits your interest. Wherever you travels may take you, please be safe.

**Chapter President's Message**

In March 2024, the following SMART FMCA Chapter members attended FMCA's 108th International Convention in Tucson, Arizona. Tony and Gina Mason, Joe and Pam Faubion, Joseph and Carol Adams, Erwin and Genie Greven, Barry and Donna Wynnott, and auxiliary members Monty and Peggy Ledet. I want to thank these attendees for helping during our Chapter Fair and Block Party. During each event, we promoted SMART to the numerous veterans in attendance, and we were able to pick up a few new members. We handed out SMART Travelers, Trifolds, and Caravan fliers to at least 50 veterans, maybe more, who attended this FMCA event. We collected as many names as possible and their contact information so we could follow up with them. For SMART to grow and survive, attending FMCA events around the country is a great opportunity to find RV'ing veterans and tell them about our wonderful travel organization. I strongly encourage all SMART members who are not FMCA members to join FMCA! Their benefits are numerous. Follow this link to see what you can gain by being an FMCA Member. <https://www.fmca.com/fmcarclubbenefits> . Their dues are only \$50!

**(Continued)**

## Chapter President's message (continued)

I encourage SMART members to login to FMCA and look at their events held around the country. Pick one, attend it, offer to represent SMART FMCA at its Chapter Fair and invite all the Veterans that attend the chapter fair to your block party! Make sure you have trifoldts with your information inside, as well as other SMART literature that is available from SMART HQ. Let's all help SMART gain new membership! Click here to see what FMCA may be doing near you - <https://www.fmca.com/fmca-events>. When you go to the FMCA site, there are three tabs. Each one shows local, regional or national opportunities for you to get involved in growing our SMART FMCA chapter.

P.S. The next International FMCA event will be in Redmond Oregon August 14-17 2024. We already have two SMART FMCA members planning to go, Bo and Karen DeBlieux and Barry and Donna Wynott. You'll see in the pictures below that we draw a lot of interest at the chapter fair and I'm sure they would welcome some help – please consider attending!

Safe Travels,

Tony Mason

President SMART FMCA

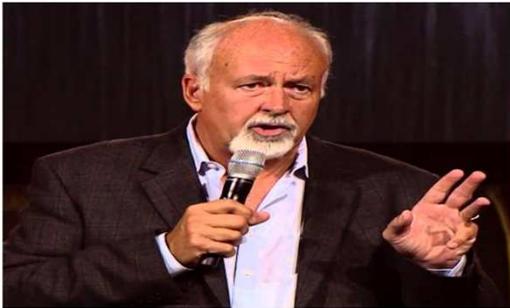


**EXCITEMENT AT THE  
FIRST TIMER  
CHAPTER FAIR**



# ENTERTAINMENT

As always, FMCA had a wonderful variety of offerings. Entertainment was scheduled for the evenings and throughout the day. Below are just a few of the acts:



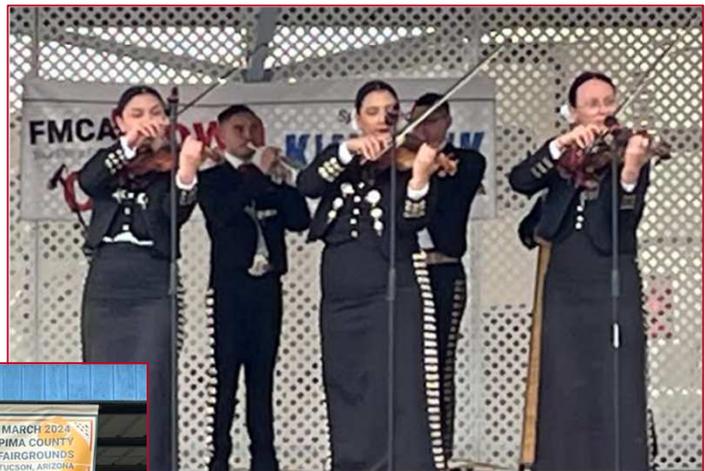
A fellow RV'er and comedian Mark Cordes lit up the night with his hilarious show – 'The Spouse Whisperer'.



A Performance by Kevin Pakulis and Rancho Deluxe had people out of their chairs line dancing under the stars.



Baja Caravan was a special treat with their unique style blending folk, reggae, and Latin rhythms. They set a tone for the evening's mariachi Band who closed our Fiesta Del Sol.



Mariachi Nuevo Azteca is an ensemble composed of graduates from Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo High School, regarded as Tucson's top youth mariachi group.



## SMART FMCA CHAPTER

March 2024



FMCA chapters - On The Road Quilters and On the Road Stitchers - donated quilts to the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation

Vet Center Mobile Unit



Outreach specialists from the Tucson Vet Center, were available to meet one-on-one with veterans answering questions about the services offered by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

We always enjoy meeting with the vendors and attending the educational seminars. There were so many scheduled we couldn't attend them all - we'll have to attend again next year!

Vendors Galore



Safety and Maintenance Seminars





The chapter block party, and the First Timer Chapter Fair, continue to be excellent opportunities to connect with veterans and we're always surprised by the number of veterans that have not heard about SMART. The Chapter Block Party was scheduled for two hours and we went until well after sunset. Between the Block Party and the Chapter Fair, we distributed the box of SMART Travelers and hundreds of flyers for caravans that we brought with us. We had lots of help from SMART FMCA members engaging non-members at the Block Party. A big than you to Erwin and Geannie Greven for coming early and helping at the First Timer Chapter Fair – could not have done it without your help! While we do our best advertising SMART caravans, the for-profit travel companies do an excellent job promoting their caravans with hour long seminars – **over twelve seminars at this rally.**



FMCA'S 109TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO

**ADVENTURE  
PEAKS**

REGISTRATION  
— OPENS —  
**APRIL 3**

**AUGUST 14-17, 2024**  
**REDMOND, OREGON**  
DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR & EXPO CENTER  
[WWW.FMCA.COM](http://WWW.FMCA.COM) • 800-543-3622

**WATCH FOR INFO ON**

March 12-15, 2025  
FMCA International Convention  
Perry, Georgia

July 16-19, 2025 FMCA  
International Convention  
Gillette, Wyoming

**LET US KNOW IF  
YOU ARE  
ATTENDING  
A FMCA RALLY  
ELSEWHERE**

*We will post your info  
and photos in the next  
newsletter.*

## UPCOMING CARAVANS

### 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. **Wait List***

### 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 Maritimes.*

*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! **Registration is Open For a few more weeks.***

*\* 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. **Wait List***

## 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***

## 2025 Civil War: Chasing John Wilkes Booth

*Our 22-day caravan will begin in Richmond – the heart of the South – and end in Washington, DC, where five days after the Civil War ended, the assassin murdered President Lincoln and shocked the nation. Through guided tours and notable speakers, we will explore how Booth and his network of conspirators attempted to decapitate the Union government and throw it into a state of panic and confusion.*

*We have chartered a private John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour! Our guide is a Lincoln Assassination historian and expert on all of Booth and Herold's haunts along their flight path. Our guided tour will include Ford's Theatre and continue as we visit Surratt's Tavern and Dr. Mudd's Home. This experiential tour is a must for Lincolnites or those with an interest in Civil War history.*

*We will also go beyond the traditional Civil War topics to explore how women went from Southern Belles to battle axes. Along our route we will visit notable Civil War and other American historical sites such as Richmond White House of the Confederacy, Gettysburg National Military Park, Harpers Ferry, Appomattox Court House, Jefferson's Monticello, Michie Tavern, Marines Friday Evening Parade, and much more.*

*We will end our 500 mile caravan with a moonlight dinner cruise. We will enjoy delicious cuisine and live entertainment on a dinner cruise along the Potomac River and view the famous sites of the nation's capital during September's full moon. **Registration Is Open***

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

**WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR NEW OFFERINGS**

**MEMBER ANNIVERSARY**

Stephen and Diane Pena ..... Mar 19<sup>th</sup>

**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Margie Moniz ..... Mar 8<sup>th</sup>

Roxann Beck-Foley ..... Mar 9<sup>th</sup>

Jerry Mueller ..... Mar 29<sup>th</sup>

Richard Hitt ..... Mar 30<sup>th</sup>

