

OFFICERS 2020

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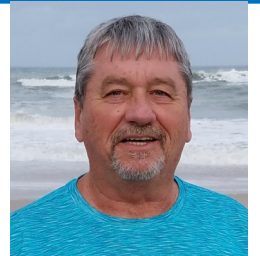
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A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

President's Message



Greetings MI members,

Are we RVing right now? Should we even consider traveling now? Does social distancing help? Should we wear a mask? Who is the most vulnerable? Fact is, the questions can go forever.....

Many people questioned whether or not we should have a rally. The answer is yes and no. Yes, if you feel comfortable meeting with people and taking the necessary COVID-19 precautions. And no, if you do not. We decided to give it a try.

We had our first destination campfire rally at the Amana RV Park and Event Center in Amana, Iowa. I want to extend a special thanks to all of our members who attended. Although COVID-19 issues made it a challenge, all of our members who attended took all necessary precautions to include social distancing, wearing masks and hand sanitizing. Thank You!

The Amana Colonies staff were very accommodating. Staff escorted each coach to our own designated section of the park leaving an empty space between each coach. The building we used for our social gatherings was assigned solely to us for the duration of the rally. We had ample room to spread out while socializing and eating meals.

The welcome social started off with one third pound burgers, quarter pound hotdogs, chips and lots of fixings. Duane Lindsey, our MI 1st Vice President / Rally Master, was gracious enough to not only supply the grill but also did all the grilling. As members trickled into the building, it was obvious everyone was feeling a degree of uncertainty and maybe even a little apprehension. What were we thinking? What are we doing? It was a little slow starting. But, as always, with good friends, new and old, coupled with good food, the rest is history. Thank you Duane and Karen Lindsey for stepping up as Rally Masters. You did an outstanding job!!!

The rally was based on Destination, Destination, Destination. The Amana Colonies and surrounding area has quite a bit to offer.

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President's Message

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However, like everywhere, there were tourist who for whatever reason, chose not to wear a mask. We kept our distance and had a great time. We did things as a group and on our own. Wonderful laid back rally with plenty of free time to relax or check out the area.

We were honored to have Mid-West Area VP Gary Milner and his wife, Glenda, and INTO President Elect Paul Mitchell and his wife, Lisa, attend the rally. Gary was gracious enough to spend time with the group answering questions and providing an FMCA update. Glenda gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FMCA University which is available on the FMCA website. It is an online resource to assist FMCA members with troubleshooting RV problems and general travel information. I also want to welcome Gary and Glenda to the Monaco International family as they joined the Club at this rally.

I want to thank Don Stein and James Vitte for sharing their knowledge of the Amana Colonies area with the group. Also, special thanks to Chris Henderson for designing the very creative rally logo and to Ann Morris for writing an excellent article for our newsletter.

Kalona Kountry Katering met our challenge by providing large tasty food portions and serving with minimum staff.

On a final note, this rally was never intended to show we don't believe COVID-19 exists or that some of us believe we are invulnerable. Our intentions were to provide an opportunity to socialize with our MI friends and to make new friends. Thanks to all who attended and made this rally possible.

Many RVers are not ready to even think of traveling yet. Take a few minutes to reach out to one another by telephone or an email. I believe we can all agree, reminiscing about past RVing adventures can be a positive uplifting experience. Feel free to write an article for the MI newsletter. Maxine Schremp is the newsletter editor and she is always looking for articles.

Your board is eager to hear from you. Please email me, jmsblueknight@gmail.com, with ideas, suggestions, or comments on ways to improve MI. Take the time to go on the MI website to get to know your regional directors. The Rally Oversight Committee is in the process of developing new rally procedures.

Looking forward to seeing all of you down the road.

*Mike Sanders
President
jmsblueknight@gmail.com*

**So let me get this straight, there is no
cure for a virus that can be KILLED by
sanitizer and hand soap?**



Monaco International Destination Campfire Rally July 16-20, 2020 Amana RV Park, Amana, Iowa

The Campfire in Amana Rally, July 16 2020-July 20 2020, with early arrival day July 15, 2020, was attended by 13 coaches at the Amana RV Park

Happy Hour was held every evening at 5PM. We had a welcome cookout served in the air conditioned building provided by the campground. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs were cooked by myself with help from Mike Sanders. Everyone enjoyed the salads and chips.

On Friday July 16th we met at the Amana Heritage Museum for a tour of the Museum and the Amana church. Friday after Happy Hour, dinner was served by Kalona Kountry Catering. The servings were very large and very delicious. Only 2 or 3 could go back for a second helping! Sharon Riley asked each evening if anyone wanted to have a campfire and cook Smore's, however there were no takers.

Saturday was "on our own" with no plans other than Happy Hour at 5PM

Sunday afternoon we had Ice Cream at 2PM—Klondike Bars and Ice cream cones!.. Dinner was served after Happy Hour by Irene the owner of Kalona Kountry Catering. Again, the food was fantastic! Everyone enjoyed the great meal.

Of the 13 coaches attending, we had non members. Gary and Glenda Milner had such a good time that they joined Monaco International. *Welcome Gary and Glenda.*

Special thanks to Sharon Riley, our registrar, and for the idea to have this rally. I could not have done this rally without her help in arranging everything.

Duane Lindsey
Rally Master and 1st Vice President

OUR ATTENDEES



Potential Destinations

With a lot more (and new) RVers on the road this Summer and RV Parks catering to more long term residence, available and desirable spaces are harder to find, especially for multiple nights. In addition to planning ahead, one option is to visit desirable locations during the off season. Some of these locations are also associated with festivals, most of which have been cancelled this year. One is Estes Park, CO.

We had booked back in January to attend the Scot-Irish Festival in September. Early in the year, RV parks in the area were fully booked. When the Festival was cancelled, many travelers cancelled their reservations creating vacancies that were unheard of six months ago. A bonus, is that when we go in September, it will be prime Aspen viewing and the Elk Rut should be in process. Our speculation is that many such opportunities exist throughout the country. Get out there and explore. Being in our coaches is an excellent way to socially distance and in a very safe environment. You got it (coach), make use of it.

Wishing everyone SAFE travels,

Harry and Sandy Hentschel

Norma Preston (our Alternate National Director) asked to share the following with our membership. It was written by a friend (April) of hers' 22 year old daughter Emily.

Life During A Pandemic

Calamity strikes when you least expect it

Overwhelming entire nations

Reality feels less and less concrete

Optimism becomes more difficult

Nobody expected to live through a plague

Anybody who says so is lying

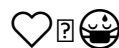
Virtual life substitutes for normalcy

In homes that now resemble prisons

Rest assured, better days are ahead

United for once, true to our name

Selflessness will pull us through



Emily

Editors Note: "I think Emily has a wonderful future ahead of her. She is blessed!"

Norma, please send our thanks to Emily.

QUARANTINE

Thanks to Mark Schaffler for sending this along.

Day 1:

I Can Do This! I have enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2:

Package of Rice: Some have 1210 grains, some have 1235 grains. Who knew?

Day 3: 8 pm.

I removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.

Day 4:

Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might not last.

Day 5:

I tried to make hand sanitizer. It came out as Jell-O Shots!

Day 6:

I get to take the garbage out. I'm so excited! I can't decide what to wear!

Day 7:

Laughing way too much at my own jokes!

Day 8:

Went to a new restaurant called The Kitchen[®]. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place stays in business.

Day 9:

I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting dressed up and going bar hopping.

Day 10:

Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.

Day 11:

Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12:

I realize why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13:

Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this week?

Day 14:

Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals beat the Blue Jays 3 to 1.

Day 15:

If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.



"Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone."

— Anthony Burgess

FMCA Update

Harry Hentschel, MI National Director

CONVENTIONS:

FMCA Convention & Expo **Tucson** is back on the schedule for March 23 through 26, 2022.

Perry, GA is scheduled for March 10 through 13, 2021. Registration will open this Fall but stay tuned for potential updates this Fall.

Gillette, WY is scheduled for July 7 through 10, 2021. Registration will open in early 2021.

FMCA OFFICERS UPDATE:

Among the new Officers sworn in on August 29th via a ZOOM Conference Call was MI's own Paul Mitchell who replaced George Schremp as the International Area President (INTO Area) and FMCA Vice President

Major KUDOs to George for his contributions with INTO as President and FMCA as VP.



BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN

In the last Newsletter, there was a section on "Itching To Get Back On The Road". Several attended the Campfire in Amana which was very relaxing and enjoyable from our perspective; much more so than a traditional Pre-Rally.

Hopefully, you have been able to put some miles on your coach and found new places to see. Fortunately, we have been back out, but on a much more limited basis than in prior years



FUEL CARD

If you are not familiar with the TSD Fuel Card (not the same as the currently sponsored FMCA TCS fuel card), we'd encourage you to look into it. FMCA will soon be featuring it as an additional alternative. We, and many others on the FMCA Membership Committee found it much easier to apply for, does not tie up our cash and provides much greater discounts. You can find more information at: tsdlogistics.com.

www.MIRVClub.com

A First Timers' Rally Comments

Hello, this is *David and Ann Morris*. We usually don't go to many rallies. We normally travel solo trying to see everything we can in this great country of ours. The Amana Colonies RV Park and Event Center in Iowa (a German settlement) was planned as a destination Rally. It was a great one too. It turned out to be a wonderfully informational rally (in addition to a brief update on MI, we got a brief update on FMCA and a very helpful presentation on the FMCA website with emphasis on the university and an overview of other possible rallies as well as known cancelations). I think the small size (attendance) and who attended made it that way for us. The attendees were President Mike Saunders, Sharron Riley unofficial coordinator, Duane and Karen Lindsey, 1st VP and Rally master, Rick Nelson, Lee and Evelyn Giesekey, Richard and Barbara Rigby, Don and Pat Stien, Harry and Sandy Hentschel, Gary and Glenda Milner, Paul and Lisa Mitchell, Marvin and Pat Vayna, Richard and Denice Ramsey, James Vitte, Jeaneen Shlie and David and Ann Morris.

Sharron had plenty of good things planned. We were given a bag with pamphlets, brochures, a magazine and coupons for things in the area.

After we got set up we went through our goody-bag. We've learned through past experience you must start planning ASAP to be able to get to see everything. With Covid-19, we have also learned to call all the places we plan on visiting to make sure they are open, if they are doing tours and what the hours are; web-sites are not always up-to-date.

Sharron included the groups Itinerary in the packet. This was very useful in our scheduling. We did not want to miss anything to do with the rally. With the small group, it was easy to get to know and talk to everyone. We even heard that the "officers" got to do some site seeing which apparently they do not usually get to do during larger rallies.

First, there was a get to know you hamburger and hotdog get together, then there were two catered meals, an ice cream social, many social hours and a guided tour with a 4th generation guide with the Amana Historical Society, John (I think). He was very informative, spoke clearly and because he and all his ancestors lived it, he knew first or second hand what he was talking about!

Even with the Coronavirus, all the food was good, very hot, delicious and plentiful. Both catered meals served two meats, two or three vegetables (one being some type of potato dish), a dinner roll and a desert. There was enough that we had some to take home from the first time through the line. There was still enough food that some could go back for seconds. With the group being so small the line was very short.

There was plenty of time to explore and experience all 7 of the Amana Colonies. They were all tied together by a 17 mile loop that was very easy to maneuver. There was something for everyone, all kinds of specialty shops, restaurants, wineries, a brewery and walking trails. Some of the shops were chocolate, fudge, bakeries, popcorn and ice cream, meat and smoke house (spelled Haus- German), leather, clothing, furniture, antiques, Christmas, tea shops and the "general store" that carried many unique items most were hand-made. Unfortunately a few of these places have closed or are closing soon due to covid-19 and the lack of tourism. The only thing I suggest you do before you go there is go to the grocery store. There aren't any close.

We were even entertained by the ground squirrels right outside our door and Killdeer birds, both were plentiful in the RV Park. The park staff here was great too. We liked the area so much that we stayed another week. We wanted to take some day trips to see some things around the state. We went on a tour at Kinze Innovation Center (farm equipment), Field of Dream's movie set, Antique Archaeology, Motorcycle Museum, Worlds Largest Truck Stop, Kalona (largest Amish settlement west of the Mississippi), HWH Manufacturing and Service Facility (Pneumatic/Hydraulic Leveling, slide mechanisms/Air ride systems

Thank you David and Ann. We appreciate hearing from you.....

2021 BALLOON FIESTA



The eighty members who had signed up for this year's (2020) 49th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta know that the event was POSTPONED until 2021. The vast majority elected to rollover their registration to attend next year. However, a few already had plans for 2021 which conflicted so they have cancelled. This resulted in the MI Rally again having a few open spaces available for 2021.

We expect these to fill rather quickly so if you are interested, we suggest you do not procrastinate and register soon. While October 6-9th, 2021 is over a year out and a lot can change that could impact your travel plans and our Club recognizes this, so you will have until July 2021 to cancel your registration and receive a full refund. Some have commented that the 2020 event was cancelled. It may seem as semantics, but as a point of clarification, it was POSTPONED in that the 49th Fiesta will still be held, but in 2021.

The key point is that our reservations were rolled over AT THE SAME PRICE. If the event was cancelled, we would have had to reapply for our eighty spaces with no guarantee of being successful and probably at a higher fee!



To register, go to the MI Website and click on Upcoming Rallies. Look for the Balloon Fiesta Rally for more information and a link to register online or to print off a written application. If you would like to bring a fellow RVer who is not a member of MI, they can apply after April 15th, 2021.

Your Co-Hosts for the MI Balloon Fiesta Rally Harry and Sandy Hentschel
Roger and Carol Smalley.

TIPS & tricks

Baking soda - how long have you had it and is it still fresh and okay to use? Mix a small amount with vinegar. If it bubbles a lot it is still good. If it doesn't bubble or has very few bubbles, it's time to throw it away and buy a new box.

Baking powder - how long have you had it and is it still fresh and okay to use? Sprinkle a little bit in hot water and watch to see if it fizzes. If it doesn't fizzle or there is no reaction, it's time to throw it away and buy a new can.

Taking labels off jars - after taking as much of the label off as you can, spray it with WD-40, then wipe it off with a paper towel.

More Tips and Tricks in the next newsletter **Sandy Hentschel**

Note from the Editor....:

*I love these tips and tricks. I learn something new every month.
Thanks you*

MONACO INTERNATIONAL 2021 BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

Hosted By --- Harry & Sandy Hentschel & Roger & Carol Smalley

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wednesday, October 6 – Saturday, October 9, 2021

Departure on Sunday October 10, 2021 after morning ballooning events



The Balloon Fiesta is the most photographed event in the world.

600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You won't believe your eyes as 100 or more special shaped balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. See Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Nearby for your entertainment – Golf, Casinos, Shopping, Fine Restaurants, etc.

There will be NO REFUNDS unless your cancellation request is received by e-mail (prior to July 15th) or mailed and post-marked by July 15th or your space can be filled from the wait list. Registration confirmations will be emailed. If you want a confirmation mailed, please enclose a stamped, return addressed envelope.



Sign up online

(Preferred)

at

WWW.MIRVCLUB.COM

We will be parked in the VIP West area which is immediately adjacent to the launch site.

This will be Dry Camping and no hook-ups. However, water and honey wagon are available for a fee.

Rally Contacts:

Harry & Sandy Hentschel
719-339-9237 or 719-237-5412
email: hands1968@me.com

Roger & Carol Smalley
618-593-5352 or 618-537-9999
email: rogersmalley@gmail.com
carolgriffinsmalley@yahoo.com

Registrar: Sandy Hentschel
719-237-5412

Email: hsh1968@gmail.com

The rally fee includes

Parking, admission to all ballooning events, welcome dinner, one luncheon, two breakfasts and the Bring Your Own Beverage social hour with appetizers provided each afternoon before the evening Fiesta activities.

MI Member Coach	2 persons	\$550
MI Member Coach	1 person	\$500
Non-MI Coach	Additional	\$150
Extra person (13 & Above)	each	\$150
Extra person 6-12	each	\$ 90
Extra person under 6 free (but must be registered)		
TOTAL		

Sign up Information Required:

- MI Member? YES _____ NO _____ FMCA # _____
- Non-MI members must have a MI sponsor attending Rally. MI Sponsor's name: _____

Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone# _____ Cell# _____

E-Mail Address: _____

All Rally related correspondence will be sent to this e-mail address

Coach Make _____ Coach Length _____

Names of Guests: _____
(all guests must be preregistered regardless of age)

Please make checks payable to:
Monaco International Balloon Fiesta Rally

Mail to: Monaco International
c/o Sandy Hentschel
3520 Windjammer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

[] Please check if this will be your first time at the Balloon Fiesta with Monaco international.

UPCOMING RALLIES YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

All FMCA Conventions and Area Rallies for the rest of 2020 have been cancelled

[On the Cancellation List](#)

Rocky Mountain Ramble

SOI Rose Parade Rally, Pasadena, CA, December-January, paul@soiclub.com

Monaco Roamer's Pre Rally at Riverside Fairgrounds, Indio, CA

Western Area Rally at Riverside Fairgrounds, Indio, CA

[Still Scheduled](#)

[2021 Rallies and Conventions:](#)

January 12-17, 2021

Monaco Travelers—Tampa RV SuperShow, Tampa Florida
ron@vikingmarina.com, 358-242-4480

January 13-17, 2021

Tampa RV SuperShow, Tampa Florida

March 3—7, 2021

Monaco International Pre-Rally - Tallahassee, FL Fairgrounds

March 10 - 13, 2021

FMCA Winter/Spring Convention & Expo - Perry, Georgia (stay tuned)

April 19-22, 2021

INTO Area Rally, Lebanon, TN (Tentative)

April 29-May 6, 2021

419 Maintenance Session, Goshen, IN (Non FMCA Event)

June July, 2021 (Exact dates TBD)

Monaco International Pre-Rally - Cam-Plex, Gillette, WY

July 7-10, 2021

FMCA Summer Convention & Expo - Cam-Plex, Gillette, WY

September 29-October 2, 2021

Eastern Area Rally, Lewisburg, VA

October 6-9, 2021

South Central Area Rally, Hutchinson, KS

October 6 - 10, 2021

MI Balloon Fiesta Rally - Albuquerque, NM

*If you know of any rallies that you would like to see added to this list,
please send them to our Newsletter Editor, Maxine Schremp,
mschremp2002@yahoo.com*



Everybody needs beauty...

“Everybody needs beauty...places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to the body and soul alike.” — John Muir

May your coach take you to such places that John Muir references.

SAFE TRAVELS!

Submitted by Harry Hentschel, MI National Director

Recipe for You & Yours

by Carolyn Banks

Pesto Topped Salmon Filets

My son-in-law, who loves to cook, first served us this dish, and it has become a staple of mine. The spinach doesn't look great when the dish is done, but everything tastes delicious.

Ingredients (2-4 servings):

4 boneless, skinless salmon filets, 4-5 oz each
4 oz basil pesto (I use Classico usually)
10 oz bag fresh spinach leaves
1 pint grape tomatoes (about 24)

Instructions:

Spray electric skillet with nonstick spray and spread the fresh spinach leaves over the bottom.

Lay the 4 salmon filets on the spinach.

Top each filet with about 2 tablespoons of the pesto (to cover).

Scatter grape tomatoes around the salmon on the spinach.

Turn the skillet on to 300 deg (do not preheat). Cover the pan and cook for 20 minutes, until salmon flakes easily with a fork.

If you don't travel with an electric skillet, you can use a sheet pan in your convection oven. Don't preheat it; just put the filets on the spinach spread on the sheet pan (on the low rack with turntable off) and add the pesto and grape tomatoes. Turn on the convection oven to 325 deg and time it for 20 minutes. May require a little more time. Check it near the end of your time so you can add a few more minutes, if needed. Dan and I eat 2 filets each, but 1 each for 4 people is probably not stingy.

Enjoy!