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SPARKS & EMBERS



From the President

Spring is here! Well the calendar says it is even of Mother Nature disagrees. It's almost time to get our units out of storage and do some camping. We will be tenting it for the campouts we will be able to go to. Our project camper is still in the repair stage. The further we dug in, the more we have found wrong.

Spring State will be held June 7th-10th hosted by Audubon Co Travelers at Albert the Bull Park in Audubon. There will be a meeting held on Saturday morning. Please get your registration into Nedra & Delbert Elmquist.

Travis & I have decided to step down from our President position. We have a lot going on in our personal lives & we don't feel like we are unable to focus the attention that is needed to FCRV. We are truly sorry. If you or someone you know would like to run for office, please let Dale & Karen Huston know.

Happy Camping,
Bethany & Travis Boege

Regional Ramblings

by Gerry Pfirsch

It's almost time to start camping! Spring is near, and many have the itch to start camping. A few of you have started your camping season. I know that I am ready, how about you? Let's make it a great camping season with a lot of fun memories to look back at and share around the campfire. I must say a big thank you to Rob and Joleen for inviting me to the first executive meeting that they held in Nebraska this past weekend. They have made several positive changes in Nebraska and are off to a good start moving the state ahead. I am proud of the job that they are doing. And Nebraska should be as well. Keep up the work you are doing. It was great to spend the weekend with them and sharing a few laughs and a good time. It was a great Pleasure to meet the members of the Chapter that is their home Chapter. Rob and Joleen you have a great supportive Chapter there, Be proud of them. I have had the pleasure of meeting with them each week by phone since the time of their appointment to the State Directors Position and have had the opportunity to see them become more confident in the work they are doing. Keep up the good work.

It is looking as if Iowa might be coming through with a location for the Regional I am awaiting a confirmation and will give them a few more weeks to get things set. I have found two other possibilities that I can fall back on and will be contacting Brian and Kay within the next week hoping that they have things set. I will be working out a new rotation this year that will incorporate Montana. I think that it is imperative that we look at ways to boost the attendance of the Regional functions each year. I would like your ideas to help improve this function. We are a very large area and distance can and will continue to be a disadvantage for us. One idea that was proposed was to hold this function in a central location and have each state act as the hosting State. If we were to do this, it would be in

or near Valentine Nebraska. The Sturgis South Dakota campground has extended an invitation to use their facilities again. I look to seeing your ideas on this in the days ahead.

I would like to encourage all of you to set up and start recruiting new families and growing FCRV. How many of you are going to do RV Shows this year? How about sharing FCRV with a friend or neighbor that has that rig setting in the driveway and it only goes out 1 or 2 times a year. I have said and believe that FCRV is a very well-kept secret that people do not know about. I would like to ask each of you to make an effort to sign up one new family this camping season. Use the Cadet membership in conjunction with them paying for the first year and we can turn their \$35.00 one-year membership into 18 months or a full year and a half membership. This would be equal to two camping seasons with that new member. For this to work that new member must pay the first-year membership up front and then you must write NEW CADET on the form then send it to the office to be processed. I would suggest that you offer this to the new people at all your get acquainted meetings and take advantage of this program. I would like to challenge each of the Region 3 States and see who the recruiting champion for will be in 2018. We will run this contest through May 2019. You will need to send your completed applications to your State Directors to record and then send in the application to National. The State director will send me a copy of the application each Month for recording purposes to count in the contest. The state of residence will be the state that gets credit for the member. The challenge is out there let's see what state will win. What State director will have the bragging rights for best recruiting State. Will it be Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Manitoba Canada, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota. Game On. I think that we should also consider an award for

the most new Chapters started in the year to come. I will consider this as well. Let's see what happens! I would also suggest that you get the new FCRV fliers from National office with the NEW FCRV LOGO on them. I have had many people comment on the new logo and the majority has been positive. There are a few that do not like the Logo but after talking with a few members that were around for the last logo change it sound like there were several people that did not like that change then as well. I do think that it is a positive change for FCRV. I ask each of you to accept the logo change and remain positive regarding it. I must say I like the New Logo just my opinion.

Email is : heartland3fcrv@gmail.com

Address is:

Gerald Pfirsch
19050 Sorrel Springs Ln.
Frenchtown, Mt. 59834

See you camping!

Gerry



National Scholarship Recipient: 2017

Dear Bryan and Kay
State Directors: Iowa

It is our pleasure to announce that Jessica M. Moats of Ames, Iowa has received one of nine National Scholarships

awarded this year. Jessica is enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa – Cedar Falls in the Elementary Education program. The criteria for a National Scholarship is available on line at the FCRV web site: applicants must demonstrate

high academic success; involvement in FCRV activities; participation in community activities and provide two references. This scholarship program is administered by Scholarship America.

FCRV is proud of Jessica's accomplishments to date and wishes her success in her academic career.

Please publish this announcement throughout your State.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my wife and I at fcrvscholarship2014@gmail.com.

Carl & Lynda Wood

FCRV National Scholarship Board Directors

Club News

InCaHiAs

The InCaHiAs had their annual campout at Lake Ahquabi in October and really enjoyed the campfires (no mosquitoes). On Saturday morning we did our annual highway pickup. We were grateful for the help of Rob Parker, a Parker granddaughter, Brian & Kay's niece, and her foreign exchange student friend. After doing this project on the two miles north of Indianola for 28 years, we made the decision that this would be our last year. Our next service project will be to spend some shifts at Meals from the Heartland packing dry ingredients for meals to be sent to parts of the world, including the U.S.

Audubon Co Travelers

On October 13-15, the Audubon County Travelers Camping club had our last campout of the season and we always call it our Freezeout Campout. We had rain all weekend. In fact, we had rain at almost all of our camping weekends this year. We decided that we needed to advertise that parts of the state that were needing rain should contact our club as we bring rain every time! We always still have fun. We had our stew supper Saturday night. Everyone brings veggies to add to the stew and John Nisson bought the meat. He

cooked it all day over the fire on the big, iron pot. They had to sit under a canopy to keep from getting wet while watching the stew. Everyone enjoyed the stew along with the other foods that the club members brought. We had our business meeting before we had our stew. We all had a good time. Thank goodness we all had furnaces in our campers.

Shirley and Wayne Jensen, field directors

The annual Iowa club camp out list will be emailed separately

Member News

Virgil Henriksen from Audubon, Iowa, passed away on March 8th, 2018. Cards may be sent to his wife. Shortly after Virgil's funeral, Betty was rushed to the hospital in Des Moines to get a pacemaker put in. Keep her in your prayers.

Betty Henriksen
606 E Division St
Audubon, Iowa 50025.

Muriel Kay (Audubon Co Travelers) broke her ankle on March 13th, 2018. This is her first broken bone in her life. Keep her in your prayers.

Muriel Kay
63930 Hamburg Rd
Atlantic, IA 50022

Lester Risius' mother passed away Saturday March 31st. Her funeral was Saturday March 7th in Buffalo Center. Cards can be sent to:

Les & Bee Risius
1316 E Nevada St
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Bryan Dilks' mom, Ramona, passed away on April 5th, 2018. Cards can be sent to:

Bryan and Kay Dilks
3107 120th Ave
Carlisle, IA 50047

Jeff (Smokey) Davis passed away April 16th in Springfield, MO. He was a member of the Polk-Co-Dots. A Celebration of life Service will be held Saturday May 12 at 1 pm at the Jeff 'Smoky' Davis Council Ring at Camp Mitigwa. In lieu of flowers donation can be made to Katie and family for the Jeff 'Smoky' Davis Camp Mitigwa Memorial Fund. Besides caring for the Council ring, there are several dreams that Jeff had to support the growth of youth into strong caring adults. Katy's address is:

Katy Davis
2721 S. Springfield Farms BLVD #87
Brookline Station, MO 65619

Campvention 2019

We still need lots of help. Where can you fit in if you aren't already on the list to help chair a committee? Do you have any suggestions for someone to fill a vacant spot? If so PLEASE let [Ivalee] know or talk to them about the jobs. We will send them what we have for job descriptions. Let's get this filled before the end of the year. We will reach out to others outside our area then.

Ivalee and Gerald
campvention2019@yahoo.com—Ivalee
heartland3fcrv@gmail.com—Gerald

State News

Regional 2018. I asked State of Kansas if they would like to host Regional 2018 in Hutchison where National 2019 is being held. They have voted not to do this. So Iowa.. it is on us. I have had a few suggestions. Madison Co Fairgrounds, Amanas, and Avoca. There will be meetings held with your Team Leaders and committees. I will do my best to get this decided on soon. Please send me any suggestions or comments as soon as possible. Thinking 30-50 units, if possible first weekend in August 2018. My email address is iafcrysd@yahoo.com. Kansas is having their State Convention May 4-6, 2018 in Hutchison and invite anyone that wants to see the grounds and/or building to join them. You can contact Ivalee at campvention2019@yahoo.com.

As I stated at Fall State we need to all pitch in and volunteer for Regional 2018 and especially for National 2019. For any questions on jobs available, job descriptions or any questions Ivalee and Gerry are very knowledgeable and will be happy to share their expertise with anyone. I would email them at campvention2019@yahoo.com. Any jobs not filled by the end of the year will be outsourced to other states. Would be great to at least have most jobs handled by Region 3. I have included the latest list of volunteers.

Bryan and Kay Dilks—Iowa State Directors

Committee Reports

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship committee is happy to announce this year's ISA scholarship winner: Jessica Moats of Ames. IA. She is the daughter of Marty &

Kristine Moats. She is a sophomore in Elementary Education at Northern Iowa University.

We also want to acknowledge the generous contributions from the Audubon County Travelers in memory of chapter members: Carolyn Steele, Gerald Kay, and Virgil Henriksen.

It is also time to start thinking about applications for a scholarship to be given at the June ISA meeting. Contact me for information.

Glenda Sellers-Scholarship Committee

Dear Iowa FCRV,

Thank you for the FCRV Scholarship. It was very useful in paying for some of my expenses for this year at the University of Northern Iowa where I am currently a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education.

Thanks again,
Jessica Moats

CAMP

The Hiawatha Mohawks are awesome! Members of their chapter have walked a total of 163 miles during this year. It is not hard to get up from your camping chair and take a walk to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

At one time, there was a traveling plaque that was given to the chapter that had covered the most miles. The name of the chapter and year were engraved on a bar and added to the plaque. If anyone knows the location of this plaque, would you please contact me?

Glenda Sellers
IA CAMP Chairman

Letter to the Editor

Just a thought from someone that grew up as part of the old NCHA chapters.....

Growing up, my family was part of the old Iwanago, and then the Skeeter Scratthers, based out of the Des Moines area. We camped pretty frequently every summer. One thing I remember, is a large percentage of the campouts were scheduled in towns during a local festival. So there was also something to do, in addition to the Friday night Hospitality and the Saturday Night Potluck and Campfire. I have many fond memories of those times.

When I was living in Northern NY, I bought a camper to take my family camping in. It was not a large one, just a 16 foot teardrop style, no bathroom. But we camped at State Parks and campgrounds that had facilities and the boys always had things to do or places to explore. I looked at joining the local FCRV club, but there was only about 6 members, all retired people and all in Class A Motorhomes. They only camped at places with no electric or restroom facilities. They had no idea why they could not grow their club in numbers.

When I moved back to Iowa in 2015, one of the first things I wanted to do was re-connect with some camping clubs. I did get the schedules and go out with a couple different FCRV chapters to try it out. But unfortunately, many of the locations listed for campouts do not always have facilities, or are so run down, there is nothing to do but sit in the camper, which is what occurred at the two events I attended. No outdoor socialization at all.

Now I also belong to two other camping groups, both organized thru Facebook. One is a T@B group, and one is a Teardrop group. I belong to both regional and national chapters of each. Both are free, no dues. And people often camp with both back and forth.

The biggest difference I noticed was the camper turnout. Almost every outing I have with the T@B group is over 20 units and around 30-35 people, of all ages. Young families with kids,

people in their 30's, 40's up to retirement age. Single, Married, Widowed, etc. A great mix of people and we have things going on all weekend. The Teardrop group is very similar, though their unit counts at the events I have been to are usually 15-20 units, 25-30 people. Each regional group schedules 4-5 events a year, and many of us cross over to other regional groups when we travel out of state to add a couple more events to our schedule.

The two FCRV events I went to each had less than (10) units, and were all retirees, and all self-contained units. No younger couples or singles, no kids. And as I mentioned previously, many of the locations chosen seem to be remote or places where there will be very few other campers and sometimes no facilities or electric. I really think as each chapter is putting together their schedule, they need to think about whether their desire is to grow their chapter and bring new people in, or just keep the current members happy, and once they reach a point to where they can no longer physically camp, just dissolve the chapter.

I had really looked forward to joining a local FCRV chapter, but with the lack of enticing campgrounds, low turnouts and the dues, there is really no advantage.

So, maybe each chapter can re-evaluate their selection of venues and dates. Select locations that perhaps have a festival or activities going on nearby, or historical places to visit. Many of our group bring kayaks and bicycles, so some go out and do that during the day if we are camped somewhere with a lake. Others of us sit around and play games or just visit. All outside, even in the rain. We find shelter and make the best of it. Again, just my two cents. I just think it would be a shame for such a historical organization to die out because the members do not wish to re-evaluate how they operate, and are unable to attract new members. Think OUTSIDE the camper!

Respectfully,

Jerry Peck, Rhodes, IA

Letter from the Editor

Dear FCRV Family,

After the spring state campout, I will be stepping down from my position as secretary and editor of the *Sparks & Embers*. Nathan and I have a lot on our plate with life right now. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming campouts. Thank you for understanding.

If anyone is interested in being the secretary and/or editor of the *Sparks & Embers*, please contact Dale & Karen Huston, State Advisors.

Heather & Nathan Stalzer

Awards

Chapter anniversaries (by month)

Hiawatha Mohawks Jan 30, 1969 49 years

In-CA-Hi-as on March 24, 1962 56 years.

Loess Hills Hoboes April 6, 1992 26 years

Audubon Co Travelers April 26, 1963 55 years

Polk County Dots- on June 5, 1972 45 years

Heartland's October 12, 1991 26 years

Just Go With It Oct 14, 2014 3 years

Campfire Crusaders Oct 30, 2001 16 years

the buildings, etc. is welcome to join us. Please call 316-830-2115 (Ivalee Vanderhoff) for registration form and information. Also if you need information about possible motel/hotel staying, let us know and we will share what is available.

The theme is "Camping Life is a Fiesta!" with a Cinco de Mayo Flavor - Entertainment - Craft Project, Workshops, Games, "Who's Telling the truth" panel, Mexican Potluck Supper, CAMP, Church/Memorial Service, plus more.

Cost is \$75 for two nights camping and sharing the cost of the building. You have a choice of a full-hook up site in the RV Park or water/electric closer to the building. We will be using the Lake Talbot East Building. We DO need registrations so let us know so we can get one to you and get you registered.

Kansas Invite

The Kansas Campers Assoc. Spring Campout is in May and is on the grounds where we will meet in 2019. Ivalee Vanderhoff

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Kansas will be celebrating their Spring KCA Campout at the site where we will all host the 2019 International Campvention. The date is May 4, 5, & 6, 2018 and is in Hutchinson, KS. Anyone who is interested in seeing the grounds,

2018 Spring State Campvention

June 7th-12th

Albert the Bull Park

Audubon, Iowa

Hosted by: Audubon Co. Travelers

Registration Fee: \$15

Make checks payable to: Audubon Co Travelers

Mail to: Nedra & Delbert Elmquist

2392 Lark Ave.

Hamlin, IA 50117

.....
Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

____ Adults ____ Teens ____ Youth

Heartland Regional

August 2 – 5, 2018

Fairgrounds Missouri Valley, Iowa

Join us for a fun time!

Activities, games, hospitalities & MORE!

Saturday night meal (tickets sold at reg.)

Pre-registration cost \$15.00/\$20.00 at gate

Camping cost \$18.00/night

Send Pre-registration to:

Dale Huston, P.O. Box 25, Albion, IA 50005

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Adults _____ Teen _____ Youth _____ Handicap Parking _____

2018 Fall State Campvention

Join the Hiawatha Mohawks at Manchester Fair Grounds

September 21-23, 2018



Registration : \$15

Camping: \$20/ night

Due August 20, 2018

Grass Sites w/ Electric

Water Available on Grounds

Dump Site

Mail to: Roger Altes

319-361-6759

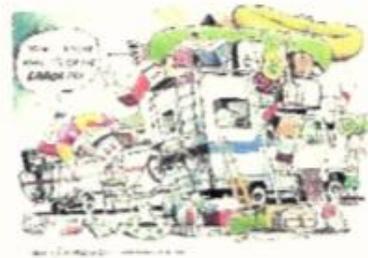
2180 Valleyview Dr.

raltes@msn.com

Marion, Ia 52302

Make checks payable to

HIAWATHA MOHAWKS



Name:-----

Address:-----

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Email:-----

Phone: _____ #Adult----- #Teens----- #Youth-----

2018 Fall Campvention Registration

Check # _____

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OPEN COMMITTEES

- Hospitality
- C a m p v e n t i o n
Coordinator
- M e m b e r s h i p
Promotion
- Insignia/Flags
- Project Sales
- Activities Coordinator
- Youth
- Legislation

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IOWA FCRV / NCHA
 4033 30th St
 Des Moines, IA 50310

DATED MATERIAL



Where Strangers Become Friends
 & Friends Become Family

I O W A F C R V / N C H A

<p>GOD BLESS AMERICA My Home Sweet Home</p>	<p>In Memory of JAN PEIFFER Who Loved NCHA/FCRV</p>		<p>ALBERT THE BULL CAMP GROUND</p>
<p>CAMP & WALK with the Hiawatha Mohawks</p>	<p>“Come Camp With Us” Banners Contact – National Office</p>		<p>\$15.00 per night Shady sites W/E, sewer hookups Dump station Playground equipment Swimming pool and Bike trail nearby</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of Ardis. Miss my camping family~Bob Guyer</p>			<p>AUDUBON COUNTY TRAVELERS</p>
<p>Please continue to save Pull Tabs, Scrap Aluminum, Pennies and Sewing Quilts for the critically ill children and their families living at the Ronald McDonald House while undergoing treatment at local hospitals in Iowa. Your chapter can win the traveling plaque for collecting the most tabs by the Fall Campvention.</p>		<p>Advertise Here Booster Ad \$10 per Year/\$50 for half page</p>	