



SMART FMCA

JUNE 2023

Summer and hurricane season are officially here! While many of you have already hit the road for milder weather, others may be looking for options, so we focused this newsletter on just that.

Take a few minutes to review the amazing caravan options available to our members. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the 2024 Canadian Maritime Caravan lead by our new chapter president, Tony Mason. Tony, and his wife Gina, are diligently working to make this the best Maritime trip ever.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tony Mason

In March, it was my honor to move into the presidency of SMART FMCA. SMART FMCA is a vital part of FMCA International, as we draw our membership from veterans nationwide in both the USA and Canada. I would like to extend the warmest welcome to our new members and hope to see you at a SMART RV travel club event soon.

I encourage you to engage with all veteran RVer's you see in your travels. Tell them about SMART, hand them a Trifold, which can be found at:

[SMART Trifold/Membership Form](#)

Tell them why you joined SMART, and that you would love to have them join a muster in your home state. Let them know they would be welcome to join any group muster as they travel by simply contacting the muster master. Invite veterans to join you as you attend the rallies around the country. Lastly, get their contact info and follow-up with them to answer any questions they may have.

Is anyone attending FMCA International in Gillette, Wyoming? If so, please print/bring some trifolds or contact SMART HQ to get some traveler magazines you can hand out. Fill your information in on the back page and hand one to veterans that you meet. Perhaps even organize a happy hour at your coach one evening so veterans can share experiences. This is important. We need you! Thanks for all you do to get the word out about travel options for our veterans. Finally, I would like to see as many SMART FMCA members as possible joining us at our next SMART NATIONAL meeting in Amana, Iowa, September 18-22. I'll be there, will you?

Tony Mason, President SMART FMCA

**FMCA 107th International Convention
and RV Expo
Aug 23-26, 2023
Gillette, Wyoming**

<https://www.fmca.com/fmca-gillette-2023-learn-more>

Contact HQ for copies of SMART Traveler and TriFold brochures.

**MEET US IN AMANA FOR
SMART'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY
2023 National Muster
Registration is OPEN**

Opening Ceremonies on Monday, September 18

Closing Ceremonies on Friday, September 22

First trip to Amana? A visit to Amana Colonies in Iowa is like taking a trip back in time. Luckily, there are modern day amenities available even with such a unique, historical setting. For dinner, it doesn't get much better than the family-style dining at one of Amana's famous German restaurants. The Amana Colonies Trail is a 17-mile loop which takes you through most of the Amana Colonies and ALL of the tourist attractions. Stop by Millstream Brewing Co., where they brew 25 different beers each year. If it's available, try the Schild Brau Amber. Check out the "to do" list on the SMART website for other recommendations. Hope to see you there!

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

Cliff and Jeanne Meier	1-Jun
Bo and Karen de Blieux,	2-Jun
Jerry and Christine Morris	4-Jun
Adams, Joe and Carol	7-Jun
Mike Foley and Roxann Beck-Foley	7-Jun
Jeff and Lindsey Gaston	10-Jun
Tony and Gina Mason	10-Jun
George and Sue Young	22-Jun
Rich and Holly Caruso	30-Jun

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bo de Blieux	1-Jun
Adrian Jones	10-Jun
Kathy Steinbauer	10-Jun
Joanne Hastings	15-Jun
Nancy Stephens	22-Jun
Carol Adams	24-Jun
Joy Burns	26-Jun
Gordon Johnston	26-Jun

We Leave You With A Blessing For Safe Travels

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.