



The International Traveler



A newsletter for the chapters and members of the International Area of the Family Motor Coach Association

September 2019

FMC~~A~~INTO.com

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Maxine & George Schremp

Hello to all of the International Area (INTO) members from your President. I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health. Yes, the summer has flown by really fast; as you will read from each of the INTO Board members, they believe it's gone by super fast also.

Do you know what chapter member in your chapter has the most influence on the FMCA Corporation, how it works and functions, for you the chapter members? That very important person is your National Director. Each summer at the International FMCA convention your National Director (ND) reviews all of the work that the FMCA Executive Board has done on behalf of the membership. The ND reviews all Bylaws changes, all policy and procedure changes, reviews and approves next year's budget and has a total voting power to change anything that they do not think is in the best interest of the FMCA and its members.

This summer the FMCA Corporation was hit with a surprise 73% increase in expenses for the FMC Assist Medical Emergency and Travel Assistance insurance policy which is included in each member's yearly dues. The ND had the option of dropping the insurance policy, dipping into the reserve funds to pay for the policy for one more year, or raising the dues. Whatever decision the NDs made was not going to be accepted by all members, but a decision had to be made by the NDs. After reviewing all the facts, and the pros and cons, the NDs decided that a \$25.00 dues increase was the best for FMCA and its members. The NDs directed the FMCA Executive Board to immediately start searching for a replacement for this insurance company.

If a chapter member wants to see changes in FMCA, let your ND know. If you have a question about something in FMCA, ask your ND. If the ND does not know the answer, they can call FMCA's office and get an answer to your question.

Did you know that FMCA has two chapters that specialize in taking chapter members on guided caravan tours? The first chapter's name is S.O.I. Motorhome Club. They have been a chapter in FMCA for 40 years. Each year this chapter plans 2 or 3 caravan outings guided by their own chapter members. Some of the places that the S.O.I. chapter has visited are Alaska, Calgary Stampede, New Year's Day Rose Parade.

The second chapter has been in existence for over 10 years and their name is Monacos in Motion. They also have their own members guide their tours. This keeps the cost down for their attending members. Some of their current tours have been the Nachez Trace caravan, the four-wheel-drive caravan and tours of wineries in the Finger Lakes.

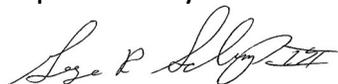
For more information on these two chapters, please look them up on their website and see where they are headed to next.

Up-and-Coming International Area Rallies.

The INTO rally in 2019 is going to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 21-25 2019. May 19-22, 2020, we will be having our Area Rally at the Lancaster Event Center, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In July 2021, the rally will be at the Calgary Stampede in Canada.

Hope to see you soon. Have safe travels.



George Schremp III
FMCA National Vice President, International Area/
President International Area Organization (INTO)

Senior Vice President's Message Paul G. Mitchell

2019 has been an exciting year for the [International Area](#). Our Chapters continue to lead the way in providing their members new and exciting things to do and places to go. We are continuing to add new Chapters to our organization and would like to welcome

Leisure Travel Vans International, Travelin Nomads International, Beaver & Friends Security Volunteers, Teton Club International, and On the Road Stitchers to our family. Many of our Chapters schedule rallies and rolling rallies to exciting locations such as Branson, Albuquerque Balloon Festival, Las Vegas, Yosemite, Rushmore, Maritimes, Alaska, New Mexico & Arizona, California wine country, Puerto Penasco, Rose Parade and many more great adventures. You can belong to multiple Chapters and I am convinced that you get the most from your membership by participating in the Chapter organized events.

Having heard about Mule Days Rally in Bristol, California, we had the opportunity to attend the 6-day event this year over Memorial Day. To say that Mules are stubborn is an understatement; but they are also very intelligent. This is a great week with events such as Bridleless Pleasure Stakes, Chariot Racing, Big Balls in Muletown, Pack Burro Race and the, not to be missed, 100% non-motorized parade through the center of town. Go to www.muledays.org for additional information.

From Bristol we headed to the Northwest Area Rally at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, Oregon. This is a great location and the Northwest staff put on a great rally. We volunteered for food service and had a great time serving the guests the excellent meals provided. Our International Area table at the Chapter Fair was very popular and we were able to answer a lot of questions about our organization.

This summer was very special as we traveled through British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Alaska for 61 days with one of our Chapters. Alaska seems to be on everyone's bucket list and there is a good reason. Traveling from Alberta to Alaska via Yukon and the Alaska Highway you travel through the world's most wildly beautiful areas, filled with jaw-dropping scenery, wildlife sightings galore and historic communities. Around every corner is something new and exciting.

Our trip was timed to arrive in Minot as a Chapter, which was also a real plus. Our Chapter had coordinated with parking well in advance, so instead of waiting in lines, our sites were designated, and we were able to caravan directly into our parking area. I would encourage all Chapters to consider entering the International Conventions as a Chapter and coordinate with national office Parking well in advance. Even if you only have a 1-day pre-rally at a nearby park you can provide your members a way to feel special arriving at the Convention.

Lisa and I are looking forward to another exciting rally in Myrtle Beach and can't wait to see everyone at the rally.

Vice President's Message Rodger Donnelly



Well this has been a very busy year for us. We finished our house as I mentioned in our last newsletter, but I didn't mention all the work that goes into owning a house. I guess I forgot after full-time RVing for the last 11 years. I need to go back to RVing full-time.

We started the year by finishing last year's Christmas with all the kids and grandkids at our new house. Diana really enjoyed hosting that event.

After the celebration, Christmas was basically packed up with the help of our guests as we said our good-byes. The next morning, we hit the road visiting friends in New Mexico then we celebrated bringing in the New Year at the Tournament of Roses Parade with the S.O.I. Motorhome Club Chapter. Then a little R & R before we attended the FMCA Western Area Rally; then we checked out Beaver Ambassador Club Chapter in Quartzsite before heading back to Texas.

Next we went to Perry to the International Convention, then back across the country to attend the Mule Days in Bishop, California. I would suggest everyone check this out. It's totally awesome. Then we rolled up the coast and visited various cousins and sights. Then we checked out the Northwest Area Rally. We had a lot of fun at that rally, and Diana won a 4K 50" TV by guessing how many Jelly Beans were in a jar.

My Dad always told stories about going to Alaska. Well, he never made it. However that dream became mine and we went on a rolling rally with the S.O.I. Chapter through Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon Territory then Alaska. It was truly amazing. I can't describe how wonderful of a trip this was. I'm already thinking about when we can go back. Then we attended Minot Magic, the 100th International Convention, and we had a lot of fun, with a lot of memorabilia going back over the years. It was quite enjoyable. After that we visited the Theodore Roosevelt National Park with some friends for a little R&R. Well Diana's desire to get home pushed us south, so we ventured on home only to find out there is a lot of chores that need to be done. Oh my.

After a few weeks of chores, I'm looking forward to attending the South Central Area Rally, then heading to Myrtle Beach for the INTO Area Destination Rally. I'm planning to have chapter beanbag baseball on the beach and a miniature golf tournament. So practice up and get ready cause we're going to have a lot of fun with that as well as four shows, two dinners, and all the other fun activities. We are also going to kick off another one of my ideas, and that is to have a barbecue chapter. At this rally we are going to have

a smoke off, so sign up to smoke, and bring your tastebuds and judge the BBQ. After all the fun at the beach, we will spend some time going along the coast with some friends coming back this way. Next spring we are going to go to Pima County, Tucson, for the International Convention, then we are going to The CMA Music Fest in Nashville, Tennessee, with some friends and have us a real good time. We are thinking about maybe going up to Maritime and seeing if we can squeeze in the convention in Syracuse, New York. Well it is time to get out of here, but come see me for the rest of the stories. Just living the dream and checking off items on my Bucket List.

Until then, Happy Travels

Vice President's Message
John McPherson

It was off to Florida for the Singles International Thanksgiving Rally in Eustis, FL. We were part of the local area's activities of the season and remained in Florida through December. We camped at several Moose Lodges with new friends. New Year's was spent with my Singles Chapter at Bushnell, FL, so a great welcome for 2019. Then we went back to COLD Virginia for winter chores.

Then a return on Feb. 1, 2019, to Lakeland, Florida, for the SEA rally and our host (SI) chapter, The SE Happy People. We did the fun and games and I signed up 7 new SI members.

Then it was off to Lazy Days for the FCOC Freightliner Chassis rally, a NON-FMCA chapter, for 4 days.

To pass the time it was a few Mondays to Webster for this famous flea market. Then the American Legions and VFW for Karaoke and to Catfish Johnnies for traditional country music on Tuesday at noon. I did not sing this time...Plenty of jamming. I found a new location for the SEHP annual meeting.

We did not caravan to Perry as planned but we all arrived for the Pre rally at our usual location. I arranged for parking at the same location as last year and we had an extra site for this year's successful block party. We signed up 10 Singles International (SI) members. We had the annual SI Business meeting and lunch in Seminar 10 and had a few guests. We did the fun and games for almost 700 people and cornhole as well. We

did the chapter fair and I had the opportunity to visit with several INTO Chapters and I joined the Amateur Radio Chapter, My call K4EHN...again back to Virginia for a regional meet of the Antique Automobile Club of America.

The middle of July we were on the road to Lock Haven, PA, to attend a Vintage Bird Rally at the fairgrounds for a week. We explored the area for miles and one day we landed at the RR Museum in Altoona, PA. We had meals every day. They love to cook....

Then it was again up the interstate to the NEAR rally in Syracuse, NY, at the NEW 110,000 -sq.-ft convention center at the fairgrounds. We did have time to perform with the YDD Chapter of the Frustrated Maestros. We had our annual business meeting and election of NEW Officers. The first morning at coffee and donuts I had a discussion with President Jon Walker and he told me the news about FMCAssist jumping their renewal pricing by 73%. This was a major subject of discussion at NEAR and later at the GB meeting at Minot, ND. The weather was perfect and with 3-way hookups.

Off to Boothbay Harbor, Maine, for another rally with the Vintage Birds with cooking and off to visit the countrysides and the BAY. Lobster right off the boat; you could crack them with your hand...we had our annual business meeting and I talked about INTO and our next rally at Myrtle Beach, SC, in Oct.

Then the 2,200-mile trek out to Minot, ND, for the 100th FMCA Convention. I blew my left tag axle tire about 50 miles west of Chicago. We had to wait for a 315 80R 22.5 tire and the only tire available was a Goodyear so now I have to match that....the tire exploded and tore out my 50-amp connector. My power cable was dragging down the road past my tow car. I had to bungee the fender and power bay door to get to Minot and back home. The Governing Board had the usual politics in action so reports are available. I had contacted all the INTO Chapters I represent and only two were not going to Minot. The Singles did the fun and games, card bingo, cornhole and a new water game of tossing a water balloon. So that trip was over 5,300 miles.

Now I am getting ready for our INTO Rally on Oct. 21-27, 2019, at the Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. I am the chairman of Rideshares to the shows so I have maps and schedules for our shows available to members.

Now to get busy repairing my coach, a continuous occupation. So, see you again in South Carolina.

Vice President's Message
Mike Neighbours

Hello fellow INTO members.

Well, Minot Magic is now history. From many standpoints it was a huge success. I sensed a level of enthusiasm especially among first-timers, which accounted for about a third of the attendance, that was very refreshing. Seminars were particularly highlighted by many attendees that I spoke with and Captain Sullenberger's talk was well received. Several chapters had many new members join, among them the Full Timers with 25 and the Elk's chapter with 15. The newly formed "On the Road Stitchers" chapter had several people join at their business meeting on Saturday. Volunteers at the Ice Cream Social served the crowd in record time with very few lines, a rare occurrence.

As I write this Darlene and I are slowly making our way east towards Myrtle Beach for the INTO Rally next month. Hopefully the pending hurricane will leave it in good shape. We will be making stops in Michigan, New York and Tennessee along the way. We hope to cross paths with friends as we travel.

Plans are coming together for the first ever INTO BBQ Championship at the "Rally at the Beach." So far, we have 7 Pitmasters signed up for the event. We would like to add a few more as the rally gets closer. There will be blind judging as well as a people's favorite award. Bring your BBQ skills for prizes and bragging rights. The INTO area will supply a pork shoulder to each entrant so as to have a level playing field. Your rubs, sauces, etc. are completely up to you. May the best Pitmaster prevail. Please respond to Rodger Donnelly or me to sign up.

See you in Myrtle Beach or somewhere on the road. Here's to safe travels and great memories.

Vice President's Message
Bob Wzithofer

So far it has been a busy year. We have already driven over 12,000 miles in the RV. The major portion of this was on a 61-day trip to western Canada and Alaska with the S.O.I. Chapter. It was a great experience and one that I recommend to everyone. Your coach and toad will be a little worse for the wear but you will have memories for a lifetime. We left Coeur D'Alene, ID, on June 16th with 16 other coaches. We ended our trip at the FMCA Convention in Minot just in time for the Governing Board meeting. The Governing

Board had some difficult decisions to make. We elected new National Officers and approved a substantial due increase to retain the FMCAssist program as part of our membership.

Pat and I now are checking out a location for a future INTO rally on our way from Minot to the Six-State Rally in Shreveport. I hope to see some of you there. After that we attend the Teton Chapter rally in Oklahoma City. The Tetons are a new chapter and I get the privilege of presenting them with their FMCA banner. We then head to the east coast for the INTO rally in Myrtle Beach. On the way we will visit with our doctors and a chapter of another organization that is thinking of becoming an FMCA chapter. Your Board has been working on the INTO rally and it should be a great time. The rally is almost full but we always have a few cancellations so there is still time to sign up if you haven't. After that we head to the west coast for the winter.

Secretary's Message
Dick Lowman

Where has the summer gone? This was the summer I was to get caught up on my HONEY DO list, but instead Bonnie and I have been on the road enjoying this GREAT USA.

Hope you enjoyed the Minot FMCA convention. It was a blast; made NEW FRIENDS and visited with the OLD ONES (we are some of the old ones). The weather was great for us. It was 101 degrees when we left our home state of South Carolina, and so the rain, wind and cooler weather was a treat for us.

So as of today, we are in Washington state where it's a cool 71 and enjoying it.

Your INTO Board has been busy planning the Myrtle Beach Rally and hope you have made your reservations. There are a few spaces left, and I'm sure they will fill fast.

At our INTO Gathering in Minot we voted on the Bylaws and Standing Rules. These changes will bring us in line with FMCA Bylaws.

So I must go; there are a lot of miles to cover, places to see and fuel to burn. See you on the ROAD.

Treasurer's Message Jim Fitzpatrick

If you missed the recent FMCA 100th International Convention in Minot, ND, you missed a great time. I always enjoy FMCA conventions. My first INTO rally was in 2017 at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson. We are looking forward to going back there for the 101st FMCA convention in March. BUT, before that, we are looking forward to the INTO Rally at the Beach at Myrtle Beach in October. We think it will be an awesome event. Lots of time to play during the day—golf, beach, miniature golf, water park, pool and the list goes on. This will be Kara's first FMCA Rally, and she is really looking forward to verifying all of the awesome things I have been telling her about my great FMCA friends.

It has been my great honor to serve as the INTO Treasurer since last summer's inauguration at Gillette, WY. I appreciate the support of the Board and our chapter National Directors.

Minot was a great convention. Our INTO governing board approved several changes to the INTO bylaws and standing rules and a new budget. Most of the time was spent discussing our upcoming rally in Myrtle Beach, and we are working on locations for our 2020 INTO Rally.

Right now, Kara and I are spending a couple of weeks at Ellsworth AFB Famcamp in Rapid City, SD (ok, it's actually in Box Elder, but if you don't have a mailbox here, you probably don't know where Box Elder is). Kara and I have reconnected after an absence of 33 years, and are both looking forward to continuing my full time RV journey that was started 2 ½ years ago. (Actually Rapid City/Ellsworth is where we met so many years ago, so it is truly a homecoming for us both.) When we leave the Black Hills, we will stop and see my daughter, Kelly, in Longmont, CO, then down to Nashville with Bob and Pat Weithofer (one of our INTO VPs) and then on to Myrtle Beach to prepare for the onslaught (if 200 coaches is considered an onslaught) of INTOers looking to have fun at the beach. Then it is West to Phoenix where I will spend 6 weeks as a Workamper for Amazon in Phoenix, and then we will attend the S.O.I. Rally at the Rose Parade. If you haven't signed up for that one, you should. For us, the Rose Parade is a bucket list event, and we can't wait.

I am really looking forward to The Rally At The Beach because as the Treasurer, I have connected with many of you who will be coming to Myrtle Beach.

Whether or not you will be coming to the Beach, Kara and I wish you safe travels as you enjoy this great lifestyle. INTO is a great organization because it has FMCAers from all walks of life. See you down the road.