



MICHIGAN - BRIDGING THE GAP

HRRVC MICHIGAN STATE NEWSLETTER

October 2009

FROM YOUR STATE MANAGER...



The 44th Michigan State Rally at Mackinaw City is now in the books as a very successful rally. Chapter 4 did an outstanding job of putting it together. We want to thank them for all of their hard work. We had a great turnout, with 125 units in attendance. 28 of them were first-timers!

It all started with a trolley tour of the Mackinaw City area on Wednesday, Early Parking Day, followed by Get-Acquainted Holiday Rambler Bingo, a chili dinner and RVer's Hat Fashion show. Opening ceremonies on Thursday morning were followed by a car caravan to tour the Cheboygan Lighthouse and working Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw, and a Mackinaw Trolley Shuttle to downtown attractions. Thursday night most of us took advantage of the free transportation to try our luck at the Casino in St. Ignace. Of course, some were luckier than others, but I think we all had a good time and had plenty to eat at the buffet. It was a bonus to have the shuttles pick us up and return us to the campground, especially for those who had never driven across the Mackinac Bridge. On Friday, 85 Ramblers took the ferry ride to Mackinac Island for a carriage tour and to visit other attractions. Others toured the area; there was plenty to do and see. The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater was enjoyed by all on Saturday night. The Mackinaw Pasties were a hit for dinner, and probably a first time experience for many of our guests. They sure seemed to be enjoying them.

After the cool weather we have had all summer, we could not believe the warm, beautiful days we had while we were in Mackinaw City. I think all who attended enjoyed themselves.

The club office move is finally finished. The new address is **1600 West Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart IN 46514**. The toll free phone number will continue to be 877-702-5415. The new office phone numbers are 574-295-9800 (Main) and 574-295-9802 (Fax).

Reminders for all the chapter presidents:

- E-mail forms 2 and 10 to me by November 15th. Be sure to include e-mail addresses and current dues expiration dates for members. If you have any problems getting the forms off the CD just let me know, and I can e-mail them to you.
- Don't forget to let me know of the death of any members in your chapter so they can be remembered in the Innumerable Caravan.
- If you have anything you would like published in the newsletter, please send it to me so we can include it.

Gil Seger

JUST SOME FACTS and FIGURES...

Holiday Ramblers continued their generous tradition of supporting a number of charitable organizations. Here are some figures from the State Rally:

- Silent Auction for Make a Wish- \$611.50
- Cake Walk for Scholarship Fund - \$163.00
- Habitat 50/50 Draw - \$234
- Chapter 4 Memory Quilt, Afghan, & Glass Art raffle - \$159.00 each to Salvation Army & Habitat
- 75 units in attendance were from MI, 21 - IL, 6 - IN, 5 - OH, 4 - MO, 2 - NC, 2 - NY, 1 each from KY, TN, TX, and FL, and 6 from Ontario
- 28 couples were first-timers for a MI Rally



AND SOME WINNERS...

- Ray & Sheila Fiebig won the early bird drawing for their Rally Fee of \$99
- Lee Clement won a screen house for filling his Rambler Bingo Card before anyone else
- Ginny & Jerry Flanary won the Memory Quilt
- Car Scott won a night's accommodation in Mackinaw City and dinner for two for having the best poker hand at Mackinaw Crossings' Poker Run



Of course, we were all winners for having made so many new Holiday Rambler friends and renewed acquaintance with many others!

A MICHIGAN FIRST-TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE...

Upon our arrival at Mill Creek Campground in Mackinaw City, I knew that this was going to be a good rally. Mackinaw City is a destination city that caters to those looking to relax and have a good time. In following the directions to our campground site, we drove along the shore of the aqua blue water of Lake Huron. As we rounded the bend to our area, we were greeted by a view of the beautiful Mackinac Bridge, which links lower Michigan to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Mackinac Island. We were then greeted by one of the members of the parking committee, who immediately made us feel welcome. In our area of the campground, most of the Holiday Ramblers attending this rally were already parked. I knew this was going to be a good rally, because everyone we saw wore a smile and walked with a spring in their step.

Michigan's Chapter 4 filled our days with fun, and interesting and unusual things to do. We were treated to tasty doughnuts and healthy fruits for breakfast each morning by Cheboygan, MI's Salvation Army group. They also provided us with a chili feed the night of "early parking." They used this opportunity to serve our group as a training exercise. We appreciated their hospitality and it gave us a glimpse into what the Salvation Army does in a time of real need.

Each day we had the opportunity to participate in a local activity, such as going to tour a lighthouse and

the Coast Guard ice breaker stationed in Cheboygan. One day was scheduled for a trip to the popular Mackinac Island, which is noted for its charm, history, the Grand Hotel and the fact that no motorized vehicles are allowed on the island. One evening, we were treated to a trip over the Mackinac Bridge to go to Kewadin Casino for dinner at their buffet, a \$10 bill for each attendee, 3 rolls of tokens to feed into their slot machines and the camaraderie with other Holiday Ramblers. Paul and I enjoyed dining with some of our fellow members from Canada. And we all came out winners. The last night of our rally, we were treated to a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, where we enjoyed a local cuisine favorite, delicious Mackinaw Pasties, and helped solve the mystery, "Murder in Mackinaw." The play was written specifically for our Holiday Rambler group with the characters having such RV-related names as Vera Winnebago, and the victim, Montana Airstream. Beware the Mackinaw fudge!!



Very popular were raffle drawings for a gorgeous Mackinaw Memory quilt that was designed and sewn by the ladies of Chapter 4, a most beautiful afghan that was crocheted by one of the ladies of Chapter 4 and a painted-on-glass art piece of the Mackinac Bridge.

I knew this was going to be a good rally, because all of the ingredients were there: an excellent location, in which there were lots of activities from which to choose; good planning and execution by a dedicated, hard-working chapter; good participation from those who were willing to travel to northern Michigan and arrive with a great attitude that said, "We're going to have a great time at this rally." But I wasn't quite right, it wasn't a good rally, it was a great rally! Thank you, Chapter 4.

Submitted by Melody Kasl

(Ed. Note: We're sorry you didn't get a Michigan first-timer's ribbon, Melody! Guess you just seemed like a fixture. You did a great job as MC... and we're glad you weren't the murderer after all!)

AND MORE COMMENTS...

Just a short note to say how much we enjoyed the 2009 Michigan State Rally. The activities were appropriate for the area and we personally enjoyed the historical tour of the lighthouses and the Mackinaw Coast Guard cutter. The pasties and the Murder Mystery entertainment were great. The HRRVC people, the place, and the weather couldn't have been better. The door prizes (our great chair!) and the raffle items (especially the Memory Quilt) were terrific. Thanks again for the efforts of all involved.



Don and Jane Rylander 87847

CHAPTER 444 IN MICHIGAN...

Prior to the Michigan State Rally, Holiday Ramblers participated in a Habitat for Humanity build in Cheboygan MI. Says Judy Mayo "We really built a house!!! Made the front page of the local paper." The local Habitat organization gave them Habitat T-shirts to commemorate the occasion.

Photo from left:
Nancy and Dennis Hill, Sid Aaron and Judy Mayo, Rick Payne, Frank Pifher, Theresa and Bill Drobek



FROM THE MISSOURI "SHOWME GAZETTE"...

"For those of you that were able to go to the Michigan State Rally, wasn't it great? We had perfect weather and lots of activities to keep us busy. Gerri and I biked 8 miles around Mackinac Island so we got to see the whole Island. Then the girls shopped downtown for the rest of the day. We also saw many of the famous lighthouses in the area. We toured an active Coast Guard Ice Breaker ship that was getting ready for the winter weather. We also found out that the lakes freeze over in the winter and you can snowmobile across to the Island. Myself as well as most of the members won some money at the casino. All in all I think everyone enjoyed themselves at this rally. I am also sure that everyone who comes to our rally next year will enjoy themselves as much."

- Bill Kaufman

Region V State Rallies

Just ONE left to go Don't miss out!

October 2 - 4 Kansas State Rally Hutchinson KS



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