



Chapter newsletter October 2022

President's report

Had another great time at the Big Sky Chapter rally at Lewistown. The best part of the rally (as has been our experience in the past) was the interaction and fellowship with fellow chapter members.

We also enjoyed a stroll through the Chokecherry Festival market up and down Main Street as well as a visit to the Central Montana museum. Our "dinner out" was fantastic too. But maybe best of all, for me - an Iowa State University alumnus - was watching ISU beat cross-state rival, University of

Iowa, in football. GO CYCLONES!

I hope everybody has an enjoyable, safe and healthy winter. Sharon and I will again enjoy the Montana winter, the likes of which we missed when we lived in the South. We may have an occasional trip to places warmer but no lengthy journeys.

See you at the next rally which Sharon and I will head up at the KOA in north Helena. Details have yet to be worked out.

*Dave Miller
Big Sky Chapter president*



Secretary's minutes

Our last rally of this year and annual chapter member meeting was held at Mountain Acres RV Park in Lewistown on Sept 10, 2022.

President Dave Miller called the meeting to order.



Secretary's report

The secretary read the notes of the last annual meeting, held in Fort Peck, Aug. 19, 2021.

The report was unanimously approved.

Membership report

Linda Gibson reported our membership steady at 41 members.

Some dropped their membership, but others joined.

A survey done by Linda showed that the majority of members live in the area between Missoula and Billings, a few live in the North West area with some others living to the North East.

Treasurer's report

Carolyn Spicer, our treasurer reported that our current checkbook balance is \$6,239.

Klaas Kloosterhof had reviewed the books and found them to be in good order.

He suggested it would be nice to come up with a more simplified system.

Wagonmaster's report

Sig Dehn reported that we had three good rallies this year so far.

It seems more difficult to find the right campgrounds for our group.



Rates go up, and not all campgrounds are willing to set aside a number of spots anymore.

Looking ahead for next year, possible locations are Helena, Kalispell, Livingston and Anaconda.

A midweek rally could become a possibility as well.

Sig is asking for all members to come up with a possible location for a future rally.

No new officers were elected this year.

National Governing Board

David Miller attended the National Governing Board's Annual Meeting in Lincoln NE as Klaas Kloosterhof was unable to go.

He reported that Dennis Marten was elected the new President of the North West Area.

The Tech Connect department is doing very well and making money for the FMCA.

The National Treasurer stated that financially they are doing better now than the past two years.

National memberships are down some, towables are up by 1,100 and coaches are down by 1,400.

Klaas Kloosterhof called to adjourn the meeting, Donna Dehn seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

*Johanna Kloosterhof,
Secretary, Big Sky FMCA*



Wagonmaster report

Our last rally of 2022 was very successful in Lewistown September 8 – 11 with 12 couples attending. Hosts Linda and Bob Gibson did an outstanding job, which really made the rally a success. Several folks did the trek up and down Main Street on Saturday checking out the seemingly hundreds of vendors as part of the annual Chokecherry Festival.

Now, on to next year. So far, we have two rallies scheduled in 2023 – one at the Helena North KOA June 8 - 11, and one at the Evergreen Campground near Havre September 14 - 17. While at the Lewistown rally, I announced that we were looking at the Anaconda and Kalispell areas. I've discovered that the new campground in Anaconda may not meet our needs and having received a "Rally Site Suggestion Form" for the Indian Creek RV Park in Deer Lodge, that is a preferable alternative.

I was hopeful we could conduct a rally in the Kalispell area since the last time we had a rally in that area was in Columbia Falls in 2010. RV parks in that area fill up fast for June through August, and prices



for sites are expensive. I'm calling upon those of you who live in or near that area to visit an RV park or two that might be suitable and fill out a "Rally Site Suggestion Form" and send it to me in some way or by calling and giving me the information. Please make your visits soon since some RV parks close down for the winter! Lacking any input from our members for the Whitefish/Kalispell/Columbia Falls to West Glacier area, another location may have to be selected.

Hopefully, rally locations for July and August will be determined and information regarding making reservations at all our rallies can be sent to you by the end of the year. I welcome your thoughts, so feel free to contact me by voice, text or email.

Thanks.

*Sig Dehn
Wagonmaster
(406) 581-3282
sigdehn@gmail.com*

Big Sky FMCA rally sites since 2018

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rigs</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
2019:			
5/30 – 6/2	Dick’s RV Park, Great Falls, MT	11	Dehn
6/27 – 30	Deer Lodge KOA, Deer Lodge, MT	13	Ogle
8/1 – 4	Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, MT	11	Kloosterhoff
9/5 – 8	Jellystone RV Park, Missoula, MT	12	Healey
2020:			
6/26 – 29	Daniels County Fairgrounds, Scobey, MT	8	Dehn/Teague
6/29 – 7/2	Medora Campground, Medora, ND	11	Hagen/Gibson
8/18 – 21	Spring Creek Campground, Big Timber, MT	13	Miller/Kloosterhoff
9/17 – 20	Mountain View Campground, Choteau, MT	12	Gibson/Teague
2021:			
6/3 – 6	Ennis RV Village, Ennis, MT	21	Kloosterhoff
6/24 – 27	Chouteau County Fairgrounds, Fort Benton, MT	16	Ogle/Drosten
7/20 – 23	Seeley Lake rally cancelled – fire restrictions		
8/19 – 22	Downstream COE Campground, Fort Peck, MT	15	Teague/Unrau
2022:			
6/16 – 19	MetraPark, Billings, MT	14	Gibson/Hagen/Spicer/Ketterling
7/22 – 25	Great Falls RV Park, Great Falls, MT	13	Miller/Mongeon/Hinds
8/18 – 21	Wallace RV Park, Wallace, ID	8	Dehn/Hagen
9/8 – 11	Mountain Acres RV Park, Lewistown, MT	11	Gibson

A few co-hosts may be missing from this list so for those, please accept my apologies. However, please note that there are some recurring names. Hosts for the Helena rally in June of 2023 will be the Millers and the Kloosterhoffs and for the Havre rally in September, the Teagues and Reinertsons. When we get our rally locations finalized for July and August, I’m hoping others (and hopefully some new names) will volunteer to host. Of course, we could always just do “no host” rallies and see how that goes.



Membership report

As the camping season closes and the end of the calendar year comes closer, it is time to reconcile the Big Sky Chapter and national FMCA membership rolls.

To be a member of the Big Sky Chapter, one also must be a member of the national organization. My records show that all of the people on our current chapter roster are members in good standing with national. But a few folks have yet to renew their Big Sky membership for 2023 and beyond.

If you have not done it already, please renew with me at your first opportunity. That will keep you from falling off of the Big Sky Chapter year-end roster. The cost is just \$15 – and, of course, we accept multiple years. If you do not remember whether you are paid up for 2023, drop me an email at lindagibson2030@gmail.com and I'll look up your record. Checks can be made to **Big Sky FMCA** and sent to:



Linda Gibson, FMCA membership
2030 Greenbriar Road
Billings, MT 59105

Sorry – we are not set up to take plastic, Venmo, Apple Pay, bitcoins, ethereum, etc.

I already am looking forward to seeing everyone in Helena next spring – and again as we gather for our 2023 rallies.

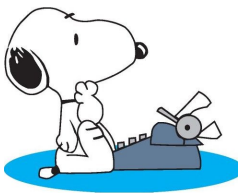
Meanwhile, stay safe and healthy this winter, no matter where your travels may take you.

Linda Gibson, membership



Letter from the editor

In the past few weeks I have run into several Big Sky Chapter members and other RV owners who already have winterized their rigs and put them away until next spring. I'm sure others are packing up to head to warmer environs for the next few months. We fall somewhere between with plans to put a camping trip or two into our log books before the inevitable snow flies. We find that fall is a great time to camp – it is cool, crisp, colorful and virtually bug-free – and it also happens to coincide with hunting seasons.



We all are interested in what and how other our FMCA friends are doing when they are out of sight of our four rallies each summer.

As you move through the winter – whether it is watching southern palm trees sway or shoving drifts around a Montana driveway - please snap a few photos and get them to me for our pre-rally springtime edition of this newsletter.

Wherever you land this winter, we hope you stay safe and healthy.

Bob Gibson, editor
bob@robertcgibson.com

BIG SKY FMCA RALLY SITE SUGGESTION FORM

(Submit to Wagonmaster)

Keep in mind that a rally site may be an RV park, a federal, state, or local campground, a fairgrounds, an open field, or even a school parking lot. We'd need a level area a minimum of approximately 20' X 60' for each rig to park.

Suggested by _____

Site _____ Nearest Town _____ State/Prov _____

Suggested dates _____

Reservations Available? Yes ___ No ___

Hookups: Water ___ Sewer ___ 50/30/20 ___ 30/20 ___ 20 ___ No Power ___
Dump Station Yes ___ No ___ Location of Dump _____

Sites: Paved ___ Gravel ___ Grass ___ Dirt ___ Level ___ Pull Through ___ Back In ___
(Mark one or more) (How many of each?)

Preferred/Group Sites (# available) _____

Enough sites or an area large enough for at least 20 rigs? Yes ___ No ___

Site cost per night? _____ Any Discounts? _____

Club House/Covered area? Yes ___ No ___ Cost? _____ Adequate size? _____
A/C? Yes ___ No ___ Adequate electric for coffee makers/toasters? Yes ___ No ___

I have visited this site? Yes ___ No ___ I will be the Rally Host? Yes ___ No ___

Why I am suggesting this sight for a future Big Sky FMCA Rally: _____

Special area events or features that would enhance this rally site: _____

Additional Comments:

BIG SKY FMCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ FMCA# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell#(Optional) _____

E-Mail(s) _____

Annual dues: \$15.00

New-member one-time sign-up fee: \$5.00

Badges \$12/pair (pin); \$15/pair (Magnetic) (Circle one)

Multi-year memberships available.

Circle: 1 yr 2 yr. 3 yr.

Total amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks out to Big Sky FMCA.

Mail to:

Linda Gibson, Membership

2030 Greenbriar Road

Billings MT 59105