



UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUMMER 2013: (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

June 18, 6:00 Dinner gathering Four Roses Café, 663 10th St. Plainwell. RSVP for reservations by calling Jennette Parkhurst 269-672-7304, or cparkh4123@gmail.com

June 24, 12 noon: Board meeting: Hargreave's, 215 Sabin, Kalamazoo. All are welcome.

July 4 time TBA, Pool gathering at Dick and Joy Kane-Grau. Details at the June 18 gathering will be conveyed by email afterward.

Our social committee indicates that more will be announced later. Watch your email

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

I wanted to express a big thank you to all of you for your help in creating a successful recruiting event June 6. Thanks for the food prep and serving, the table decorations, the desserts, posters, facilities setup and cleanup after the end of the meeting, and everything else. It is the "can do" attitude of you folks that makes our club great.

We had 27 invitees in attendance at the meeting and 15 of those put their names and emails on the list to receive our newsletter. We hope that a sizeable number of those will attend some of our social functions and eventually join our organization. Of the 12 who didn't sign the list (six couples), it may be in some instances because they intend to send in a membership application. We think that it is very likely for at least one couple. We'll have to see about the others.

For those of you who invited guests and had them indicate that they couldn't attend the 6 June function, but were interested in the organization, please follow up with them and invite them to our 18 June dinner at the Four Roses or another social function this summer.

Meanwhile, we need to move forward with planning for the September inbound themed exchange. Lyn will be the overall ED (but she would love to have someone work with her I am sure as an "apprentice ED"). We would also like to have small committees that would help with arranging for hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts and oversee the planning for individual days, particularly the biking day, the dune

buggy/brewery day, the canoeing/winery day, and the Art Prize day. I will be working with Wil and Sarah Reding on the Warren Woods/Warren Dunes day. If you would be willing to work on the planning for any of these days or tasks, drop me a reply and let me know which day(s) you would be interested in working on. Our initial thinking has been that we would open the exchange to 20 persons from other FF clubs in North America. Depending on the mix of singles to couples, we will be looking for somewhere between 10 and 15 home hosts and probably some day hosts as well. Keep that in mind. I'll take a few minutes out of our 18 June get together to see what we have in the way of members willing to become involved on some level with that exchange.

Again, thank you one and all for a great job. See you on the 18th.

EXCHANGES, PAST & FUTURE INBOUNDS

September 2013

Unfortunately Araraquara Brazil could not secure sufficient members to participate in the planned exchange to Dubuque and West Michigan and cancelled. Rather than let this summer slip by without an inbound your board decided to experiment with a themed exchange discussed previously by offering it as a domestic exchange this year.



This was discussed with FFI in Atlanta and they agreed to assist with promoting it for us. A budget was developed and a description submitted and this has gone out to all FFI members signed up to receive the World of Friends catalog in the US. We will accept 20 ambassadors. The budget includes FFI fees, rental of canoes, trail fee and bicycles (and shuttling of same), Fenn Valley tour, dune buggy tour, two naturalists for a day, a 2 hour sail on the ship Friends Good Will, museum entries (Maritime and Ford Presidential), 1 lunch out, farewell and welcome dinners as well as a burger and beer at HopCat for the ambassadors.

If sufficient response is not received prior to June 17 we will discuss with Atlanta about promoting it internationally.

Summer of 2014 - Plans will continue to be pursued for a similar themed exchange but for the international community as an inbound for 2014. In addition we would plan to have a lecture by a WMU professor who's expertise on Lake Michigan would be utilized. We would also incorporate any suggestions provided by guests from this year's trial exchange.

OUTBOUNDS

June 27 - July 15 2013 to Norderstedt and Braunschweig-Peine, Germany.

Nine members from FF of W. Michigan are looking forward to this exchange. In addition there are members from Lansing, NE Ohio, Huntsville, Alabama, Northern Illinois, Cincinnati and Big Canoe, GA joining the group.

A presentation of this exchange will be presented for all later this year.

November 2014 - Salvador, Bahia and Araraquara, SP, BRAZIL

The status of this exchange which we have been awarded is uncertain due to Araraquara's unknown club status. We are hoping that this will continue to be our destination, but if not then we will work with Atlanta to try for another Brazilian club. Because this is scheduled late in the year we have a bit of time. However visas are required for Brazil and are not something that can be obtained overnight. And, it is difficult to secure good airfares if destinations are uncertain until late.

We will keep you informed, so that if this exchange does not appear that it will proceed you will have time to select another destination from the World of Friends Catalog for travel in 2014.

OTHER INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES:



For the first time ever the FFI international conference has sold out! This was originally planned for 400 attendees, but was extended to 500 and has topped out at 600. The only option now is to be added to the waiting list.

It is expected we will have four members attending.

World of Friends Catalog

This publication has many exchanges listed with openings. You may find this on the FFI website: <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org> or you may be receiving it in your email box. Unfortunately it is no longer sent snail mail. If you are not receiving in your email box and wish to do so you may sign up for it through the web site.

In addition to what is currently published on the W of F's, there has been a recent announcement of a holiday cruise setting sail on Dec. 18 from Nassau and ending in San Diego Jan. 3. The FFI discounted rate starts at \$1,679. Anyone wanting this information and unable to find it please inform Lyn Hargreave <lhargreave@charter.net> and she will send you the information.



FFI LOGO EMBROIDERED SHIRTS:

Are available. Primarily we have focused on your choice of shirt style (long sleeve button front @ \$28.60 or polo/golf @ \$21.20 including tax) with FF of WM logo embroidered on light blue. Catalog of apparel is available and will be at the June 18 gathering. You may have any shirt you already have embroidered for \$10.00. Caps are available for \$12.72 with the logo in the front. Black looks very nice.

CONGRATUALIONS:

Two members need to be recognized:

Carolyn Wharton married Syd Cammenga (in the hospital garden after Syd had an unfortunate fall) on May 3. She now has a new address and phone number: 2500 Breton Woods Dr., SE, Apt. 1002, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. Phone: 616-560-3950. **Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Cammenga!**

Pat Pasbach reached her 9th decade on June 7. An accomplishment! **Happy Birthday Pat** and we still wish you many more.

