

FMCA-ARC 2021 Fall Rally in Amana Iowa

September 27, 28, 29, 30

Monday thru Thursday, depart Friday Oct. 1

The location is Eastern Iowa, about 25 miles west and north of the junction of Interstate 80 and Interstate 380 at Iowa City.

Willkommen to the Amana Colonies.

“Step into our world of authentic German ambience that was created by our ancestors and preserved by us today. Experience the unique culture that has its roots in Germany and flourished in the USA during a communal era for over 90 years.”

The FMCA-ARC rally will start with a tour hosted by a knowledgeable local guide. He will show us the important historic sites and tell us the story of Amana communal life... their early reason for being.

And no, they are not Amish or Mennonite. The buggies and quaint dress are further South in the Kalona area.

With the tour preview you will have plenty of ideas of where to zero in on interesting things you discover: the crafts, the furniture, the fabrics, the food and fun stuff.

Those rolling Iowa hills attracted more than farmers. In nearby Cedar Rapids a kid (Art Collins) and his home-made radio somehow maintained the only consistent contact with Admiral Byrd's Arctic expedition. Having an entrepreneurial father, Art's skill in radios and the fame of the expedition led to a family business making amateur radios. When later commissioned to build equipment for Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition (1934), the rest is history.

We will tour the Collins Aerospace Museum in the original Cedar Rapids main plant. This is a secure facility. Picture ID is needed at check-in. At all times we must be accompanied by Collins docents (all old employee/hams).

You will see the great diversity of amateur radio stuff like the 75A receiver and KWM2 transceiver and Type 30 transmitters as well as AM broadcast products, airborne, naval, tactical and of course a working auto-tuner.

After our rally comes Oktoberfest on Friday, Saturday and Sunday Oct. 1, 2, 3. You might want to stick around for some German bier und essen und musik und gemutlichkeit. The Bavarian style fun begins Friday night with the traditional tapping of the keg. This is the biggest deal of the year, so book early.

PS. For those with HWH levelers and slides, the HWH plant in Moscow is conveniently located on Interstate 80 at exit 267, about 20 miles East of Iowa City.