

**Yours in Friendship
Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
August 2010**

If August in Iowa continues the trend of June and July we have some real summer days coming -- plus sweet corn, the Meskwaki Powwow, the State Fair, and the Tri-club picnic. Please see the information from FF Quad Cities about the picnic and the Arsenal Island. Twenty people have already made reservations so we'll have a good sized group. Please let Audrey know right away if you want to be added to the list. 319-365-5746 or audrey.b@mchsilcom Check the directions for avoiding the bridge that's under construction.

We will also have our booth at the Farmer's Market again on August 21st. If you're not officially greeting visitors, please stop by to chat for a while.

Vic Klopfenstein will be the ED for our 2011 international outbound to Costa Rica. He is contacting San Jose to get the dates set. Thanks for taking this on, Vic. The ED's for the inbound exchange from Tokyo will be announced next month

It's not too soon to be thinking about our travel choices for 2012. We anticipate voting on our preferences at the September 26th meeting. Tell us what clubs to seek out while mingling with Friendship Force members from around the world at the international conference in Washington DC in October. Someone has asked us to look for domestic destinations also and we'll try. Make your preferences known, it often takes multiple tries to get destinations with few clubs.

Enjoy the last month of summer and hope to see you at Rock Island and at the Mystery welcome.

Audrey Bradford and Connie Williams

Calendar:

August 8: Tri-Club picnic on Arsenal Island in Rock Island. This is the information from Kathleen Doyle, president of the Quad City Friendship Force:

The date is Sunday, August 8 from noon to 4 or 5 pm depending on how much of the island you want to take in. We are asking for \$3 per person and a dish to pass. Everyone will need a picture ID to get on the island. The main pavilion is straight down Rodman Ave. The guards will point you in the right direction. We are having pulled pork sandwiches, drinks and dessert. If anyone has any dietary restrictions, let me know. There is much to see on the Island. There is a visitors' center with a lock tour (20 people per hour),

There is a museum, the National Cemetery with a beautiful Memorial Walk, the confederate cemetery and the home of Colonel George Davenport who was the first white settler in the area. All the attractions are free except the Colonel Davenport House. Like the lock tour, Colonel Davenport House can only accommodate about 10 people at a time. We'll have sign up sheets for you when you arrive.

There is a web site for the arsenal - www.ria.army.mil/ that has a map (it's small and hard to read) and driving directions. The problem with the driving directions is that you are directed to the entrance from Moline which is closed till the fall. The arsenal can only be accessed from Rick Island or Davenport.

I think the easiest way for you to get to the island is to take the Highway 61 south exit from I-80. Proceed on 61 (you will go through downtown Davenport) to 2nd St. where you will turn left. 2nd St runs into the on ramp for the island. Enter the first gate on your left. You MUST have a picture ID. The pavilion will be straight ahead on your left. It is covered, but let's pray for sunshine.

The Monticello group has arranged its carpool and the single women plan to ride together. Let me know about other needs or cars filled.

August 21: Farmer's Market: 7:30 to 12:00 Our Friendship Force CR/IC booth at the market will be in the Greene Square Park area. We need a couple volunteers to talk about Friendship Force with the visitors to the market. Let Audrey know if you can take a two-hour shift.

August 30-Sept. 14: International group to Baku, Azerbaijan: Cedar Rapids will lead this exchange of two weeks on the Caspian Sea. Steve Williams has a full group for this global exchange.

September 10 -13: Incoming Mystery Weekend. Our club is hosting an incoming mystery exchange and the incoming club has 21 ambassadors signed up to come! Dianne Peckosh (dpeckosh@mschsi.com) and Tressa Youngbear (ityoungbear@iowatelecom.net) are Co-ED's for the exchange. They think they have enough hosts but there may be other ways you can help.

We hope everyone can welcome our mystery guests with a potluck on Friday evening at 5:30 at Lowe Park. The guests will be here until Monday morning. Stand by for more information about the weekend activities in a couple weeks.

September 26: General Meeting at the Marion Heritage Center at 2:00 pm
The program will be 'Animals around the World'.

October 16-18: International Conference at Washington, D.C

This is open to any Friendship Force member. The conference gives the opportunity to see old friends, make new friends and to network with clubs from around the world.

To register, go to <http://thefriendshipforce.org/> website for additional information and registration link. Currently Connie and Audrey are registered for the event.

November 7: Annual Dinner Meeting at the Clarion Hotel at 5 pm

We will hold the election of officers and will have a Silent Auction fundraiser.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." - Mark Twain.
Friendship Force is changing the way you see the world.