



*The Newsletter of
the GMC Great
Lakers
Motorhome Club,
Inc.*

Volume 38, Issue 1 April 2013

America's Oldest and Largest
Regional GMC Club for Preservation
of the GMC Motorhome!



Dick Balsley
(Dick's Cadillac ID Picture 1963)
President 2013
GMC Great Lakers

Upcoming Rallies

Birthday Rally
May 17, 18 & 19
Centerville, MI

Spring Has Sprung Rally
June 21, 22 & 23
Granger, IN

Richards Rants & Raves!...

Spring begins

Spring is here once more; it seems that it has never failed to come, maybe just a little late. With the arrival come new chores, work and excitement of a summer to come. I'm sure not alone with all the yard clean up, tractor to start, cars to get running etc. We all have our own things to do plus whatever the wife has added.

But one thing we all share is getting the coach dug out and made ready for the first rally of the season. What could be more fun and rewarding? I drive down to the storage building for my first peek at baby after six months. Is her rear up or has the air left and dropped her to the ground? She is beautiful setting so nice and level, the shut off valves have done their job. I know that battery is up because it has been on charge in my garage. A simple installation, only a couple of skinned up fingers. They don't feel bad because it's cold, but the bleeding is an indicator they will hurt when they warm up. Time to check to see if she is alive, horn doesn't blow, oh yes it still unhooked from last year. Let's try dash lights, bingo, we have power. Thinking about starting, we'll set the choke, no reason to pump the throttle, the carb has long gone dry, Crank, crank, crank, pump, pump, pump, crank, crank, pump, pump, I'm sure it's only 30 second at most but it seems like 10 minutes. Finally a hit, sputter and it dies, no big deal, this is normal. Several more times and the big Olds fires up, we're running and ready to go home. Hold it, we'll move the shift lever around, there is reverse, neutral works ok, come on baby you can go forward, One last big check, any brakes, brakes would be good, I only lost brakes once in the summer when the master cylinder took a powder, boy does that make you pucker up. Ah brakes solid, nice and easy here, get the oil and grease moving, home we go!

From here it is all downhill, drain and flush the red pop out, clean and vacuum the place, check for unwanted critters. Good no mice this year must have gotten all the food off in the fall. Quick wash and wax job, polish out the wheels, and clean the glass. Ready to carry all the stuff from the living room to the coach. I'll get big brownie points for clearing half the room; the other half has all the boat stuff that will be a few more weeks.

I'm sure most of us share this operation each year, sure a lot of work. Why do we do it? I won't get into anyone's IQ here. We do it to see our friends at the next rally, that's what a lot of this is about. If you don't come to the rally you're just not getting full value for your time and work.

See you at the Birthday rally

Richard



37th Anniversary Birthday Rally

May 17, 18 & 19

316 E. Charlotte St., Centreville, MI.

www.centrevillefair.com

This year the Rally will be held at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds in Centreville, MI. The hosts for this rally are the 2013 Club Officers. We extend an invitation to each member of the GMC Great Lakers to join us as we celebrate our 37th Anniversary as oldest GMC club in the US. The rally fee includes two nights camping, Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday evening will feature a "Soup Pot dinner, bring 2 cans of soup, any kind except cream soups. There will be birthday cake and ice cream after the soup dinner. There will be a catered dinner on Saturday evening as well as Friday and Sunday coffee, donuts and stuff with a full pancake breakfast with all the fixings on Saturday morning prepared by the local Boy Scout group. We will be located at the west end of the fairgrounds again in the building with kitchen and service counter with plenty of room all our activities. All site have water and power and along with 2 dump stations and there are restrooms and showers.

The Campground is located off M86 in Centreville. You should look for Franklin Street, on your right from the west and left if coming from the east. You would turn south on Franklin St and go straight to the back entry gate of the fairgrounds. See Map!

Things to do and see in the area are many. Shippshewana and Amish country is just a short drive and 3rd largest Flea Market in the U.S. is open if you come a day or two early. Elkhart and all the surplus store await all who want to explore. To the north is Kalamazoo Air Zoo Museum with a flight simulator and many static displayed aircraft is at the airport. The Gilmore Car Museum is located in Gull Lake. It is loaded with antique cars and loads of other interesting stuff. In Centreville behind McDonalds is Yoder's Country Market with all the good Amish foods and a great lunch and they have just opened a new bakery, and just at the east end of town is the Amish Table restaurant. In Centreville turn north at the only stoplight (Clark St) and go about 4 mile to the on land covered bridge or cars only. Watch out for the speed trap at the bottom of the hill on Clark St.

Rally Fee's and Contact information are on the **YELLOW RSVP** Form.

Summer Solstice Rally

June 21 to 23, 23

Granger KOA, Granger, Indiana

<http://koa.com/campgrounds/south-bend/>

50707 Princess Way Granger IN 46530

Hosts: Steve & Phyllis Thornburg, Ed & Judy Dohm, Marvin & Sally Miller

Arrival Friday, June 21 - Departure Sunday, June 23

Reserved 40 Full Hook-Up, Pull-Through Sites

Thursday (Early Arrivals)

Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Soup 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Dinner *On Your Own*

MEAL PLANS

coffee, tea, bagels, donuts, toast, fruit
made by Phyllis
(Between the Buns Restaurant within easy
Walking distance)

Friday

Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Lunch *On Your Own*
Appetizers 5:30 PM
Entertainment 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Dinner *On Your Own*

coffee, tea, bagels, donuts, toast, fruit
everybody bring an appetizer to share
Barbershop Quartet
Lots of wonderful restaurants nearby

Saturday

Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Lunch *On Your Own*
Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 PM

coffee, tea, bagels, donuts, toast, fruit
barbequed pork, rosy applesauce, Amish
Potato salad, cole slaw, 3-bean salad,
Pie

Sunday

Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 AM

coffee, tea, bagels, donuts, toast, fruit,
Yogurt

See Map for Direction to Rally

Rally Fee's and Contact information are on the **Pink RSVP** Form.

Sunshine & Clouds

Winter appears to a have been kind the GMC Great Lakers MHC family with nothing to report.

New Members and Changes (Add these to your directory)

Changed Email

Swartz, Bob & Barb
Edselbs58@yahoo.com

Changed Address

Swartzendruber, Ray & Carol
8000 E Country Club Lane
Syracuse, IN 46567

Centreville, MI Map



Granger, IN Map



Rally Schedules

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club 2013 Rally Schedule

May 17, 18 & 19	38th Birthday Party Rally	Centerville, MI	Executive Comm.
June 21, 22 & 23	Summer Solstice Rally	Granger IN	Thornburg's & Crew
July 2013	Pending		
August 16, 17 & 18	Turkeyville Two	Marshall, MI	Scarlett's & Crew
Sept. 12, 13, 14 & 15	Hot Air Balloon Rally	Midland, MI	Wright & Crew
Oct 2013	Pending		

Rally Refund Policy

If you have paid your fees for a rally that you had planned to attend but decide to cancel you must call the rally host a minimum of 7 days before the rally's listed start date. Any cancellations after the cutoff date will be prorated for non-refundable fees. (Rev. 8/2003)

Other 2013 Rallies Of Interest!

June 6 thru 9,	Annual Vintage Campers Gathering	P.H. Hoffmaster State Park	Muskegon, MI
September 18 thru 22	FMCA GLAMARAMA 2013 Rally	Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds	Elkhart, IN
September 20 thru 26	GMCM Fall Convention	Branson KOA	Branson, MO

Treasurer Report
GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Inc.
March 31, 2013

See Members Only Area!

GMC GreatLakers is published for its member's 4 to 6 times per season. Should you not receive your newsletter please contact the publisher.

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All address, phone numbers and E-mail Changes should Be sent to the club treasurer:
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Coshocton, OH 43812

FMC Assist Member Benefit
Emergency Number 877 202-4176
Voluntary Membership Participation Plan
See FMCA Current Magazine For Details or go online @fmca.com members area. 04/06/13

Club Jackets

Ed & Judy Dohm are the suppliers for the new style Club Jackets. The color scheme is cranberry and gray. Call them at 269 683-2146 or see them at the club rallies to place your order.

Great Lakers Website The web site is located at: www.gmcgreatlakers.org To access the member's only area you need to enter your "GL000" number. The "GL" is in capitals letters. You then must enter your "last" name in lower case. Your GL number is listed in the membership directory under your FMCA number. **The Website has been totally revamped and you should go out and explore all its new features.**