

GMC GreatLakers



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

Volume 36, Issue 5, November 2011



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



Dick Balsley

(Dick's Cadillac ID Picture 1963)

**President 2012
GMC Great Lakers**

**This is the last newsletter of the
2011 season. The first
newsletter of 2012 will be
published in the month of April
2012. Have a good winter.**

J.R. Wright

Richard Rants & Raves!...

Another year has come and gone, I guess that's good, but did it have to go so fast! We had some good rallies and a lot of fun was had by most.

I'm a little perplexed that next year's rally schedule is not full; I'd hate to report that we only had 4 rallies for the year. As a group we need to solve this difficulty, maybe make it easier with some good directional help, remove some of the scare factor, and maybe some reward for having one. I sure hope we can find a solution.

I plan on adding to our meetings, with some new ideas and good times, more to come, or shall I say you'll have to come and see.

We talked about the FMCA rally in Indianapolis next summer, everyone should really put that on their calendars, I'll talk more about the very positive classes, repairs, things to buy, manufacture people to talk to, etc at our next rally. Things like TWO new windshields INSTALLED on the spot for \$800, do I have your attention!

I'd like to thank Bill, Tom and Kathy for all the work they did over the past couple of years one more time. Not to be forgotten Jim and Bea for staying on another year.

With those words I'll wish everyone a wonderful set of Holidays, you know, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Valentines, Abe and George's birthdays and what every else I missed.

See everyone in the spring; take care of your babies, and wives too!

Richard

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Fall Leaves Rally

Holly, MI

This was the last rally of the 2011 camping season. 34 coaches arrived at the Flint/Holly KOA campground in Holly, MI. The campground was covered with a carpet of leaves to greet the early arrivals. Many took advantage of visiting some of the attractions in the area.

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Fall Leaves Rally – October Cont.

Friday turned out to be a true fall day—cold, on and off rain and some wind. That evening, hosts Tom & Kathy Dixon, Bob & Diane Sovis and Jim & Karin Verhelle, provided cider and donuts. Bob Sovis gave some insight into the upcoming visit on Saturday to the Sloan Museum, the Longway Planetarium, and the Buick Automotive Gallery as he handed out informational sheets.

Saturday began as a typical late fall day-- cold and very windy. That's the kind of a day one would expect to start off with a hot breakfast. The staff of the KOA did just that. From 8:30 to 10:30am the Great Lakers were treated to an all-you-can-eat scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, juice, and coffee breakfast. By 11:30am, those who elected to take in the planned museum trip gathered in front of the KOA office to make their departure by car.

The evening meal began at 6:00pm with fried chicken, two types of potatoes, salad, brownies and cheesecake. Following the meal, President Helmore began the business meeting with a short statement thanking the membership for their support during his administration. Bill reported on his trip to FMCA headquarters in Cincinnati, OH and the meetings he had with various officials. The next item on the agenda was the introduction of the first timers. Bill introduced and welcomed Joseph & Karen Scheub and Stephen & Phyllis Thornburg. Both couples made statements about their coaches. The 2012 nominating committee was next on the agenda. Chairman Dick Wilson introduced Dick Balsley as the Great Lakers new President and Ed Dohm as the new Vice President. Outgoing President Helmore then asked the new President, Dick Balsley, to address the club members. After his remarks, the meeting was adjourned.

Sunday was cool, but sunny and members were treated again to another hot breakfast prepared by the KOA staff. After breakfast, members began to prepare for the departure back home. See you in the spring!

Harvest Rally Report – Ludington, MI September

The Harvest Rally was held at Poncho's Pond RV Park, in Ludington on September 16th, 17th and 18th. The weather was nice and the attendance was wonderful, with 37 coaches.

The agenda included a Pot Luck Dinner with a variety of great food. Friday night we all enjoyed an old fashioned Beach Party on our sandy shores of Lake Michigan. Hot dogs and marshmallows always taste better with a little sand added. Our very gracious hosts, Bill and Judi Caldwell, hosted this event. On Saturday the GMC'ers were invited to Red and Carole's to your the orchards. Each couple was given a plastic bag to fill with whatever fruit they could find. Saturday night we had a catered dinner, held our business meeting and were entertained by a local band. Sunday morning we were treated, by the park, to pancake and sausage breakfast and the rally was over.

We are proud of our area and so glad that you took the time to travel to attend and enjoy it with us. Thank-you and come see us again.

Red & Carole Christofferson, Bill and Judi Caldwell, Tom and Connie Fierek, Ray and Virg Eskau.

Sunshine & Clouds

It was reported that **John Walton** has been under the weather. **Dorothy Olmstead** is in the hospital with kidney issues.

Get Well cards were passed around at the Fall Leaves Rally and sent to each of the members.

If you have any information on members that have been ill or having problems please contact John Walton, Dick Olmstead or John Wright by email, snail mail or phone.

Sunshine Jack

Past President Say's Goodbye!



Bill Helmore
Past President
2009 thru 2011
GMC Great Lakers

Bill's Final Blog!...

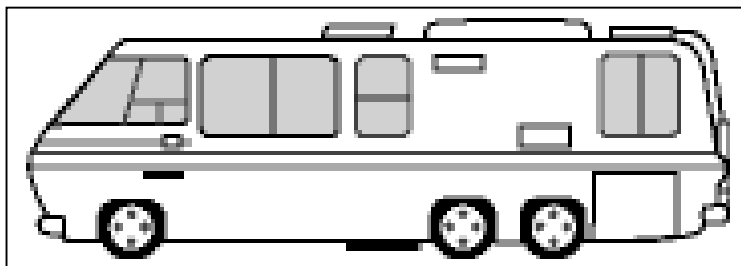
It is with mixed emotions that my term as President of The GMC Great Lakers Motorhome club has come to an end. It has been my pleasure to serve as secretary one (1) year and three (3) years as president. We have had a lot of good times together and I look forward to more to come.

The Club has weathered the down turn in the economy very well and I look forward to the Club's continued success in the future. The membership has stabilized as we are not losing members as much as in the past. This is a critical aspect of the clubs future health. With new members and new ideas the club will be around for many years to come.

I am proud to have been your President during the celebration of thirty-five (35) years as a chapter of FMCA. When the chapter was formed in January 1976 the thought of this celebration never crossed my mind. Thanks all who helped smooth out the challenges of this office. So it is with pride and sadness that I must turn the leadership over to your new President Richard Balsley.

Bill

wjhelmore@juno.com



2012 Officers Installed

The 2012 officers of the GMC Great Lakers were installed at the corporate meeting held at the Fall Leaves Rally at the Holly KOA in October 4. They are:

President: Dick Balsley
Vice-president: Ed Dohm
Secretary: Bernice Frahm
Treasurer: Jim White
National Director FMCA: Dan Ryan
Alternate National Director FMCA: Raymond Eskau
Director At Large: Forest Crow

For Sale

1977 GMC Palm Beach 127K, New 455 Eng & Trans 94K, Quadrag Suspension, American Eagle Alum 16" wheels w/ Michelin LTX, Thorley Headers, 3" SS Exhaust, New Windshields, New Radiator, 120K New Heads and Valves, New Upholstery and Carpeting, SS Oil Cooler lines, New Dbl Mattress 2011, New LP/Elect. Refrigerator, New Inteli Power Converter, Plus Many Other Upgrades. \$12500.00 Kirtland, Ohio **440-256-1355 Bill Bode**

Fred Geiger 937-233-4742 has the following items for sale:

Hess Training Van, GMC Model. VGC lights work and the door opens. For picture, FredG321@aol.com. \$150.00, Plus \$10.00 Shipping.

Hot Wheels GMC Models. 8 total, 3 - #77 Jasper Engines, 2 - #14 Conesco, 1 - #97 McDonalds, 1 - #44 Hot Wheels, 1 - Collector #524 Team Hot Wheels. All are in original package. All for \$140.00, Plus Shipping. For pictures, FredG321@aol.com

GMC Great Lakers Winter Rally's

Winter Rally In Titusville, FL Manatee Hammock Co. Park January thru Mid March 2012
If you wish to come and visit with us this winter on the space coast you should call the park at 321-264-5083 for reservation, as sites are sometime hard to book. So far at least 4 coaches have signed up at the park this winter.

Winter Rally West in Tucson, AZ - Rincon West RV Park - Mid January thru Mid March 2012
A group of 4 coaches will again spend several months in the southwest enjoying the climate, sites and Food. If you are in the area and want to visit the group give John & Jan Wright a call at 989-859-0715.

New Members and Changes (Add these to your directory)

Due to the pending release of the 2012 membership directory there will be no entries this month. Any address changes and new members that I have received in the last month will be corrected on the club mailing list for this newsletter.

Rally Schedules

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Proposed 2012 Rally Schedule

May 18, 19 & 20	36th Birthday Party Rally	Toledo, OH Area	Executive Comm.
June 1, 2 & 3	MI Antique & Collectible Rally	Midland, MI	Helmores & Crew
July	OPEN		
August 27 thru 30	FMCA Convention	Indianapolis, IN	
Sept. 27 thru 30	Apple Festival Rally	Niles, MI	The Dohm's
October	OPEN		

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)

Pending 2012 Rallies

Spring 2012	Tin Can Tourist Rally	Camp Dearborn	Milford, MI
Spring 2012	G.L.A.S.S. Rally	Berrien Springs Youth Fair	Berrien Springs, MI
March 25 thru 31	GMCMI Spring Rally	Hearts of OK Exposition Center	Shawnee, OK
Fall 2012	GMCMI Fall Rally	Amana Colonies	Iowa

Treasurer Report
GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Inc.
September 30, 2011

Treasurer Report for October
Available in Members only area.

GMC GreatLakers is published for its member's 5 to 6 times per season. Should you not receive your newsletter please contact the publisher.

Club Officers

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

Jim White
21730 Clifford Dr.
Fairview Park OH, 44126

FMCA Assist Member Benefit
Emergency Number 877 202-4176
Contract Holder: FMCA
Policy#: CL-1001-EX

10/30/11

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 will be under going a complete revamp this fall and winter to give it a new look and better navigation.**