



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

Volume 37, Issue 4 November 2012

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  
2012 season. The first  
newsletter of 2013 will be  
published in the month of April  
2013. Have a good winter.**

*J.R. Wright*

### • Richards Rants & Raves!...

It's been a year since I took over the helm of the Great Lakers, guiding them wherever we were going; sometimes in circles I'm sure. I think at some point it is best to stop and look around and reflect on the past, I use the word reflect as to look into a mirror, you may not always like what you see but it is the truth.

I believe we had some pretty good rallies over the past year, need to thank all that helped make them happen. It seemed to me that attendance was up a little over the past, and with the price of gasoline I'm thankful for all that came. I'm still going to push, pull, ask, shove, spindle, staple, mutilate, beg, bribe and whatever to get everyone to come to the rallies. You can't have fun if you're not there in the middle of the action. I had hoped to add more to the rallies for activities, things to do, interaction and just plain fun. Some of it happened, the board will try harder to make more happen!

It is with great sadness that we remember the ones we have lost over the past year, they will be missed. It is with a lonesome hole for the members that have given up their coaches, we understand, don't like it, but we will all face the same thing someday, please come and see us. It is with great happiness that we welcome our new families to the group. To those new families, it takes a little while to find your parking place in the group, please don't give up, and keep coming to the rallies.

Finally everyone should take the GOOD reflections and save them as memories. Good memories are the best thing that we all can hope for, but just remember you are in charge of making them. I'll see all of you next spring at the first rally; God willing and the creek don't

rise

*Richard*

[richard.l.balsley@gmail.com](mailto:richard.l.balsley@gmail.com)

## WHO AND WHAT ARE WE

To all those who have missed the last couple of rallies, you need to read this and be brought up to speed. I'll start out by saying that all this information is ONLY in the talking stage. As you may or may not know, FMCA our parent organization has been losing members and money over the past 3 years. FMCA has been changing their operation and member benefits to help balance their budget. The latest cut now changes the assist program, getting you and your coach home if you have medical problems. At the beginning of the year you will pay \$85 for a single or \$108 for family if you wish this coverage. This brings to light just what are you getting for your money? At the September rally, a motion was made and passed to investigate other parent organization that we may wish to belong too. Good Sam, Escape, Camping world, AACA, Antique automobile club of America etc. I know that AACA may sound strange but I'll try to explain. I should mention that we are not alone in this endeavor. The International and several other GMC clubs are also looking. We are sharing information.

Getting back to FMCA, in the beginning the club was without a doubt an RV camping group, people bought the GMCs to go RVing. Today that idea has changed to some degree; we are now brought together to keep a bunch of antique motor homes going down the road. I ask are we RV's or antique motor vehicles. The answer is probably not black and white, it maybe for some members but surely not everyone. If we were to move, note the word IF, all of our members would be required to join AACA and not FMCA, the cost is a wash, AACA is \$35 a year. You would receive the AACA magazine, which has articles on the member's vehicles, meetings and rallies, restoration ideas and ads. Does that fit better than ads for very new expense motor homes, I don't know, I'm not selling here. We are investigating at the request of the members.

This information may come as a shock to some of you, maybe not, maybe a relief, or maybe a smile of joy. If anyone has feelings one way or the other, feel free to email or mail me or one of the club officers with your ideas and feelings. Once again this is in the talking and investigation stage. I don't see any movement to jump until spring when we start rallies with business meeting.

**Dick**

## Sunshine & Clouds

If you have any information on club members that are under the weather or have other issues please contact the club officers so we can notify the rest of the club.

**Sunshine Dick**

**Dick Olmstead** is recovering well and attended the Oct rally with daughter and granddaughter.

**Gordie James** is recovering from an infection in his ankle and is doing therapy in California.

**Orville Gibbs** has been in the hospital suffering from pneumonia.

## 2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

The call for 2014 nominating committee officers of the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. has been made. If you wish to serve on the nominating committee please contact any of the club officers.

## **September Elkhart GMC Rally**

We had a perfect rally at Elkhart. Beautiful weather, great friends, perfect facilities, and the food were a home run. What more can you ask for! Thanks to the Bolser's and Lenzi's for all the work they did, and a special thanks to Erv Troyer for the seminar on roof air conditioners and Suburban furnaces. A number of people took advantage of the opportunity to visit the RV museum, and/or the plethora of men's malls and outlet centers in the area. Most of us even enjoyed the lively, enlightening member meeting.

We had special guests from as far away as Nova Scotia (Paul and Nancy Doane), and Australia (Rob and Helen Mueller). Everyone made them feel welcome and we hope they can visit us again one day.

## **October Fall Color Rally At Stanwood, MI**

Most of the red color was gone, but there were still plenty of other colors just as pretty in the trees that surrounded the coaches. The weather was a bit on the soggy side, but we had a beautiful building to spend our time in.

The park was great with all amenities you could ask for. Our sites were great and the clubhouse was even nicer than before. The girls played a lot of cards and the guys just had their normal bull sessions.

The food was great I hope! Chief Frank and his able kitchen helpers made all food from scratch. Each morning a wonderful complete continental breakfast was available with 2 kinds of oatmeal, waffles, homemade bread with homemade jellies and for the holdout there were even donuts. Each day hot soup was available for the club members to enjoy all day long. The soup specials were Vegetable on Thursday, Chili on Friday and Broccoli and Cheese on Saturday. The real topper was the wonderful evening meals. On Friday the menu consisted of Spaghetti, Salad, bread sticks, cake and ice cream. On Saturday evening the menu was Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Sour Kraut, Green Beans with pie and ice cream as a finisher. Frank can cook!

Let's just say this fall color rally was more about good friends, good times and hopefully good food!

Thanks for everyone's help, and we will see you in the spring!

Frank & Barb

## **GMC Great Laker Member loses coach to fire!**

It was reported to the newsletter publisher that Judy and Bill Caldwell coach burned to the ground while parked in the driveway at their summerhouse in Ludington, MI. This happened sometime after the Fall Color Rally in Stanwood, MI. No other information was available at press time to be included in this newsletter.

## **GMC Coaches Featured in November FMCA Magazine**

A collection of GMC coaches or GMC Western States MHC attended the Vintage Car Show in Fallbrook, CA. The multi page article was a very good advertisement for our motorhomes and the club provided information on the coaches and answered questions about their coaches. It is located on pages 32 thru 34 in the November Issue of the FMCA magazine.

# 2013 Officers Installed

The 2013 officers of the GMC Great Lakers were installed at the corporate meeting held at the Fall Color Rally at the River Ridge Campground in Stanwood, MI.

They are:

President: Dick Balsley

Vice-president: Ed Dohm

Secretary: Steve Thornburg

Treasurer: Teresa Little

National Director FMCA: Bill Helmore

Alternate National Director FMCA: Jim White

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** or [clancybear@aol.com](mailto:clancybear@aol.com) Picture is available in the "FOR SALE" section of the club website.

**Ron Bolser** has the following items for sale:

- 4 foot Roof Pod – Excellent condition. \$80.00

- Sanden rotary A.C compressor – Call for model number. \$40.00

- Complete set of cabinet doors, drawer fronts and doors – Excellent condition – Rosewood Pattern. \$150.00

Contact Ron at: 765 965-7272      [rjbgmcmh@frontier.com](mailto:rjbgmcmh@frontier.com)      Located in Richmond, IN

## GMC Great Lakers Winter Rally's

**Winter Rally In Titusville, FL - Manatee Hammock Co. Park      January thru Mid March 2013**

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 3 coaches have signed up at the park this winter.

**Winter Rally in Zephyrhills, FL – Happy Days RV Park - Mid January thru Mid March 2013**

A group of 4 coaches will spend several months on the west side of the state 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 2013 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.

## Business Meeting Minutes from the July Rally

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB INC, REGULAR MEETING, TURKEYVILLE, MI  
July 28,2012

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by president Balsley. The secretary's report was read and approved with one correction. The bylaws will be voted on at the July meeting not September. The Treasurers report was read and approved. Balance 12,898.00. Old Business: Art. 1 of the bylaws will now read we are a non-profit organization. Art 2 Their will be 2 Alternates and a Director at Large as required by Michigan Law. Upon dissolution of our local club any Leftover monies will be donated to a charity of the clubs choice. A motion to accept these changes was made by Dale Frahm/seconded by Matthew Colie. President Balsley will represent the club at the FMCA rally at Indianapolis, IN. Our September rally will be in Elkhart, IN at the old KOA campground Sept 17,18,19 with the GMC International following at the Amana Colonies in Amana, Iowa September 23-28th. The October Rally will be at Stanwood, MI the 18,19,20th. Tentative rally Schedule for 2013 are May Lazy j in Ohio, June LaGrange, IN, July OPEN, August OPEN, September Balloon Festival Midland, MI and October Apple Fest Niles, MI with No dates or locations as yet, The Spring International will be Dothon, Alabama. New Business: Report from Dave Lenzi: We are in need of a new Secretary and a new Treasure. Sunshine report: Jim Waker passed away in June; Jim March had back Surgery in Florida, Jan Osstyn Is at home with Hospice, And John Wright is doing well after surgery, and Lynn Balsley had 3 stints in her heart and is doing well. Barb Worth a past member has relocated to Virginia Red or Beth Hickman has her address. The new members were introduced: Joe and Tom Althoff Marg and George Baumbarger of Grand Rapids, Ohio, Russ and Linda Mehlenbacher from Rochester Hills, MI and Sara and Megan the Dixons granddaughters. Jerry and Jennie Andreski were the lucky winners to have their name drawn and will receive a check to cover the cost of their gas to and from the rally. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George McLeod and seconded By Matthew Colie. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM

Respectfully Submitted  
Bernice Frahm Secretary

## Business Meeting Minutes from the September Rally

GMC Great Laker Motorhome Club Inc Regular Meeting Elkhart, IN September 18,2012

President Balsley called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The Secretaries report was read and approved - corrections: The bylaws were approved, June Rally will be at Granger, IN and Larry and Jenny Andreski were the winners of the free gas to the rally in July. The Treasurers report was read and approved. Balance \$11,068.00. Bill Helmore gave the sunshine report. Dick Olmstead suffered a stroke (Minor) He is home and doing well. Jim March is suffering from dementia and is in a care facility. Jim White reported on the new members celebration. 17 members were reimbursed for their dinners. Among them were Rob and Helen Meuller from Australia. Old Business: Frank Griffin reported on the October rally at Stanwood, MI Oct 18-20th there would be 2 meals Friday and Saturday. The 2013 Rally schedule is as follows: FMCA GLAMA Rally Fulton County Fairgrounds Ohio May 15-18<sup>th</sup>, Birthday Rally Fulton County Ohio Fairgrounds May18-20th (Officers) June Rally Granger, IN June 21-23rd ((Thornburg's), July OPEN, August Rally date open Turkeyville Marshall, MI ???, September Rally Balloon Festival Midland, MI September 12-14th Wrights, October Rally date open Apple Festival Niles, MI ??? (Dohm's) There were no nominations for new officers for the new term. A motion was made by John Wright and seconded by Dale Frahm to accept the following people as our new slate of officers for 2013. President Richard Balsley, Vice President Edward Dohm, Secretary Steve Thornburg, Treasurer Teresa Little, National Director Bill Helmore, Alternate National Director Jim White & Forest Crow. Their was much discussion on the GLAMA Rally for 2013. John Wright brought up the suggestion to form a committee to explore joining a different group to obtain the insurance we need to cover our rallies and etc, and also our club participating in that rally. No one from the club will be attending the GLAMA Meeting on the September 20th weekend. Bob and Barb Swartz won the free gas to the September rally. Motion to adjourn by Dale Frahm/seconded by John Wright.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bernice Frahm Secretary

# Business Meeting Minutes from the October Rally

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc  
Regular Meeting  
Stanwood, M  
October 21, 2012

Present: Balsley, Frahm, White, Helmore, Crow, and Thornburg  
Absent: Dohm

President Balsley called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved with one correction. Jim March does not have dementia.

Treasurer's report read and approved Balance 8,739.00.

Sunshine report Dick Olmstead was able to attend our October rally along with his daughter and granddaughter. He is doing well. Gordie James has infection in his ankle and is doing therapy in California.

Orville Gibbs has been in the hospital suffering from Pneumonia.

Old Business: The Glama Rally will be in Goshen, IN the same weekend as our Balloon Rally in Midland, MI. A committee has been formed to find another Mother Organization to obtain our insurance.

This will probably not happen until late 2013. John Wright and Dale Frahm will be on that committee.

President Balsley asked the group to be thinking about rallies for 2014.

The nominating committee for 2014 will be discussed at a later date.

A motion was made by John Wright/seconded by Dick Wilson to increase our dues by \$5.00 to cover rising costs for mailing the directory, newsletter and other expenses.

No new business

Steve and Phyllis Thornburg won the gas money to the rally drawing

A motion to adjourn was made by Dale Frahm/seconded by John Wright

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted  
Bernice Frahm  
Secretary

## For Sale on Website on line!

The **“For Sale”** section on the website is now active. The **“FOR SALE”** section is active all year round and you can submit ads to me **anytime** during the year and they will be up on the website unusually within 72 hours. You should send your ads to me either by email to [powerjon@chartermi.net](mailto:powerjon@chartermi.net) or by snail mail. If you wish pictures in your ad on the website you must keep the size down to 480 X 320 pixels or 640 X 480 pixels.

## Your GMC Great Lakers MHC Website!

Fellow club members, be aware that your club website is online at [www.gmcgreatlakers.org](http://www.gmcgreatlakers.org) It is loaded with information on club activities future, present and past. You should check the website for current updates on rallies, current newsletter online, the new GMCing section and For Sale. The Members Only (located under the Organization tab) area has been updated and can also be accessed under the “Log In” tab. To log in to the “member only area” please read the “Logging In” paragraph 2 in “Members Only” area under “Organization” tab or look in your newsletter at the bottom of the rally schedule page. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You can contact me John Wright your newsletter publisher and assistant Webmaster or use the comment section in the “Log In” tab area.

# Rally Schedules

## GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club 2013 Rally Schedule

May 17, 18 & 19	37th Birthday Party Rally	Centerville, MI	Executive Comm.
June 21, 22 & 23	Spring has Sprung Rally	Grainger 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	Apple Festival Pending	Niles MI	Dohm & Crew

### **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!**

March 22 thru 27	GMCMI Spring Convention	Nat. Peanut Festival Fairgrounds	Dothan, AL
June 6 thru 9,	Annual Vintage Campers Gathering	P.H. Hoffmaster State Park	Muskegon, MI
September 15 thru 22	FMCA G.L.A.M.A. Rally	Elkhart County Fairgrounds	Elkhart, IN
September 20 thru 26	GMCMI Fall Convention	Branson KOA	Branson, MO

Treasurer Report  
GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Inc.  
October 31, 2012

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.

#### **Club Officers**

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

Teresa Little  
1415 Hay Ave.  
Coshocton, OH 43812

**FMCA Assist Member Benefit**  
**Emergency Number 877 202-4176**  
**Voluntary Membership Participation Plan**  
**See FMCA October 2012 Magazine page 14 & 15**  
**For Details** 11/12/12

### 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](http://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.**