



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

Volume 38, Issue 4, September 2013

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



**Dick Balsley  
President 2013  
GMC Great Lakers**

**Upcoming Rallies**

**Hot Air Balloon Rally  
September 12, 13, 14 & 15  
Midland, MI**

**Amish Fall Harvest Rally  
October 14, 15, 16 & 17  
Shipshewana, IN**

## Richards Rants & Raves!...

### FRIENDS

Can you believe it; half gone is the summer of 13, sounds like something we should make into a movie. Maybe not, something's are better if they are kept on a quiet personal level. There is an old proverb, "A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down". Pretty simple on the surface but a lot of meaning when you start to think about it. Many a time in life I have tried to do something and someone stopped me before the action, a true friend. Like the time I was going to take the sledge hammer to the garage door, my son, young at the time got his mother. She came and wrapped her arms around me and said "you really don't want to do that", the door was saved. And that is what friends do; they help make life a little happier by getting in the way.

I look around and see a group of nice people, friends, brought together by a piece of iron. Oh wait a minute, it's not just iron. The lady has heart and soul, for all you women out there; all automotive vehicles are female in gender. For some reason they act up, won't run etc, and the next day just fine. If you think about it you would know. They are the other women in your husband life, the MISTRESS, oh gosh, who does he love more. We won't go there, that's a private matter.

I do wish to say that all the mistresses are looking better and well kept; I notice things like that. So to friends and mistresses, have a nice day. Guys, pat your mistress on the hood and your lady on the ..... , life is good.

*Richard*

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

# Turkeyville Rally 2013

August 14th and 15th, thirty-three Great Lakers coaches ventured into Turkeyville USA. The campground is a relatively new campground. It used to be a turkey farm and indeed there were many turkeys to be seen--turkeys with feathers and turkeys with motor homes.

The facilities were great with a restaurant, bakery, game room, ice cream parlor, two gift shops, a walking path, a pool and a lovely room off the pool to gather and play cards and games and, oh yes, spotless restrooms and showers.

Every day we gathered at the camp dining room to enjoy freshly made sweet rolls, fruit and good conversations. Two new families attended the rally. They were Charles & Lureen Mullally (maroon and yellow coach) and John & Rita Stehlik (beige and brown striped Eleganza). Charles was an auto accessories parts designer and John owns a trucking company.

The guys amused themselves with parts for sale a few of the campers brought, enjoyed the comrade of friends, and took a road trip to the Gilmore Car Museum. The quilters headed to a big quilt show in Grand Rapids. Some folks headed for the nearby Firesetters Casino for games of chance. The rest of us enjoyed the comradery with friends and headed to the historical town of Marshall, at one time it was to be the capitol of Michigan. This town of the 1800s has beautifully restored Victorian homes, quaint downtown shops, museums, cafes and restaurants.

In the evenings, several campers enjoyed friendly chats by their bonfires. Frank Griffin got everyones attention when he supplied us with a spectacular rendition of cannon fire. His coach exploded with such a boom!

Friday night, we had a Thanksgiving buffet and then were entertained by Cornwell s Dinner Theatre play called Why Do Fools Fall in Love? It was a light-hearted musical featuring four lovely ladies.

After a full breakfast on Sunday, all said their good-byes, packed up, hitched up and headed for home. Good things always end too soon.

Hope to see you all in September at Midland with the Wrights and the glorious hot air balloon! P.S. Did you see the two flying sky lanterns/balloons one of the nights at our rally??

## **New Members and Changes (Add these to your directory)**

### **New Memberships:**

**Haskew, Harold**  
3760 Old Plank Road  
Milford, MI 48381-3545  
248 529-6074  
GL902  
Rally's attended 0  
[harold@hhanda.com](mailto:harold@hhanda.com)  
76 23' Birchaven  
Member Since Aug 2013

**Perfetto, Vincent & Sharon**  
P.O. Box 300 North Vine St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451-0654  
815 693-4793  
GL903  
Rally's attended 0  
[vjpenfetto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vjpenfetto@sbcglobal.net)  
74 26' Glacier  
Member Since Aug 2013

**Stehlik, John & Rita**  
6833 Paradise Park Dr.  
Saranac, MI 48881-9680  
989 798-3060  
GL904  
Rally's attended 1  
[jonandritz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonandritz@yahoo.com)  
Winter Address  
4469 Southern Breeze Dr.  
Naples, FL 34114-9464  
Cell Ph: 989 798-3443  
Member Since Aug 2013

## **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**

# Mid-Summer Rally Springfield, OH 2013

The Mid-Summer Rally took place at Springfield, Ohio's Tomorrows Stars RV Resort with 9 coaches arriving on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, a HOT HOT HOT day! Morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> started with breakfast at the clubhouse that was used each morning of the rally. By 10 AM people started to go to the Air Force Museum in Dayton. The rest of the registered coach arrived on Thursday except for Frank Griffin and Barb Rhode who were forced to return home with transmission problems. Thursday evening everyone enjoyed great hot sandwiches and fixings along with home made ice cream and cookies.

After Friday morning's breakfast everyone headed in different directions to visit the numerous attractions in the Mid-Ohio area. Some made the drive to Plain City to attend the Steam Thresher Show, others went to the Urbana Air Museum and other explored other sites in the area.

Saturday was an "On Your Own" day with bad thunderstorms rolling thru the area in the afternoon. At 5 PM the group gathered in the clubhouse for a potluck dinner with the club furnishing chicken from the Der Dutchman restaurant. Pies made by Kathy Wilson and pecan pie from Phyllis Holley. Fred & Donna Geiger were guest at dinner. The club closed out the evening with a short business meeting.

Sunday morning dawned with morning breakfast and ended with everyone's goodbyes. Except for the heat I think everyone had a great rally. I want to thank our committee for their hard work and help. Bob and Barb Swartz for going over and beyond, Walt and Sara Halley and Tom and Nina Lee Hampton. I want to especially thank my wife Kathy for helping make this a super rally.

*Richard "Dick" Wilson*

## Member Flea Market at Shipshewana

Once again it is time to clean out the GMC storage area, garage, basement or shed of unused, unneeded, unwanted or left over GMC parts. We will be having a member flea market on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

## Rallies Are Us!

We need your help to continue making the GMC Great Laker MHC a successful club. Each year we have 6 rallies for members to attend from May thru October. We need members who have not hosted a rally recently or ever considered doing a rally to step forward. Without rallies we cease to be a club. We need you to step up and not be afraid. You will get all the help you need to make any rally you host to be a great success. Please contact any club officer if you have an idea for a rally.

## For Sale Notice!

Each year the club does a "FOR SALE" section in the last newsletter of the year as per club bylaws. Get your Ads and information into me in the next month or so. Send them to me either by Email or Snail mail. You can also post your "For Sale" items on the Club website any time by sending you ad to me.

**J.R. Wright Publisher**

# Amish Fall Harvest Rally

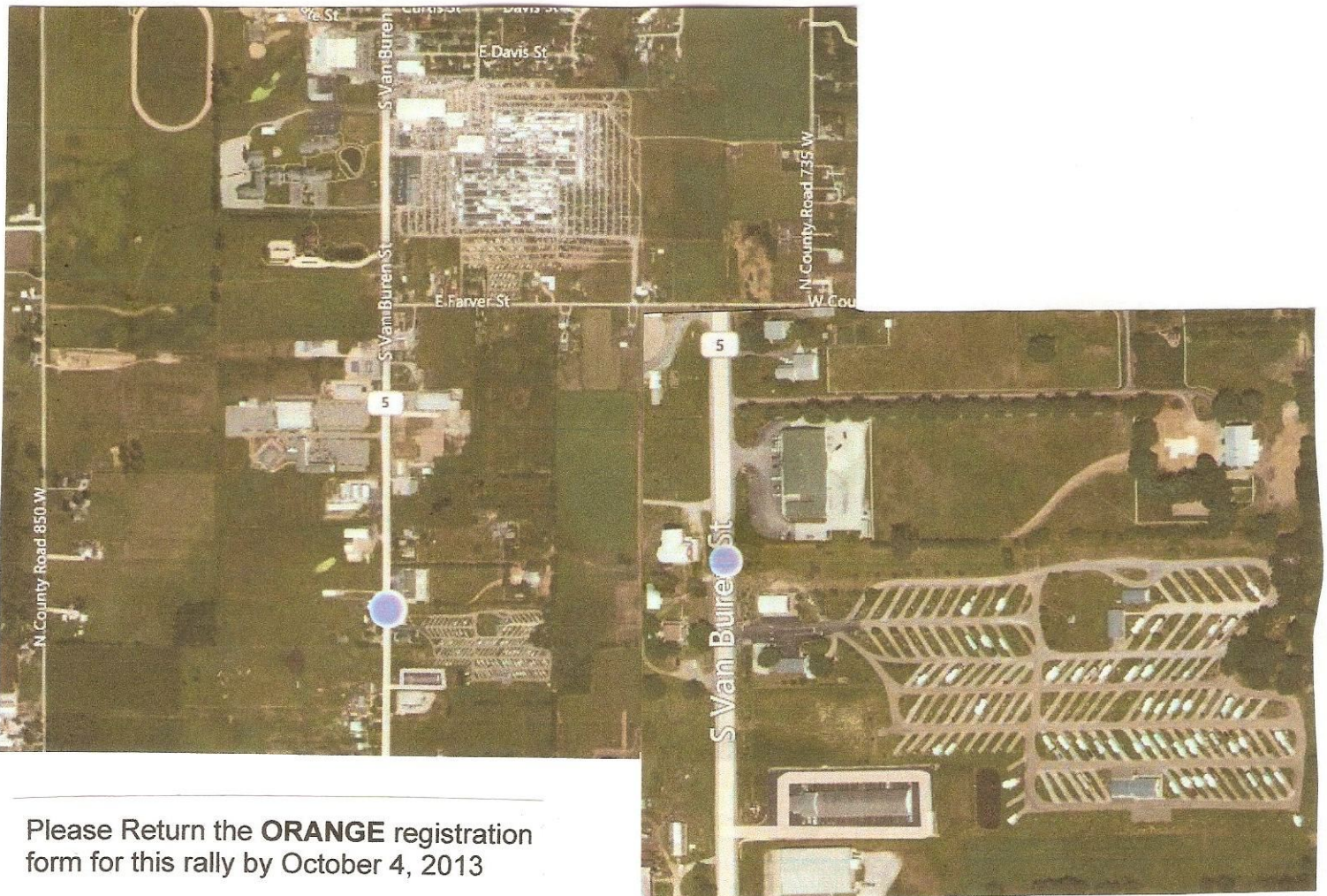
## Shipshewana, IN

October 13, 14, 15 & 16 2013

Frank Griffin & Barb Rhodes and their committee want to invite you to attend the GMC Great Lakers October rally at Shipshewana Campground South in Shipshewana, IN.  
<http://www.shipshewanacampground.com/southpark.htm> Ph# 260 768-4669 The address for the campground is 1105 South Van Buren ST. (State Road 5) Shipshewana, IN. 46525 for you GPS users. The campground area is located south of the flea market on the left side of the road. All sites at the campground are Full hookup and WiFi access will be available.

This rally is a Monday thru Wednesday rally to take advantage of the large flea market, which is open Tuesday and Wednesday, and there is plenty of good shopping in the area and a number of very good Amish restaurants also. The rally fees include 3 nights of camping, October 14, 15 & 16, continental breakfast Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Wednesday evening the 16<sup>th</sup> will feature a dinner at an Amish farm home near the campground. This is not to be missed, as several years ago at the last rally we had at Shipshewana the Amish prepared meal was very, very good! The Flea Market is open on Tuesday and Wednesday from the hours of 9 to 5.

**Directions:** From the south use US Hwy 20 to N. SR5 to CG on right. From the north use SR120 to SR5 south thru Shipshewana to CG on left. On I80/90 from the east, exit 121 south to SR120, west to SR5 then south thru Shipshewana to CG on left. On I80/90 from the west, exit 107 then south to SR120, east to SR5 then south thru Shipshewana to CG on left.



Please Return the **ORANGE** registration form for this rally by October 4, 2013

# Club Trailer For Sale

The club trailer is being offer to current GMC Great Lakers MHC members by sealed bid. The trailer has been used less than 5 or 6 times in the last 13 years.

The trailer is Wells Cargo with steel frame with dual axles and is aproximately 75"W X 149"L X 75" H. It has double rear doors and a 40"H X 72"W access door on the curb side that lifts up.



## Features and Options

12 VDC lighting system  
110 VAC System  
LP gas system  
Low mileage tires, Age?  
Newer Clearance lights  
and trailer wiring.

## Interior Features

Commercial Gas Cast  
iron top grill Aprox  
24"W X 48"L with multi  
burners

Built in storage cabinets  
with doors from ceiling  
to floor on left side of  
trailer

SS Sink with outside  
drain

The above features and  
options are not all  
inclusive and should be  
verified by contacting  
the Trailer Master Dick  
Olmsted. 616 949-7622  
A personal inspection of  
the trailer must be  
scheduled with Dick.



This is a "Sealed Bid" sale to the highest bidder. All bids should be sent to club president Dick Balsley, 53083 Briara Ct. Shelby Township, MI 48315 or hand delivered to Dick at the next two rallies. Your bid should be in a sealed envelope with your name and phone number on the outside. If mailing your bid, it should be mailed no later than October 1, 2013. Bids will be opened at the October rally board meeting and the winning bidder will be notified by Phone. Winner bidder will need to make arrangements with the club to take ownership of the coach.

# GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. Membership Meeting Minutes

## Turkeyville, MI August 16, 2013

**Call to Order:** Vice President Ed Dohm called the August 2013 Membership Meeting to order at 9:05 AM

**Minutes of the July 20, 2013 meeting** were read. A correction in the 2013 Rally Planning report was noted. Shipshewana flea market is held Tuesday and Wednesday only rather than Monday through Wednesday. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Teresa Little reported the financial status. The report was approved.

### **Old Business:**

**2013 Rally Planning** – John Wright said the site for the September rally in Midland, MI is on the grounds with the Balloon Festival. It is about a 5 minute walk from the campground to the flight line. Frank Griffin said the October rally is Monday through Wednesday camping with a family style dinner in an Amish home Wednesday evening. The Shipshewana Flea Market will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be camping at the Shipshewana South campground. It was suggested we should bring our “doo-dads” for our own Great Lakers flea market at the campground.

**2014 Rally Planning** – Ed Dohm said the June rally will be held at Potato Creek State Park, south of South Bend, IN. Phyllis and Steve Thornburg will host. The October rally will be hosted by Walt and Marlene Scarlett. They are planning on a site in the western Michigan fruit belt. Lee and Lil Skalski are looking into a rally site in the Dearborn, MI area. And Jim White said he is looking for suggestions for a site in Northwest or Northcentral OH for a May rally.

**Non-Active Membership Category** – Bill Helmore read a suggested change for the club bylaws that would create the Associate Member status. The proposed change will be published in the upcoming newsletter and it is to be voted on at the next Membership meeting. The Associate Member definition is based on the FMCA Associate Member definition. An Associate Member of the Great Lakers club would also have to be an Associate Member of FMCA. An Associate Member does not own a motorhome of any description. Ed Dohm clarified that anyone can attend a Great Lakers rally as an invited guest, if they are approved by the Rally Master. As a guest they must pay the full rally fee or for whatever functions they attend.

**FMCA Convention Report** – Bill Helmore reported on the convention held in Gillette, WY. He said the primary focus of the convention was policy and procedure discussions dealing with organization and management issues for the FMCA organization and did not affect the club level. He said the FMCA organization is financially healthy but is experiencing a net loss of membership as the numbers of members leaving the organization is outpacing the new membership growth.

**New Business:** Phyllis Thornburg volunteered to set up and run a “50/50” Raffle at the rallies. The proceeds would be shared by the winning ticket, or tickets, and a local charity which is to be designated by the Rally Master. Lou Barton asked if this would require a permit or license as a gaming activity. She cited issues with raffles in Canada. Several people suggested a permit is not required as long as the tickets are sold only to club members. Ed Dohm said he would check the legality with people on his local Fair Board. The raffle will begin at the September rally and will be done at every rally. Ron Bolser said this could present an opportunity for the club to get some publicity at the rally site communities.

**Ed Dohm** introduced first time rally attendees Chuck and Lureen Mullaly and John and Rita Stehlik. The Mullaly's had been visitors to the May rally in Centerville, MI, but this is the first time they came with their coach.

### **Sunshine Jack:**

**Joan Wolfert** has had back surgery and has two rods in her back.

**Dick Olmstead** remembered Don and Pat Brown and advised that Pat had passed away last winter.

**Dick and Lynn Balsley** are absent this month due to Lynn being under the weather.

There was no fuel reimbursement drawing this month.

**Adjournment:** Dale Frahm moved for adjournment of the meeting. Lou Barton seconded the motion. Motion approved. The August 2013 General Membership meeting of the Great Lakers Motorhome Club adjourned at 9:55 AM.

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Stephen Thornburg Secretary

