



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

Volume 38, Issue 5, November 2013

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



**Dick Balsley
President 2014
GMC Great Lakers**

This is the last newsletter of the 2013 season. The first newsletter of 2014 will be published in the month of April 2014. Have a good winter.

J.R. Wright

**Have you returned
your 2014 Dues and
Form Yet? Please do
so ASAP.**

Richards Rants & Raves!...

IF I WERE A CAR

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull... But that's not the worst of it.

*My headlights are out of focus,
and it's especially hard to see things up close.*

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it. Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter,

Either My Radiator Leaks or My Exhaust Backfires

I'd like to take this space to wish everyone a very Happy and safe holiday season. Drive careful, and enjoy the winter where ever you park. Keep the GMCs covered, warm and winterized. It will only seem like tomorrow and time to crank'em up.

God Bless

Richard

richard.l.balsley@gmail.com

Balloon Festival Rally – Midland, MI September 12th thru the 15th

36 coaches were in attendance for the GMC Great Lakers September rally at the Midland County Fairgrounds in Midland, MI. Hosted by John & Jan Wright. The weather was great with sunny days and cool nights, but unfortunately we had a lot of wind. We had only a couple of days of balloon flying weather with morning and evening flights on Friday and Saturday morning flights. Saturday evening and Sunday morning flights were cancelled because of the weather. 65 balloons were in attendance for the balloon festival making it the largest balloon festival east of the Mississippi river again this year. Each evening featured an after glow with a fire show. For those of you that would like to see part of an after glow please go to this short movie from the 2010 festival: <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1361993020802&ref=mf> Saturday night also featured live music with local bands on stage. Public attendance for this free balloon festival was estimated at close to 6000 on Friday, 8000 on Saturday. It was announced during the weekend that this would be the last Remax sponsored balloon festival. Another group is trying to put together a balloon festival for next year.

Once again those attending this year's rally enjoyed 2 great-catered meals on Friday and Saturday evenings before the balloon flights, and we did eat well again!

The rally attendees were able to enjoy the many attractions and restaurants that Midland had to offer. Many enjoyed the Farmer Market on Wednesday and Saturday Mornings. The first 50/50 raffle split almost \$200 with \$100 going to the Open Door charity in Midland.

Jan & I would like to thank our committee, the Dhom's, Frahm's, Frank Griffin & Barb Rhodes. These members made the rally happen and made it easy for us. By mid-morning on Sunday most members had headed home safely. Thanks! **John & Jan Wright**

Amish Harvest Fall Rally – Shippshewana, IN October 14th thru the 17th

The October Fall Rally at Shippshewana, IN had 42 coaches in attendance at the Shippshewana South RV Campground, making it the best-attended rally for 2013. Frank Griffin & Barb Rhodes along with numerous helpers hosted the rally. Frank & Barb would especially like to thank to Dick McCoy for all his extra time and effort to make this rally a success.

For an October Rally the weather was variable with warm sun, then cool and cloudy and sometimes just a misting of rain, all in all a great fall weather rally.

Everyone enjoyed the shops, markets and of course the Flea Market on Tuesday & Wednesday. It was the ending of the Flea Market for 2013 as a majority of the vendors had already headed south to their winter sites. There was a new RV surplus place just north of Shippshewana.

If you have never been to a rally hosted by Frank and Barb, then you have missed an opportunity to sample Frank's cooking skills. Each morning there was fresh bread along with homemade preserves, hot cereal, and juices and of course donuts and other sweet stuff along with coffee. Your loss was extra for those in attendance. Tuesday lunch was homemade chili and vegetable soup, almost couldn't get a seat for that.

Leon Herschberger, owner of National RV Refrigeration put on a very informative seminar on how RV refrigerators work. Visit his Website: www.fixyourfridge.com or call 260 768-7059.

The best was saved for last! The rally attendees went to an Amish home on Wednesday evening for dinner served family style. We were served Ham and Salisbury steak along with all the fixings and homemade pie and ice cream.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Midland, MI September 14, 2013

Call to Order: President Dick Balsley called the September 2013 Membership Meeting to order at 9:00 AM
Minutes of the August 16, 2013 meeting were read and approved.

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

Old Business:

2013 Rally Planning – Frank Griffin said the October rally is camping Monday through Wednesday 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. There will be a seminar on refrigeration and possibly another on generators.

2014 Rally Planning – Ed Dohm said the May rally, which will be hosted by the club officers, will be in Eastern MI or Northern OH. The June rally will be June 8-10 and it will be held at Potato Creek State Park, south of South Bend, IN. Phyllis and Steve Thornburg will host. The July rally will be July 17-19 at the Wayne County Fairground, MI. Lee and Lil Skalski will host. The August rally is still open at this time. Walt and Marlene Scarlett will host the September rally. They are planning on a site in the western Michigan fruit belt. The October rally will be at Turkeyville in Marshall, MI, hosted by Dick and Jan Serreyn.

Non-Active Membership Category – **Dick Balsley** said the special membership category is to accommodate the folks who have gotten to the point, due to health or age, etc. they have to stop using their GMC and to stop RVing, but want to remain a part of the association with their friends. The description of the status could include wording such as “have sold their GMC and are not pursuing ownership of another RV”. It is Dick’s perception that the Associate Member will be included in the Membership Directory and they will receive the club directory and newsletters. They will not be required to be FMCA members and they will not be included in the membership list the club sends to FMCA. They would have a non-voting status and would not be permitted to attend club business meetings. The Associate Member will be allowed to attend some rally functions, but not allowed to attend every rally. It is acknowledged that anyone can utilize camping facilities that are open to the public and if they choose a facility where a Great Lakers rally is in progress, they can certainly associate with members of the Great Lakers.

John Pryzbylek suggested using the term “Former Member” and not being concerned whether they choose to purchase another RV. **D. Balsley** said the concern with club members moving away from GMCs and into other types of RVs is the club might change its focus from support, maintenance and enjoyment of the GMC motorhomes to that of becoming a “travel club” with only the trips as its main focus. **Lee Skalski** asked why we need to have a membership category for inactive people. If they want to receive newsletters, membership directories, etc., they can simply purchase an annual subscription. **Charles Mullaly** suggested we should simplify the process by first establishing a membership category for those club members who have given up RVing, then secondly address the status of members who move from their GMC to another category of RV.

Club Trailer – Dick Balsley said there are pictures and some description of the trailer in the latest newsletter. The sealed bid auction is now in effect and a minimum bid of \$500.00 is required. Sealed bids are to be submitted no later than the October 2013 rally. The bids will be opened at the October Officers meeting and the winning bid will be announced at the Membership meeting.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – President Balsley asked for volunteers for a nominating committee to raise a slate of officers for 2015. There were no volunteers at this time.

Club Logo Clothes – Judy Dohm reported she has a source for sweatshirts and t-shirts printed with the Great Lakers club logo. She said sweatshirts will cost \$ 13 in any color up to size 1X and in sizes 2X to 5X are \$15, plus \$15 for a single color print. Each additional color in the print will cost \$5. T-shirts can also be available at a slightly lesser cost.

First time rally attendees Don and Joyce Andrews, Harold Haskew, John and Debra Pryzbylek and John and Pat Shotwell were introduced. Also introduced was Zachary Raymond, son of Joel and Mandie Raymond.

Sunshine Dick:

There was no Sunshine Dick news.

Adjournment: Marlene Scarlett moved for adjournment of the meeting. Lee Skalski seconded the motion. Motion approved. The August 2013 General Membership meeting of the Great Lakers Motorhome Club adjourned at 9:50 AM. Rob and Ruste Wilke won the fuel reimbursement drawing.

Stephen Thornburg
Secretary

Membership Meeting Minutes

Shipshewana, IN October 16, 2013

Call to Order: President Dick Balsley called the October 2013 Membership Meeting to order at 9:20 AM
Minutes of the September 14, 2013 meeting were read and approved. Zoe Johnson advised that son Steve and his wife Becky were guests at the Midland rally and have subsequently become Great Lakers members.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Teresa Little was absent from the October meeting. There was no Treasurer's Report presented.

Old Business:

2014 Rally Planning – Ed Dohm said the rally plans are as follows:

May 16 – 18 will be in Wauseon, OH at Sunny's Campground. Hosted by Club Board Members. Arrangements are being made by John and Debra Pryzbylek.

June 8-10 will be held at Potato Creek State Park, south of South Bend, IN. Phyllis and Steve Thornburg will host. This rally will be followed immediately by the GLAMA rally in Goshen, IN beginning on June 11 and running till the 17th.

July 15-17 will be at the Wayne County Fairground in Bellville, MI. Lee and Lil Skalski will host.

August 30 - 31 will be at Selfridge Air Force Base, Harrison, MI, approximately 30 miles North of Detroit. The dates coincide with an air show. The on-base camp ground is small with only 30 full hook-up sites. Additional sites will be available but may be dry camping. There will be no towed vehicles allowed on the airbase and rally attendees will not be permitted to leave and re-enter the base until after the air show.

September 12 - 14 will be in South Haven, MI. The rally will be hosted by Walt and Marlene Scarlett.

October 16 - 18 will be at Turkeyville in Marshall, MI. The rally will be hosted by Dick and Jan Serreyn.

Ed Dohm said the July and October 2015 rallies are also tentatively planned.

Pat Lintner, Sr. Vice President of the Great Lakes Area MotorCoach Association spoke about the GLAMA rally for 2014 which will be held in Goshen, IN, June 11-17. He said the 2013 rally was attended by 469 coaches and 85 vendors. The GMC coaches are recognized as having relatively small holding tanks, so the GMC coaches will be guaranteed full hook-up sites with 30 amp electric, and if the GMCs are registered together, they will be parked together. Each FMCA chapter will be assigned a shelter for the entire rally period and Thursday will be set aside as a day for chapter activities. Towed vehicle parking will be on the same site as its coach rather than in a remote parking lot so the vehicles can be used for on-site transportation. There will also be golf cart "taxi" available.

A new website has been activated to share information about the Great Lakes Area MotorCoach Association. Access to the site is via either of the following:

<http://www.fmca.com/chapters/area-associations> <http://glamrv.blogspot.com/>

Another website for GLAMARAMA 2014 and beyond is: <http://glamaramarally.blogspot.com/>

Non-Active Membership Category – **Dick Balsley** reviewed the prior discussions on this topic and read proposed wording to be inserted into the club by-laws to formally establish the Associate Member category. He called for a vote on acceptance of the proposed wording and the membership voted unanimously to accept the proposal. The detailed wording will be published in the club newsletter. **Red Hickman** asked for an explanation of the differential in annual dues of \$20 for the Associate Members and \$35 for regular members. **Jim White** said the Associate Member dues are intended to cover the cost of receiving the annual membership directory and the club newsletters. The regular membership dues are to cover those things as well as the costs of operating the club.

Club Trailer – **Dick Balsley** said there were three sealed bids received from club members for purchase of the trailer. Dick Olmstead submitted the highest bid of \$2,100 is now the owner of the trailer. The proceeds from the sale will be put into the general treasury and may allow for some future special projects.

Club Logo Clothes – **Judy Dohm** reported the sweatshirts ordered at the September rally are in process. When she receives them, she will mail them to the purchasers. More detailed information about the shirts and costs will be published in the club newsletter.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – President Balsley asked for volunteers for a nominating committee to raise a slate of officers for 2015. Utilizing the well proven GI method of finding volunteers, Dick announced that the Nominating committee is Lee Skalski, Frank Griffin and Dale Ropp. Becky Johnson has volunteered to take on the position of club Treasurer.

First time rally attendees Don and Liz Luse and Russel and Nancy Nolan were introduced. First timers Vincent and Sharon Perfetto were not available for introduction. Steve and Becky Johnson were introduced as first timers as club members. Also introduced were guests Pat and Victoria Lintner as GLAMA representatives. Other guests attending the rally were Maxine Ropp, Dale's mother and Cindy Hoover, daughter of Dick and Kathy Wilson.

Sunshine Dick: Sunshine Dick said he had nothing to report.

Adjournment: Dale Frahm moved for adjournment of the meeting. Red Hickman seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The October 2013 General Membership meeting of the Great Lakers Motorhome Club adjourned at 10:15 AM.

The fuel reimbursement drawing was won by Frank Griffin and Barb Rhoades.

Continued on next Page

Membership Meeting Minutes Continued Shipshewana, IN October 16, 2013

The annual **Corporate Meeting** was held following the conclusion of the Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:17 AM. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. There was no New Business to discuss. Installation of officers for 2014 was completed. Dale Frahm moved for adjournment of the meeting. Judy Dohm seconded the motion. Motion approved. The 2013 Corporate Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

Stephen Thornburg
Secretary

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**

It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of **Orville Gibbs**, husband of **Betty Gibbs** on October 16, 2013. Orville was 93 and had been in declining health the last few years. Orville and Betty had been active members till 2009 and members since 1993 and had attended 61+ rallies. Orville got his bucket list ticket punched at the 2010 Remax Balloon Festival in Midland by getting a balloon ride. Betty said you couldn't wipe the smile off his face even when he was sleeping the rest of that weekend. If you wish to send a card to Betty, use the following address. Betty Gibbs, 6319 Starvue Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45248-2112

It was also reported at the last rally that **Harold "Bill" Grubb** passed away on July 16, 2013. Bill and his wife Mary Ann had been members since 1998 and had attended 20 rallies. Cards can be sent to Mary Ann at: 2915 E. State Rd. 61, Vincennes, IN 47591-9057

Judy Dohm had surgery on her shoulder to repair a damage rotator cup. The surgery went well and she is on the mend all thou somewhat sore. Get well cards can be sent to 61032 M-51 N., Niles, MI 49120-9312

*****Special Note on June 2014 Rally*****

JUNE 2014 "BACK TO NATURE RALLY -POTATO CREEK STATE PARK NORTH LIBERTY, IN

Start your planning now for the June 2014 "Back to Nature" rally.

Camp site reservation for extra nights need to be made as early as possible after January 1, 2014. The park is extremely popular with summer time campers and the reservations fill quickly. NOTE: Reservation cancellations prior to June 1, 2014 are subject to an \$8.00 cancellation fee; reservations cancelled after June 1, 2014 are subject to forfeiture of one night's fee. Our rally dates are Sunday, June 8 through Tuesday, June 10 with departure on Wednesday, June 11.

This means that you should try and do your "**EXTRA NIGHTS**" as soon as possible after the first of the year!

Thanks,

Steve Thornburg

FOR SALE

GMC motorhome (26 ft.) shell
No engine or transmission - No front clip
Body panels good - Front frame good
Some interior parts Best offer, Need space
Call Fred Elliott at 1-519-451-6889
London ON, Canada
or email at : felliott@hotmail.ca

1976 Palm Beach-180,500 Chassis Miles

For the last 22 years we have enjoyed it and would like to keep it but the time has come to pass it on. We need the garage space for other things. Two people could live in comfort in this GMC Motorhome for months at a time. In fact, we have while on mission projects.

Coach Specifications:

Original engine overhauled by Jasper 30,000 miles ago
New (not overhauled) transmission 40,000 miles ago
Harrison disk brakes with larger master cylinder and carbon metallic pads
Turbo City TBI with O2, knock and other sensors
Aluminum wheels with new Goodyear tires
Installed cross-beam under the front frame for jacking and radiator protection
Roberts rear tracking bar - Birch entrance screen door - Folding entrance step
Rectangular headlights - Third brake light - Improved, rear view mirrors
New water heater - New fresh water tank - New holding tank
Three-way refrigerator - Day/night shades - Tinted windows
And many other improvements

Offered at \$17,500

Worth Harman

300 Orchard Dr.
Baltimore, OH 43105
(740) 862-8437

1978 Royale

All new inside and out. Twin beds in rear, Corian cabinet tops kitchen and bath, new carpet and hardwood floors, leather sofa and driver-passenger seats. Special built 9.8-1 compression engine, Electronic Multi-Port fuel injection, 3.70-1 final drive, 67" Toro variable pitch transmission. Exterior 4 color custom paint.

Don Brown 765-463-3815. Additional upgrades and modifications at browndc1@aol.com

Asking \$42,500

See Pictures and complete description on Club Website: <http://www.gmcgreatlakers.org/sale/>

Engines, Transmissions, and Final Drives

1978 403-cid engine - Was running when removed from coach, replaced by Olds 455.

1977 403-cid engine - Was running when removed from coach, replaced by Cadillac 500.

TH-425 Transmission - 3 each, for rebuild.

3.07 final drives - 5 each, for rebuild.

All prices are negotiable. You call, let's talk!

Dale Frahm

(989) 284-2853 or (989) 652-6616

Barbie toy GMC motorhome for sale. It is about 36" long and very close to the GMC. Many accessories are included. A damaged door hinge is noted. \$125.00 firm.

Contact Cloyde Cady at 616-866-9104 or

cgcady@comcast.net.

See Pictures on club website:

<http://www.gmcgreatlakers.org/sale/>

1974 23' x-Painted Desert Asking \$28,500

1975 26" X-Eleganza #3 layout Asking \$28,500

Both coaches are complete restorations, both are must see coaches.

Custom paint on both coaches

Both have all the goodies.

See Website for Pictures and details on both coaches:

<http://www.gmcgreatlakers.org/sale/>

Contact Ron Bolser - Richmond, IN

795 965-7272

rjbgmcmh@frontier.com

Club Jacket & Shirt Information

Fleece Vest - Maroon

Sizes: XS - 5X = \$38.00

Jacket - Maroon

Sizes up to 5X = \$50.00

Sizes over XX are \$2.00 - \$5.00 More

Sweat Shirt w/ U.P. & L.P. of Mich. on front

SM - XL = \$13.00

2X - Up = \$15.00

T - Shirt (Same Logo as Sweat Shirt)

SM - XL = \$8.00

2x - Up = \$10.00

Sweat Shirts & T-Shirts available in any color.

?Questions?

Call Judy: 269 683-2146 or Email at:

atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Proposed 2014 Rally Schedule

Please note that rally dates are subject to change until April newsletter

May 16, 17 & 18	38th Birthday Party Rally	Wauseon, OH	Pryzbylek & Executive Comm.
June 8, 9 & 10	Back to Nature Rally	South Bend, IN	Thornburg's & Crew
July 17, 18 & 19	Greenfield Village & Ford Museum Rally	Belleville, MI	Skalski's & Crew
August 30 & 31	Selfridge Air Show	Mt. Clemens MI	Gromper & Crew
Sept 12, 13 & 14	Lake Michigan Shores Fruit Rally	South Haven, MI	Scarlett's & Crew
Oct 10, 11 & 12	Turkeyville in the Straw Rally	Shipshewana, IN	Serreyn's & 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 2014 Rallies Of Interest!

March 21 thru 27	GMCM Spring Convention	Lake Conroe Event Center & KOA	Montgomery, TX
September 18 thru 22	FMCA GLAMA Rally	Elkhart Country Fairgrounds	Goshen, IN
Sept 26 thru Oct 2	GMCM Fall Convention	Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds	Chippewa Falls, WI

Treasurer Report
GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Inc.

See Members only Section for Data.

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 2014

President:	Dick Balsley 586 781-9552 Cell: 586 615-4266 richard.l.balsley@gmail.com
Vice President:	Ed Dohm 269 683-2143 atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	Steve Thornburg 574 291-4587 sthornbg@aol.com
Treasurer:	Teresa Little 740 502-9213 littletesy@sbcglobal.net
FMCA Nat'l Director Bill Helmore 248 804-0370 wihelmore@juno.com	FMCA Alternate Director Jim White 440 840-5667 captjimwhite@gmail.com
Director At Large Forest Crow 260 367-2854 fcrow@gmail.com	Sunshine Richard! Dick Olmsted 616 949-7622 smoky933@netpenny.net
	Newsletter Publisher John R. Wright 989 839-0496 Cell: 989 859-0715 powerjon@chartermi.net

All address, phone numbers and E-mail Changes should
Be sent to the club treasurer:
Teresa Little
1415 Hay Ave.
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. **See Special Box on Page 6**

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.

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GMC GreatLakers Newsletter
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