



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

Volume 39, Issue 3, Late June 2014

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



**Dick Balsley  
President 2014  
GMC Great Lakers**

**Upcoming Rallies  
Greenfield Village & Ford  
Museum Rally  
July 17, 18 & 19  
Belleville, MI**

**Do Nothing Rally  
August 18 & 19  
Algonac, MI  
(New Rally New Date)**

**September Rally Date Change  
Now 1 week Later**

## *Richards Rants & Raves!...*

### **Valuable Merchandise**

I remember when I was kid, my mother use to often question the stuff that my father had in his garage and place of business. He always had the same stock answer, "valuable merchandise." Well the apple didn't fall from the tree as they say; I also have a large inventory of valuable merchandise. Some explanation as to the type of material maybe in order here. Trash is defined as, anything worthless, useless, or discarded; rubbish. Well I surly take out our trash every week and I don't have any of that type of things left on the shelves. Hum, maybe it is garbage; material that is no longer wanted or needed. Well I sure do want this stuff, so it can't be garbage. What else could this be, new parts, no one would get rid of new parts, even if they did not fit your vehicle. They could always be sold or traded. Used parts? We all know that these coaches are old and parts are getting harder to find. Better to have a used part than no part. Besides they make great pieces to carry in the coach in case of break down at little to no cost. Broken parts, they are very valuable in determining why the failure happened. They also are helpful if you have more than one of a kind; it shows a trend that something needs to be done. Replaced items, you just never know when you would like to return to original design or maybe a fellow GMC'er needs a part of that design. Well that about does it; hold on, we have JUNK. I don't know how many times I've been hit with that junk. We need to dig into this one. Junk is defined as something broken or no longer needed but having some good parts that could be used in them. So really junk is just a weird storage place for good parts. So there you have it. If you take out the trash, throw away the garbage, there is nothing left except Valuable Merchandise. Ah I have tons of it stored.

*Richard*

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## **New August Rally, New Date**

# **GMC Great Lakers August Do Nothing Rally**

## **August 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>**

Do to date changes for the air show, command changes on the base, unavailable facilities and security issues the August Air Show Rally has been cancelled. The club has decided to hold a “DO NOTHING” Rally at Algonac State Park on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, which is a Monday and Tuesday, and leave on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>. You may come earlier and stay later if you wish.

The club will not be making or booking any sites for this rally. “You” the attendee will be responsible for making your own reservations for your campsites with the State Park Reservation System. For those of you that have computer access you can go to: <https://www.midnrreservations.com/Home.aspx> Those without can call the State Park Reservation System at 1-800-447-2757. You will be responsible for camping cost. We are going be camping more towards the south end of the river front camps sites, sites 1 thru 50, 52 thru 60 are the closest to the water and 76 thru 116 are just 1 row back. Choose your site wisely and early, you get what you choose! We ask that you contact GMCGL VP Ed Dohm @ 269 591-1244 so he can keep a count on who coming.

Algonac State Park is a 1,450-acre state park in St. Clair County, Michigan. The park has approximately a half-mile of St. Clair River frontage, making viewing of international freighters a major attraction. It is located about 40 miles north of Detroit and 35 miles south of Port Huron just south of Marine City at 8732 River Rd, Clay, MI 48001

As this is a “DO NOTHING” rally the club may provide coffee in the morning, but most likely no donuts or other goodies unless the group in attendance decides they want morning stuff. A donation may be solicited for any morning stuff and maybe an evening meal one night or maybe a potluck, who knows, anything might happen. Lots of things to see and do, good restaurants and come and drink suds or pressing of the grape and watch the boats pass by and maybe sit around a fire.



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

No new members or changes.

### **Sunshine & Clouds: Fair Weather Last Month**

# **Back to Nature Rally at Potato Creek State Park, IN**

The “Back to Nature” rally was held at Potato Creek State Park, North Liberty, IN, June 8, 9, 10 and 11. As is our norm, we had campers arriving on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. We had a total of 27 Great Lakers coaches.

We had guests from the GMC Cascaders club join us on Saturday and Sunday. They were 5 coaches doing a “rolling rally” travelling from Oregon, Washington and Vancouver BC to Chicago and then following Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles and back up the California coast to home. They were awesome folks and we shared a lot of conversation about our enjoyment of the GMC motorhomes. Saturday evening we enjoyed a pizza and salad dinner.

Sunday we enjoyed breakfast at the campsite and later a great potluck dinner with hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. (Wow, do we have a lot of good cooks in this club!) After dinner, Dave Lenzi took on the job of “camp fire master” and set a great atmosphere for a fun sing-along session with David and Pam Kraft. Dave also introduced the group to an outstanding way to enjoy toasted marshmallows.

Monday breakfast was again under the canopies and Monday evening’s catered dinner was held in the Peppermint Hill Shelter. Dinner was followed by a very entertaining comedy routine from Brett Eastburn, a young man who is quadriplegic from birth and who doesn’t acknowledge he is handicapped.

Tuesday began with a delicious biscuits and gravy breakfast provided by the local Lions Club. Following breakfast was the general membership meeting, which included a visit from the President of FMCA, Charlie Adcock; the FMCA VP for the Great Lakes Region, John Walker; and the President of Great Lakes Area Motorhome Association, Jane Roush. And, at the conclusion of the business meeting we had a presentation regarding the SkyMed program.

Also on Tuesday there was a craft session for the ladies where they could learn to make a pressed flower decoration, and there was a presentation at the Nature Center where the park naturalist introduced many of the animal species that are found within Potato Creek State Park.

Tuesday evening we had a “leftover’s pot luck” that was a lot of fun and very tasty – helped to get rid of the food left from Sunday’s potluck.

Wednesday morning following coffee, lots of hands helped to dismantle our campsite and load our supplies. Thanks to all those that helped. Special thanks to Ed Dohm for a lot of assistance with setting up and tearing down our campsite and for the loan of canopies and tables. (And for being there to help with whatever we needed).

Thanks to Joe Baumberger for his help with grilling burgers and hot dogs and for helping to make the morning coffee.

We were glad to see Forrest and Pat Crow who made a couple of day visits, as their coach is “broken” at the moment. And we were also glad to see Monday evening, Ron and Nora Fraser, club members who are working to get their GMC on the road.

See you all next time.

Phyllis and Steve Thornburg

# GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

## Membership Meeting Minutes

North Liberty, IN June 10, 2014

**Call to Order:** President Dick Balsley called the JUNE 2014 Membership Meeting to order at 9:20 AM. **Minutes of the May 17, 2014 meeting** were read and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** See Members only Area

The May 2014 rally produced a profit of \$149.08.

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

**July 17-19** will be at the Wayne County Fairground in Bellville, MI. Lee and Lil Skalski will host.

Lee said major attractions in the area include the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and a tour of the Ford F-150 assembly line. Lee has an article in the current Great Lakers newsletter.

**August 30 & 31** at Selfridge Air Force Base, Harrison, MI, has been cancelled due to base command turnover and due to rescheduling of the air show. The base cannot accommodate our group at this time and the next scheduled air show will be in two years, so this venue is off our list of potential sites for the foreseeable future.

**September rally** will be in South Haven, MI. Walt and Marlene Scarlett will host the rally. Marlene said the rally dates have been changed to September 19-21 to put the timing closer to the GMCMI Fall Rally. This will allow a five-day window for travel from South Haven to Chippewa Falls, WI.

**Ron Bolser** talked about some special sites to visit while in Wisconsin for the GMCMI Fall Rally. He mentioned the House on the Rock, the Circus World Museum, the International Crane Sanctuary and the Chippewa Falls Oktoberfest.

**October 16 - 18** will be at Turkeyville in Marshall, MI. Dick and Jan Serreyn will host the rally.

**Dick Balsey** suggested we should consider a "Do Nothing" rally at Algonac State Park in Michigan as a replacement for the August rally. The state park is close to close to the same area as the Air Force Base so the travel considerations will be the same. The concept would be for each individual to make their own campsite reservations and for each individual to make their own meal plans, etc. Essentially no structure to the rally.

Dale Frahm said we should all call the park for reservations and tell them we are part of the Great Lakers club and that we would all like to be located together. He also suggested the dates of August 12 to 15 for the rally.

**FMCA** – Charlie Adcock, President of FMCA, John Walker, Sr. Vice President of FMCA for the Great Lakes area and Jane Roush, President of Great Lakes Area Motorhome Association visited the meeting to express their concerns with the misunderstanding of the situation with GMC parking at the GLAMARAMA in Goshen in June. Jane explained that there are very few 30 amp full hook-up sites at the Goshen fairground and the 50 amp full hook-up sites are very much in demand by people who are willing to pay the additional fee for the sewers. She said that the GMCs will be allowed to dump tanks during the rally period and they will be escorted to and from the dumpsites to eliminate any problems with Security and Parking personnel concerned with the moving vehicles. She said the rally organizers would try to find a way to get us 30 amp full hook-ups for the 2015 GLAMA rally. We will need to submit our reservations and provide a total number of GMCs to the Parking Chairman as early as possible to assist them with site selections. Adcock and Walker essentially offered sales pitches about FMCA and how it is an evolving organization that is improving for the benefit of its members.

**Club Logo Clothes** – Judy Dohm displayed some finished sweatshirts and tee shirts. Cost of the tee shirts is \$8 for S to XL and \$12 for 2XL and up. Cost of the sweatshirts is \$13 for S to XL and \$15 for 2XL and up.

**New Business:** There was no New Business presented.

**Sunshine Report:** A note from Jan Serreyn expressing her thanks for prayers and good wishes was read and a Get Well card for Jan was being circulated for signatures.

**Adjournment** Dale Frahm moved for adjournment of the meeting. Lee Skalski seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The June 2014 General Membership meeting of the Great Lakers Motorhome Club adjourned at 10:10 AM.

The fuel reimbursement drawing was won by Larry and Shirley Eber.

# 2014 GLAMARAMA Report

Five coaches from the GMC Great Lakers attended the GLAMARAMA Rally at the Elkhart County Fairground, June 11 to 15. Attendees were Joe and Margie Baumbarger, Bill Helmore, Ray and Barb Gall, Rick and Teresa Little and Steve and Phyllis Thornburg.

Our initial impression as we entered the fairground was that the FMCA and GLAMA officers had instructed all gate personnel and parking staff to go out of their way to be friendly to the GMCers. We were treated with utmost respect and professionalism from the time we rolled into the first gate till we arrived at the final parking spots. This may have been the way they treated all attendees, but it surely made us feel special.

We were parked at the Northeast corner of the fairground, between gates 4 and 5 and just off the East end of the main headquarters building. We had 30 amp electric and water hook-ups. When we requested permission to dump holding tanks, we were escorted as a convoy to the dumping area where there were 9 dump connections. The process was quick and efficient. When we were escorted back to our sites, the parking staff again assisted us getting parked and levelled.

The last count we heard was 557 coaches in attendance – a complete sell-out with a waiting list for possible cancellations.

There were 90 vendors present. There were coach manufacturers, coach dealers, parts and accessories dealers, campgrounds, resorts, tour groups, fire safety equipment, insurance dealers and more.

Several seminars were presented, both technical and non-technical including craft classes and cooking classes. Factory tours of Dometic and Jayco/Spartan were available.

The “Frustrated Maestros”, a group of volunteer musicians, provided music at each of the food events. They are a mix of retired musicians and amateur musicians who form a band and a chorus to entertain with their renditions of old show tunes. Additionally, there was professional entertainment – Wednesday evening the “New Odyssey” performed. They call themselves 3 Men and 30 Instruments. A terrific show. Friday evening was a Grand Old Opry act, Keith Longbotham who told jokes, played guitar and sang along with his partner who mostly played harmonica. And Saturday evening was the “Redhead Express” – four sisters on strings, bass, banjo, guitar and fiddle and a 13 year old brother on drums – all redheads. Then, as the “Walker Family” they added 3 brothers, bass, banjo and mandolin. And finally all seven siblings and mom and dad did the finale. Wow, what a show.

During the show Wednesday evening we had a very hard rain. Galls and Helmore had significant water accumulation in their awnings and quite a bit of damage occurred. Littles’ awning roller was bent from a prior incident to a gentle curve in the middle, Helmore’s roller bent to a fairly deep vee and Galls’ had a support arm that bent to something of a U shape. We all gathered around and applied a lot of “beef” to the bent rollers and got them both back to functional and pretty darn straight. Thanks to Joe Baumbarger and a hitch receiver tube, Galls’ support arm was brought back to functional. It will have to be replaced, but at least it worked for a few days.



## 2014 GLAMARAMA Report Cont.

Bill Helmore arrived at the fairground with a huge chunk of steel stuck in a tire and Galls experienced a brake fluid leak that eliminated their rear brakes. Fortunately Ray's foot went to the floor during our tank dumping run. Once again, or actually twice, Joe B. jumped into the fray and got everybody fixed up and good to travel. (He sure is a good guy to have around) Then, Thornburg's air conditioner wouldn't work – Joe found a bad connection at the 30 amp power post, wiggled the wire and all was well.

Suddenly it was Sunday morning and the big show was over. We all said our goodbyes and pulled out of the fairground early enough to get ahead of the mass exodus that was going to occur with 500 plus coaches trying to get to the streets and roads out of town.

We all had a great time and we all plan to attend again in 2015 at Goshen and in 2016 at Lima, OH.

Thanks to both Steve Thornburg and Bill Helmore for the report from the GLAMARAMA!



# GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club 2014 Rally Schedule

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

<b>Completed</b>	38th Birthday Party Rally	Wauseon, OH	Pryzbylek & Executive Comm.
<b>Completed</b>	Back to Nature Rally	South Bend, IN	Thornburg's & Crew
<b>July 17, 18 &amp; 19</b>	Greenfield Village & Ford Museum Rally	Belleville, MI	Skalski's & Crew
<b>August 18 &amp; 19</b>	Do Nothing Rally	Algonac, MI	The Crew
<b>Sept 19, 20 &amp; 21</b>	Lake Michigan Shores Fruit Rally	South Haven, MI	Scarlett's & Crew
<b>Oct 10, 11 &amp; 12</b>	Turkeyville in the Straw Rally	Shipshewana, IN	Serrey'n'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!

<b>Completed</b>	FMCA GLAMARAMA Rally	Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds	Goshen, IN
<b>Sept 26 thru Oct 2</b>	GMCMI Fall Convention	Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds	Chippewa Falls, WI
<b>March 27 thru April 2, 2015</b>	GMCMI Spring Convention	Patterson Area Civic Center	Patterson, LA

<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer Report GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">See Members Only Section</p>	<p>GMC GreatLakers is published for its member's 4 to 6 times per season. Should you not receive your newsletter please contact the publisher.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Club Officers 2014</b></p> <p><b>President:</b> Dick Balsley 586 781-9552 Cell: 586 615-4266 <a href="mailto:richard.l.balsley@gmail.com">richard.l.balsley@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> Ed Dohm 269 683-2143 <a href="mailto:atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net">atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Steve Thornburg 574 291-4587 <a href="mailto:sthornbg@aol.com">sthornbg@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Teresa Little 740 502-9213 <a href="mailto:littletesy@sbcglobal.net">littletesy@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p><b>FMCA Nat'l Director</b> Bill Helmore 248 804-0370 <a href="mailto:wjhelmore@juno.com">wjhelmore@juno.com</a></p> <p><b>Director At Large</b> Forest Crow 260 367-2854 <a href="mailto:fpcrow@gmail.com">fpcrow@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Sunshine Richard!</b> Dick Olmsted 616 949-7622 <a href="mailto:smoky933@netpenny.net">smoky933@netpenny.net</a></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p><b>FMCA Alternate Director</b> Jim White 440 840-5667 <a href="mailto:captjimwhite@gmail.com">captjimwhite@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Publisher</b> John R. Wright 989 839-0496 Cell: 989 859-0715 <a href="mailto:powerjon@chartermi.net">powerjon@chartermi.net</a></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>FMCA Nat'l Director</b> Bill Helmore 248 804-0370 <a href="mailto:wjhelmore@juno.com">wjhelmore@juno.com</a></p> <p><b>Director At Large</b> Forest Crow 260 367-2854 <a href="mailto:fpcrow@gmail.com">fpcrow@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Sunshine Richard!</b> Dick Olmsted 616 949-7622 <a href="mailto:smoky933@netpenny.net">smoky933@netpenny.net</a></p>	<p><b>FMCA Alternate Director</b> Jim White 440 840-5667 <a href="mailto:captjimwhite@gmail.com">captjimwhite@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Publisher</b> John R. Wright 989 839-0496 Cell: 989 859-0715 <a href="mailto:powerjon@chartermi.net">powerjon@chartermi.net</a></p>
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<p><b>All address, phone numbers and E-mail Changes should Be sent to the club treasurer:</b> <b>Teresa Little</b> <b>1415 Hay Ave.</b> <b>Coshocton, OH 43812</b></p> <p><b>Club Jackets &amp; Shirt Information</b> <b>Fleece Vest –Maroon</b> Sizes XS to 5X = \$38.00 <b>Jacket – Maroon</b> Sizes up to 5X = \$50.00 Sizes over XX are \$2.00 to \$5.00 Additional <b>Sweat Shirt</b> w/U.P. &amp; L.P. on Front SM – XL = \$13.00 2X – Up = \$15.00 <b>T – Shirt</b> (Same Logo as Sweat Shirt) SM – XL = \$8.00 2X – Up = \$10.00 Sweat Shirts and T-Shirts available in any color ?Questions? Call Judy: 269 683-2145 or Email at: <a href="mailto:atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net">atlastaplace@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>FMC Assist Member Benefit</b> <b>Emergency Number 877 202-4176</b> <b>Voluntary Membership Participation Plan</b> <b>See FMCA Current Magazine For Details or go online @fmca.com members area. 04/06/13</b></p>		

**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.

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