

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 43 Issue 1 February 2018



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"The Times They Are A-Changin'"

Welcome to another new year – the GMC Great Lakers 42nd year to be precise! Just like today's column title, you will experience several club changes this year - a new Executive Board of officers, a new web site, and a new newsletter, just to name a few.

It's often said that change is the only constant in life. But change is often hard, and it sometimes requires taking risks. In general, people tend to resist change. To quote some famous presidents: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." -*John F. Kennedy*. "The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change." -*Bill Clinton*. Organizations and people that don't embrace change are bound to lose ground and stagnate. My hope is that as a

club we can continue to evolve, to improve our club's future.

As the 16th Great Lakers President, let me tell you a little about myself. I've been around GMC motorhomes nearly my whole life, as I come from a GM family. My uncle owned two GMCs and actually was a Great Lakers member in the mid-late 1970s. In my own 15 year career at General Motors, I worked in a variety of truck engineer positions, for what was back then called the GM Truck and Bus Division. Although GMCs were periodically used as employee shuttle vehicles around the GM Proving Grounds, I never had any work assignments related to the motorhome.

My husband Steve and I have been part of the Great Lakers club for about five years, but we have been acquainted with our 1977 Eleganza II since 1981, when my in-laws Ivan and Zoe Johnson purchased the coach. Some of you who have been in the club for many years probably know them. Steve and I actually joined Ivan and Zoe on their very first trip with the Eleganza to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1982 to visit the World's Fair! It was quite an adventure, to say the least. In 2013, our Eleganza began a new chapter in its history, when we officially bought the coach and subsequently joined the Great Lakers. We hope to spend many as years enjoying her as Ivan and Zoe did!

I'm looking forward to serving all of you this year as club president. Remember, change is inevitable--except from a vending machine!

Newsletter Format Changes and Expanded Content Possibilities

Happy belated New Year! It's been quite sometime ago since we last assembled as a group to enjoy a meal, sit around a campfire and consume adult beverages while sharing jokes and stories. Now that 2017 is in our rearview mirror I find myself in a new role as the Editor of the GMC Great Lakers' newsletter. I would truly be remiss not acknowledge John Wright's tenure of 18 years as editor of this newsletter. I commend him for a job well done and also applaud Janet for having to deal with his trials and tribulations in getting the newsletter out on a timely basis. I assume Janet assisted John whenever he needed a hand, but the job was done Wright!

The newsletter of 2018 has a new look and, I anticipate, an expanded content with your help as members of the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. **This newsletter is your newsletter.** My role is to **gather** information from members of the Executive Board, rally hosts, and any members of the club willing to submit an item, **assemble and present** these individual components in a format easy to read and **deliver** a finished product, the newsletter, to the members of our club on a timely basis via email or the U.S. Postal Service. The newsletter delivery choice is yours. Please contact me to change your newsletter delivery preference.

So, what content do you want in your newsletter – technical articles pertaining to maintaining or upgrading your coach, recipes, historical anecdotes pertaining to the development, production and sale of the GMC motorhome, storage and space utilization ideas, GMC related items for sale, swap or free, more photos, etc? Email or snail mail, to me, the items you consider relevant to the GMC community and I'll **deliver** them to the membership. Comments and feedback are always welcome!

John Pryzbylek

Great Lakers Website

After a period of re-building, the Great Lakers website is up and running with several new features. Members can read past newsletters and see the latest member directory. You can find information about upcoming rallies and re-live past rallies by viewing our photo galleries. Increase your knowledge of the Great Lakers club and GMC motorhomes from our history and resources pages. Be sure to check it all out at gmcgreatlakers.org.

Some information is password protected, to be viewable only by current Great Lakers members. If you select a protected page, you will be prompted to enter the 2018 password that was mailed to you on February 8th. After entering the password once, you can view any of the other protected pages during your website visit without having to enter the password again.

If you would like to provide information to add to the website (articles, photos, for sale items, want ads,...), if you have a request for website changes/additions, or you are having access troubles, email Steve Johnson (webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org) for help.

Membership Directory

By the time you read this newsletter you should have received your 2018 GMC Great Lakers Member Directory. Take a moment to confirm that your listed information is correct and complete. If any changes are desired, contact Steve Johnson (webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org) as soon as you can. The directory will be updated periodically during the year, so don't wait for 2019 to provide changes. A copy of the most up-to-date directory will always be posted in the Members area of the club website.

Steve Johnson



Mark your calendars now for the 2018 GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Rallies. Consider hosting a rally at your favorite local campground - you will get plenty of help. It's your party – do whatever makes you happy!

May 22 – 25	Birthday Rally	Wapakoneta KOA 14719 Cemetery Rd. Wapakoneta, OH Tel: 419.738.6016	Executive Board
June 6 – 9	GLAMARAMA	Allegan County Fairground Allegan, Michigan	GLAMA
July 12 – 15	Joint Rally with GMCES	Atwood Lake Park Mineral City, OH	Jane & Bill Michel
August 14 – 16		Coshocton KOA Coshocton, OH	Teresa and Rick Little
September 21 – 27	Tentative	Amana Colonies Amana, Iowa	GMCFI
October	Looking for someone to volunteer and host this rally		

GMCFI Conventions

April 6 – 12, 2018	The 1970's – Disco!	Tucson Lazydays KOA Tucson, AZ
Sept. 21 – 27, 2018	Christmas in September	Amana RV Park & Event Center Amana, IA
March 22 – 28, 2019	Tallahassee Treasures	North Florida Fairgrounds Tallahassee, FL



CINCINNATI, OH Rally
OCTOBER 2017



GMC GREAT LAKERS RALLY REFUND POLICY *Effective February 2018*

Sometimes club members who registered for a rally are unable to attend due to unexpected circumstances (coach breakdown, family, health issues, etc.). These can sometimes result in late, last minute cancellations.

Club members, who cannot attend a rally for which they have previously registered, **must contact the Rally Host** as soon as possible to receive a refund. There are not a specific number of days prior to a rally that guarantees a club member obtaining a rally refund.

In order to be eligible to receive any refund, you **must comply** with the rally specific refund provisions.

The following factors determine the total amount of a rally refund that may be issued:

- A. Campsite Fees - If the club rally fee includes payment for the campsite fees, then the refund will be based on the **campground's refund policy**. Each campground's refund policy is different.
- B. Meals – Any meals that have already been paid for and/or meal counts that have already been committed for payment to a caterer prior to a cancellation are non-refundable.
- C. Other Costs – If a Rally Host has already purchased or committed payment for any other rally costs for activities or supplies prior to receiving a cancellation, these costs are not refundable. (e.g. tickets purchased for a group activity or items purchased for rally participants.)

Rally hosts will submit all refund requests, which satisfy any of the rally refund provisions, to the Club Treasurer for final approval and issue of refund checks. Rally refunds will be issued only after a rally has been completed.

2017 Great Lakers Rally Survey Results

Becky Johnson

Last September, our club Vice President, John Pryzbylek, created a Great Lakers Rally Survey in order to obtain feedback to help the club improve our future rallies. The survey included both multiple-choice responses, as well as several comment sections for members to provide more detail about their Likes, Dislikes, and Suggestions. A total of 47 surveys were returned and the results were tallied in several ways.

The top reason why Great Lakers members could not participate in more 2017 rallies was 'Conflicts with Other Activities'. Comments that were stated by many members for what they like most about Great Lakers rallies were: 'Getting together with old/new friends'; 'Talking our GMCs'; and 'Exploring new areas'. The most common dislikes about Great Lakers rallies were: 'Barking dogs'; 'Scheduling too many activities at rallies'; and 'Unexpected campsite hookup situations'. We received a lot of individual suggestions for future Great Lakers rallies like: 'Having more field trips'; 'Providing more rally information ahead of time about facilities and rally activities (helps members plan better before arriving)'; and 'Scheduling rally interactive activities to draw members together like campfires, game nights, etc'. My personal favorite comment from the surveys about what members like most about the Great Lakers rallies was 'Joe's homemade wine'.

Overall, based on the Great Lakers survey, I would say we are doing a pretty good job on hosting rallies but there is some room for improvement. The most common element of hosting a good rally is to have enough activities to facilitate as much member interaction as possible, while keeping a good balance of scheduled time versus free time – whether that be in a formal or casual discussion about motorhomes, sharing personal stories, enjoying a nice campfire, or sharing a good meal. A complete tally of responses, along with a complete list of written comments will be posted on the club website for those interested in more details.

Here is the summary of the Questions and Responses:

1. How many GL rallies have you attended in 2017?

'0 Rallies' = 7; '1 Rally' = 7; '2 Rallies' = 11; '3 Rallies' = 4; '4 Rallies' = 13; '5 Rallies' = 4; '6 Rallies' = 1

2. What is the optimum length for a GL rally?

3 – 4 days = 30 votes; Greater than 4 days = 9 votes; Less than 3 days = 1 vote.

3. When should GL rallies be held?

'Thursday/Friday – Sunday' = 19 votes; 'Monday – Thursday' = 15 votes; No preference on which days = 9 votes. The club should continue to offer a mix of rallies scheduled during the week, and rallies that extend over weekends.

4. Would you attend more GL Rallies if held with other Clubs?

Yes = 17 votes; No = 14 votes; Don't Care = 10 votes. The club should plan to include a few rallies in the schedule each year that are coordinated jointly with another GMC club, as well as rallies by ourselves.

5. If technical seminars were included in a GL rally, would that be an incentive to attend?

Yes = 24 votes; No = 13 votes; Don't Care = 4 votes.

6. Are GL rally fees becoming too expensive for you to participate on a regular basis?

Yes = 4 votes; No = 29 votes; Don't Know = 1 votes.

7. Should GL rallies include spouse specific activities?

Yes = 17 votes; No = 12 votes; Don't Care = 2 votes.

8. Would you be more likely to attend GL rallies if they were held in conjunction with local festivals?

Yes = 33 votes; No = 4 votes.

Keep in mind that while this is definitely a very nice idea, in practice based on past experiences, this becomes difficult to achieve. The biggest obstacle is that campgrounds do not like to commit to reserve a block of campsites for a club during the dates when there is a local festival or event.

9. Do you belong to other GMC regional clubs?

Yes = 11 votes; No = 34 votes.

10. Do you participate in other GMC regional club rallies?

Yes = 17 votes; No = 27 votes.

11. Do you believe you are getting a good value for your GL rally fees?

Yes = 37 votes; No = 0 votes.

12. What is the maximum total rally cost you are willing to pay for camping and rally fees?

Equalizing everyone's response, using their reply to maximum rally cost along with their response to ideal rally length in days, I calculated a maximum \$ per day value for each response. 'Less than \$50/day' = 2 votes; 'Up to \$75/day' = 10 votes; 'Up to \$100/day' = 7 votes; 'Up to \$125/day' = 3 votes; 'Doesn't matter' = 1 vote.

13. What is the maximum number of miles you are will to travel to a rally?

'Less than 150 miles' = 2 votes; 'Up to 250 miles' = 9 votes; 'Up to 300 miles' = 6 votes; 'Up to 400 miles' = 4 votes; 'Up to 500 miles' = 8 votes; 'Over 500 miles' = 4 votes; and 'Doesn't matter' = 2 votes. The 'Up to 250 miles' votes were primarily from members who attended fewer than 3 rallies. And 'Up to 500 miles' votes were mostly from members who attended 3 or more GL rallies. With a club of our size, whose members live across a significant geographic region, there will always be mixed responses to this question.

14. What is the specific reason you have not attended all the Great Lakers rallies in 2017?

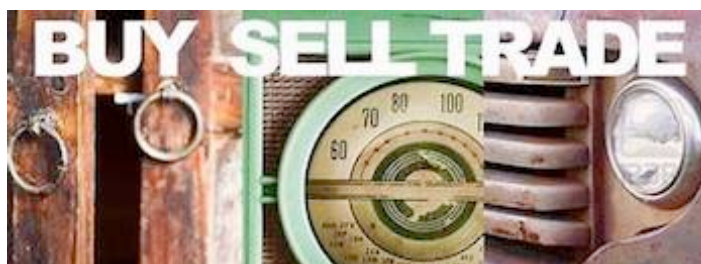
'Conflicts with other activities' = 19 votes; 'Rally location too far' = 9 votes; 'Conflicts with family' = 7 votes; 'Conflicts with work' = 6 votes; 'GMC inoperable' = 5 votes; 'Personal situations' = 4 votes; 'GMC unreliable' = 4 votes; 'Health issues' = 3 votes; 'Gas cost too high' = 1 vote; 'Rallies don't have enough of a draw' = 1 vote.

Road Travel Tidbits

Submitted by Anonymous

Traveling the Midwest farmland, you ask – do the farmers have somewhat new products to sell on the marketplace? The answer is yes. Some of the products are: Animal power in the form of methane gas, but this is also a pollutant; Maggots in the form of food for fish, pigs and poultry – more protein is needed due to increased population; The Other White meat – Pigs came to the Americas' because of the Spanish explorers – easy to transport, multiply fast with a lot of protein and this improved the populations diet; Non animal and other animal Milk – more on this subject on another writing.

Happy traveling in your GMC and eyes' on the road



FREE in the East Lansing, MI area: Ten (10) original 16.5 inch steel wheels – 6 of them coming off my coach have Load Range D Courser tires. They are aged out depending on who you ask. They all hold air, no plugs or patches; good even deep tread, no checking. All balanced as well. Good for spares, or to move a coach that's on all flats. Four (4) other wheels are stripped of the rubber, wire wheeled and sprayed black. If there are no takers, I will be sending them off to the scrap pile within a month or so. Anyone interested can email Warren directly at rojewsw@gmail.com



Treasurer Report

January 2018

Starting Balance:	\$ 11,569.47
Revenue:	\$ 770.00
Expenses:	\$ 59.43
Ending Balance:	\$ 12,280.04



NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME



Get well cards have been sent to these individuals:

Joe Baumbarger	Bea Newman
Bill Helmore	Margi Baumbarger
Steve Thornburg	Jeff Rider
John Stehlik	Rita Stehlik

Sympathy cards have been sent to the families of:

George Baxter	Anna Minolli
John Harvey	John Schoenfield
Sue Milleson	

FMCA National Director's Message

The FMCA membership voted to allow self-contained RV's into FMCA. The vote was 6,829 yes and 2,981 no. As a result of this the FMCA constitution and by-laws were changed accordingly. This will also result in a name change for FMCA to Family RVing. The FMCA changes will not have any effect on our club. We still operate under our own constitution and by-laws.

FMCA has worked out another plan with Verizon called Connect-On-The-Go. You get unlimited 4G-LTE data service and 25GB of high speed data each month for \$49.99 + taxes. This includes the mobile hot spot device for one cent. The rate is locked in when you sign a 2 year agreement with Verizon. FMCA dues must also be paid for 2 years. To take advantage of this plan you must sign-up on line at FMCA.COM/VERIZON.

Also in November FMCA introduced FMCA's TechConnect + Benefit Package. For \$49.99 per month plus a one time rental fee of \$39.99 you get a mobile data plan plus access to technology related discounts. It includes a Sprint mobile hot spot device with unlimited 3G-4G LTE service and 300MB of roaming. This is a no contract, month to month package. For more information on this plan go to WWW.FMCA.COM/TECHCONNECTPLUS or call them at 800-543-3622.

When contacting **The Sunshine & Rainbows** person to inform her of any current or former member that is ill, has lost a loved one, or otherwise needs encouragement, it would be most helpful to provide the appropriate mailing address. This would facilitate the mailing of a greeting card especially to former members of the club as well as the current snowbird members who prefer to spend the winter months outside of the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club geographical boundaries.

Deb Pryzbylek

A little trivia for this year: our coach is 40 , I will be 40 for the 26th time, I am writing this on the 40th day of 2018 and JoAnn only reminded me 40 times to write this article!



NEWS & UPDATES

FMCAssist is emergency medical evacuation coverage available to members worldwide as long as you are more than 100 miles from home. You can be traveling in an RV, car, plane, ship, or motorcycle to be eligible for this benefit. If you are a full-time RVer, you are always considered 100 miles from home. Some exclusions and limitation amounts pertain to this benefit.

FMCAssist coverage is provided by Seven Corners and is underwritten by Lloyd's of London.

What do you need to do to enroll in this program? Absolutely nothing! As long as you are an active FMCA member and your FMCA dues are current, you have coverage.

All of these benefits **must be arranged** by Seven Corners in order to be covered. If you have a medical emergency, dial 9-1-1; consult with a physician; then, call Seven Corners at (877) 202-4176, in advance if you need to use these services. The collect (worldwide) number is (317) 582-2619.



MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Please be sure to contact Steve Johnson, Membership Chair, with any changes or additions to your address, telephone and eMail accounts.

All members of the GMC Great Lakers chapter of FMCA must be current in both their FMCA and Great Laker dues. Chapter dues are due and payable January 1. Members are considered delinquent when their dues payment has not been received by March 1. See Article III – Members, Section 4 of the Chapter Bylaws for additional information.



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