

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 43 Issue 3 June 2018



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our 2018 GMC Great Lakers rally season is well underway, with two successful rallies under our belt! The May Birthday rally in Wapakoneta, Ohio was a huge success with impressive 35 coaches attending, along with additional Great Lakers members! It's so nice when we have that many members with their coaches getting together. Camaraderie is what makes our club's rallies special.

Unfortunately, this year Steve and I could not be in Wapakoneta, but as we celebrated our daughter's wedding (the first of three kids is now married off, and we are officially empty nesters!). While it was hot outside, the wedding and reception were indoors in a restored (and air conditioned!) 1928 building with a full wood floor ballroom. Everything turned out beautifully and we had a nice celebration. It was all over too quickly, but now we can focus on our GMC and club rallies for the summer!

We were able to attend the June rally at the County Fairgrounds in Allegan, Michigan held in conjunction with the FMCA GLAMA rally. By my count we had 20 GMC coaches attend. If you never have been to a GLAMA rally, it's not like our typical Great Lakers rally. More formal activities are scheduled (including RV living technical & non-technical seminars, a few meals, and evening entertainment), along with RV and vendor displays. Many FMCA members from around the Great Lakers area with RVs and even a few trailers of all

shapes and sizes participated in the rally. The highlight for our club was our chapter pizza / potluck party which is always a lot of fun, and the GMC motorhome open house where over two dozen folks from the rally came to talk and tour our members' coaches. We were parked near some other classic motorhomes, the Great Lakes Converted Coaches club, which included a 1948 Spartan and a 1960s Flexible (yes, that's the correct spelling!). There's always something new and different to see at a GLAMA rally.

There really is nothing like getting together with old and new friends, who share a common bond of love for our GMCs. If you've never attended a rally, consider attending one near you. Even if your coach is not running, or you are still restoring your coach, or even if your coach is tied up with repairs, you will learn so much from talking with fellow GMC owners. Many of our members have owned GMCs for many years and their experiences are invaluable. There's a lot of both good and bad information available on the Internet, but being able to ask questions first hand and share an evening campfire is just not the same. If you are still working, come for just the weekend. Let the rally host know you will be coming and they will arrange for you to join the group's activities.

Our next rally will be in mid July in central Ohio. More information is included in this newsletter. One highlight I am working on for the July rally is arranging a guided walking tour of the 1817 town of Zoar, Ohio. Believe it or not, this town is actually older than Williamsburg, Virginia. There are many original buildings still standing and we will get an opportunity to peek inside and learn more about this German settlement. If you plan to attend the July rally and are interested in participating in this tour, which will be on Friday, July 13th, contact me ASAP by phone call or text message (248-343-7636) or email (beckystevej@aol.com) and let me know how many of you will be joining us. I will need a headcount so the historical society can provide enough volunteers for the tour. There is a small fee for this guided tour. More information will be available at the July rally. Until next time, remember to "*Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire*" (Jennifer Lee).

GMC NO. 1 WOLVERINE STATE NEWSLETTER - April, 1976

>
X Our first Rally to MEET YOUR FELLOW GMCers will be held May 14, 15, and 16, 1976 at Groveland Oaks (Oakland County Park), Dixie Highway and Grange Hall Roads, Holly, Michigan. SEE MAP ENCLOSED

Fees include 2 nights camping, electricity, refreshments provided by the club and any extra funds collected will go into the club treasury.

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, May 14

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Registration and set up
8:00 PM to Business meeting and Get To Know You
(Pop and chips provided by club, ice, glasses, etc. provided by you)
11:00 PM Quiet hours in park until 7:00 AM

Saturday, May 15

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Coffee and doughnuts provided by club
DURING THE DAY Do you like lawn games, baseball, fishing, boating (no motors), hiking, photography, reading, yakking, golf (not at campsite), cards, etc., etc., etc.,

X Bring something to share and MEET YOUR FELLOW GMCers

6:00 PM *Pot Luck Dinner (Meat dish and salad or dessert)
Hayride (thanks to park)
Bonfire and singing (do you play the uke, guitar, mouth organ or just sing loud and off key like me)

11:00 PM Quiet hours in park until 7:00 AM

Sunday, May 16

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Coffee and doughnuts provided by club
Pursue your pleasures
3:00 PM Check out time

* Club will provide bread and butter and hot beverages. Please bring your own dishes and utensils to eat and serve with.

WE NEED "VOLUNTEERS" to serve on various committees such as nominations, finance, rallies, refreshments, program and sites, newsletter and scrapbook, wagonmaster, library, crafts, etc. You'll be receiving a call from the Executive Committee in the near future.



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 45895 Tel: 419.738.6016	Executive Board
June 6 – 10	GLAMARAMA	Allegan County Fairground 150 Douglas Street Allegan, Michigan 49010 Tel: 269.673.6501	GLAMA
July 12 – 15	Joint Rally with GMCES	Atwood Lake Park 9500 Lakeview Rd. NE Mineral City, OH 44656 Tel: 330.343.6780	Jane & Bill Michel <i>Ask for Gretchen when you call to make your reservation by 6/4/2018 Senior price: \$44 / night</i>
August 14 – 16		Coshocton KOA 24688 County Road 10 Coshocton, OH 43812 Tel: 740.502.9245	Teresa and Rick Little
September 21 – 27	Tentative	Amana RV Park & Event Ctr. 3890 C Street Amana, IA 52203 Tel: 319.622.7616	GMCFI
October 11 - 14		River Ridge RV Resort 22265 8 Mile Road Stanwood, MI 49346 Tel: 231.823.8338	Frank Griffin and Barbara Rhoades

GMCFI Conventions

Sept. 21 – 27, 2018	Christmas in September	Amana RV Park & Event Center Amana, IA
March 22 – 28, 2019	Tallahassee Treasurers	North Florida Fairgrounds Tallahassee, FL

Thanks to our club historian, Bill Helmore, for providing a copy of the first newsletter issued by the GMC Michigan Wolverines club dated April 1976. The club was chartered on January 24, 1976 with a geographical scope being the states of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. As it worked out, this would be the first GMC Motorhome chapter chartered under the auspices of the FMCA. At the Club's first rally in May 1976, the Club's name was changed to "The GMC Great Lakers" and its scope changed to incorporate all U.S. states and Canadian provinces that touch the Great Lakes.

July 2018 Do Whatever You Want To Do Rally

Rally Hosts: Bill and Jane Michel

Atwood Lake Park
9500 Lakeview Rd. NE
Mineral City, OH 44656
Tel: 330.343.6780

Hi All! It's July Rally time at Atwood Lake Park!

We have plans for an enjoyable rally of relaxing and what ever you want to do.

Thursday, July 12, 2018: Arrive, get set up and relax as it is a do what you want to do rally. Explore the area! **Supper you are on your own!** We have restaurants in the area at the marina, the Lighthouse Bistro (<http://www.thelighthousebistro.com>), and the Activity Center, located in the camp store, have reasonably priced meals and is open until 9:00 PM. A few other food options include The Atwood Dari Bar at 4033 State Route 212 NE and Susie Q's Pizza & Subs offering delivery to your campsite if you just want to stay put and just chill at your site.

Friday, July 13, 2018: Coffee & Donuts **8:00 a.m.** at the Rally Host campsite, then, off to the pavilion to enjoy!

6:00 PM- Catered dinner at the pavilion!

Saturday, July 14, 2018: Coffee & Donuts **8:00 a.m.** at the Rally Host campsite, then, off to the pavilion to enjoy!

6:00 PM - Catered dinner at the pavilion!

Sunday, July 15, 2018: Coffee & Donuts **8:00 a.m.** Safe travels!

Nearby Attractions: <http://atwoodpark.mwcd.org/nearby-attractions>

GPS Coordinates for Atwood Lake Park Entrance Gate: -81 16' 11.5" W Longitude
40 32' 40.9" N Latitude

July 2018 GMC Great Lakers Rally Registration Form – Do Whatever You Want To Do

Name: _____ Tel. No.: _____

Rally Fee: _____ One Person / Motorhome \$20.00 _____ Two People / Motorhome \$40.00

_____ Additional Person / Motorhome \$20.00 Name: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC.

Mail the completed form with your check, no later than June 28, 2018 to: Bill and Jane Michel
138 Wilson

Are you a new member of the GMC Great Lakers? Yes No Waynesburg, OH 44688-9338
Tel: 330.418.1956

Is this the first GMC Great Lakers rally you have attended? Yes No _____ Handicap Parking Required

Comments:

August 2018 – The Little Rally in a Small Campground

Hosts: Rick & Teresa Little

Campsite Fee: \$44.90 per night less 10% group rate

Campground Coordinates Lat: 40.3105° N, Lon: 81.8234° W

Coshocton KOA

24688 CR 10

Coshocton, OH 43812

Tel: 740.502.9245 or
800.562.1633

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

6:00 PM Happy Hour - Bring snacks and hors d'oeuvres to share

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

8:00 AM – Coffee and Donuts

Sightseeing at your leisure – Roscoe Village (<http://www.roscoevillage.com>) a step back in time to the 1830s in a canal town with a horse drawn canal boat, restaurants and shops. Several Amish villages within a half hour drive: Charm, Farmerstown, Berlin, Ragersville, Sugarcreek to name a few. Also several wineries and breweries in the area. Ravens Glenn Winery on SR 36 east has a very nice restaurant and the Wooly Pig Brewery is also nearby.

6:00 PM Catered dinner in the KOA banquet room.

Thursday, August 16, 2018

8:00 AM – Coffee and Donuts

A 10:00 AM tour of the Roundhouse at Sugarcreek features a complex of early rail cars, steam locomotives, and diesel locomotives and a fully operational rail repair shop with roundhouse (turntable) from the 1920's. An admission fee of \$20.00 per person is payable at the roundhouse and open toe shoes are not permitted. (<http://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.com>) Either a group breakfast before the tour or lunch after the tour – buy your own meal!

6:00 PM Catered dinner in the KOA banquet room.

Friday, August 17, 2018

8:00 AM – Coffee and Donuts

Travel home safely!

August 2018 GMC Great Lakers Rally Registration Form - The Little Rally in a Small Campground

Name: _____ Tel. No.: _____

Rally Fee: _____ One Person / Motorhome \$30.00 _____ Two People / Motorhome \$60.00

_____ Additional Person / Motorhome \$30.00 Name: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC.

Mail the completed form with your check, no later than July 24, 2018 to:

Teresa Little
2075 Fulton Drive
Coshocton, OH 43812
Tel: 740-502-9213

Are you a new member of the GMC Great Lakers? Yes No

Is this the first GMC Great Lakers rally you have attended? Yes No

_____ Handicap Parking Required

Number of participants interested in the Age of Steam Roundhouse tour on Thursday, August 16 _____

Comments:

On our last tour, we were discussing farm products. One product that we enjoy is milk. So, from what other animals do we enjoy their milk? Here are some of them:

Camel milk - This is slightly salty and enjoyed by people of the Middle East and Africa. It has been shown to reduce blood sugar. There have been a few Amish farms that raise camels for this purpose.

Donkey Milk - Cleopatra bathed in this milk to maintain her beauty. Romans drank it for healing power. Pope Francis drank it as a young boy. It does contain omega-3 and is less allergenic than cow or goat milk.

Night Milk - Good for people with insomnia. The cows are milked before dawn under a special red light. This helps to boost melatonin, a hormone that helps regulate the sleep cycle.

Goat Milk - It has less allergenic properties than cow milk. Many young children drink this.

Horse Milk - Some people in Asia use this milk to make cheese.

Animal Free Milk - There are a number of these, such as Almond and even Yellow Pea Milk.

Maybe some of you have tasted one or more of these different types of milk. Wow, I can tell by the sparkle in your eyes. You do love a GMC.

On your road travels, be careful not to allow your adventure to be interrupted by a Road Agent/ Robber. They do exist.

Maybe in our next communication we can talk about Henry Plummer, the sheriff of Bannack, Montana.

Happy travels and be alert, a road agent could be close by.



Rita's Grape Salad

- 2 cups red grapes
- 2 cups green grapes
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Topping Ingredients

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine the sour cream, cream cheese, vanilla and granulated sugar in a bowl and thoroughly mix. Fold in the red and green grapes. Top with the brown sugar and pecans. Refrigerate overnight and serve cold.

BAKING TIPS

Remember to bring refrigerated items like butter, eggs, and cream cheese to room temperature before you start to assemble your recipes.

To firmly pack brown sugar into your measuring cup, as the cup fills, press the sugar down firmly with a spoon or your fingers, and then level off with a butter knife or with the top of a flat spatula. The brown sugar should just hold its shape when turned out of the cup.

Submitted by Rita Stehlik at GLAMARAMA 2018

May 24, 2018 GMC Great Lakers General Membership Meeting Minutes Wapakoneta, OH

Sara Halley called meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 71 rally participants

Sara Halley, VP, welcomed new members Nancy and Peter Donague from Michigan and their '75 Glenbrook, and Kennet DeJesus also in a '75 Glenbrook from Troy, Ohio.

OLD BUSINESS

- New Board/Officers introduced
- Bea Newman, presented October 2017 meeting minutes as printed in newsletter. Motion accepted by Dale Frahm and seconded by Phyllis Thornburg.
- John Shotwell reported ending balance as of April 2018 to be \$13,237.90. Included was 2018 membership income \$1790. Audit performed and signed off by Steve and Phyllis Thornburg and John Shotwell. Treasurer's report approved by Dillion Hickman and seconded by Bill Helmore.
- **VP Rally Report**

June – GLAMA

July – Atwood Lake Park in Mineral City, Ohio. Hosts Bill/Jane Michel reported reservations must be made by June 2, before sites are open to public. Attendees must make their own camping reservations. This is a showcase campground and will fill up quickly.

August – Coshocton KOA in Coshocton, Ohio, hosted by Rick/Theresa Little. Coshocton is a canal town with lots to see and do. Two catered meals will be included. Reserve your campsite ASAP.

September – GMCMI in Amana, Iowa (OR as an alternate for those not going to Iowa is Algonac State Park in Michigan for a non-chapter do nothing rally Sept. 9-16, 2018).

October – Frank Griffin host at River Ridge RV Resort, Stanwood MI.

New Rally Registration Form will be used for all upcoming rallies.

- **Membership Update:** John Shotwell reported for Steve Johnson that current membership is 126.
- **Sunshine Report:** Deb Pryzbylek reported Norm Anderson's passing. Norm was a long time member of the GMC Great Lakers
- **Newsletter:** John Pryzbylek asks that if Steve Johnson does not have your current email to let Steve know ASAP so that you can receive the GL newsletter via email. If no email is available, John will send a paper copy. Currently, 136 newsletters are sent via email
- **Interim Rally Refund Policy:** Printed in February 2018 newsletter. The new interim policy will be in effect during 2018, voted on in October and added to our Standing Rules if accepted by the membership.
- **Website:** Everyone is happy with the new website that Steve Johnson has developed.
- Dale Frahm said thank you to everyone for their thoughts and prayers regarding their coach fire. He has a lot of parts, engines, transmissions, etc. for sale, and wants all to be gone by the end of the summer. He has information where the coach is located in Dothan Alabama if someone wants to scavenge for parts. Contact Dale directly if you are interested in his parts inventory.
- The Blue Water Lunch Bunch will meet June 14 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at the Golden Corral, North of Port Huron.
- Happy 42 Birthday GMC Great Lakers. Cake and ice cream were served. Happy Birthday wishes also to Pat Crow and Dick Holley.
- Steve Thornburg talked about a 2019 Rolling Rally he is planning for those interested. This would be non-chapter rally circling Lake Superior for 14 days, approximately 1200 miles for 11 other coaches in midsummer. The caravan will start in Mackinaw MI and end up in Sault Ste Marie, MI. Steve has the itinerary of all the cities and campground along the way. They will be entering Canada so a passport or enhanced drivers license will be needed. Steve has detailed information on what is needed for pets. A sign up sheet was available for interested parties. Information will also be available in next newsletter for those not present. Participants to be selected via lottery drawing.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Bea Newman, Secretary

Secretary note: a reporter from the Wapakoneta Daily News interviewed Bill Helmore and Walt Halley in front of the Newman coach. Picture and article was published front page of the Wapakoneta Daily News on Friday, May 25, 2018.

The following article was published in the Wapakoneta Daily News newspaper on Friday, May 25, 2018 and is being reprinted here with the permission of the Newspaper Editor Deb Zweg. The photo of Walt Halley and Bill Helmore taken during the interview was not attached to the article I received from the Editor.

John Pryzbylek

GMC Great Lakers rally at KOA

By DEB ZWEZ
Publisher

It rides like a dream, “better than a Cadillac,” claims an enthusiast. “It’s a beautiful ride.”

Walt Halley knows what he’s talking about. He’s a member of the GMC Great Lakers, a group of motor coach owners devoted to their General Motors Coaches, many of who rallied at the Wapakoneta KOA this week, leaving this morning after spending about four days exploring the local area.

Production of the GMC Motorhome was limited to five years – 1973-1978; Halley said it was the only coach manufactured at that time that had a frame designed specifically to be a motorhome. He said it was the front torsion bars, and the rear tandems that allow for such a comfortable ride.

An estimated 13,000 motorhomes were made during that six-year span; today, there are about 8,000 still on the road. While individual owners have made different upgrades and improvements, most, Halley believes, stay pretty true to the original design. His motorhome, for example, still boasts shag carpeting, he said.

Bill Helmore is a charter member of the GMC Lakers; he can recite the club’s history easily and shared that the club began Jan. 19, 1976 – in Michigan.

Helmore worked for GMC at the time; some of the motorhome owners had contact the company asking for their help in starting a club for those who shared their enthusiasm for the vehicle. Helmore said GMC executives agreed and started the first club, the GMA Wolverines.

As time went by, the objective was to increase membership in the club, so the geographic area was expanded to include those states and Canadian provinces that touched the Great Lakes. As was to be expected, Helmore said, not all of the new members appreciated the “Wolverine” name. The name was changed to the Great Lakers soon after.

Helmore estimated the youngest motorhome in their club is 40 years old; the oldest is probably 45 years old. Most of them are nearing the 200,000-mile mark if they haven’t already surpassed that number.

The Great Lakers have 126 members; probably 30 of them made it to the rally in Wapakoneta. They rally an average of six times a year; during their time at the local campsite they’ve ventured to Jackson Center to visit another kind of motor home, and toured the Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen.

When they head for their respective homes today, many will have already signed up to participate in the GLAMA Rally in Allegan, MI. in early June.

This wasn’t the first time Great Lakers visited Wapakoneta. They rallied at the KOA about 14 years ago, very soon after owners Debbie and John Schuettler purchased the campgrounds. Helmore and Hally said they remembered the visit – and they were sure the Schuettlers remembered them as they collectively blew a pretty large fuse when the campers were running their heaters.

“You know if everything goes well you don’t have memories,” Halley said. “And we came back.”

	Financial Report	
	May 31, 2018	
Starting Balance:	\$	13,237.90
Revenue:	\$	1,065.00
Expenses:	\$	1,262.67
Ending Balance:	\$	13,040.23



Get well cards have been sent to these individuals:

Maureen Rider Judy Dohm

Gary Kosier

Sympathy cards have been sent to the family of:

Norm Anderson

Sympathy cards have been sent to:

Phyllis and Steve Thornburg

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

42nd Birthday Rally May 22-25, 2018

I want to thank Wayne and Karen Kettler for all their help; there is always something, getting donuts, stirring pasta, etc. Then a friend made a delicious GMC cake for our birthday dinner. Merle Carpenter has learned to make lemonade to taste. Bea Newman came with her new knee to help as needed. John Shotwell brought the checkbook. If anyone has a bill the club owes, he needs to know.

We were in Ohio and only had a few showers; the snow shovels are put away!

Getting together for happy hour was wonderful and everyone talked at once. We filled a ping-pong table with snacks and arranged rides for the next day Airstream factory tour and post tour lunch.

We had a good crowd on Wednesday, going to the Airstream factory. It was a fun experience to see the trailers made in front of us and out of quality materials. Then, it was on to the Inn Between Tavern for lunch, we were hungry after about a mile of walking. The Bicycle Museum of America was next and about 9 miles west. We spent several hours looking at the various displays on several levels. Then the crowd headed back to camp to relax and get ready for Thursday.

Thursday morning was a caravan to the RJ Coffey Cafe in Wapakoneta for a buffet breakfast. There were 70 GMCers in there and it was noisy! It was time to visit the city or take a nap. The dinner was at 6 PM at the camp building with pasta, meatballs, Olive Garden salad, breadsticks and lots of lemonade. We all slept well until there was a loud boom about 6 AM from the Hickman's airbag. It was replaced.

Friday, we were out of the campground before noon. The owners have invited us back anytime.

Thank you all for coming, the Executive Committee and spouses Sara Halley

GLAMARAMA 2018 RALLY

There were 20 GMC Great Laker coaches participating in GLAMARAMA 2018 at the Allegan County Fairgrounds. We were parked, as a group, along the Kalamazoo River away from the main event alongside several of the Converted Coaches. This was not a typical GMC Great Lakers' rally format. There were seminars, if you could find the building, new **S**ome **O**ther **B**rand coaches on display and for sale, and a limited number of vendors. There were several GLAMA first timers including me and, the overall consensus of the attendees was we didn't feel it was necessary to return next year due to several logistical issues including registration snafus, shore power reliability and meal offerings. It will be at the same fairgrounds.

There was a free evening so we had a pizza dinner with potluck appetizers / salads which was well received. You know we all like to eat!

On Saturday afternoon Converted Coaches and us had open house. It was fun talking to the visitors, looking at the plaid and shag. You have everything you need is what we heard most.

Sara Halley



2018 Club Officers and Staff

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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.



GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.
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