

RESIDEN

America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 44 Issue 1 February 2019



According to Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, we should see an early spring this year! That is great news for our Great Lakers members needing to get some work done on their coaches before the rally season begins. Some of you may have left the Midwest for warmer weather this winter, while other members have been bundled up battling subzero temperatures. By the time you get this newsletter, I should be back home in Michigan after spending a month in Portland, Oregon helping my aunt recuperate and rehabilitate from a hip replacement. Wouldn't you know it snowed while I was in Portland!

While spending time with my aunt, I helped her go through some old family photos. My aunt found a 1977 travel diary where 9 of my family members drove from metro Detroit across the U.S. in a 1973 GMC Canyonlands Motorhome! The group included 2 aunts and uncles, my grandmother, a teenage cousin and her boyfriend, and 2 young toddlers. They did not tow a car and they all slept in the motorhome – in some creative arrangements my uncle put together!

From the travel diary, I learned that this trip began in early August 1977 and lasted about 5 weeks.

They stopped at least 5 National Parks along the way. Their route took them through the Dakotas (Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands); Yellowstone National Park and Jackson Hole (Wyoming); Montana; Glacier National Park, Banff National Park, Lake Louise, and Athabasca Glacier (in eastern British Columbia Canada); Vancouver and Victoria Island (in western British Columbia Canada); Olympic National Park and Seattle (in Washington); and San Francisco and Yosemite National Park (in California). My grandmother kept a written diary, recording each day's activities, detailed descriptions of scenery along the way, the meals they prepared in the GMC, and even some camping prices. She shared some funny stories about their sleeping arrangements and even a funny story about going through U.S. Customs upon returning from Canada. Some truckers on the CB radio on the highway called the GMC the 'Yellow Traveler' and wanted to know what kind of equipment the GMC had! They had some issues with the radiator during the trip. Even a relatively new coach is not immune to problems.

Here are a couple of photos (page 2) of my uncle and aunt's 1973 GMC Canyonlands taken in Yosemite National Park in 1980 or 1981. This is the same group of family members, just a few years later. My uncle (the balding dark hair guy!) and aunt (in the red jacket eventually sold the 1973 and later bought a used 1977 GMC Palm Beach from Cinnabar. They were Great Lakers members while they owed their GMCs, although I'm not sure if they attended rallies. They continue to own various motorhomes and travel across country today!

So as you can see, the GMC Motorhome runs in my family!





Mark your calendars now for the 2019 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 13 – 17 | Birthday Rally | Dutch Treat Campground 10300 Gordon Street Zeeland, MI 49464 Tel: 616.772.4303 | Executive Board |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| June 10 – 14 | Joint Rally with The Six Wheelers | Shipshewana Campground Sout 1105 S Van Buren St. (SR 5) Shipshewana, Indiana 46565 Tel: 260.768.4669 Campsites being held for the rally are: and 72-76. Make your reservations ea campground. Tell them you are with th | 124-136; 111-116; 97-102 rly directly with the |
| July 24 - 28 | | Plain City Pastime Park 344 N Chillicothe Street Plain City, OH 43064 Tel: 614.873.3527 Ext: 108 | Sara & Walt Halley |
| August 22 - 25 | Tin Can Tourists also hosting a rally | Groveland Oaks County Park 14555 Dixie Highway Holly, Michigan 48442 Tel: 248.634.9811 | Nancy & Peter Donaghue |
| September | | TO BE DETERMINED | NEED A HOST |
| October 4 - 10 | | GMCMI Fall Convention Richland County Fairgrounds Mansfield, Ohio | GMCMI |

| GMCMI Conventions | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| March 22 – 28, 2019 | Tallahassee Treasures | North Florida Fairgrounds Tallahassee, FL |
| October 4 – 10, 2019 | Celebrating GMC Flyers | Richland County Fairgrounds Mansfield, Ohio |

A blonde goes into a coffee shop and notices there is a "peel and win" sticker on her coffee cup.

So she peels it off and starts screaming, "I've won a motorhome! I've won a motorhome!" The waitress says, "That's impossible. The biggest prize is a free lunch."

But the blonde keeps on screaming "I've won a motorhome! I've won a motorhome!"

Finally, the manager comes over and says, "Ma'am, I'm sorry but you're mistaken. You couldn't have possibly won a motorhome because we didn't have that as a prize."

The blonde says, "No, it's not a mistake. I've won a motorhome!"

And she hands the ticket to the manager and HE reads "WINABAGEL"

BACK IN THE DAY...





THE WINTER OF 2018 - 2019



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Road Travel Tidbits

Submitted by Anonymous

We have traveled together in our GMC coaches from coast to coast. The scenery has been spectacular and Yellowstone is awesome, and the **WOW** experiences are just wonderful, even though one member walked into a bank robbery. Maybe the sheriff, Henry Plummer, was involved. We have talked to a lot of unique people, such as a person who managed money for two billionaires.

You look back and think that meeting these people from various aspects and ways of life has changed our opinions of people. Mark Twain said it best, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness." It broadens the mind.

So let's travel in our beautiful GMC coaches. Do your maintenance and you can go from coast to coast. It is a wonderful trip.

Club membership has been very positive for all members, but we must all contribute. Teamwork does wonders. Marketing needs to be done in any organization, so you, as a marketing manager for the GMC motorhomes and your GMC club affiliations should proudly convey the positive aspects of the GMC coach and club membership.

Wear your badge proudly.

TZE Notes

Submitted by John Wright

Disclaimer: The information presented in TZE Notes is intended to be used solely as a way to communicate thoughts, ideas, opinions and procedures from and to members and there is not implied or attempt to replace supersede the recommendations from General Motors or any other component maker.

| The windshield washer thru-body hose fitting is available at your local Volvo Truck parts counter. It is listed as Part No. 308-1168 | video's on V https://youti and https://youti | nterested, there are number of very good oil filter test YouTube, watch these! <u>u.be/VzCqjZgIMBk</u> <u>u.be/iTNJLEV8CG8</u> you can determine which filter(s) that you would use! |
|---|---|--|
| Ball Joint Boot Repla It has been reported that a and lower Ball Joint Boot replacement is available fr Auto that will work for our lower ball joints. Go to rockauto.com and of Part No. 1017777 cost is \$ | in upper om Rock upper and rder their | Dual Oil Filter MountNAPA offers a Dual Filter Mount for those who want to upgrade to a pair of oil filters after the factory filter assembly. It is NAPA Part No. FIL 4093 priced at \$71.88 It accepts Duel ¾-16 filters (2 required) such as Napa Gold, Wix, Hastings and others. Has dual ½-14 inlet and outlet ports and includes 2 plugs. Filters require a bypass relief valve.Would increase oil capacity by 1 qt plus. |

Thanks to Bill Helmore for providing the following list of past members of the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Executive Board from 1976 – 2019. This list also includes the members that served as newsletter and membership directory editors.

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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

FMCA National Director's Message

The recent membership vote regarding revising the FMCA Constitution passed with a vote of 407 for, and 17 against. The vote to amend Article X passed with 516 for, and 5 against. This vote was needed to change the FMCA Bylaws and Constitution as approved by the Governing Board.

There are two major FMCA conventions this year. The first in Perry, Georgia begins on March 13, 2019 and runs through March 16. It would be a great to attend after the winter we've had. Perry is a city of about 17,000 people and has an interesting historic downtown with The Dogwood Festival, public fishing, and walking/driving trails. The second is in Minot, North Dakota from August 14 through 17. 2019. This is the 100th International Convention & RV Expo and will be special. Minot has a rich history, and even has the nickname of "Little Chicago." They have several golf courses, an Air Museum, Railway Museum, and the one that I find odd is. The Square Lake Sewage Lagoon promoted by Minot, as a must see. I'll report on this in September.

FMCA offers two options for staying connected when you are on the road. The first, from Sprint, "Tech Connect Plus", allows video chat and sharing your RV adventures with no data limits via 3G - 4G LTE. You stav connected on the road and much more with no annual contract for \$49.99 a month and a onetime device rental fee of \$39.99. The second, from Verizon, "Connect on the Go" costs \$49.99 per month (plus applicable taxes and fees). It requires a two-year contract, which includes a jet pack, for a one time charge of \$0.01, 25GB of high-speed data per month, 4G LTE and unlimited monthly service. The jet pack is a small device that is your own personnel hot spot. Visit the FMCA website for more information on these mobile Internet offers.



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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