

# GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 44 Issue 2 April 2019



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Finally, it appears that spring is just around the corner and for now the snow is gone. It's time to get the GMC out of storage and ready for the first Great Lakers rally in Zeeland, Michigan next month! Some of you got an early start to this 2019 rally season at the GMCMI Spring rally in Tallahassee, Florida. Hopefully your trip went smoothly but I know that's not always the case. It's a good thing that GMC owners are prepared for just about anything and are able to get these motorhomes back on the road when problems happen.

I received this email from some friends of ours that own a late model Winnebago Novion, who are fairly new to RVing. They just got back from spending the winter in Florida: *"Greetings! As I crawl out from under the motor home, just a note to say we are back to the land of the living - Florida being the land of the living dead.*

*I say "under the motor home" as I am trying to repair a broken power step which just failed as we got home! I am constantly reminded of that wise and powerful sage, Ivan (Johnson, 'not the Terrible!'), who once said, save a lot of bucks for repairs, or something like that, because you're gonna need it!*

*I guess we got off cheap this time as the RV performed quite well this trip. Although to be honest, when we picked up the RV from storage last December, we had to have an antenna replaced, and another slide controller replaced at the GeneralRV store. The slide controller worked all summer by the way, but after GeneralRV put a cover back on that they left off during the last repair, the controller went bad WHILE AT THE GeneralRV dealership!! That was about \$1000.*

*Next, as we drove away, the engine light came on! That turned out to be a bad DEF fluid pump, another \$800 after we convinced Mercedes that they should feel bad for us! Their engine warranty covers 5 years or 100,000 miles but not DEF fluid pumps.*

*Upon leaving the Mercedes dealer, we were told our tire was flat. That was fixed for no charge - hurray! But, the tire dealer is way across town about half hour one way. Of course we had purchased 6 new tires only a few months ago for another \$1200, so not exactly free! But, we love our motor home! Not sure I can afford it anymore, but we still love it!"*

I had to chuckle when I read this email. Here is a fairly new RV, that I'm sure cost significantly more than our GMC even if it was purchased used, that has had some expensive repairs in its relatively short life.

I'm sure glad our GMC doesn't have slide outs!

See you at the May rally!

Becky

## **“RV-ing 1970s Style!” Friday, May 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**

The GMC Great Lakers have been invited to participate in the annual spring cultural programming event at the Macomb County Community College Lorenzo Cultural Center in Clinton Twp, Michigan. Join Tom Dixon and Becky Johnson for a presentation about the GMC Motorhome on Friday, May 3, 2019. Not only will they present the audience with an introduction to the GMC motorhome, Bill Helmore has contributed GMC memorabilia from his personal collection to a GMC Motorhome display case located on site at the Lorenzo Cultural Center for the duration of this lecture series.

This year’s cultural series theme is ***The 70s: Heavy, Hip and Happenin’*** and runs February 27 – May 4, 2019. The theme of presentations are described as follows: “Defined by events like the Watergate scandal, the fall of Saigon and the Iran hostage crisis, the 1970s was a decade of turbulence. Social movements for women’s rights and the environment were juxtaposed against disco music and sitcoms. Politics began to become divisive, technology took a giant leap forward, and we experienced a loss of innocence. Join us as we explore the rich history of the 1970s through exhibits, displays, presentations and interactive events.”

**Exhibit Hours:** Wednesday, 10am-8pm | Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm

**Exhibits:** Exhibits are open to the public and presented free of charge. Pre-registration is not required to view exhibits, except for groups of 5 or more, who should call 586.226.4759 to facilitate their visit. Guided tours and scavenger hunts are available to visitors upon request.

**Presentations:** FREE of charge and open to the public. Presentations typically last one hour. Pre-registration is required for the presentations by calling 586.445.7348, submitting the Registration form located on the Lorenzo Cultural Center website, or by emailing [culturalcenter@macomb.edu](mailto:culturalcenter@macomb.edu).

For a complete listing of all ***The 70s: Heavy, Hip and Happenin’*** programming visit the following website: [www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com](http://www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com)

### **About the Lorenzo Cultural Center**

The Lorenzo Cultural Center provides interactive learning opportunities for all ages. It extends student discovery beyond classroom walls as well as creating multi-faceted opportunities for community members to explore the influences and experiences that shape our heritage. The cultural center is located on Macomb Community College’s Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. More information is available at: [lorenzoculturalcenter.com](http://lorenzoculturalcenter.com)

### **About Macomb Community College**

Macomb Community College ([www.macomb.edu](http://www.macomb.edu)) is one of the nation’s leading community colleges, providing learning experiences to nearly 38,000 students annually. Macomb nationally ranks in the top two percent in the number of associate degrees awarded by community colleges and is one of the largest grantors of associate degrees in Michigan.

**If you are interested in attending the GMC presentation on Friday, May 3, 2019 in support of the GMC Great Lakers, please contact Becky Johnson, preferably via email, and let her know.**



Article reprinted from the Sunday, March 24, 2019 Tallahassee Democrat newspaper pertaining to the GMCMI 2019 Spring Convention held at the North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, Florida.

# MOTORHOME AFICIONADOS GATHER IN TALLAHASSEE



**Alicia Devine**  
Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The GMC Motorhomes International (GMCMI) Spring 2019 Convention has arrived at the North Florida Fairgrounds.

Standing 14 inches off the ground, 26 feet long and eight feet wide, roughly 150 GMC motorhomes and 300 members come together to attend trainings and social events.

The motorhomes were in production by GMC between 1973 and 1978 and were expected to last seven years.

GMCMI is a network for throwback motorhome aficionados and has helped ensure the motorhomes stay in working order.

Vendors specialize in making parts for the motorhomes that are no longer in distribution.

"You come because of the motorhome and stay because of the people," former GMCMI president Stan Edwards said while sitting in the dining hall filled with his friends.

GMCMI has over 1,000 members with some from all 50 states, Canada, and the Netherlands.

"When you find people you really resonate with, you will drive 1,000 miles to see them," says current GMCMI president Dolph Santorine.

**UPPER LEFT:** A 1976 GMC Glenbrook owned by Russell Nix.

**UPPER RIGHT:** Ken Henderson helps a friend get their GMC motorhome up and running.

**LEFT:** Russell Nix sits in his 1976 GMC Glenbrook motorhome.



PHOTOS BY ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT







**What: Birthday Rally**  
**When: May 13 – 17, 2019**

**Where: Dutch Treat Campground**  
**10300 Gordon Street**  
**Zeeland, MI 49464**  
**Tel: 616.772.4303**

**Rally Hosts: GMC Great Lakers Executive Board**

**Call the Dutch Treat Campground to make your own camping reservation and payment at \$41.00 per night. Be sure to tell them you are with the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club. There is a \$10 cancellation fee when a cancellation is made within 72 hours of the reservation date. (Campground Policy)**

**Details:**

- Monday night: 5:30 PM Hospitality Hour begins in the recreational hall – **BRING SNACKS TO SHARE**
- Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30 – 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast in the recreational hall
- Tuesday Lunch: On your own - Explore the Dutch Village and tulips in Holland, shops open
- Tuesday Dinner: On your own
- Wednesday Breakfast: 7:30 – 9:00 AM Catered by The Farmhouse Restaurant in the recreational hall
- Wednesday Lunch and Dinner: On your own
- Thursday Lunch: On your own
- Thursday: 5:00 PM GMC Overview Presentation – Becky Johnson in the recreational hall
- Thursday Dinner: 6:00 PM Club birthday party dinner catered by the American Char Restaurant followed by the club business meeting
- Friday: Must be out of your campsite by 12:00 Noon

**REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 29, 2019 WITH CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC. MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR RALLY FEE CHECK TO:**

**BECKY JOHNSON**  
**681 MILFORD FARMS COURT**  
**MILFORD, MICHIGAN 48381**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Person / Motorhome \$30.00 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Handicap Parking Required**

Rally fee includes a 60% cotton/40% polyester T-Shirt for each paid individual attending the rally. Please indicate the size and quantity required for your coach:

Unisex Sizing: \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ XXXL

Ladies Sizing: \_\_\_\_\_ XS \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL

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

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

**Comments:**



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 South 1105 S Van Buren St. (SR 5) Shipshewana, Indiana 46565 Tel: 260.768.4669 Campsites being held for the rally are: 124-136; 111-116; 97-102 and 72-76. Make your reservations early directly with the campground. Tell them you are with the GMC Great Lakers club.	Marv & Sally Miller
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
<b>September</b>		<b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	<b>NEED A HOST</b>
October 4 - 10		GMCMI Fall Convention Richland County Fairgrounds Mansfield, Ohio	GMCMI

**GMCMI Conventions**  
 October 4 – 10, 2019      Celebrating GMC Flyers      Richland County Fairgrounds  
 Mansfield, Ohio







## GONNA WANNA BE IN SHIPSEWANA

**When:** Gonna Wanna Be... June 10 – 14, 2019  
**Location:** Shipsewana Campground South  
 1105 South Van Buren Street (SR 5)  
 Shipsewana, IN 46565  
**Rally Hosts:** Marv and Sally Miller  
 Tel: 574.238.1124  
 Tel: 260.768.4669

**Call the Shipsewana Campground to make your own camping reservation and payment of \$41.00 per night (back-in site) or \$43.00 (pull thru site). Be sure to tell them you are with the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club. Camping reservations must be made by April 25, 2019.**

**Details:**

- Monday night – 4:00 Social Hour; 5:00 Group dinner (on your own tab) at 5 + 20 Country Restaurant
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 7:00- 8:00 AM Coffee Hour
- Tuesday Lunch – On Your Own; Flea Market shopping
- Tuesday Dinner – On Your Own; Flea Market and antique auction
- Wednesday Lunch – On Your Own
- Wednesday Dinner – 5:00 PM Depart and carpool to Yoder’s Homestyle Cooking (Amish home)
- Thursday Morning - 8:15 AM Depart and carpool to optional Jayco RVPlant Tour
- Thursday Lunch – On Your Own; several optional small business tours; Dutch Creek Animal Park
- Thursday Dinner – 4:00 PM Depart and carpool to dinner at the EssenHaus (on your own tab) followed by the Essenhaus Classic Car Cruise In

### June 2019 GMC Great Lakers Rally Registration Form – Gonna Wanna Be...

**REGISTRATION DUE MAY 27, 2019 WITH CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC. MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR RALLY FEE CHECK TO:**

**MARV MILLER  
 27895 CR 10 STE. H  
 ELKHART, IN 46514-7809**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rally Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ One Person / Motorhome \$27.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Two Person / Motorhome \$55.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Person / Motorhome \$27.50 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**If Handicap Parking is required, it must be requested when you make the reservation.**

**Reservations can be made for the campground motel by calling 260.768.7750, for those interested in attending without a motorhome. The same rally fee of \$27.50 per person applies.**

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

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

**Comments:**



## Financial Report

March 2019

Starting Balance:	\$	12,904.69
Revenue:	\$	315.00
Expenses:	\$	585.00
Ending Balance:	\$	12,634.69



Sunshine  
& Rainbows

Get well cards have been sent to these individuals:

**John Stehlik**

**Lee Skalski**

Sympathy cards have been sent to the families of:

**Bill Michel**

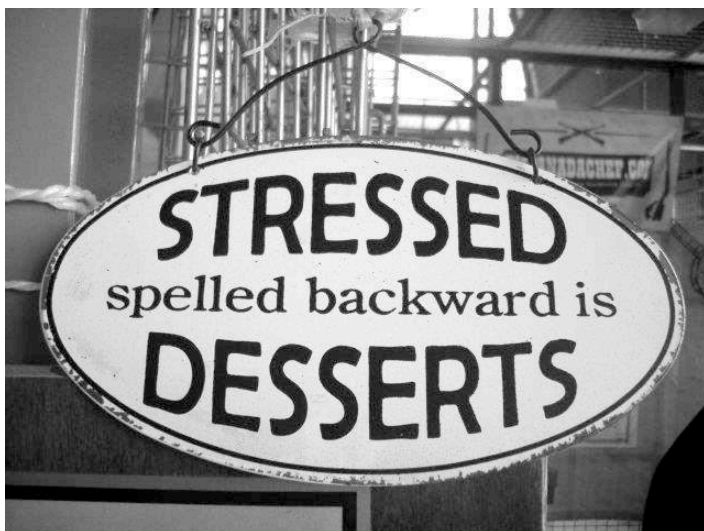
**Fred and Diane Dugger**

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

## ODDS AND ENDS

### A LITERAL TRAILER PARK



I dream of a better world where chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.





## 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.



### 2018 Club Officers and Staff

#### President

Becky Johnson

Telephone: 248.343.7636

Email: [president@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:president@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Vice President

Sara Halley

Telephone: 614.873.8577

Email: [vice\\_president@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Secretary

Bea Newman

Telephone: 513.919.2026

Email: [secretary@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:secretary@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Treasurer

John Shotwell

Telephone: 419.267.5140

Email: [treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### FMCA National Director

Merle Carpenter

Telephone: 616.560.3369

Email: [fmca\\_director@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:fmca_director@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### FMCA Alternate Director

Marv Miller

Telephone: 574.238.1124

Email: [alt\\_fmca\\_dir@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:alt_fmca_dir@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Director at Large

Margi Baumbarger

Telephone: 419.832.5103

Email: [dir\\_at\\_large@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:dir_at_large@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Sunshine and Rainbows

Debra Pryzbylek

Telephone: 419.825.5259

Email: [sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Membership Chair and Webmaster

Steve Johnson

Telephone: 248.378.3177

Email: [webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Club Historian

Bill Helmore

Telephone: 248.375.1777

Email: [historian@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:historian@gmcgreatlakers.org)

#### Newsletter Editor

John Pryzbylek

Telephone: 419.490.3835

Email: [newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org)



**KOIVISTO SERVICE STATION**  
Gas — Oils — Groceries — Accessories  
Confectionery  
Chassell, Michigan Telephone 7015-F5



1930s Cities Service gas station and a 1936 Ford Coupe at the gas pumps



GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.  
Newsletter Editor  
103 West Ridge Drive  
Swanton, Ohio 43558-1522