

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 44 Issue 5 October 2019



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The end of August means summer is coming to a close and its back to school time for the kids. It already is starting to feel like fall with some cooler nights and pleasant weather during the day. The Great Lakers enjoyed some perfect camping weather at August rally at Groveland Oaks Campground in Holly, Michigan. It's been a long time since the Great Lakers were at Groveland Oaks. Our rally host Nancy Donaghue selected Groveland Oaks because she wanted to revisit some campgrounds our club utilized in the early years. In fact, did you know that Groveland Oaks Campground was the site of our very first club rally in May 1976? Some sections of the campground didn't exist back then, but our group camping location was the perfect setting for our group. Everyone had a grass site with electric and our group had a good size pavilion with plenty of electric hookups and lights. A nice fire pit and a couple of permanent benches completed our group area. Nancy also selected our rally dates to coincide with a Tin Can Tourists rally

at Groveland Oaks. As a result we had a number of visitors pass through and tour a few of our coaches during the weekend.

Our club is continuing to steadily grow with new members. One of our newest members actually found out about the GMC Great Lakers after attending my presentation on The 70's and The GMC Motorhome in May at Macomb County Community College. New member Tom Aubuchon came up to me at the end of my presentation and said 'I want to join your club'. Of course I asked him a bit skeptically, 'do you own a GMC motorhome manufactured between 1973 and 1978?' Tom replied, 'I just bought it yesterday!' What a treat to gain a member who would have otherwise taken a while to find out about our club.

Don't forget to complete your 2019 Election ballot to vote for our 2020 Great Lakers Board of Directors. We need everyone to turn in their ballots. The results will be announced at the October club business meeting. If you lost your ballot or somehow did not get one, please contact me.

I am amazed at the continued interest in our coaches. This is what our club is all about – making sure the interest in GMC motorhomes keeps going for future generations. The GM designers and engineers never thought these motorhomes would continue to live beyond 10-15 years. Wouldn't they be surprised if they could see them now!

Becky

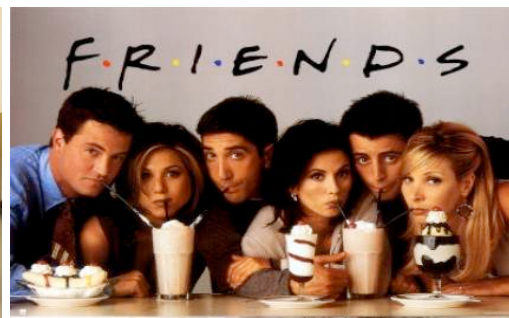
“Friends of the GMC Great Lakers”

Last fall the GMC Great Lakers created a new club affiliation called the “Friends of the GMC Great Lakers”. This non-member classification does not require a concurrent membership in FMCA. Participation as a “Friend of the GMC Great Lakers” is an annual invitation and those nominated and approved must respond to the invitation in order to continue their participation. A participant as “Friends of the GMC Great Lakers” is not considered membership in the club and thus these individuals have no voting rights within the club. “Friends of the GMC Great Lakers” will receive the club newsletter and membership roster (but will not be listed as a club member as they are not members of FMCA). They will pay no annual dues and are invited to participate in club rallies, as guests of the club, paying no rally participation fees. (They are however responsible for their own lodging fees at any rally they attend.) The GMC Great Lakers Standing Rules has been updated to include this Non Membership category, in addition to regular Full Club Membership and Associate Club Memberships.

Any current or former club member (and spouse when applicable) must be invited by the Great Lakers Board of Directors to participate as a “Friends of the Great Lakers” and meet the following criteria for nomination and approval:

1. The nominee must have been a club member or associate member in the club within the past 5 years prior to the initial invitation to participate.
2. The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the GMC Great Lakers as a board member, rally host, or another significant club role.
3. The nominee must no longer own a GMC motorhome, or any other recreational vehicle for camping.
4. Nominees are not required to have a current FMCA membership.
5. Any club member can submit nominees using the “Friends of the Great Lakers” nomination form. These are reviewed and approved by the Board at the last rally of the camping season.
6. Invitations to “Friends of the GMC Great Lakers” are sent by the Board to approved nominees before the end of the calendar year and those individuals must reply to be part of this affiliation prior to the start of the next club membership year.
7. Approved nominees who agree to be part of the “Friends of the Great Lakers” are sent to the club’s Membership Chair to include in a comprehensive list for the club and website.
8. “Friends of the Great Lakers” members must be approved annually.

The application for future “Friends of the GMC Great Lakers” will be available on the club website and can be submitted to Bill Helmore and Dick Serreyn, who will be chairing the “Friends of the Great Lakers” committee.



GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB
"FRIENDS OF THE GREAT LAKERS"
NOMINATION APPLICATION

Member Full Name(s): _____

Member Address: _____

Member Email: _____

Great Lakers club member or associated member within last 5 years? Yes or No

Approximate number of years of membership in GMC Great Lakers club: _____

No longer owns a GMC Motorhome or any other Recreational Vehicle? Yes or No

Contributions to GMC Great Lakers (specify with dates if possible):

Board Position(s) held: _____

Rally Host: _____

Other Club contributions (please explain): _____

Submitted By: _____ Date: _____

Do not write below this line – Board use only!

Date Reviewed by GL Board: _____ Approved: Yes or No

Date of Invitation Letter: _____ Date Accepted by Member: _____

This application for future "Friends of the GMC Great Lakers" can be submitted to Bill Helmore and/or Dick Serreyn, who will be chairing the "Friends of the Great Lakers" committee.

“Back In Time” Rally August 2019

The GMC Great Lakers rally was held in Holly Michigan at Groveland Oaks County Park. We had group camping site one which was a lovely shaded area with our own private pavilion. The campground theme for the weekend was “Back in Time”. The Tin Can Tourists were also holding a rally that weekend. We had the opportunity to attend their open house on Saturday and see some really nice tin can campers.

The GMC Great Lakers filled all 20 spots in our camping area. Thursday evening we got together for “potluck” hors d’oeuvres.

Friday 21 people from the group went to Rochester Hills to tour Meadow Brook Hall. After the tour we had lunch at the Red Ox, also in Rochester Hills. Friday evening we had a catered dinner provided to us by Wendy from the catering company Two Ladies and a Tray.

Saturday a group of folks went to Auburn Hills to tour bike builder Ron Finch’s motorcycle shop and the gardens around his shop. Ron’s wife Ruth cooked lunch for our group. Saturday afternoon Mary Colie visited to talk to the ladies about the fall GMCMI convention in Mansfield Ohio and the ladies tea that the GMC Great Lakers will be hosting. Saturday evening we again had a catered meal provided to us by Wendy from Two Ladies and a Tray. After dinner on Saturday we had a short club meeting.

At our event we had 18 GMCs, one Airstream, and one Casita. We also had two first timers at our rally. Also present was some amazing August weather.

Nancy and Peter Donaghue



ANNOUNCING THE 2020 RALLY SCHEDULE

The following rallies are scheduled for next year at these locations and dates:

May 6 – 9, Wednesday – Saturday
Camp Dearborn, Milford, Michigan

June 17 – 20, Thursday – Saturday
Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, Michigan (GLAMMA Rally)

July – To Be Determined

August - To Be Determined

September 13 – 20, Sunday - Sunday
Algonac State Park, Marine City, Michigan (Do Nothing Rally)

October 1 – 4, Thursday – Sunday
Camp Turkeyville RV Resort, Marshall, Michigan

We are looking at potential locations, activities and dates for the July and August rallies. Details will follow as soon as the plans are finalized.

Becky

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 2 1977 Growing and Maturing

The National Organization and the GMC clubs chose the International Code of Flags to identify the GMC club chapters. The purpose for employing the “International Code of Flags” was to initiate a unique manner of identification for the GMC Owners Clubs that was totally distinctive to those being used by any other motorhome clubs. They therefore selected a method that is almost as old as the sailing vessels of the high seas, for which the code of identification has been in use for centuries to identify ships at sea, or relate messages across the distances.



Ultimately the “International Code of Flags” was adopted both for its special interest and its virtual simplicity for identification on national and international scales.

Each club has their own Code of Flags. The flags indicate the first letter in each name of the Club. When two names make up the chapter designation, as in “Great Lakers,” a second flag is assigned to complete the insignia.

1977 found the GMC family of motorhome clubs at fifteen (15) nationally. The Great Lakers “Spring Kickoff Outing” was held on May 13th to 15th at Groveland Oaks County Park for the second year in a row. Old and new friends gathered around the campfire Friday night.

Saturday’s sunshine put everyone in a good mood and while the gals visited and made yarn craft mobiles, worked on their needlepoint, crocheted and embroidered, the guys visited and joined a lawn game tournament.

The tables groaned under Saturday night’s potluck, however it didn’t take long to relieve them of their burden. After dinner, it was on to the pavilion, a pleasant walk by the lake, a view of the beach and the islands as Geoff Baxter, the square dance caller, summoned the Great Lakers and the Ford Wagon Train to swing their partners.

After a worship service and business meeting Sunday morning, the Great Lakers played volleyball. With no poles available, the Great Lakers used two motorhomes instead! At the business meeting the officers for the new year were sworn in. They were Virgil Barbe, President: Bob Beyer, First Vice President: William Helmore, Second Vice President: L.L. “Mac” McKenzie, Treasurer: Ann Schipper, Secretary and Pete Zunitch, National Director.

Let’s Go Gourmet was the theme of the June 10th to 12th rally at Lake Chemung Outdoor Resort in Howell, Michigan. It started with dinner at a local restaurant Friday night followed by Mac McKenzie showing his slides from several of last year’s rallies and a couple of trips they had taken. Rain didn’t stop the steak roast with Kellerman’s marinade, a salad bar and hot rolls provided by Betty Bookout. The celebrating continued at the cakewalk.

A grill was offered to the GMC Clubs by McMullen RV Dealer (a GMC motorhome dealer) in Pontiac, MI. They wanted the local Club to have the first chance at it, so after George Schipper looked at it, the grill was acquired by the Great Lakers prior to the June rally and the Sextons donated a propane tank.

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 2 continued

Timber Shores at Northport, Michigan was the site of the Club's July rally. After dinner on Friday it was time to get acquainted with guests and new members at the campfire. It took until Saturday before all twenty-three coaches arrived. Saturday morning found the Dennis' preparing the best barbecue ever for the evening dinner. Helen Kellerman had prepared owl craft kits for the ladies and the little buggers made cork Hippies while Emmett Dennis slowly roasted the ribs on the grill. A lot of time was spent watching the ribs slowly turn to a juicy brown. Ed Kurtz relieved Emmett during the six hours they cooked...and finally...they were ready. The baked potatoes had been cooked in the coals of the barbecue and fifty-seven people sat down to enjoy all of this plus super salads and desserts.

The tables were cleared and a bingo game got under way. The game was frequently stopped to pick up rocks to use as markers. The game was run by Jim Kellerman, Ed Kurtz and Bill Helmore. The evening was topped off by Herb Lee's slides of the Groveland Oaks County Park rally.

Also, in July, FMCA held their Summer Convention at the Fairgrounds in Syracuse, New York. The convention was preceded by a GMC pre-convention rally at Verona Beach State Park near Syracuse. Nine Great Lakers met at the Silverdome in Pontiac for a caravan to Syracuse. In route the caravan picked up two coaches in Port Huron, Michigan and two more outside London, Ontario, Canada. Thursday night was spent at a campground east of Buffalo, New York where the rest of the seventeen Great Lakers met for the final leg to Verona Beach. This was a first for the GMC clubs since the park was a day use park and the GMCers were the first to stay overnight. The pre-convention rally was filled with games, seminars, food and service by area GMC dealers. The high point of this rally was the dinner-dance at Trinkaus Manor Restaurant Sunday night. All the GMCers boarded buses for the trip to and from the restaurant. On Monday the GMC Clubs caravanned to the FMCA convention site for their doings.

On the evening of July 23, 1977 the McDonnells informed those present of a major change in the National GMC Motorhome Owners organization. The change was that it would now be known as "The GMC Motorhome Owners Association, Incorporated" (GMC-MOA). The Association was not a part of FMCA and each GMC Club and its members were given the chance to belong to the GMC-MOA and/or the FMCA.

Three Braves Campground at Buchanan, Michigan was the site of the GMC Great Lakers August 13th to 15th rally. On Saturday a tour of the wine making area of Southwest Michigan was made. The Great Lakers toured a winery and sampled some Michigan wine.

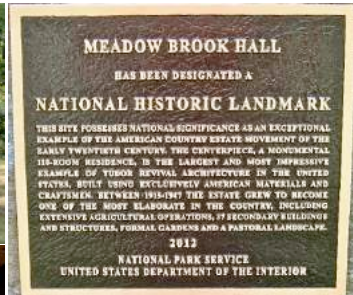
The September 9th to 11th rally was a special event in the Great Lakers history. For the first time three clubs got together for a rally. The GMC Great Lakers hosted the GMC Country and the GMC Western Reserve clubs of Ohio at Sunny's Campground in Wauseon, Ohio. About fifty (50) GMCs were parked in two rows, boy what a sight!

The Lappans and the Leopards entertained the Great Lakers in Alpena, Michigan with so much imagination and flair that the October rally is remembered as one of the biggest and best. The fall color that weekend was just beginning to peak. When we reached the turn off, the arrows, streamers and signs pointed the way to a ride through the deep woods. Signs posted on the trees told us that Las Vagus was just ahead. When we reached the clearing, there was a lodge and a cookhouse to house us during whatever weather came. Parking turned out not to be a problem, however we filled all available space. Saturday started with showers that lulled some into extra forty winks. The day was filled with games and visiting. There were tours of the Doctors Club by a four-wheel drive vehicle and everyone was amazed at the number of deer and other game. The supper of baked ham, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, deserts and salads was topped off with fresh, pre-buttered French bread. Paul Brace set up the movie screen and showed the sound and color film of the Nashville rally while the tables were cleared and the games setup. The dealers and pitmen arrived looking very professional in green eyeshades and enticed and encouraged us to play cards, dice, roulette, etc. with the \$50,000 all were given. The winnings were used in a blind auction for some nice prizes.

Submitted by Bill Helmore



AUGUST 2019 GREAT LAKERS RALLY AT GROVELAND OAKS COUNTY PARK, HOLLY, MI



ROAD TRAVEL TIDBITS

Submitted by Anonymous

The last time we were traveling in our coach, we saw many fields of corn. A lot of corn. So, the question arose, "What products are made from corn?" Well, let's find out.

These are some of the products:

Gas and Oil - ethanol and food oil

Gypsum Drywall - cornstarch helps to prevent mold

Adhesives - a good example is Elmer's glue

Cosmetics - skin care like hair care, facial makeup, lipstick, hair dyes, etc.

Fresh Vegetables - the protein zein, found in corn, helps to retard dehydration

Wax Paper - the wax coating is from zein

Bioengineered Bone and Gum Tissue - zein is electro spun into fibers

Splenda® and Equal™

Hand soap

Windex, varnish, matches, paving bricks coating

Coating on aspirin, an ingredient in toothpaste

Tires, molded plastics and jelly beans - corn starch is the helper

Spark Plugs - heated cornstarch hardens and helps insulates the ceramic in the plug

Diapers - the acrylic acid derived from ethylene is very absorbent

Animal feed - a large amount for cattle

Well, the next time I look at a field of corn, I will think of my lipstick and makeup.





Contact Joe Baumbarger for more details concerning this coach he has for sale at 419.832.5103.



favorite RECIPES

Zucchini Dish from Ann Weeks

2 - 6 oz. cans of tomato paste
1/2 can water (3 oz.)
1/2 can cooking oil (3 oz.)
1 tsp basil
1 tsp oregano
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp garlic salt
1 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced thin
Zucchini that has grown too much or whatever you have, sliced thin

Spray 9" x 9" dish with a cooking oil, i.e. PAM
Layer zucchini, sauce, cheese to fill the dish
Cover and bake at 350 degrees F for approximately 1 hour

Submitted by Sara Halley

SURVEY OF THE GMC GREAT LAKERS MEMBERS

GMC Great Lakers club member Ron Bolser will be chairing a committee to survey current Great Lakers members who have attended very few rallies. If you recall, the club conducted surveys in 2017 and 2014 for all members. The results of both of these surveys were presented to the membership and were published in club newsletters upon completion. This year's new phone based survey will only be contacting members who have attended very few rallies for their comments and recommendations. The purpose will be to gather information on what the club can do for these non-participating members. Ron is looking for a couple of volunteers to help him in these efforts this fall. If you are willing to help Ron, please contact him at rjbgmcmh@frontier.com or 765-965-7272.

Becky



All you can eat jumbo shrimp in Marine City Fish Company



The September 2019 rally held at Algonac state park included a total of 14 GMCs camping at various times.



Great Lakers Lunch Bunch at the Golden Corral in Port Gratiot. Over 30 members, former members and guests attended the lunch!



Watching the ships go by!

Photos by Joe Gillen, Steve Johnson and Becky Johnson
September 2019
Great Lakers rally at Algonac State Park, Marine City, Michigan



The FMCA 100th International Convention August 14 – 17, 2019

After driving for eight days across four states and 1,085 miles we arrived in Minot, North Dakota.

There were board meetings on Monday, Tuesday, and the main meeting on Wednesday. There was a lot of discussion on the budget and the fact that FMC Assist was dropped because of the cost. It would create a \$378,452 deficit. Seven Corners told FMCA to expect a 15 to 20% increase in premiums. Then came back with a 73.3% increase, as a result of Seven Corners changing how they assess premium costs. In the past they were using a claim loss ratio to determine pricing, but are now adding in overhead and indirect costs, and told FMCA to take it or leave it. The board members wanted to keep FMC Assist and voted to keep it. Then, voted to increase dues \$25, to \$75.00 per year (renewing members) to pay for it. Then voted to limit the number of years you can pay dues in advance to three (3).

Another major issue was the purchase of new software from PROTECH to replace the 5-year-old Elan system at a cost of \$285,000. It was voted on and passed.

Another item was about the area vice president's responsibilities. They are required to obtain a copy of all FMCA club tax filings and notifications within 30 days of the filing or notification. Each club must give FMCA a copy of their federal IRS tax return. There were about 50 items requiring a vote. I have the book if anyone wants to review the topics and items discussed.

Pet safety, Nimble Wireless and the Youth Activities program were dropped.

The following national officers were elected or re-elected:

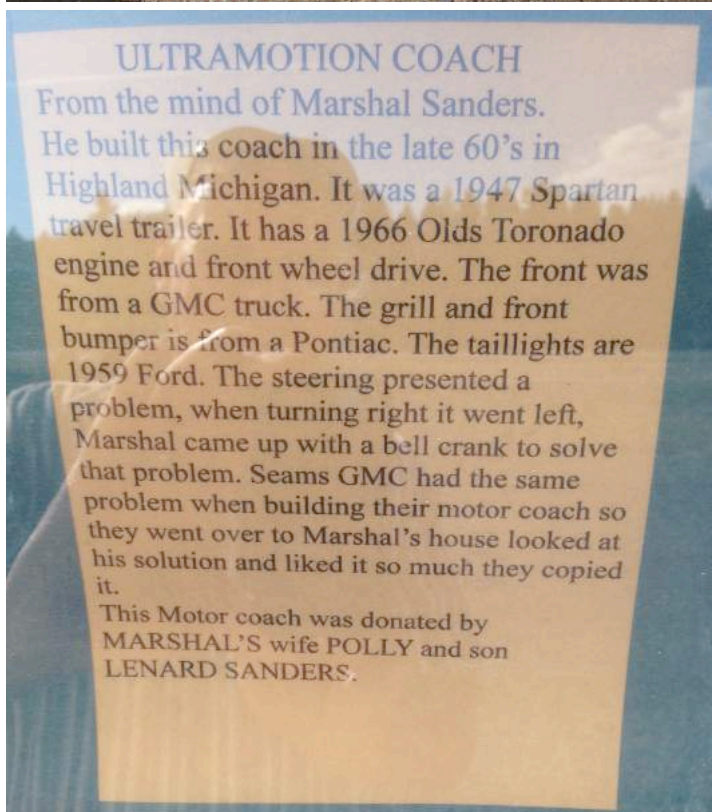
John Walker was re-elected National president, Rett Porter was re-elected National vice president, Katie Balogh was elected National secretary and, John Reynolds was re-elected National Treasurer.

We visited the Square Lake Sewage Lagoon, listed in the Minot Visitors Guide and discovered the attraction of the sewage lagoon is bird watching.

We also visited a museum in Polson, Montana that has the first front wheel drive motorhome powered

by a 1966 Olds Toronado engine. The body is a 1947 Spartan travel trailer with a fabricated GMC truck front end. The rear wheels are the tandem wheels from the trailer. They claim GMC looked at the steering when General Motors was building the GMC motorhomes.

Merle and JoAnn Carpenter





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	Halleys, Hamptons, Wilsons
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 9 – 15		Algonac State Park 8732 River Road Marine City, Michigan 48039 Tel: 810.765.5605 On line reservations http://www.midnrreservations.com	Do Nothing Rally
October 4 - 10		GMCFMI Fall Convention Richland County Fairgrounds Mansfield, Ohio	GMCFMI

GMCFMI Conventions		
October 4 – 10, 2019	Celebrating GMC Flyers	Richland County Fairgrounds Mansfield, Ohio
April 17 – 23, 2020	Mardi Gras	Patterson Area Civic Center Patterson, Louisiana

	Financial Report	
	September 2019	
Starting Balance:	\$	8,847.23
Revenue:	\$	1,650.00
Expenses:	\$	158.76
Ending Balance:	\$	10,338.47



Get well cards have been sent to these individuals:

Dennis Carter

A sympathy card was sent to Kara Kosier and family

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

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet? **SUPPLIES!**

~

I love you more than yesterday....
Yesterday you got on my nerves.

~

I had a hen that could count her own eggs.
She was a mathemachicken.

~

Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression,
Acceptance.... THE FIVE STAGES OF
WAKING UP

~

MOMSTER: what happens to mom after
she counts to three

~

So apparently RSVP'ing back to a wedding
invite "maybe next time" isn't the correct
response

~

Someone stole my lamp....I was delighted.

~

A guy just threw milk at me...How Dairy!





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

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