

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 45 Issue 1 February 2020



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! The GMC Great Lakers club is getting ready to begin its 44th camping season.

We already have four rallies on the 2020 calendar. First on the calendar will be the Great Lakers Birthday Rally to be held at Camp Dearborn in Milford, Michigan, a northwest suburb of Detroit. Milford has both a village and a larger surrounding township. The village of Milford was incorporated in 1869 and has a lot of history with many local shops and restaurants. Camp Dearborn is located just west of the village and was founded in 1948 by the mayor of the city of Dearborn, Michigan as a summer vacation camp for the boys and girls of Dearborn. The General Motors Milford Proving Grounds is also located in Milford Township not far from Camp Dearborn.

This year the Great Lakers club will be paying rally fees for the May rally! That's right – you will not need to pay a rally fee, however, you will need to pay your own campsite fees. This Free Rally is for current club members only! If you know a GMC owner who would like to join us at the May rally, all they need to do is join our Great Lakers club!

Great Lakers members who are still FMCA members have the individual option to attend the annual GLAMA rally in June in Allegan, Michigan, even though this rally is not part of the Great Lakers rally schedule. For more info about the GLAMA rally go to the FMCA website or the Family RVing magazine. The club is still looking for club rally site for July. If you have any campground ideas, please contact club Vice President Nancy Donaghue at 248-933-0546. This is your chance to have a club rally held near you!

You'll notice a few club changes as we start the 2020 as well. We now have three Directors at Large, since the Great Lakers are no longer an FMCA chapter. Unfortunately, Marv Miller had to step down from the Great Lake Board as a Director at Large at the end of 2019. We have appreciated and thank Marv for his role on the Great Lakers Board. In his place, the Board appointed John Shotwell to serve out the remainder of Marv's term of office.

As an independent nonprofit social club, the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club board has obtained club insurance. As per a suggestion by our insurance agency, the club is requesting that all Great Lakers members who participate in club rallies sign a Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement. Many other organizations have such agreements, including FMCA chapter clubs. You will be asked to sign this form as part of Great Lakers club rallies this year.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you a rally this year! Start getting your GMC motorhome ready now so you won't miss out on any 2020 Great Lakers rallies!

Becky

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC.

Becky Johnson, President
GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club
681 Milford Farms Court
Milford, MI 48381

January 15, 2020

Jon Walker,
FMCA National President
8291 Clough Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Dear Jon,

The GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club has been a chapter within FMCA for over 40 years. Over these past 40 years many changes have occurred both within FMCA and within the GMC Great Lakers organizations. Our club's purpose and focus has shifted as our vehicles have aged from modern recreational vehicles to antique classics. This letter is to formally notify FMCA that the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club is terminating our chapter affiliation with FMCA effective January 1, 2020.

When our chapter and GMC motorhomes were fairly new, the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club (GMC GL) recognized that FMCA met the needs of our chapter and its members. While some GMC motorhome owners continue to join the GMC GL, we find they join primarily for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and history about the GMC Motorhome. Because recreational travel and modern recreational vehicles/ services are not the primary interest in joining the GMC GL, many GMC Motorhome owners who are potential club members choose to not join our club due to the current FMCA membership requirement. Many of our members recognize the individual member benefits associated with being a member of FMCA. However, the FMCA membership requirement is adversely affecting our club membership. When the FMCA governing body voted to implement a 50% dues increase from a \$50 renewal to a \$75 renewal, we had clear indications that many of our current GMC GL club members would drop their Great Lakers membership.

With this large percentage increase in FMCA membership dues and the concern on the adverse impact on club membership, the GMC Great Lakers Board recommended that our club membership vote on whether to stay as a chapter of FMCA or to leave FMCA. Following the procedures outlined in the GMC GL bylaws, ballots were mailed to all members. With votes cast by 77% of the club's total members, 92% of the votes were in favor of the club leaving FMCA. Revised GMC GL bylaws were approved on November 30, 2019 which eliminated our club member requirement to also have a FMCA membership. Amended Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Michigan and became effective December 5, 2019, which also eliminate the requirement of GMC GL members to have a current FMCA membership.

We continue to encourage our club members to decide for themselves if an FMCA individual membership is right for them. However, with the overwhelming majority of the GMC GL members voting to no longer require our club members to also have a FMCA membership, our club has terminated its chapter affiliation with FMCA effective January 1, 2020. Please let me know if there is any other documentation you need from our club.

Sincerely,

Becky Johnson

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, President
CC: Les Naylor, FMCA National Vice President Great Lakes Area
Penny Gortemiller, FMCA Director Chapter Services & Governance
Bea Newman, GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club Secretary

**FAMILY
MOTOR
COACH
ASSOCIATION**

January 17, 2020

Becky Johnson
GMC Great Lakers
681 Milford Farms Ct
Milford, MI 48381

Dear Becky:

Your chapter's request to dissolve has been received and processed. Your chapter has been officially dissolved.

If your chapter should choose to re-activate any time in the future, you will need to contact the Chapter Services Department and they will guide you through the easy steps to re-activate.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION

Kaitlyn Krol

Kaitlyn Krol
Chapter Services Coordinator





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 6 – 9	Birthday Rally	Camp Dearborn 1700 General Motors Rd. Milford, Michigan 48380 Tel: 248.684.6000	Executive Board
June 17 – 20	GLAMA Rally	Allegan County Fairground 150 Allegan Co. Fair Drive Allegan, Michigan 49010 Tel: 269.673.6501	MUST BE A FMCA MEMBER TO ATTEND
July	TO BE DETERMINED	LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO HOST THIS RALLY	
August 20 – 23		Addison Oaks County Park 1480 West Romeo Road Leonard, Michigan 48367 Tel: 248.693.2432	Nancy and Peter Donaghue
September 13 – 20		Algonac State Park 8732 River Road Marine City, Michigan 48039 Tel: 810.765.5605	Do Nothing Rally
October 15 – 18		Camp Turkeyville RV Resort 18935 15 ½ Mile Road Marshall, Michigan 49068 Tel: 269.781.4293	Rich and Venjeana Foerster

GMCCI Conventions

April 17 – 23, 2020	CANCELED	Patterson Area Civic Center Patterson, Louisiana
September 18 – 24, 2020	Black Hills Adventures	Central States Fairgrounds Rapid City, South Dakota

GMC GREAT LAKERS 44TH BIRTHDAY RALLY

Wed. May 6, 2020 – Sat. May 9, 2020 (option to stay thru Sun. May 10th)
Camp Dearborn – Milford, Michigan

Located just west of the village of Milford, Michigan, the GMC Great Lakers have reserved 30 full hookup sites (water, sewer, 50 amp electric) for our group at Camp Dearborn in Milford, MI. Campsite fees of \$35/night include park entrance for your GMC motorhome and tow car.

Camping Fees:

You must make your own campsite reservations and pay Camp Dearborn directly for your site. To secure one of the 30 Great Lakers campsites, call Mary Lynn at 248-684-600, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Ask for one of the GMC Great Lakers reserved sites Nos. 69-72, and 82-107. Please Note Camp Dearborn's Cancellation Policy – *All cancellations will forfeit one night of the reservation. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made the day the reservation starts or anytime during the stay. Name changes are considered a cancellation.*

Rally Registration:

You MUST pre-register to attend this rally. The GMC Great Lakers Club is paying all Rally fees for this year's Birthday Rally. Free Rally fees are included for 2 Great Lakers members (including children under 12 years old) per site. **This rally is for Members Only.** Any GMC Motorhome owner who is not a member may elect to join the GMC Great Lakers Club in order to attend this rally.

Please list the names of all adults and children on your reservation so the club has an accurate headcount for food. Additional Adult Guests (on your campsite) will be \$30 per person.

Tentative Camp Dearborn Rally schedule:

Wednesday, May 6, 2020: Check-In no earlier than 1:00 PM
5:00 PM Great Lakers Social* at Rally Host campsite – Bring an appetizer to share

Thursday, May 7, 2020: 8:00 AM Coffee & Continental Breakfast*
Explore Village of Milford for rest of the day

Friday, May 8, 2020: 8:00 AM Coffee & Continental Breakfast*
Frank Traverna, Manager, General Motors Milford Proving Ground presentation
Karl Gross, former GMC Motorhome Engineer (1973-1978) presentation
5:00 PM Great Lakers Club catered dinner at Camp Dearborn Chalet
Club Business Meeting (following dinner)

Saturday, May 9, 2020: 8:00 AM Coffee & Continental Breakfast*
Rally Officially Ends - Check-Out at 12:00 Noon

Sunday, May 10, 2020 - Optional Extra Day – No Club Rally activities

***NOTE – Great Lakers are going Green! Please bring your own plates, utensils, and cups!!**

For more information about Camp Dearborn, go to www.campdearborn.com

GMC Great Lakers May 6 – 9, 2020 (option thru May 10th)
Rally Registration Form
Camp Dearborn – Milford, Michigan

You MUST pre-register to attend this rally: Deadline April 21, 2020.

Member Name: _____

Member Name: _____

Email Contact: _____ Cell Phone No. _____

Child Name(s) _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Rally Fees:

Up to two members including children under the age of 12 in motorhome ---FREE----- \$ __0.00__

Each Additional Guest in Motorhome @ \$30 each \$ _____

TOTAL RALLY FEES: \$ _____

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

Mail Registration Form and Check by April 21, 2020 to:

Becky Johnson
681 Milford Farms Court
Milford, MI 48381
Email: BeckySteveJ@aol.com

Questions call or email: Cell: 248-343-73636

Please indicate the following:

I am a new member; attending my first club rally YES or NO

I am staying at Camp Dearborn until Sunday, May 10th YES or NO

I/we hereby waive, release and discharge any and all claims for damage for personal injury, death or property damage which I/we may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me/us, as a result of participation in this rally. This release is intended to discharge in advance the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, its officers, Rally hosts, volunteers and agents from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my/our participation in activities at this club rally even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of those parties. It is understood that activities such as the ones I/we may be participating in involve an element of risk and danger of accidents and knowing those risks, I/we hereby assume those risks. It is further agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assigns. I/we agree to indemnify and to hold harmless, the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, its officers, Rally hosts, volunteers and agents from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as the result of my/our death or any injury or property damage that I/we may sustain while participating in any activity at this Rally. It is my express intent that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse (if any) as well as any guests, including children that accompany me/us.

IN SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I/WE have read the above Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it and sign it voluntarily.

Member Signature/Date (Required)

Member Signature/Date (Required)

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 4

1979 The Year of the Trailer

The Club's first Annual Birthday Party was held at the Hilton Inn in Lansing, Michigan the weekend of January 20th to celebrate the Clubs third birthday. A dinner was held Saturday night at Longs Restaurant where the new officers were installed and certificates of service were given to the past officers who were present. The officers for this year were: Ed Kurtz, President; Jerry Kamm, First Vice President; Jim Lappan Second Vice President; Ennett Dennis, Third Vice President; Jim Kellerman, Treasurer; Ray Gamble, Secretary; Virgil Barbe, National Director and Clint Long, Alternate National Director.

Ed Kurtz was the moving force behind the purchase of the trailer, tent and the bingo game we all enjoy. The trailer was a welcome addition to our equipment as it allowed for all of the Clubs equipment to be stored and transported from rally to rally. An assessment of \$15.00 per coach was collected from most of the 66 club members for the purchase of the trailer from Wells Cargo, Inc. of Elkhart, Indiana. The trailer was purchased at a cost of \$988.00 in time to be used for the August rally.

The 1979 camping season was kicked off with a return to Kings Island the weekend of April 20th. Twenty-three (23) Great Lakers families enjoyed a weekend of rides, shows and a potluck dinner Saturday night. The Club picked up the tab for a Sunday morning breakfast, at the campground restaurant, of 2 pieces of bacon, 2 eggs, 2 pieces of toast and coffee, all for \$0.49.

The May rally, held May 11th at Washakie Recreation Area, was attended by twenty-eight (28) coaches. The hosts planned a spaghetti dinner for Saturday night. On Sunday a pancake breakfast was followed by a Sunday service that was presided over by George Schipper. The group was served leftover spaghetti for lunch before all departed for home.

Two dozen, 24 coaches made their way to Cedar Springs Campground on the banks of the Rifle River the weekend of June 8th. The groups canoed down the river on Saturday and at 4 pm were served canapés followed by a dinner at 6 of ham and potatoes. The rally was closed by a pancake breakfast and a worship service on Sunday morning.

Pioneer Park in Muskegon was the site of the July rally. Again the hosts planned a fish boil, which included potatoes and onions for Saturday night. After dinner, the hosts awarded prizes for various reasons and it was absolutely hilarious. The bingo set was pulled out and was played until dark at which time home movies (video) of past Club outings were shown.

The Club gathered at Uhrick's RV Park just north of Charlevoix, Michigan in August for the Art Fair. The group played golf at the adjacent course and went into town for the Art Fair Saturday. The evening meal was an ox roast with au gratin potatoes, sweet-buttered corn and the Club's famous chefs filled in with salads and desserts. Bingo started at 8 PM with prizes followed by skits performed by the GMC Great Lakers "Actors Guild". This was the first trip for the Club's new trailer that was purchased by President Ed Kurtz.

Twenty-six (26) coaches attended September in the woods at the Doctor's Hunting Club near Alpena, Michigan. Some of the fellows were off to a local golf course while those who stayed behind enjoyed games and walking through the woods. Saturday the Alpena Kentucky Fried Chicken people catered the night's dinner. Later in the evening, bingo was played and prizes awarded.

The Four Seasons Camp in Midland, Michigan was the site of the October rally. The Great Lakers

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 4 (continued)

participated in a bowling tournament, swam in the indoor pool or enjoyed the hot tub. A sit down dinner was scheduled for 7 pm at the Captain Nemo Dining Room of the Ramada Inn, which was a short walk from the camping area.

The dinner was an event in itself; first, a salad with assorted dressings, served with hot bread and butter. Then, Swiss steak with baked potatoes and sour cream. Next...while we lay stuffed in our chairs, there entered a lovely hostess who dimmed the lights and set the cherries and brandy aflame and served them over vanilla ice cream as cherries jubilee. While the adults were having a great meal at the Ramada, the younger folks were having pizza at the adjacent pizza parlor.

It was at the October rally that the Club's name was changed to "GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club." This was in line with the results of a survey, which showed that a great majority of the members wanted to go independent. Those present voted to abolish the requirement that a member join an outside organization to be eligible to hold office in this club. Each member was free to join a national organization if they wished but it was not mandatory to do so.

Submitted by Bill Helmore

2019 SURVEY RESULTS

In the October 2019 GMC Great Lakers newsletter Ron Bolser volunteered to chair a committee to contact club members who have not been active participants in the club for their comments and recommendations as to what the club can do to make them active members. The team of Dale Ropp, Dick Serreyn and Ron found the conversations with the survey respondents interesting and a few indicated they would try to attend a rally in 2020. Since this group is large in number, Ron is optimistic we can find a way to attract them to attend some rallies. Maybe we have to accept that a number of members will be absent. In summary:

The members contacted were positive about the club, their coach and their relationship with the club.

A few of the reasons for not attending current rallies were: wife passed away; high family priorities; distance to the rallies too far; coach and driver too old and do not trust either one; coach not road ready; still working; and children's sport activities.

So the reasons were very understandable. Maybe the club has to find a way to increase the personal perceived **VALUE** received from attending a rally.

There were a few of these contacted members who participated with other GMC owners, non Great Lakers members, in some camping outings. These were social gatherings.

Everybody loves the newsletter. This was everyone's comment.

Approximately one third of our membership is in this category.

Perhaps the Great Lakers club needs to have some brainstorming sessions to explore how to increase rally participation of the inactive members.

Submitted by Ron Bolser

ODDS AND ENDS

So if a redhead goes crazy, is it called Ginger snaps?

If money doesn't grow on trees, then why do banks have branches?

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

A backwards poet writes inverse.

Dear Life, When I say, "things could not get any worse", is **NOT** a challenge.

Dear Algebra, Please stop asking us to find your X. She's not coming back.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look at yourself in the mirror and think, "that can't be accurate."

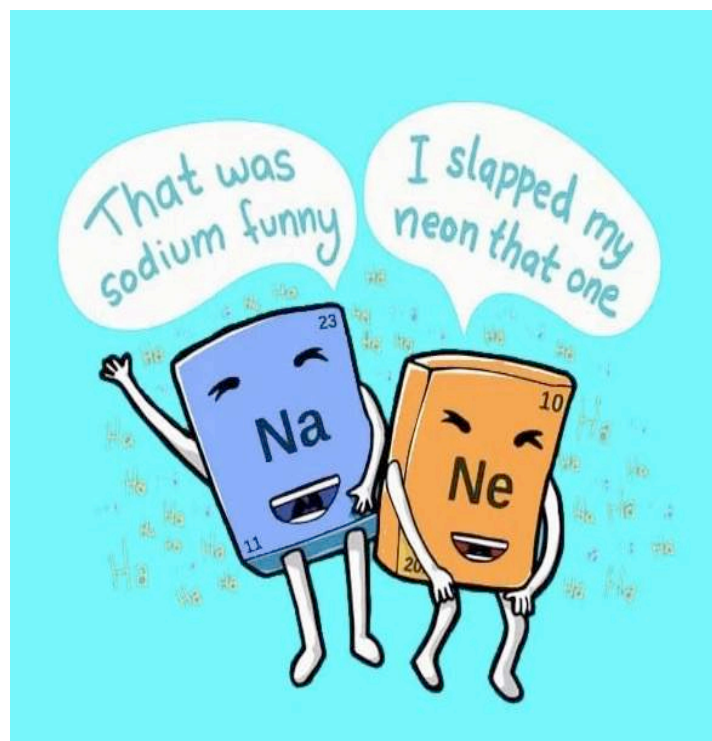
When life gives you lemons, ask for salt and tequila.

People in sleeping bags...are the soft tacos of the bear world.

Pilates? I thought you said pie and lattes.

What do we learn from cows, buffaloes and elephants? It's impossible to reduce weight by eating green grass and salads and walking.

CHEMIST HUMOR



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 must be current in their Great Laker dues. Club dues are 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.



Get well cards have been sent to these individuals:

Mary Lenzi

Sympathy cards have been sent to the families of:

Bea and Jerry Newman

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



2020 Club Officers and Staff

President

Becky Johnson

Telephone: 248.933.7636

Email: president@gmcgreatlakers.org

Vice President

Nancy Donaghue

Telephone: 248.873.0546

Email: vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org

Secretary

Bea Newman

Telephone: 513.919.2026

Email: secretary@gmcgreatlakers.org

Treasurer

Melissa Koenig

Telephone: 810.599.4123

Email: treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org

Director at Large

Merle Carpenter

Telephone: 616.560.3369

Email: dir_at_large_2@gmcgreatlakers.org

Director at Large

John Shotwell

Telephone: 419.267.5140

Email: dir_at_large_3@gmcgreatlakers.org

Director at Large

Margi Baumbarger

Telephone: 419.832.5103

Email: dir_at_large_1@gmcgreatlakers.org

Sunshine and Rainbows

Debra Pryzbylek

Telephone: 419.825.5259

Email: sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org

Membership Chair and Webmaster

Steve Johnson

Telephone: 248.378.3177

Email: webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org

Club Historian

Bill Helmore

Telephone: 248.375.1777

Email: historian@gmcgreatlakers.org

Newsletter Editor

John Pryzbylek

Telephone: 419.490.3835

Email: newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org



The first rally held in the United States.



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