

# GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 45

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June 2020



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Did you know that new dictionary words are often the result of major events? Sometimes people forget or aren't even aware of the origin of these words. For example, there are several words we use in our language today that came from World War II acronyms. Our word radar comes from "Radio Detection and Ranging", and sonar is short for "Sound Navigation and Ranging". Even the word Jeep is widely thought to be derived from the letters "G.P." emblazoned on the side of each general-purpose vehicle used during WWII. My favorite word from WWII language is snafu (or SNAFU). I had no idea that the word snafu was an acronym for "Situation Normal: All F\*#!ed Up".

The Coronavirus has also brought us several new words and acronyms. "Infodemic" is the excessive amount of information especially concerning the Coronavirus, such that understanding is made more difficult. "Social Distancing" is limiting face-to-face contact by physically distancing one's self. "WFH" almost seems like an acronym for a swear word, but it

stands for "Working From Home". "Pandemic or Quarantine Fatigue" is emotional or physical fatigue, irritability or impatience due to experiencing so much change and unpredictability during the pandemic. "Covexit" is the strategy for exiting quarantine at home. And a "covidiot" is someone who ignores public health advice about the Coronavirus.

With that being said, I hope all of you are sorting through the Infodemic around us, practicing safe Social Distancing, are planning your Covexit cautiously, and haven't suffered too much Pandemic Fatigue. Whatever you do, please don't become a Covidiot! Until a vaccine is readily available, let us all continue doing what we need to do to lower our risks of contracting the Coronavirus!

Becky

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### Attention!!

### 2021 Dues Update

The Board has voted that since no club rallies have yet been held this year, your 2020 Great Lakers Club dues will be automatically applied to your 2021 dues renewal. You will not need to do anything to continue your Great Lakers membership for 2021.

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Mark your calendars now for the 2020 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	<b>CANCELED</b>
June 17 – 20	GLAMA Rally	Allegan County Fairground 150 Allegan Co. Fair Drive Allegan, Michigan 49010 Tel: 269.673.6501	<b>CANCELED</b>
July	TO BE DETERMINED		<b>CANCELED</b>
August 20 – 23		Addison Oaks County Park 1480 West Romeo Road Leonard, Michigan 48367 Tel: 248.693.2432	<b>CANCELED</b>
September 13 – 20		Algonac State Park 8732 River Road Marine City, Michigan 48039 Tel: 810.765.5605	<b>Do Nothing Rally NOT A GMC GREAT LAKER HOSTED RALLY</b>
October 15 – 18		Camp Turkeyville RV Resort 18935 15 ½ Mile Road Marshall, Michigan 49068 Tel: 269.781.4293	<b>NOT A GMC GREAT LAKER HOSTED RALLY</b>

**GMCMCI Conventions**

April 16 – 22, 2021	Cajun Crazy Celebration	Patterson Area Civic Center Patterson, Louisiana
September 18 – 24, 2020	<b>CANCELED</b>	Central States Fairgrounds Rapid City, South Dakota

## 2020 Rally Season Update

In a normal year, our club members enjoy lots of socializing at Great Lakers rallies. We have first rally night potluck snacks we share. We enjoy early morning coffee hour with breakfast foods each day of a rally. We enjoy getting together for group meals (sometimes every day) – catered or homemade.

The best thing about Great Lakers rallies is all of the time we spend together eating, talking, sharing, touring, and kibitzing with one another.

But 2020 is not a normal year, with the unexpected impact of the Coronavirus. All of us have spent months sheltering in place, in order to avoid unknown exposures while trying to help the health care systems from being overwhelmed. The Great Lakers club is affected by the Coronavirus as well.

### What are the Coronavirus facts?

- The virus is still around us today. It has not gone away.
- The virus is spread mainly from person-to-person contact through respiratory droplets.
- Individuals who are not showing any symptoms of the virus can spread the virus.
- Michigan has been and still is a virus 'hot spot' in the country.
- There currently is no vaccine to protect us against the virus and won't be one for quite awhile.

### What are the CDC (Center for Disease Control) advisories?

- Everyone should avoid large group gatherings.
- When in contact with others, maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing.
- Eliminate buffet style food service, self serve food, and self serve drinks.
- Individuals travelling risk transmitting the virus to others outside of their communities and risk being infected and bringing the virus back to their own community.
- **Older people or those with serious underlying medical conditions are at the highest risk to becoming seriously ill if they contract the virus. It is advised to reduce their risks (such as staying home if possible), until enough people have immunity to the virus. Most of the Great Lakers members fall into this category.**

Based on CDC advisories and what Great Lakers rallies are all about, the Great Lakers Board has discussed what this means for 2020 rallies. I have researched the CDC advisories, recommendations from WHO (World Health Organization), and have even consulted with our former parent organization, FMCA, about what to do regarding club rallies. A new document for 2020 on the FMCA website states in part, "All attendees to a Rally are advised that if they are age 65 or over, or have any health risks such as asthma, heart problems, chronic lung or kidney disease, diabetes, compromised immune system, liver disease, or server obesity, they are at greater risk of serious illness or death if they contract COVID-19. **Any individual with any of these ailments or conditions are advised not to attend a Rally**".

The Board has agreed that there is a very high risk to both our club and to our individual members if we meet together at a club rally at this point in time. **Thus, the Board has voted to cancel the August rally at Addison Oaks County Park in Leonard, Michigan. The October 2020 Great Lakers Club rally viability will be decided on in a few months, based on updated CDC advisories.**

## What can Great Lakers members do now?

- Camping and RV travel is considered low risk, when going by yourselves or with your family.
- Continue to practice social distancing, sanitizing, and wearing facemasks to protect yourself anywhere you go outside your home.
- Camp in your GMC at your local recreational facilities, in order to avoid added risks from outside your community.
- Find and share campground information with Nancy Donaghue (club VP) about locations for potential 2021 rallies.

Many, many activities all around us have been cancelled, as well as routine group gatherings. Returning back to normal for all of us must be done with extreme caution, especially at club hosted rallies. Let's hope and pray that the continued efforts of health experts will result in a proven vaccine against the virus before next year's 2021 Great Lakers rally season. In the meantime, enjoy your GMC on your own, stay healthy, and stay safe.

Becky

## THE GREAT LAKERS SONG

Lyrics by Celia Krieg

1. Rol - ling down the highway In a G M Mo - tor Coach  
2. Pot - luck sup - pers catered meals Ice Cream what a treat !

Glen - brook Palm - Beach Royale Paint - ed Des - ert too  
We're al - most to our rally site, Our friends are there to greet, Get  
Co - ca Co - la Canyon Lands, And ma - ny ma - ny more, We're  
rea - dy for a hug or two Our hearts are beat - ing fast It  
going to meet our spe - cial friends, As we have done be - fore, Oh,  
won't be long un - til we're there And then we'll have a blast, Oh,

**CHORUS:** Great Lak - ers Great Lak - ers That - is who we are  
Roll - ing Rall - ies are such fun, We tra - vel near and fa - r  
Dom - in - os card games too, Or just to sit and share  
News a - bout our ma - ny friends And those who won't be there.

## **GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 6**

### **1981 BACK IN THE FMCA FOLD**

The Annual Birthday Rally was held the weekend of January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Jackson, Michigan. At the business meeting the new officers were installed. They are: Virgil Barbe, President; Dennis Esper, Vice President; Bill Helmore, Treasurer; Shirley Davis, Secretary and Ron Kirkland, National Director. Bob Staub became Vice President when Dennis Esper did not rejoin the Club because of the sale of his motorhome. As the year begins the Club has seventy-three (73) members.

The GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club was rechartered with FMCA on March 10<sup>th</sup> per a vote of the membership last year.

In May of this year Red Holman GMC of Westland, Michigan extended an offer of a discount program to GMC Motorhome owners, this program was called “The Red Holman GMC Motorhome 10-15 Club.” It offers a 10% discount on service and 15% discount on parts at Red Holman GMC Co. There were no membership fees or club dues, it was free. The GMC Great Lakers members were the first GMCers to be offered this savings opportunity.

Chalk up another great rally for the GMC Great Lakers at the Duke Creek KOA in Cedar Springs the weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday all experienced some good food, a day of warmth and sunshine, a shopping trip to Rockford and plenty of time for relaxing, renewing old friendships and meeting some of the Club’s new members.

The GMC Great Lakers vanity plate became available through the treasurer at rallies or by mail. The plastic plates are white background with blue lettering.

In addition to the Club’s regular rallies, about a dozen Great Lakers took in the GLASS (Great Lakes Area Spring Spree) rally at Centreville, Michigan over the Memorial weekend. This is a regional FMCA rally hosted by the Michigan Knights of the Highway, a chapter of FMCA also. These folks are gangbusters at knowing how to really put on a rally. There was always something going on, it seems like, from catered meals to every imaginable type of entertainment. Many of the FMCA commercial members set up displays of motorhomes, rv supplies and crafts.

For the June rally, it’s off to Cedar Point’s Camp Village in Sandusky, Ohio. Do to the nature of this rallies activities no meal on Saturday was planned, however the coffee pots were kept going with donuts on Saturday morning. It was felt that so many of the members will be “doing their thing” at the park that most of the members would not want to take the time to come back for a potluck or whatever, plus they’ll probably be too “stuffed” from all the “goodies” available at the park to really want to “get into” a big meal. In the park itself there are several stage shows, exhibits, crafts, a seaquarium show, as well as rides of all kinds.

The fourth annual “fun in the sun” summer rally was held July 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer Park north of Muskegon, Michigan. There was sunning, swimming, boating, golfing plus just plain old relaxation on the shores of Lake Michigan. A catered meal of barbecue chicken, barbecue ribs, potato salad, baked beans, fruit salad, rolls and butter plus for desert was served Saturday evening.

Christmas in August was the theme of the August rally at the Frankenmuth RV Park in Frankenmuth, Michigan. All attendees received a goody bag full of all kinds of neat stuff,

exchanged Christmas gifts, sang Christmas carols and even had a visit from jolly old St. Nick. Saturday's evening meal was a traditional holiday meal of roast turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, all the trimmings and a wide selection of desserts. Some of the members really went out in decorating their coaches in the Christmas spirit. In the judging, Bob Sovis won a GMC Motorhome hot wheel as first prize. At the business meeting it was announced that the new bylaws were approved and were officially in effect.

At the August rally many members had their Michelin blackwalls turned into whitewalls. Bob Sovis made all the arrangements for this operation to be performed for a fee of \$6.00 per tire.

For the September rally it was off to the races at the Juniper Hills Campground, which is within walking distance to the Michigan International Speedway near Brooklyn, Michigan. This year the race was held on Sunday and a few members went over about noon. The traditional Saturday evening potluck dinner and pancake breakfast on Sunday morning were big hits.

The Oktoberfest rally in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada was held the weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup>. The campsite was located at the Ski Chalet just to the east of the Bingeman Park entrance. Saturday the group took in many of the town's activities that were topped off with a dinner dance at Marshall Hall in Bingeman Park. The members danced, sang to the oom pah pah bands and enjoyed German foods and beer.

Submitted by Bill Helmore

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## OH LORD IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE

Words by Don Perry

GMC Cascaders

1990 GMC Western States Rally

OH LORD IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE  
WHEN YOU TRAVEL THE GMC WAY  
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER EACH MORNING  
SHE GETS BETTER LOOKING EACH DAY.  
TO OWN ONE IS TO LOVE ONE,  
WHAT A HECK OF A WAY TO ROAM  
OH LORD IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE  
IN MY GMC MOTORHOME

OH YES I USED TO HAVE MONEY  
FOR TRAVEL TO FAR AWAY LANDS  
BUT NOW I SPEND ALL MY PAYCHECK  
FOR AIRBAGS, COMPRESSORS AND FANS  
TO OWN ONE IS TO FIX ONE  
AND PAY OFF MANY A LOAN  
BUT LORDY, I STILL LOVE IT  
MY GMC MOTORHOME

## Nominating Committee - 2021 Election Update

In an ordinary year, the Great Lakers Nominating committee (Dolph Santorine, Jerry Newman, Joe Gillen) would be spending time at rallies talking with members about the upcoming club elections held near the end of the camping season. And normally, members who are considering joining the Board have opportunities to sit down and talk with the Nominating committee and also Board members about what being on the Board is all about. Since we are not having a rally in August, and the Algonac rally in September is for members camping on their own, there will not be any opportunities for the club to be together prior to any elections.

***In fact, 2020 may turn out to be ‘the year that wasn’t’!*** It’s quite possible that our October rally may not be a club rally, but instead will be a situation where any club member, who desires to be on their own, camps at Camp Turkeyville RV Resort in Marshall, Michigan on the designated club dates. The CDC advisories will determine if the risks have been eliminated that would permit the club to host the October rally. With the possibility of no 2020 club rallies, it is as if the Great Lakers 2020 Rally season didn’t exist.

**The Nominating committee has recommended to the Great Lakers Board, that with the highly unusual circumstances in 2020 due to the Coronavirus, that the club suspend all term limits for current Board members, and repeat everyone’s role in 2021.** As Dolph Santorine said, “2020 is a mulligan year!”.

The Board unanimously agreed to bring this recommendation to the club members. By the time the 2021 Rally season begins, we are hopeful the world will be closer to being back to normal, that a Coronavirus vaccine will be readily available, and enough people will be immune to the virus. Our goal is for the club to do in 2021 what we had originally planned for 2020. All current Board members have agreed to serve an additional year in 2021, in their positions. **In order to implement the above Nominating committee recommendation, we need your approval. With your approval, the current Board members will keep their same roles next year.**

**Please return your vote to Great Lakers Nominating Committee member Jerry Newman no later than August 1, 2020. You may email him directly at [newmysr@gmail.com](mailto:newmysr@gmail.com), or mail him this completed form (3754 South Berkley Circle, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236). Be sure to include your own name so we can verify your vote.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to keep all current Board members in their current roles for 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I want the club to hold a regular election for Board members for 2021.

Member name (your name): \_\_\_\_\_

## ODDS AND ENDS

A panda walks into a bar and gobbles some beer nuts. Then he pulls out a gun, fires it in the air, and heads for the door. "Hey!" shouts the bartender but the panda yells back, "I'm a panda. Google me!" Sure enough, panda: "A tree-climbing mammal with distinct black-and-white coloring. Eats shoots and leaves."

~

Doctor Jones likes to stop at a bar after work and enjoy an almond daiquiri. One day, Dick the bartender runs out of almonds and uses hickory nuts instead. The doctor takes a sip and says, "Is this an almond daiquiri, Dick?" And Dick says, "It's a hickory daiquiri, Doc."

~

A mushroom walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender tells him to get out. The mushroom says, "Why? I'm a fun-guy."

~

**Q:** Why should you never date tennis players? **A:** Love means nothing to them.

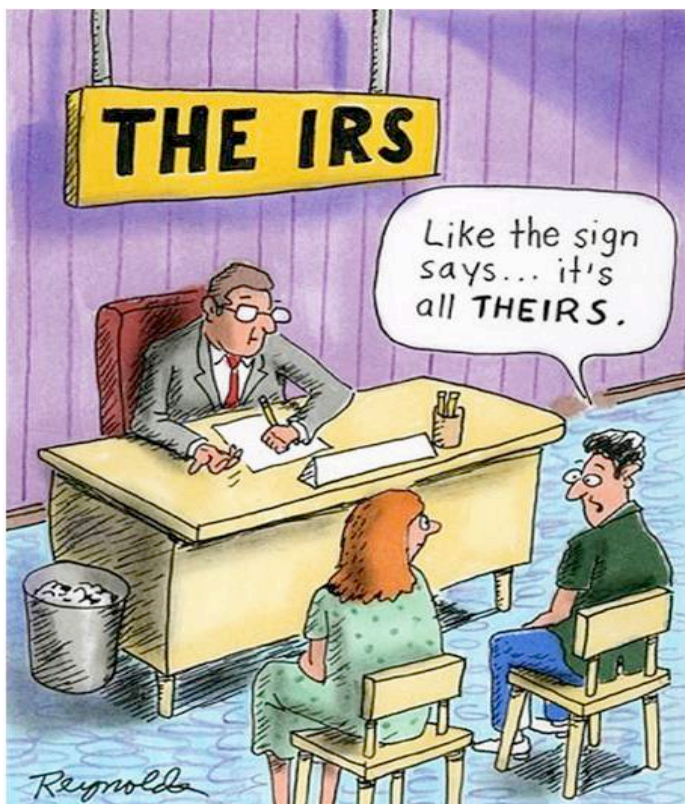
~

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game.

~

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay they'd be bagels!

~



Lookin forward to Christmas 2020:



In light of the current **hoarding of toilet paper situation, a few little known facts about toilet paper:**

The first recorded use of toilet paper was in 6th Century China;

By the 14th Century, the Chinese government was mass-producing it;

Packaged toilet paper wasn't sold in the United States until 1857;

Global toilet paper demand uses nearly 30,000 trees every day. (That's 10 million trees per year.)

It wasn't until 1935 that a manufacturer was able to promise Splinter-Free Toilet Paper;

Americans use an average of 8.6 sheets of toilet paper per trip to the bathroom;

The average roll has 333 sheets;

70-75% of the world still doesn't use toilet paper because it is too expensive or there is not sufficient plumbing;

In many Western European countries, bidets are seen as more effective and preferable to toilet paper;

The reason toilet paper disintegrates so quickly when wet is that the fibers used to make it are very short;

There is a virtual toilet paper museum called Nobody's Perfect.

Courtesy of Rick Little





## 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:**

**John Shotwell**

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

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