

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 45

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December 2020



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What can I say about 2020 that hasn't already been talked about? The ongoing presence and impact of COVID still has all of us on hold for many things, including spending time with extended family members. The end of each year is usually a time when many people reflect on the past year. While there was a lot of bad that happened this year, we should also try and find some good that has happened. One good thing about a pandemic is that we were all forced to slow down and simplify our lives. Entertainment wasn't about going out to eat, going to the movies, or traveling to participate in some group activity. Families were staying at home working on puzzles, playing board games, making meals at home, and doing video chats with other family members outside of the house. We adopted a new normal.

The only glimmer of good news this month is that it appears like a viable COVID vaccine will soon be available. The only questions remaining are – how soon will the vaccine be in your town? And assuming you are willing to

be vaccinated, how soon will you be eligible to get the COVID vaccine? The answers to these questions still remain unknown at this point. The best guesses are that many people will be able to be vaccinated by sometime in the coming spring.

That should be good news for the Great Lakers because our rally season begins in May each year.

In the meantime, I'm sharing a social media post from a dear friend of mine:

Negativity is a choice.
Resentment is a choice.
Revenge is a choice.
Optimism is a choice.
Compassion is a choice.
Forgiveness is a choice.
Empathy is a choice.
How we live our one given life is a choice.

Choose wisely!

Have a safe, happy, and healthy Holiday Season!

Becky

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Mark your calendars now for the 2021 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 – 16, 2021

Camp Dearborn
1700 General Motors Rd.
Milford, Michigan 48380
Tel: 248.684.6000

Birthday Rally

June 3 – 6, 2021

Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds
17746 County Rd. 34
Goshen, Indiana 46528
Tel: 574.533.3247

July 2021

TO BE DETERMINED

August 26 – 29, 2021

Groveland Oaks County Park
14555 Dixie Highway
Holly, Michigan 48442
Tel: 248.634.981

September 12 – 19, 2021

Algonac State Park
8732 River Road
Marine City, Michigan 48039
Tel: 810.765.5605

Do Nothing Rally

October 14 – 17, 2021

Sauder Village Campground
22611 OH-2
Archbold, Ohio 43502
Tel: 800.590.9755

GMCMCI Conventions

April 16 – 22, 2021

Cajun Crazy Celebration

Patterson Area Civic Center
Patterson, Louisiana

September 24 – 30, 2020

Oktoberfest

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 9

1984 A Departure From The Norm

For the club's eighth birthday party the club returned to Lansing, Michigan and the Midway Motor Lodge on the weekend of January 13th – 15th. Some members stayed at the motel complex both Friday and Saturday nights, some stayed just Saturday night while others came just for the Saturday banquet. Following the banquet a short business meeting was held where the upcoming rallies were discussed and the new officers were installed. They are: Tom Tryon, President; Bob Staub, Vice President; Joe Majorana, Second Vice President; Virgil Barbe, Treasurer; Tillie Nestle, Secretary; Ron Kirkland, National Director and Norm Anderson, Alternate National Director.

The club's annual kickoff rally was held at the Washakie Recreation Area in North Branch, Michigan the weekend of May 11th – 13th. Twenty-eight (28) coaches turned out for a weekend of renewing of friendships and making new ones. Saturday began with our usual coffee and donuts and ended with another great potluck dinner. Sunday mornings breakfast was moved into the building that was made available when the rain came.

Sixteen (16) Great Lakers attended the GLASS rally at the Allegan County Fairgrounds in Allegan, Michigan on the Memorial Day weekend. In addition to the rally there was an antique show going on at the fairgrounds.

The June rally was held at Buskirk's business on Orval Street in Sandusky, Michigan. About forty (40) Great Lakers were parked around the Buskirk's building and all were supplied with electricity. Some of the members took advantage of the Buskirk's repair facilities by having some minor repairs done to their coaches. For the Saturday evening meal the group was transported to the Buskirk's home for a catered dinner that was served up in a three plus stall motorhome garage that is attached to their home. The rally came to a close Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast.

The KOA at Gaylord, Michigan was the site for the club's July rally. This rally was held later in the month so the club members could take in Gaylord's annual Alpenfest Festival. About forty-two club members turned out for this one. Friday afternoon the club became a part of the Alpenfest activities by holding an open house for people to have a look see at the GMC Motorhome. All who came enjoyed the festival, potluck and the weekend.

Madison, Wisconsin's State Fairgrounds was the site of the FMCA's Summer Convention held July 31st thru August 2nd. About eighteen (18) Great Lakers met at the Willow Wood Recreation Farm in Rockford, Illinois and caravanned the 50 or so miles into Madison. The Great Lakers became part of the 170 GMCs parked with the GMC International chapter.

It's another "Christmas in August" rally at Ber-Wa-Ga-Na Campground located in Vassar, Michigan. There were thirty-one (31) coaches at this rally. Saturday was filled with activities starting with coffee and donuts in the morning to a soup kettle for Saturday noon to games in the afternoon and topped off with a complete Christmas dinner. Each coach was asked to bring a can of non-creamed soup for every two members attending the rally. The games consisted of an egg throw, a potato ball race and a water balloon throw for which prizes were awarded to the winners.

After dinner door prizes were awarded by way of a drawing. Next came the awards for the best decorated coach. Then came the hayride, which was video taped by Dan Ryan who played it back later. Next Santa showed up and distributed gifts to everyone around the campfire.

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 9 (continued)

Labor Day weekend the club gathered in Auburn, Indiana, for the annual Auburn-Cord–Duesenberg Festival. Twenty-nine (29) Great Lakers showed up and each was presented a “ditty” bag that included a loaf of Ruth Harvey’s home baked bread. The club was given front row seats for the parade of Auburns, Cords and Duesenbergs. The hosts were kept very busy shuttling the folks back and forth between the museum, car auctions, antique shows, decorator showcase home and the other activities. The Saturday evening dinner was a catered chicken dinner.

Hickory Lake Campground located in Perry, Michigan was the site of the Club’s Hawaiian Bash the weekend of October 12th – 14th. Thirty-seven (37) coaches turned out for the genuine Hawaiian Luau complete with appropriate decorations, music, dances and costumes. A Hawaiian Hukilau dance contest was held with the winners being Kate Turner and Julius Gundel. The potluck dinner was planed around Emmett Dennis’s barbecue ribs.

Submitted by Bill Helmore

TAKE NOTE THIS CHRISTMAS

Please be advised that all GMC Great Lakers members planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are required to complete a Risk Assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.

To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all facility users are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that prior to shining his/her glory all around s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year’s well-publicized case, everyone is advised that Civil Rights legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr. R. Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offense.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is commonly practiced in various parts of the world, everyone is reminded that the acceptance of gifts is subject to the Office of Government Ethics guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual’s position and title. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 5.

Further, caution is advised regarding other common gifts, such as aromatic resins that may initiate allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Compliance of these guidelines is advised in order for you to fully participate with the festive spirit.

GMC Great Lakers Newsletter Editor



Financial Report

Nov. 30, 2020

Starting Balance:	\$ 9,220.18
Revenue:	\$ 135.00
Expenses:	\$ 425.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 8,930.18

I'm not bragging or anything but...I've just finished all my Christmas shopping



The Sun

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1897

Is there a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, "If you see it in THE SUN it's so."
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West-Ninety-Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

ODDS AND ENDS

Here comes Amazon, Here comes Amazon, Right down my driveway.

When you stop believing in Santa Claus is when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

A hug is the perfect Christmas Gift, one size fits all and it is easily returned.

Let's hope all of your regifting will go undetected this year.

The main reason Santa is so jolly is he knows where all the bad girls live.

Remember not to leave a fire burning in your fireplace this Christmas Eve, or else you might wake up to a Crisp Kringle.

Mail your packages early so the post office can lose them in time for Christmas.

It's the most wine-derful time of the year.

Christmas Tip: Wrap empty boxes and put them under the tree. Every time your child acts up, throw one in the fireplace.

Dear Santa, I can explain...

The sparkle in children's eyes of wonder and delight shines brighter than any Christmas lights.



Cardamom Pistachio Loaf Cake – Yum

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1½ tsp. ground cardamom
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/3 cup shelled pistachios toasted
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp. orange zest
- ¼ cup orange juice
- ½ cup plus 2 tbsp. plain whole milk yogurt
- ¾ cup powered sugar
- ¼ cup olive oil

Process the zest and sugar in a food processor for about 10 sec. Transfer to a large bowl.

Put the pistachios in the processor and pulse about 15 times. Set aside 2 tbsp. for topping.

Add the flour, baking powder, cardamom and salt to the processor with the nuts. Process about 1 minute.

Whisk the eggs, cup yogurt, olive oil and orange juice into the sugar mixture.

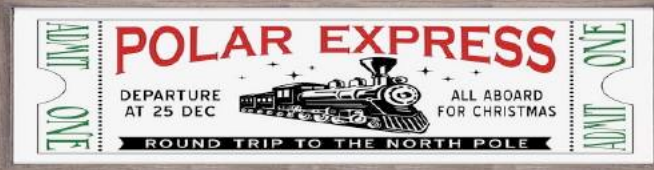
Fold in the flour and nut mixture.

Oil and flour a 9 x 5 loaf pan. Transfer the batter to the pan. Bake at 325 for about 55 minutes. Check with a toothpick, moist crumbs should come out.

Cool on a wire rack.

Make a frosting with the remaining yogurt and powered sugar. Frost and sprinkle with reserved nuts.

Submitted by Merle and JoAnn Carpenter



Membership and Dues

Since COVID-19 wiped out our 2020 GMC Great Lakers camping season, the board decided that 2020 members would be automatically paid up for 2021. Consequently, you will not need to send any money for a 2021 renewal, but I would like to hear from everyone to confirm that his or her 2020 directory information is still correct and complete. Did you move? Open a new email address? Get a cell phone or drop your landline phone? Buy a place in Florida to use for the winter? I will be sending out a communication to all current members in December to solicit your responses. Watch for it so I can have the best information for our 2021 directory. Thanks.

Steve Johnson
Membership Chairman



Sympathy cards have been sent to these individuals:

Marilyn Smith/Jim White

Get well cards have been sent to:

Ron Bolser



2020 Club Officers and Staff

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