

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 46

Issue 2

April 2021



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

“Spring Has Sprung!” – Mother Nature has decided that we need an early spring this year and I’m sure glad she did. I can’t remember the last time March was so mild and sunny in Michigan – and April’s weather is not too bad either so far. However, I’m not going to rule out the possibility of some overnight cold temps and frost just yet. As long as the weather for our May rally is dry, I’ll be happy and I know you will be too!

And speaking of rallies, we are only a few weeks away from our first rally at Camp Dearborn in Milford, Michigan on May 13-16. This year, the May rally will not only be the club’s 45th Birthday celebration, but the rally theme will be the 1970s! Let’s go back to the decade when our coaches were brand new. Get out those bell-bottom pants, tie dye shirts, army jackets and get into the 1970s spirit.

There will be no fees for the rally this year, however, you must make your campsite reservations and sign up for the rally itself. The club officers who are hosting the rally need an accurate headcount for meals (rally sign up form is included in this newsletter). Additional details

regarding Camp Dearborn reservations were published in the February newsletter and are on the rally sign up form in this newsletter. Call the campground and request one of the campsites set aside for the GMC Great Lakers club.

We are still at the mercy of the COVID virus unfortunately. Rally activities will be scaled down slightly and will be held exclusively outdoors for added safety and protection of all who attend. **Everyone will be required to provide their own beverages and eating utensils for all group meals.** This will help reduce the risk of virus contact transfer. There will not be any open food buffet style – rather food will be either prepackaged or pre-plated for everyone. Plan on bringing your own camp chair in order to help spread out when we are together outside as a group. We all are coming from different communities and will return to those communities. Let’s help keep everyone healthy.

Within the last week or so Michigan has become the state with the highest spike in virus cases in the country. So far, campgrounds and restaurants remain open and we are expecting this to remain unchanged for our rally dates. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services requires wearing a face covering any time two or more households are present in any shared space including any indoor space (including Camp Dearborn buildings), or outdoor public space (where six-foot social distancing cannot be maintained). If you are already completely vaccinated, health experts still recommend wearing a mask when around people outside your own household. Please be considerate of others.

See you in May!

Becky



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 23 – 25, 2021

The Fish Lake Beach Camping Resort
32223 N. U.S. Highway 12
Volo, Illinois 60073 **Joint rally with the GMC Six Wheelers**
Tel: 847.546.2228

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

CANCELED
Patterson, Louisiana

September 24 – 30, 2020

Oktoberfest

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

GMC Great Lakers 45th Birthday Rally Registration

Theme - "It's the 1970's"

Camp Dearborn, 1700 General Motors Rd, Milford, Michigan 48381

Thursday May 13 to Sunday May 16, 2021

What were you doing in the 1970's? We want everyone to get into the spirit of the 1970s for this year's 45th Birthday Rally. Pull out your bell-bottom pants, tie dye shirts, and get your groove on! Join us in reliving the era when the GMCs were brand new. Did you know our coaches were designed and tested at the General Motors Proving Grounds, just a few miles down the road from Camp Dearborn?

30 full hook-up sites (water, sewer, 50 amp electric) are set-aside for our group.

You must make your own campsite reservation. Call Mary Lynn at 248-684-6000, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (closed from noon – 1:00 p.m. for lunch). Ask for one of the GMC Great Lakers reserved sites #69-72, #82-107.

Campsite fees: \$35 per night

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.

Campsite Reservation Deadline: Great Lakers campsites will be held until April 30, 2021.

After you reserve your campsite, please contact Becky Johnson (email beckystevej@aol.com or call 248-343-7636) with the following information no later than May 1, 2021:

Rally Participants: _____

Campsite #: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

_____ Yes, I plan to partake of the Continental Breakfast on Friday, Saturday, Sunday mornings

NOTE:

- 1. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE TO BREAKFAST! (We will not be serving coffee)**
- 2. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN EATING UTENSILS**
- 3. YOU MUST SIT 6 FT APART FROM OTHERS OUTSIDE YOUR FAMILY AT MEALS**

_____ No, I won't be partaking in any Continental Breakfast during the rally.

_____ Yes, I plan to attend the group dinner on Friday, May 14th.

NOTE:

- 1. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE TO DINNER**
- 2. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN EATING UTENSILS**
- 3. YOU MUST SIT 6 FT APART FROM OTHERS OUTSIDE YOUR FAMILY AT MEALS**

_____ No, I won't be attending the group dinner on Friday, May 14th.

A detailed schedule of activities, etc. will be provided at the rally. All activities will be held outside! Bring your own camp chair!

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 11

THE 1986 BYLAWS GET REVISED

The Tenth Annual Birthday Party was held the weekend of January 10th – 12th at Midway Motor Lodge in Lansing, Michigan. Several of the club members stayed Friday night, many stayed Saturday night and several more came over just for the get together on Saturday night. At the dinner meeting the new officers were installed, they are: Alex Birch, President; Ivan Johnson, First Vice President; Jim Gompers, Second Vice President; Wilma Spaeth, Treasurer; Tillie Nestle, Secretary; Jack Hoglin, National Director and Bill Gamble, Alternate National Director. Al announced at the meeting the appointment of a committee to look over the club's bylaws and make recommendations to the club Members for their approval.

The Moss County Park in Orlando, Florida area was the site where fourteen Great Lakers gathered for a special winter rally on February 3rd – 10th. Regular campfires, potluck meals, fun and friendships prevailed. Numerous outings were made to many of the local attractions, including Orlando to take in a show at Rose O' Grady's Gin Mill at the Church Street Station.

Production films of the GMC motorhome and the movie "Stripes" were viewed by the attendees and included with bags of popcorn to munch upon. Saturday found everyone just wandering around gabbing and swapping stories and at noon the hosts presented a lunch of homemade bean soup and baked bread. Another fabulous potluck dinner was served up on Saturday evening, followed by a business meeting and bingo games, complete with prizes. The rally was closed by the regular Sunday morning pancake breakfast.

The GLASS rally, hosted by the Michigan Knights of the Highway, was held over the Memorial Day weekend at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall, Michigan. Although this is not an official Great Lakers affair, a great number of the members like to take this in as a group. Al Birch made arrangements for the group to meet at a truck stop north of town and caravan into the rally on Friday. He arranged for the club to park together in a corral type building. The GLASS rally is always a real fun time with something to do every minute.

It was off to the Camper Village complex at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio the weekend of June 27th – 29th. Twenty-three coaches partook of the entertainment provided by this amusement park. While no formal meeting or meals were scheduled for this rally everyone had more than adequate time to rub elbows and chew the fat with each other.

While the weatherman did not give his wholehearted cooperation, twenty-three member coaches took in the July rally at the Sunshine Valley Campground located near Omer, Michigan. Intermittent showers slowed down some of the activities and postponed the 9:00 AM canoe trip. The trip was rescheduled for 1 PM and about sixteen of the club's members boarded the bus to go to the drop site. A great potluck dinner was held on Saturday evening featuring all the specialties of the club's cooking staff. A very informative meeting followed the dinner where a great variety of subjects were discussed.

Twenty-two Great Lakers parked with the GMC International Chapter at this year's FMCA Summer Convention held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. The parking was on rolling terrain that necessitated wheel blocking similar to brand X coaches. The GMC group had one of the better sites, with many shade trees to break up the 90 degree plus days. Al Birch presented a seminar on the history and manufacture of the GMC motorhomes.

The weekend of August 1st – 3rd the club motored to Selfridge Air Base at Mount Clemens, Michigan for the Air Show. About forty coaches took this one in and had front row seats on the fifty-yard line. The Air Show was nothing short of fantastic and transportation was provided to all of the near city attractions. The meal and cocktail party at the Officers Club and the museum trips were all greeted by a lot of ooohs and aaahs.

The West Wind KOA at Saugatuck, Michigan was the site where thirty Great Lakers gathered the weekend of August 8th – 10th. An impromptu Friday night dinner party was put together at the Coral Gables Restaurant, which is directly on the Kalamazoo River overlooking all the boats and activities. For Saturday, arrangements were made for the Club to tour a nearby passenger ship, which is open for public tours. The city of Saugatuck's Dial-a-ride buses were put into action to provide transportation to the ship and downtown.

The September rally in Brown County Indiana (Nashville, Indiana) was a Wednesday thru Sunday affair. A total of thirty-three coaches eventually took in the activities that were planned with twenty-two coaches gathering in Auburn, Indiana for the kick off of the rally. Thursday morning started with the hosts delivering donuts door to door in pouring rain. By midmorning it was off to the Indy Speedway for the museum and a bus tour of the Speedway track. Rain by the buckets full came down as the caravan headed for Nashville making for a slow and tedious drive to the campground. Friday featured tours of the surrounding Columbus area, shopping in Nashville and the evening trip to the Little Grand Opry. The Saturday evening banquet offered something for everyone and all you could eat.

The final rally of the year found twenty-five coaches at Groveland Oaks County Park in Holly, Michigan the weekend of October 10th – 12th. Friday evening featured hot cinnamon cider and home baked cookies. Saturday morning most members went off to visit and shop at the Japanese Gardens, Candle Factory and a cider mill. The noon meal featured the Birch's famed soup kettle and Peg Hoaglin's homemade bran muffins. The afternoon activities consisted of a potato race, egg toss, water filled balloon toss and other games. Saturday evening again featured a potluck dinner in front of a roaring fire. The Halloween costume contest was won by the Beatty's for their Raggedy Ann and Andy attire.

Submitted by Bill Helmore

I received a message from a relatively new GMC owner suggesting the more experienced campers to contribute to a new column in the newsletter featuring great campgrounds within our geographical region that they have camped at and explain the reasoning for recommending that specific campground. The author of this suggestion stated that he and his wife would benefit from the knowledge and experiences of the GMC Great Lakers membership and reduce the risk of having a less than favorable camping experience. I applaud the club member for making this suggestion since I think it is an opportunity for many of the club members to share their favorite campgrounds with all of the GMC Great Lakers. There are so many, but so little time to visit them all! Send me an email, jmpryzl@gmail.com or drop me a note, 103 West Ridge Drive, Swanton, Ohio 43558, with the name and address of your favorite campground and a brief explanation of what you like and dislike, pros and cons of the camping facilities. I will format your comments into the Queens English, if necessary. Let's not be bashful and send me your favorite campgrounds as soon as you finish reading this article, do it now, before you forget! The first submission I receive will win a prize of significant value! So, don't wait, he or she who hesitates will not get the early bird worm!

John Pryzbylek

ODDS AND ENDS

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

Wife: "How would you describe me?"

Husband: "ABCDEFGHIJK."

Wife: "What does that mean?"

Husband: "Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous, and hot."

Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about IJK?"

Husband: "I'm just kidding!"

Q. How much room is needed for fungi to grow?

A. As mushroom as possible

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Charles Dickens walks into a bar and asks for a martini. The bartender asks, "Olive or twist?"

If you give an alligator a GPS, Does that make it a navigator?

I saw a robbery in an Apple Store. Does that make me an iWitness?

Young Ben and his friends went to the local swimming pool for the afternoon.

They were playing around as kids do when the lifeguard shouted at Ben, "Hey kid, you're not allowed to pee in the pool!"

"But everyone pees in the pool", Ben responded.

"Maybe so kid", said the lifeguard, "but not from the high diving board."

If at first you don't succeed then skydiving's not for you.



Financial Report

March 31, 2021

Starting Balance:	\$ 8,455.18
Revenue:	\$ 0.00
Expenses:	\$ 1,652.32
Ending Balance:	\$ 6,802.86

FOR SALE

By Owner

FOR SALE - 1977 Original Eleganza II Rear Bench Seats **\$200**

Beige Corduroy Fabric – no tears in exposed upholstery, missing some fabric buttons.

Contact: Becky Johnson 248.343.7636

Pickup in Milford, MI. or can be brought to a Great Lakers' rally.



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:

Rita Stehlik

Get well cards have been sent to:

Dolph Santorine



2020 Club Officers and Staff

President

Becky Johnson
Telephone: 248.343.7636
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



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