

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.



NEWSLETTER



America's Oldest Regional GMC Club

Volume 46

Issue 3

June 2021



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Welcome Summer!" – On the heels of an early spring, Mother Nature has decided that summer is coming early as well! But I'm not complaining because she allowed us to have a nice sunny, warm and dry May rally with cool evenings. I'd say perfect camping weather.

Our first rally at Camp Dearborn in Milford, Michigan on May 13-16 was a huge success! There were 26 coaches present, plus one 1988 Revcon guest, for a grand total of 50 people attending. Out of the 26 coaches present, we had 10 First Time rally attendees including 6 new memberships since the last Great Lakers rally in October 2019. Camp Dearborn did not disappoint us either. Our coaches were able to be back-to-back with a nice green belt area between us to gather for coffee & pastries, as well as evening campfires. Several of our Board members dressed in the theme of the 1970's for our delicious homemade chicken pot pie dinner.

After our club business meeting, new member Rob Matras, who spent summers growing up at Camp Dearborn, gave a nice presentation about the origin and history of the campground. After dinner, Steve Johnson gave a detailed

presentation about the General Motors Proving Ground located just a few miles from Camp Dearborn in Milford, along with a 20 minute video showing the history and the current activities that happen daily there. To celebrate the GMC Great Lakers club 45th anniversary, each rally attendee received a custom stainless steel stemless drink glass. While supplies last, any member attending a club rally this summer will also get one.

Our June rally followed only 3 short weeks later in Goshen, Indiana at the Elkhart 4-H County Fairgrounds. We had another great turnout of 23 coaches. We almost had the entire campgrounds to ourselves, as the fairgrounds are still getting ready for their busy summer season. It was quite a bit quieter than when our club was there attending the big FMCA GLAMA rallies. I had forgotten about the trains, which run day & night right next to the normal camping area! Good thing I always keep some ear plugs in our GMC, so the trains didn't bother me much at all.

Our next rally is at the end of July – a combined rally with the GMC Six Wheelers in Vovo, Illinois. One of our newest club members, Peter Hays, was at the June rally and shared some of their plans for this rally. It sounds like it will be a blast! One activity is to go to the drive-in movies in our GMCs – what a treat! I hope you will plan to attend.

In the meantime, continue to stay healthy & safe. Vaccinations are doing their job, both in reducing the spread of COVID cases and allowing many restrictions to lift. Let's hope it stays that way! See you at a rally soon!

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
Tel: 847.546.2228

**Joint rally with the GMC Six Wheelers
CAMPGROUND SOLD OUT**

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 CLUB

August 26 - 29, 2021

Groveland Oaks Campground

Rally fee campsite two people \$165

one campsite with one person \$135

14555 Dixie Hwy / Holly MI 48442

248.634.9811 / grovelandoaks@oakgov.com



Please Make Checks Out To
GMC GREAT LAKERS
Mail Checks To Host
20 SPOTS AVAILABLE

Hosted by
Nancy and Peter Donaghue
6550 High Pine Dr
Davisburg MI 48350
248.933.0546

Thursday 8/26/2021 : Pot luck hors d'oeuvres
Meet and greet

Friday 8/27/2021 : Coffee and donuts
GM Heritage Center \$10, catered dinner

Saturday 8/28/2021 : Coffee and donuts



Driving our coaches to Waterford Hills race track. Waterford Hill \$5 per person, kids free, \$5 donation to drive the track The Miata races will be taking place. Between races they allow the spectators to drive their cars, in our case we have been given permission to drive our behemoths on their track. All you need to do is show up at the track gate within the Sportsman's Club. At our lunchtime, about 1pm, those who wish can do parade laps for \$5 per vehicle. We can do Lunch at the track

Afterward we can visit the Pontiac Transportation Museum.

Saturday Evening Catered dinner

Don't forget the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest!

Ugly Christmas Sweater



Sunday 8/29/2021 : Coffee and donuts



Buying Another GMC Coach

June of 2020 we bought another GMC coach. It's a 26 foot GMC Eleganza II. After getting it home I started to do some basic maintenance on it. I pulled the rear drums to repack the wheel bearings and found that the brake shoes were on backwards on all 4 wheels. The brake shoe guides were missing. I guess if you don't remember where it goes, you just throw it away. I upgraded the wheel cylinders and replaced the brake lines that were rubbing on the inner fenders. When I was bleeding the brakes I noticed the lines at the master cylinder were reversed. I replaced the front wheel bearings and upgraded to 80mm calipers. I replaced the fuel lines to the TBI and hooked up the vacuum lines to the correct ports. I added a PCV grommet, valve, and hose that were missing. I installed the Dave Lenzi brake vacuum pump and sensitized brake booster. I had new tires put on, now it's time for a road test. Out on the road it keeps stalling. It was out of gas at a half a tank. Upon removing both fuel tanks to replace all the fuel lines, I found that it takes fuel from tank 1 and returns it to tank 2. The fuel gauge was hooked up to tank 2 when the switch is on tank 1. You run out of fuel at half a tank. A big Thank You to Dave Lenzi for the vacuum pump kit. This electric vacuum pump allows you to stop the 12,000 pound GMC if the engine stalls. If anyone has ever tried to stop their GMC after the engine stalls knows it's a white knuckle experience and may require a change of underwear. There were several brackets missing that hold the brake hoses to the lines. The 4 body side brackets were missing. It's much easier to install them when the carpeting and furniture are in place. My old parts GMC had all the brackets I needed.

Now to the inside, I upgraded the lights to LED. The people who rewired it must have been household electricians. In 120v wiring the white wire is neutral or the same as a ground. The black wire is line or 120v. In automotive DC power, the red wire is hot, positive and the black is negative, ground. A lot of the 12v lights were wired with black as positive and the white to ground. This would never confuse someone trying to put in LED bulbs. The water heater was wired to a on/off switch but was never hooked up in the breaker panel. It only worked off the engine heat. I found a lot of items wired incorrectly, speakers, AC switches and some interior lights. I upgraded the dash air to a 134A system, compressor, hoses, dryer, etc.. I flushed and cleaned the evaporator and condenser. I hope to get it on the road soon for a great summer of rallies and camping.

Merle Carpenter



Elkhart County
4th Fairgrounds



2021 Great Lakers Club Election Information & Important Changes

Each spring one important part of club business is to form a nominating committee to prepare the ballot for the fall election of club board members for the following year. This year's nominating committee members are Jerry Newman (newmysr@gmail.com; 513-235-7848), Dolph Santorine (dolph@dolphsantorine.com; 304-219-3100), and John Shotwell (jshot@rtexpress.net; 419-267-5140).

Each of the officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) are eligible to serve for three consecutive years in a given position, if re-elected. While the directors-at-large can be re-elected each year, without limitation. If you recall, since no club activities were held in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Board recommended to extend each current Board position by one year.

On May 12, 2021 the GMC Great Lakers Board made a change to the job responsibilities of the club's directors-at-large positions. Beginning with the 2021 Board elections, the responsibilities of the three directors-at-large on the board will become: Membership Director, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. The Board's decision was to include these roles & responsibilities, already being carried out by other club members, within the Board itself. This change will provide better interaction with Board activities. As part of the Board, these three positions will be now be elected each year.

Additional information on duties of each club board member can be found in the updated "Standing Rules" document on the club website "Members Only" section. Also, the "Rally Guidelines" document has been separated from the "Standing Rules", and is now available as a separate document on the club website.

Per our By-Laws, the role of the nominating committee is to identify candidates for the fall election of the club board member positions president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three directors-at-large for the next calendar year. Any interested club member can submit their name for any position to a committee member. The nominating committee makes sure the member is eligible and qualified to serve in the position and obtains a member's commitment to fulfill the duties of the office should they be voted into the position by the club membership.

Our current club officers, Becky Johnson, President and Bea Newman, Secretary have completed their three terms in office. Thus, the club will need to elect a new President and Secretary. Nancy Donaghue, Vice President and Melissa Koenig, Treasurer have each served one term. They are each eligible for re-election this year. The roles of Membership Director and Webmaster are currently being done by Steve Johnson, while the current Newsletter Editor is John Pryzbylek. These three positions will be voted on at this election, with either the current individuals or anyone who is interested in any of these positions.

Election ballots will be sent out in late August/early September to all eligible club members, to be returned by mail or email to the nominating committee. Election results are announced at the October rally each year.

If you have any interest or know of a member who is qualified for any 2021 board position, please contact one of the nominating committee members. If you have questions about any current Board position, feel free to contact any current Board member or nominating committee member.

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 12

Jackson, Michigan's Holiday Inn "Holidome" was the site of the Club's Eleventh Annual Birthday Party the weekend of January 10th. A business meeting followed the Saturday evening banquet at which the new officers were installed. The 1987 officers are: Virgil Barbe, President; Dan Ryan, First Vice President; Bob Sovis, Second Vice President; Wilma Spaeth, Treasurer; Jean Gronendkye, Secretary; Jack Hoaglin, National Director and Bob Miller, Alternate National Director.

The Club traveled to Holland, Michigan in May for the Tulip Festival. Forty-one motorhomes were parked at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds for a weekend of relaxation and renewing old friendships. Bob Sovis made arrangements for fifteen antique car club members to join the Great Lakers for dinner Saturday night.

Sanilac County Park at Port Sanilac, Michigan was the site of the June 12th – 14th rally. This park is located on the shore of Lake Huron. The hosts planned a hot dog supper for Friday night, a pancake breakfast and potluck dinner for Saturday. A flea market was held on Saturday afternoon.

July 10th – 12th found thirty-one Great Lakers gathering at the Old Orchard Campground in Battle Creek, Michigan for the World Hot-Air Balloon Championship. A catered luncheon was served Saturday and the group relaxed the rest of the time, as it was very hot. Two (2) balloons took off from the campground Sunday morning to everyone's delight.

Seventeen Great Lakers gathered at the Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor, Michigan for the Ann Arbor Art Fair July 24th – 26th. The Friday evening tailgate/happy hour party was well stocked with some healthy sandwich makings and appropriate liquid refreshments. Saturday evening the group adjourned to a local restaurant for dinner. Jim Gribble made arrangements for the club to have a guided tour of the Domino's Farm on Sunday morning., the tour included Mr. Monahan's private office, some at Frank Lloyd Wright exhibits, corporate archives and the farm barn. Domino's served the group a complementary lunch of pizza in the employee dining room.

The Club gathered in a parking lot on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan the weekend of August 7th – 9th. Saturday morning most of the men boarded shuttle vans for a plant tour of the Vixen Motorhome plant in Pontiac, Michigan. In the afternoon some of the ladies went into Rochester for a shopping spree. The highlight of the weekend was a walking tour of Meadowbrook Hall fowled by dinner in the hall's dinning room.

A tour of the General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, Michigan was the attraction for sixty-two Great Lakers the weekend of September 11th – 13th. The group was the largest group to stay at the Proud Lake Recreation Area campgrounds and set a Great Lakers all time largest rally record. Several GM Executives addressed the group on Saturday; among them were Alex Mair, General Manager GMC Truck & Coach retired, Nancy Bundra, Manager of the motorhome interior and Wallkace Edwards, retired, Nancy Bundra, Manager of the motorhome interior and Wallkace Edwards, Chief Engineer GMC Truck & Coach retired,. The group was taken on a tour of the Proving Grounds and given a driving demonstration on "Black Lake" on area about the size of 59 football fields on 67 acres of blacktop. Following the Saturday evening potluck dinner a business meeting was held at which Virgil Barbe resigned as President and turned the gavel over to First Vice president Dan Ryan.

GMC GREAT LAKERS HISTORY – Part 12 (continued)

On the weekend of October 9th -11th the Great Lakers gathered at the Doctors Club in Alpena, Michigan. Forty-seven coaches attended this rally. The hosts provided fresh donuts for Saturday breakfast, stew for lunch and hors d'oeuvres before the roast pig dinner. At the business meeting Dan Ryan turned over the gavel to Ivan Johnson who became the Club's new President. The other officers installed at the rally were Tillie Nestle; Vice President; Jean Gronendyke, Secretary-Treasurer; Jack Hoaglin, National Director and Bob Miller Alternate National Director. The club's officers now serve from October 1st to September 30th instead of on a calendar year basis, which is in line with the new bylaws.

Submitted by Bill Helmore

Camp Dearborn, Milford, Michigan May 14, 2021 45th Birthday Member Meeting Minutes

Welcome back! Due to Covid 19, all Great Laker rallies and GMCMI conventions were cancelled in 2020. It is wonderful to see our old friends and meet so many new ones.

This meeting and dinner were held at the Chalet and started with everyone introducing himself or herself, including the 11 new members in attendance. 28 coaches were registered for this rally.

Minutes from the last business meeting, October 2019 were summarized. The summary included the vote to drop the mandatory membership to FMCA to join the Great Lakers. Individual members are encouraged to join FMCA as they desire.

Treasurer, Melissa Koeing gave end of March balance of \$6794. Income from dues for new membership came to \$1240. Renewal dues from 2020 were excused due to Covid 19 and no club activity.

Steve Johnson, Webmaster, asked that anyone with information, parts or coaches for sale, or changes they would like to see on the Great Lakers website, contact him.

Nancy Donaghue, VP, announced the next rally will be June 3-6 at the Elkhart 4-H Fairgrounds in Goshen, Indiana. The Essenhaus car show is Thursday, a catered dinner on Friday and an outing to Yoders for dinner Saturday are planned. Total rally fee is \$155, includes camping fees. Send check made out to Great Lakers to Nancy ASAP, as 30 sites have been reserved.

President, Becky, announced elections will be held this October. Elections in 2020 were postponed due to Covid 19. Positions open will be President and Secretary. Nominating committee (Jerry Newman, Chair, Dolph Santorine and John Shotwell) will begin the search for candidates. Please feel free to contact one of them or a Board member if you are interested in one of the positions. The Board decided the 3 director at large positions will now be filled with working positions.

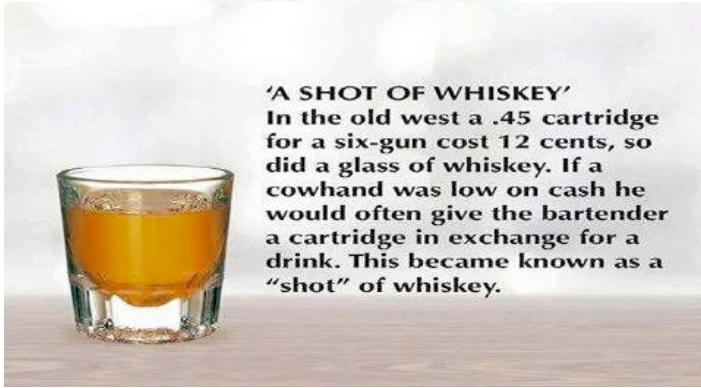
Bill Bryant continues the project to find and restore the first two GMC's. The first one is in Texas and the second at the Pontiac Transportation Museum. He needs help with parts, resources and donations to renovate this coach so it can be on display. Jeff Rider will be the contact for those who can help in any capacity.

Rob Matras gave a presentation on Camp Dearborn. Very interesting information about a beautiful park, which is the only city park outside of the city limits in the world.

After dinner, Steve Johnson showed a video of the GM proving grounds, located in Milford, Michigan.

Submitted by Bea Newman

ODDS AND ENDS



M&M's chocolate stands for the initials for its inventors Mars and Murrie.



The reason why the wedding ring is place on the fourth finger of your left hand is because it's the only finger that has a vein connecting directly to your heart.

'WAS IT A CAR OR A CAT I SAW' is the only full English sentence that, when read in reverse, will be the same!



Financial Report

May 31, 2021

Starting Balance:	\$ 6,802.86
Revenue:	\$ 0.00
Expenses:	\$ 1,183.05
Ending Balance:	\$ 5,619.81

FOR SALE
By Owner

FOR SALE - 1977 Original Eleganza II Rear Bench Seats **\$200 or best offer**
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:

Get well cards have been sent to:

JR Slaten



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