

roam.

the newsletter of the GMC Great Lakers

2022 february

GMC Great Lakers

prepare for the **2022**

Camping Season!



Meet your Board of Directors



from the Editor

You're looking at a brand-spanking new edition of the Great Lakers newsletter, "Roam." And as your new editor, I will be taking a different approach to its design. The new format will read (and look!) more like a magazine, including a masthead.

You will notice photography is already playing a much larger role in the look and feel of the newsletter. And since I'm a photographer, many of my photos will be incorporated into the design; however, it's truly my goal to solicit as many contributors as possible. This is your newsletter! If you would like to submit a photo for future inclusion, please send me your (hi-res) images.

This is also a call for a GMC technical writing specialist or those interested in doing research or writing: Do you have ideas for articles that you'd like to share or what would you like to see featured? Want to dig deep into some existing suggestions? Have a flair for writing and want to give it a go? Always wanted your own byline? Want to submit opinions comparing all the new RV magazine content? Which magazines do you enjoy the most and why? Which do you subscribe to? Don't recommend? Favorite Rally? Worthwhile blogs or vlogs? Critics welcome.

This is your opportunity to share. We'd love to hear from you!

Karen
Karen E. Breen, Editor

Welcome Back GMC Great Lakers!

It has been since June of 2021 that you received our last newsletter. First, please join me in welcoming our new newsletter editor, Karen Breen. She comes to us with over 20 years in the field of graphic design and volunteer experience. She is replacing John Pryzbylek as editor so John can focus on his health and well-being. Please join me in thanking John for his excellent work on the newsletter and dedication to the club. And in wishing him the best for good health and happiness in the future.

Your board of directors has been working hard to get up-to-speed on our duties as officers. Six of the seven board members are new to their respective duties and have been working hard to prepare for our 2022 rally season. You will find the board listed on the previous page. Past President Becky Johnson will aid the board as an advisor.

Only one year ago, we were holding our breath that campgrounds would remain open, so we could have rallies after a year of isolation fearing Covid 19. We were told to stay six feet from each other while wearing a mask, and not to exceed 10 people per group. There were no buffets or self-serving meals permitted, no salt/pepper, napkins, or condiments on the table, you were not allowed to shop without a mask, and even scared into wearing a mask and gloves when simply pumping gas. We were all faced with the decision of getting vaccinated and if you chose to, we had to jump through hoops to get scheduled to get the “stab” not once, but three times.

And yet through all the hurdles we had to clear last year, I remember a great time at the rallies and enjoying so many old friends while making many new friends along the way. In no way do I want to trivialize the severity or danger of the Covid virus, but wanted to point out that our diligence, patience, and cautions are paying off. I want to take this time to thank the outgoing board for their hard work in making a very challenging year a great year for the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club.

Every year there will be challenges but this club is member strong and relies on everyone to step up and make this club the best it can be.

The first order of business is the rallies. We still need rally hosts for July and August. Rallies are the backbone of the club and are essential to our success. They are fun and a great experience to host, or perhaps think about co-hosting with someone. I promise that you will get all the support and help you need to have a very successful rally. Please contact Nancy Donaghue or any board member for information.

Membership dues have been coming in and if you have not sent them in, please do so. We would like to have our membership list current so you will be receiving the newsletter and other club information.

As promised, we are updating the website with current board contacts, financial information, governing documents, and membership lists. We are coming along on this, so be

patient, but feel free to drop Rob Matras or me a note regarding anything that needs to be revised.

I hope you're having a great day, if not, change it!

Jerry Newman, President



“We must always remember our purpose as stated in our constitution and by-laws,”

“This club exists to promote social, recreational, and informational exchange activities that provide for the enjoyment and pleasurable use of 1973 to 1978 GMC Motorhomes.””

GMC GREAT LAKERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Volume 47 : Issue 1
gmcgreatlakers.org

Nancy Donaghue, Vice
President (incumbent)
Davisburg, Michigan
248.933.0546
vice_president@
gmcgreatlakers.org

Favorite Campgrounds: Indian
Lake State Park and Palms Book
State Park, Manistique, Michigan

Steve Johnson, Treasurer
Milford, Michigan
248.378.3177
treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org

Favorite Campground: The one we
haven't been to yet; always looking
for something new and rarely
return to those we've visited.

Rob Matras, Webmaster
Plymouth, Michigan 313.363.9810
webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org

Favorite Campground: Port Crescent State
Park, Port Austin, Michigan

Bill Helmore, Historian
Rochester Hills, Michigan
248.604.0370
historian@gmcgreatlakers.org

Jerry Newman, President
Cincinnati 513.235.7848
president@gmcgreatlakers.org

Favorite Campground: Fort DeSoto,
St. Petersburg, Florida



Jim Wibby, Secretary
Petoskey, Michigan
231.758.2230
secretary@gmcgreatlakers.org

Favorite Campground: Interlochen
State Park, Interlochen, Michigan

Melissa Koenig, Membership
Ann Arbor, Michigan 810.599.4123
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Karen E. Breen,
Newsletter Editor
Birmingham, Michigan
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Favorite Campground: It's all about the
road trip!

Deb Pryzbylek, Sunshine
Person
Swanton, Ohio 419.825.5259
sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org



Great Lakers 46th Birthday Rally

Lighthouse County Park ~ Port Hope, Michigan

Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15, 2022

7320 Lighthouse Road, Port Hope, MI 48468

888.265.2583 | <https://huroncountyparks.com>

Hosted by the GMC Great Lakers Board

Registration Deadline: Sunday, May 1, 2022

Book your campsite directly with the park

Rally Registration Form



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Member1 Name

Member1 Email

Member1 Phone

Mobile Home

Children Attending

Guest1 Name

Emergency Contact Information

Member2 Name

Member2 Email

Member2 Phone

Mobile Home

Children's Ages (U12 gratis)

Guest2 Name



RALLY INFORMATION

New Member Attending First Rally?

Yes No

Rally Fees

One Member Only (no guests over age 12)

Up to Two Members (including children U12)

Each Additional Guest/Children 12+

Number

x

\$	<input type="text"/>	75
\$	<input type="text"/>	125
\$	<input type="text"/>	50

Totals

\$	<input type="text"/>
\$	<input type="text"/>
\$	<input type="text"/>

Prepaid Tours or Events

n/a	Number	<input type="text"/>	x	\$	<input type="text"/>	\$	<input type="text"/>
	Number	<input type="text"/>	x	\$	<input type="text"/>	\$	<input type="text"/>

Number

x

\$	<input type="text"/>
\$	<input type="text"/>

\$	<input type="text"/>
\$	<input type="text"/>

Make Checks Payable to: **GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.**

Total Rally Fees

Mail To: **Nancy Donaghue, GMC Great Lakers VP, 6550 High Pine Drive, Davisburg, MI 48350-2969**

*Waiver: I/we hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damage, 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 participate in may involve an element of risk and danger of accidents. In 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 upon 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. **By 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.***

Required: Member/s Signature and Date

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Rally²⁰²² Season!

APRIL 22-28 (FRI-THURS)

GMCCI SPRING CONVENTION in PATTERSON, LOUISIANA

Registration closes April 1st

Info: <https://www.gmcci.com/2022s-convention-info/>

MAY 12-15 (THURS-SUN)

LIGHTHOUSE COUNTY PARK in PORT HOPE, MICHIGAN

7320 Lighthouse Road : 888.265.2583 : Sites 102-122

Hosted by The GMC Great Lakers Board : Refer to flyer in this newsletter for details

JUNE 23-26 (THURS-SUN)

ATWOOD LAKE PARK in MINERAL CITY, OHIO

9500 Lakeview Road NE : 330.343.6780 : 30 sites held until 4/23

Hosted by Dolph and Laura Santorine

JULY *Hosts Needed*****

AUGUST *Hosts Needed*****

SEPTEMBER 11-18 (SUN-SUN)

ALGONAC STATE PARK in MARINE CITY, MICHIGAN

Annual "Do Nothing Rally"

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 2 (MON-SUN)

GMCCI FALL RALLY in LEBANON, TENNESSEE

Info: <https://www.gmcci.com/upcoming-events/>

OCTOBER 2-5 (SUN-WEDS)

TBA: CINCINNATI AREA

Intent is a return trip from GMCCI Fall Rally

Hosted by Jerry and Bea Newman



Membership Report

By Melissa Koenig

Welcome new members:

- Scott and Mindy Campbell, 1973 Glacier
- Matt and Jana Woods, 1976 Eleganza II
- Daniel and Sheila Mattice, 1974 Sequoia
- Simon and Erica Cutts, 1976 Glenbrook

There are currently 81 members. Please remind your GMC friends to renew their memberships.

The 2022 Membership Directory will be emailed soon, if not by the time you are reading this!

February 2022 Treasurer's Report

By Steve Johnson

5/31/21 balance reported in June 2021 newsletter	\$ 5,619.81
Expenses June thru December 2021	\$ (8,641.90)
Revenue June thru December 2021	\$ 8,452.50
Balance 12/31/21	\$ 5,430.41
January 2022 expenses	\$ (250.00)
January 2022 revenue	\$ 325.00
Balance 1/31/2022	\$ 5,505.41



Pontiac Transportation Museum and the 1973 Canyon Lands

By Jeff Rider

The second GMC sold to the public was donated and transported to Pontiac's soon-to-open "Pontiac Transportation Museum" and is undergoing renovation. Those familiar with GMC Motorhome history know that the GMC was manufactured in Pontiac, Michigan. The first 20 coaches were used for testing and then destroyed by General Motors. The first coach sold to the public is located in an RV museum in Amarillo, Texas.

Bill Bryant organized the location and renovation of these two GMCs (VINs TZE063V10021 and 10022; both are 26'). Last fall, Museum Director Terry Connolly and I were able to get this coach running well enough to move it into the museum, where we hope to undergo a frame-up restoration. A lot of work is necessary, including a new frame, mechanicals and full cosmetic refinish. The list of parts needed is too long to list here.

June 2023 is the target completion date; 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the GMC Motorhomes! See images on page 10.

Please contact Terry at terryconnolly@comcast.net for donations, monetary or parts-related or me (jeffer58@wideopenwest.com | 248.877.1966) for a list of what is needed or further details regarding how you can help.

Museum Website: www.pontiactransportationmuseum.org.



Sunshine and Rainbows

By Deb Pryzbylek

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Alice and Terry Avery. Alice passed away in early February.

Get well wishes are extended to John Shotwell.

Please send information to me at sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org.

Part 13: 1988

Eight Memorable Rallies

By Bill Helmore, Club Historian

Follow along as we revisit all the wonderful things the Club did, the places traveled, and the people met over the past four-plus decades.

January 1988, Flint, Michigan: Twenty-four member families braved the arctic chill to celebrate the twelfth anniversary of the founding of the Great Lakers the weekend of January 8-10 at the **Hyatt Regency** hotel in Flint, Michigan.

On Saturday afternoon, after a short drive to the **Sloan Museum**, the group assembled within where Bob Sovis gave a short commentary on what the group was about to see. Bob made arrangements for a tour of the basement area which is off limits to the general public, where motor vehicles, displays and other paraphernalia are stored or restored. The back stairs lead up to the general viewing area where the current display held antique models and concept cars.

We viewed the museum's Carol Churchill Pierson Doll Collection next. There were dolls depicting scenes and dress from Columbus to Spanish explorers through the Revolution, Civil War through Teddy Roosevelt's presidency. There was row upon row of dolls outfitted as presidents and first ladies.

The Saturday evening gala began with cocktails, a London broil dinner followed by chocolate mousse and birthday cake. After dinner Bob Sovis introduced Mr. and Mrs. Wels who presented a spectacular slide show entitled "America, The Dream Goes On," a three-screen, six projector multimedia extravaganza.

May 1988, Wapakoneta, Ohio: Twenty-Five coaches gathered on Thursday, May 12th, at the **Twin Lakes Resort** in Wapakoneta, Ohio to kick off the Great Lakers camping season for 1988. In the afternoon a few Great Lakers visited the **Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum** which is just across I-75.

Friday morning at 0800 hours the first section of ten coaches moved out with military precision under the command of Cap'n Bill Helmore for the Air Museum in Dayton, Ohio some sixty miles south. Precisely at 0815 hours the second contingent of 10 coaches headed-up and moved out under the direction of Cap'n Dan Ryan. The third group of the remaining coaches left at 0830 with Cap'n Jones in the lead.

At the museum, at noon, a group of tour guides were waiting for the Great Lakers to conduct a two-hour tour through the exhibits,

from Kitty Hawk through the space age. Promptly at 5 o'clock the GMC motorhomes, now swelled to 41, headed for the area of the **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base** where the group would spend the weekend renewing old acquaintances and meeting new members.

On Saturday afternoon several members returned to the museum, some traveled to **Waynesville** in search of antiques and some remained behind and formed a marching society. The evening dinner of prime rib with all the fixins was served in the Officers Club at 6 p.m.

Even though the **GLASS Rally** is not an official Great Lakers' rally, several of the membership attended each year. This year 21 Great Lakers attended and helped the Knights of the Highway with breakfast. President Ivan Johnson held an informal business meeting to get ideas for club jackets and to inform the group that the Club members planning to attend the FMCA Summer Convention would be allowed to enter the convention grounds on Sunday instead of Monday.

June 1988, Hart, Michigan: The **John Gurney Municipal Park** in the heart of Hart, Michigan was the site of the club's June rally. Twenty-seven coaches gathered under the trees for a weekend of asparagus eating and taking in the events of the **Asparagus Festival**. On Saturday, the Howes escorted a group of Great Lakers on a tour, seminar, and history of the tasty green stalk conducted by a gracious grower in the area.

The hosts welcomed the Club on Friday night with a dinner of asparagus soup and fresh baked bread. For Saturday night's dinner the group was transported to nearby **Shelby High School**. As one would expect, most dishes served featured asparagus as one of the ingredients, including the dessert.

At the short business meeting, the members voted to purchase the PA system that was demonstrated and presented by Neal Turner.

July 1988, Bristol, Indiana: Thirty-three Great Lakers gathered at **Eby Pines Campground in Bristol**, Indiana for the Club's July rally. Saturday featured a three-hour tour of the Amish countryside in a school bus. One of the stops on the tour was an Amish-run

cheese factory, **Deutsch Käse Haus**. Although not in operation at the time, the store sold a variety of cheeses. The next stop was **Shipshewana**, population 1,000, and site of a popular auction and flea market. In the afternoon, the group was off to the **Das Dutchman Essenhaus** for an Amish meal of country-fried chicken, Salisbury steak, fresh baked bread, all the trimmings and home made pie.

July 1988, South Bend, Indiana: The GMC Great Lakers were once again well represented at the FMCA Summer Convention. This year, 28 member coaches traveled to the **University of Notre Dame** in South Bend, Indiana.

August 1988, Stratford, Ontario, Canada: The city of Stratford, Ontario, Canada was the setting for the Club's August rally. The Club settled in at the **Stratford County Fairgrounds** on Friday with a cocktail party. The hosts made arrangements for the group to see the stage play of "King Lear" at the **Third Stage Theatre** Saturday afternoon.

Saturday's evening meal was a farm-style dinner, served and prepared by the Agricultural Society Ladies, consisting of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, salad, and a variety of homemade pies.

At the business meeting, the members present voted to increase the dues to \$20 annually for renewals and to \$30 for new members as recommended by the executive committee.

September 1988, Mackinaw City, Michigan: The Great Lakers Mackinac Island Fall Fling was held the weekend of September 9-11 at the **Mackinaw Mill Creek Campground** on US 23 south of Mackinaw City, Michigan. Some of the 22 Great Lakers in attendance arrived on Wednesday, some on Thursday, and the remainder on Friday.

The early arrivers visited **The Old Mill Creek State Park** on Friday morning and **Colonial Michilimackinac** that afternoon. Nine coaches conveyed the Great Lakers to the ferry dock for a catamaran trip to **Mackinac Island**. Upon landing, the island was in a state of chaos and confusion as a marathon around the island was about to begin. Hosts Dan and Jean Homerich were dockside directing and advising those members who elected to travel by carriage, horse, bike, or foot.

Returning to the mainland, the group prepared to feast upon a huge pot of chili which was supplemented by a diversity of dishes from each member. After a short business meeting, Jean Homerich conducted an "Unscramble the Motorhome Name" game, followed by a showing of the video, "Bill Cosby: 49."

October 1988, Rochester, Michigan: The 1988 camping season came to a close with 50 GMC Great Lakers gathering at **Addison Oaks County Park** north of Rochester, Michigan the weekend of October

14-16. The GMC encampment was reached by traveling, within the park, what seemed like miles of narrow gravel roads, flanked by canopied trees on both sides, and ended in a secluded clearing on the knoll of a hill overlooking forest and meadow.

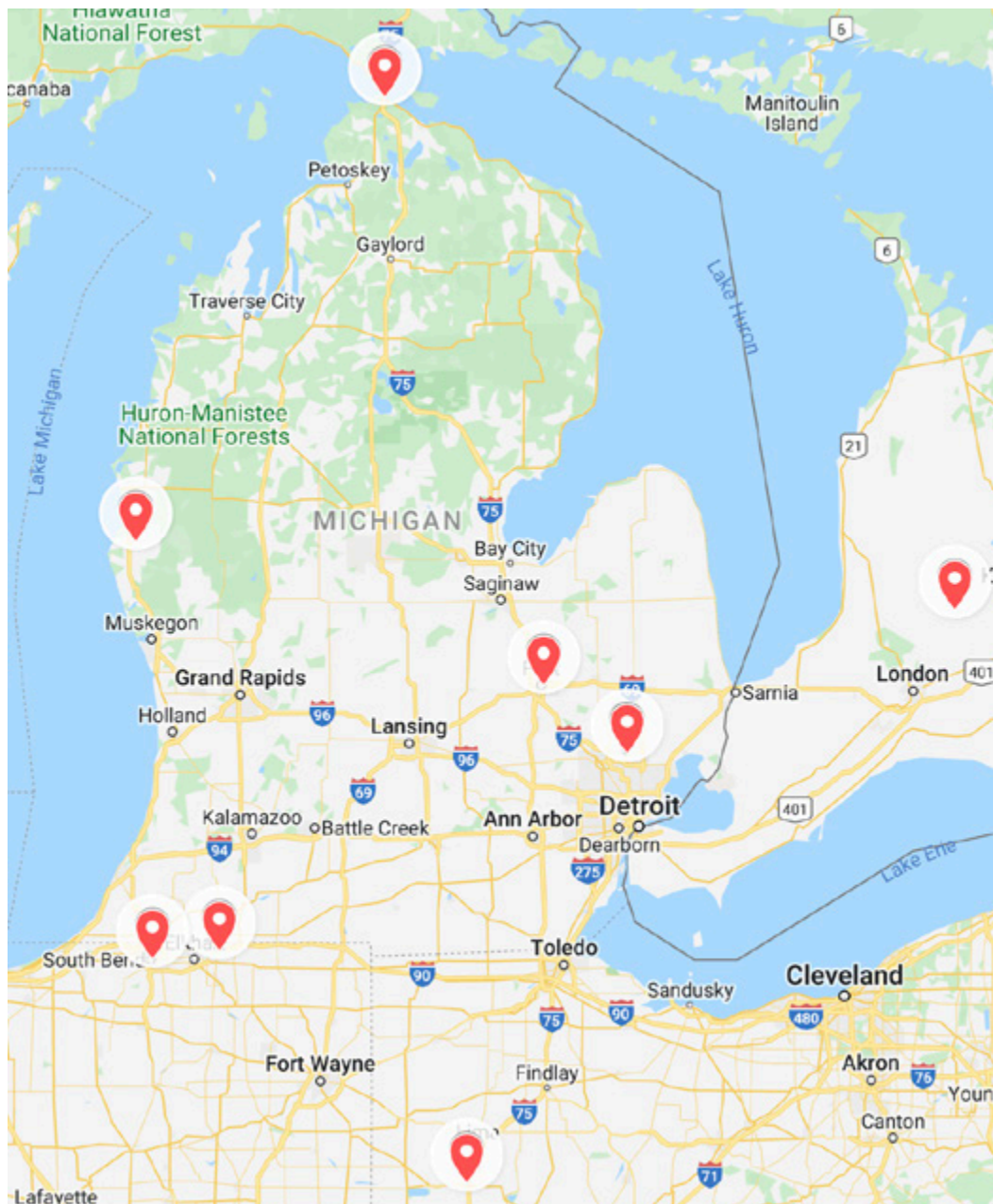
Friday evening featured hors d'oeuvres, followed by 20 pies baked by the membership and host Bill Howard's daughter Susan.

Saturday afternoon was camaraderie time around the fire circle and coffee pot, traveling to nearby orchards for cider and donuts, or to visit a **local museum**.

Saturday evening the group was transported to the concession building for dinner and a business meeting. The meal was catered, buffet style with President Johnson summoning each table in orderly fashion. The new PA system was pressed into service for the giving of grace, and all activities in the building.

At the meeting, Neal Turner was recognized and thanked for his efforts in purchasing the public address system. The Nominating Committee reported the results of the election.

The officers for 1989 are: Ivan Johnson, President; Tillie Nestle, Vice President; Jean Gronendyke, Secretary/Treasurer; Jack Hoaglin, National Director and Bob Benham, Alternate National Director.





Museum Restoration Story on Page 7

Have items, time, and/or resources to donate? Want to know what is needed to restore this 1973 26' Canyon Lands? Please contact:

- Jeff Rider at jeffer58@wideopenwest.com or 248.877.1966 for a list of what is needed or further details regarding restoration efforts
- Terry Connolly at terryconnolly@comcast.net



GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Newsletter Editor
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