

# roam.

The newsletter of the GMC Great Lakers

2022 november

year in  
review







Lauren Mendelson and me after receiving our awards at the M1 Concourse "Speed and Style Expo" during American Speed Fest weekend.

# from the Editor

I've been an M1 Concourse volunteer for the last few years. M1 is the site where our GMC Motorhomes were produced and where, in 2015, the grounds opened to the public during certain events, like *Cars and Coffee* and *Cars Under the Stars*. 200+ condos have been built in phases and range in size from 650 sq. ft. to over 3,000 sq. ft. The experience is nothing short of amazing.

Over the summer, I was invited to participate—with my GMC—in the inaugural "Speed and Style Expo" during the second annual "American Speed Fest." I was truly honored to have been asked! The GMC actually didn't fit within any of the categories that were created and when I found out afterward that the vehicles were going to be judged, I was intrigued.

My favorite part of the event was parking my GMC around the track alongside other collectible cars, and allowing others to experience it. Despite signs posted that invited passersby to come on board, everyone was so respectful and would look at me, point to the sign, and still ask if it was OK to go inside.

I met so many people and they loved being able to get a glance. I even met a College for Creative Studies (CCS) automotive design exchange student from Germany. He was absolutely stunned at the concentration of collectible vehicles around Metro Detroit and how tight-knit the automotive community is. It was interesting to get an outsider's perspective of our beloved Motown and he absolutely loved the GMC!

Imagine my surprise when the emcee announced my name during the awards culmination! Tim Greimel, the mayor of the City of Pontiac, awarded me the *City of Pontiac Selection Award* trophy. It was a day of excitement, and yet another reason why I enjoy sharing the love I have for these special vehicles!

*Karen*

Karen E. Breen, Editor



Visitors exiting my 1978 Royale during the M1 Concourse "Speed and Style Expo."



Lauren's 2019 Ferrari Monza SP1.





1977 Eleganza II at Lake Mead, Nevada by Daniel Jacobs of Landgraaf, Netherlands on May 20, 2022.

By Jerry Newman, GMC Great Lakers President

Wow! What a way to end the 2022 Rally Season. The September Rally was held at the GMCMI Convention in Lebanon, Tennessee, roughly northeast of Nashville. I couldn't be prouder of the Great Lakers attendance and participation in making this convention a very successful rally.

We had 45+ members at our membership meeting with at least 12 coaches in attendance. The positive attitude, willingness to help, and camaraderie was so evident that everyone at the convention felt the presence of the Great Lakers. Even with the distractions of sharing the venue with: a national dog jumping contest, a rodeo, a big time wrestling match nearby, and less than desirable camping conditions, our members were tolerant and a joy to be with.

The spirit of the Great Lakers was amazing, and every day was a new adventure. I don't want to single anyone out for their help, but the improvised meals were wonderful, the evenings around the campfires were very welcoming, the sharing of many different types of adult beverages to taste were delightful, and the entertainment of the Rocket Cars in the parking lot was mind blowing. Yes, the Great Lakers represented our club proudly and warmly welcomed other clubs to join us.

When GMCMI needed someone to step up and take charge of the "Boot Scootin'" outing at Fiddlers Grove, they knew who to call. As the self-proclaimed sheriff of the event, I deputized 20 members to make sure the event went as planned. We manned the gate to keep it a private event, distributed the GMCMI gift, led tours of the village, answered questions, and organized and officiated the first ever "Outhouse Races."

Yes, you read that right! We had timed outhouse races where four "pushers" and a "sitter," who after being pushed about 100 feet up a slight grade, had to throw rolls of toilet paper through a hanging toilet seat and be pushed back to the start/finish line. It was a great time, and everyone laughed and cheered on their favorites.

The bottom line is that the GMCMI Convention/September Rally was a huge success, and the Great Lakers deserve a well-deserved pat on the back for helping to make it an event to remember.

The October Rally was hosted by Bea and me at Camp Cedar in Mason, Ohio from October 2-5. Bea has written and provided photos of this event in this newsletter, but I do want to mention that the election is the most important part of the end of the rally season. At the October 3rd membership meeting,

Auditor Merle Carpenter announced that the membership retained the current board members. I want to thank Joe Gillen and Sue Aubuchon for their willingness and desire to help lead the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club. I look forward to working with the board and continue to strive to improve the unity and trust of the club. I also look forward to working with Joe, Sue, and others to fulfill the club's needs.

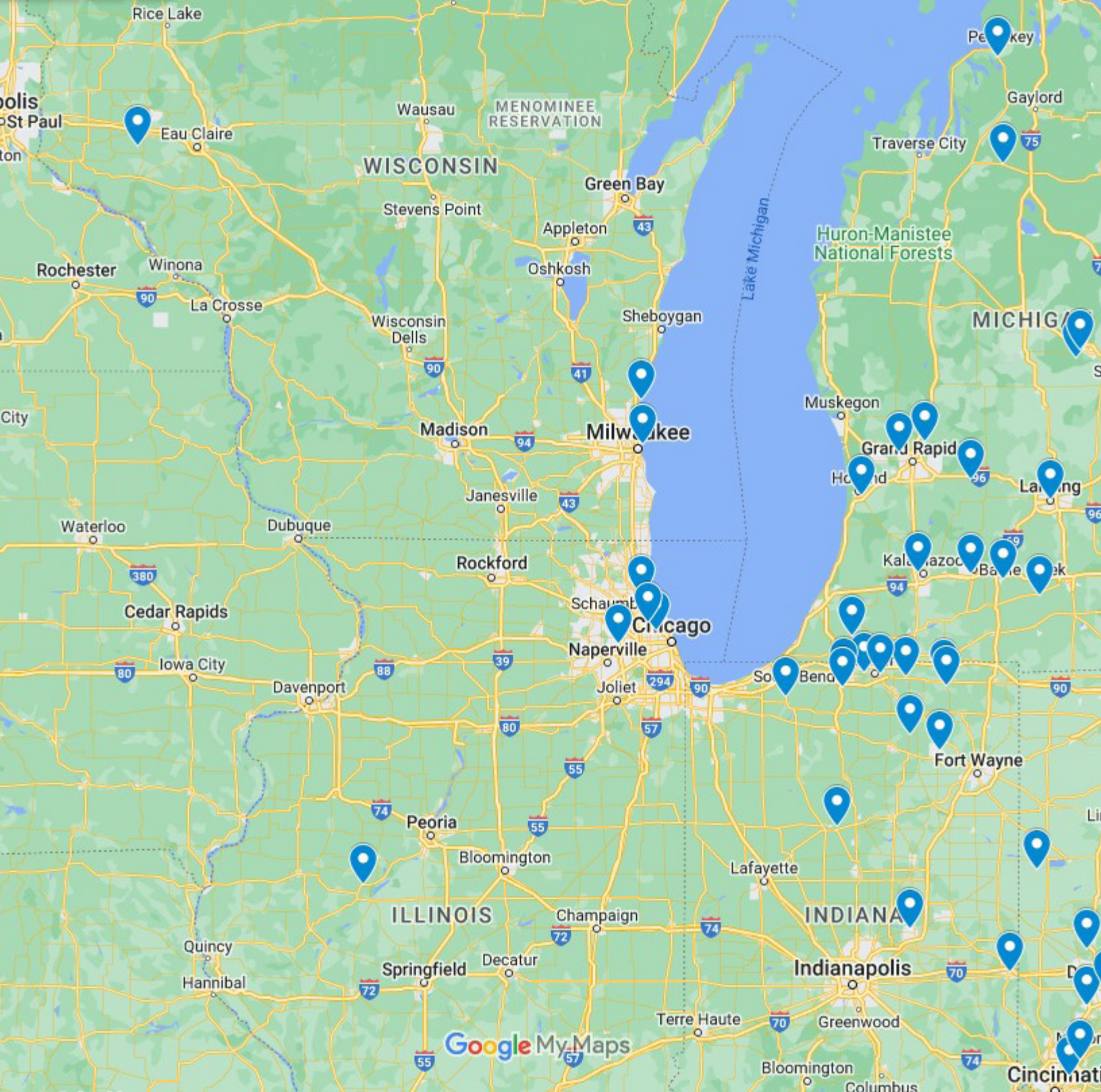
In closing, I want everyone to realize that even through the brightest of times this year it was also the darkest; we lost three of our most treasured members. Please say a prayer for the families of Beth Hickman (Dillon), Frank Griffin (Barbara), and Bee Frahm (Dale).

Next year will be a great year to be a GMC Great Laker. Our club is located near the birthplace of where it all began 50 years ago in Pontiac, Michigan. I have some new and creative surprises for 2023 and look forward to making you proud to be a GMC Great Laker and further the enjoyment of GMC Motorhome ownership. In closing I want to thank each of our members for your support in 2022.

May the sun always shine on you and your family. Stay healthy, stay in touch, help others, and live life to the fullest!

Until we meet again!

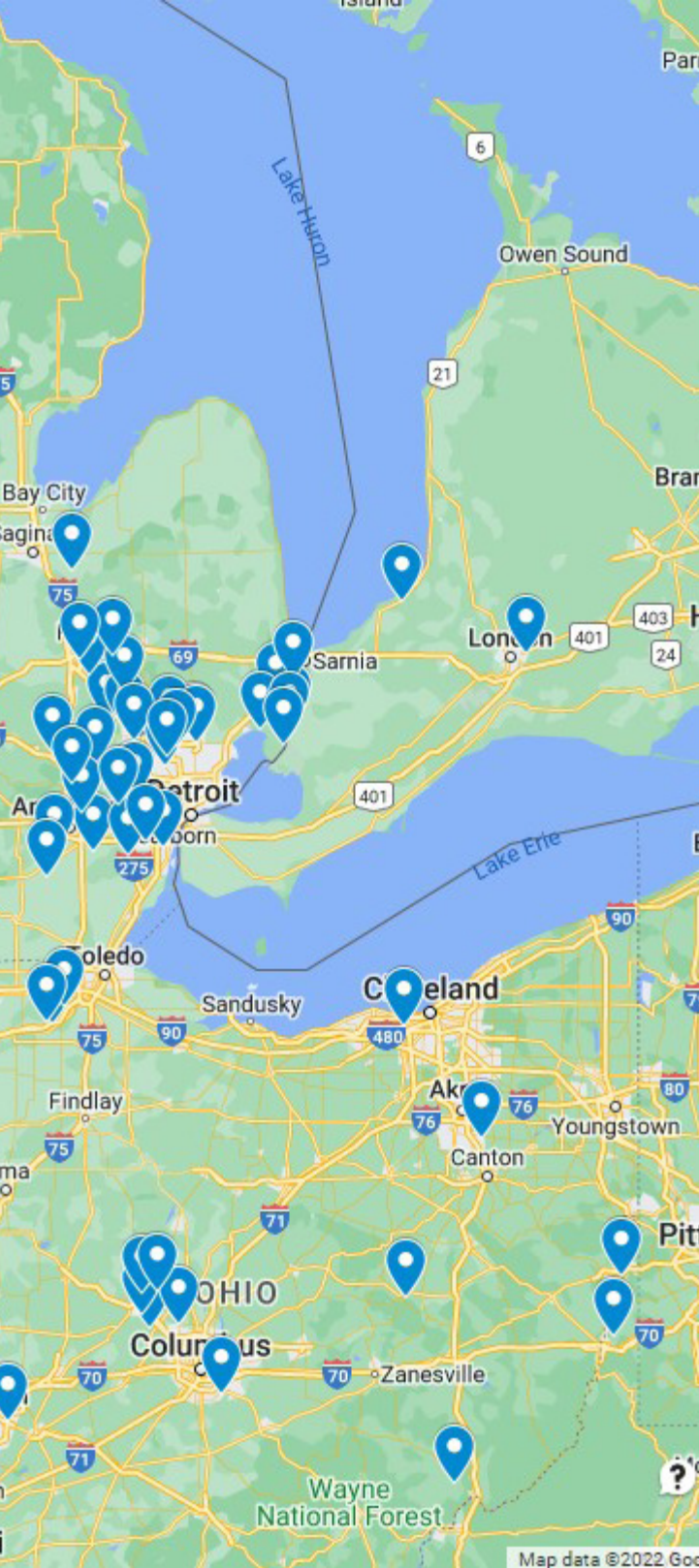




# DID YOU KNOW...?

- When General Motors formed the GMC Motorhome Owners Club (GMC-MOC) in January 1976 and began organizing local chapters and nationwide rallies, the FMCA's 13th National Convention was held in Centerville, Michigan and 200+ GMC motorhomes were in attendance! (GMC Motorhome Traveler Newsletter, [August 1976/v1n5](#))
- There were also 200+ GMC motorhomes in attendance at the First National (all GMC) Rally at the Nashville Opryland KOA from October 21-24, 1976! (GMC Motorhome Traveler Newsletter, [October 1976/v1n7](#))





# CLUB GEOSTATS!

By Karen E. Breen

Have you been curious to see where our Great Lakers membership is concentrated? Thanks to Melissa Koenig, our membership chair, you are able to! The map on the left places that information at-a-glance.

The Board, in its quest to schedule 2023 rallies, found this information very helpful. Based on September membership information, you are seeing the geographic breakdown thusly:

Michigan.....	49
Ohio .....	21
Indiana .....	14
Illinois.....	5
Wisconsin .....	3
Ontario, Canada .....	2

For the sake of showing detail, outliers weren't included in the map; here is what was omitted:

Arkansas.....	1
California .....	1
Kentucky.....	1
Minnesota .....	1
Nevada .....	1
Texas .....	1
Virginia.....	1
West Virginia.....	1

In April of 2020, Billy Massey (bdub.net) amassed stats, and GMCMI magazine published those stats, in the [spring issue \(No. 151\)](#), indicating where GMCs are registered world-wide. As of 11/13/2022, there are 8,897 unique VINs registered.

I've been fascinated with that information since it was published and has prompted me to do the same thing for all of our GMC Great Lakers rallies. Stay tuned!

- GMC-MOC became GMC-MOA (Motorhome Owners Association, Inc.) in mid-1977. (GMC Motorhome Traveler Newsletter, [August 1977/v2n8](#))
- A GMC Motorhome attendance record was set during the Grand National Rally at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delavan, Wisconsin from July 19-23, 1978. **There were 274 GMCs in attendance!** (GMC Motorhome Traveler Newsletter, [August/September 1978/v3n5](#) and [October 1978/v3n6](#))





*A perfect evening for a bonfire during the last rally of the year.*

## October 2022 Great Lakers Rally

### Kings Island Camp Cedar - Mason, Ohio

By Bea Newman, Rally Co-Host

Jerry and I hosted the season-closing rally season at Camp Cedar Resort, just northeast of Cincinnati, Ohio. The weather was cool, but the excitement and enthusiasm was warm and inviting. Some made it a stop on their way back from the GMCMI convention in Lebanon, Tennessee, some came from home, and three were from the Cincinnati area as potential new members.

The food at the rally was well planned and the Cincinnati theme was unique. Some of us had lunch at Skyline Chili, a Cincinnati favorite. The group also lunched at Doc's Bar in Lebanon, Ohio, tried Goetta for breakfast, stuffed ourselves with Raffel's pasta bar, enjoyed LaRosa's pizza, and indulged in Cincinnati's United Dairy Farmers' ice cream.

The craft was once again a big hit, and Lois definitely made the largest fabric pumpkin! Unfortunately, we didn't have time for the mouse repellent sachets; send me an email if you want the directions. The field trips were unique as well. Everyone enjoyed the Loveland castle, Château

Laroche. The story of one man's dream to build a castle while helping to guide the lives of the local youth to a better life through belief and advocating the Ten Commandments is nothing short of astonishing.

The visitation and shopping in Lebanon were a welcome break as everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and the quaint town.

Joe Gillen's tech session about the AC/heater/vent blower system was fantastic! There is nothing like a hands-on demonstration. Great discussions ensued with many contributors.

Thanks so much to so many of you for helping in so many ways. Thanks too for the muffins and Friendship Bread that brought a sweet start to each day.

We loved seeing everyone in the southern part of the Great Lakers region and appreciate the long drive it may have taken some of you. Here's to a happy, healthy winter, and plans for an awesome 2023 with all of you.



# GMC GREAT LAKERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONTRIBUTORS

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*gmcgreatlakers.org*

Nancy Donaghue,  
Vice President  
Davisburg, Michigan  
248.933.0546  
vice\_president@  
gmcgreatlakers.org

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

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

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

Jerry Newman, President  
Cincinnati 513.235.7848  
president@gmcgreatlakers.org

*Favorite place visited in my  
GMC: Indian Lake State Park,  
Manistique, Michigan*

*Favorite place visited in my  
GMC: Phoenix, Arizona*



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

Melissa Koenig, Membership  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 810.599.4123  
membership@gmcgreatlakers.org

Karen E. Breen,  
Newsletter Editor  
Birmingham, Michigan  
248.219.5618  
newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org

Deb Pryzbylek,  
Sunshine Person  
Swanton, Ohio 419.902.1034  
sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org

*Favorite place visited in my  
GMC: Moab, Utah*

*Favorite place visited in my GMC:  
New Orleans*



Becky Johnson, Past President  
Milford, Michigan 248.343.7636  
beckystevej@aol.com



## 2023 Rally Season

By Nancy Donaghue

Next year's rally season will begin **May 11-14** with the Club's "Birthday Rally" at Camp Dearborn. Unfortunately we cannot make reservations until after the first of the year.

Plans are already underway for **June's rally** at Hocking Hills near Logan, Ohio. Campground Information:

Hocking River RV Park  
30682 Chieftan Road  
Logan, Ohio

740.331.4840 | [www.hockingriverrvpark.com](http://www.hockingriverrvpark.com)

Reservations are accepted via phone or online. This is a small park in a very popular tourist area.

The Club is again requesting rally hosts for 2023. Please reach out to me ([vice\\_president@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org) or 248.933.0546) if you are interested in hosting a rally or have a suggestion for a rally location.

## November 2022 Treasurer's Report

By Steve Johnson

Balance (7/31/2022 reported in August newsletter).....	\$7,066.84
Expenses August thru October 2022 .....	-\$3,653.80
Revenue August thru October 2022 .....	\$3,320.00
Balance 10/31/2022.....	\$6,733.04

## Membership Report

By Melissa Koenig

Membership renewal emails will be sent at the end of December. Dues remain \$15.00 and we are looking into an electronic payment method this year. We'll let you know in the email!



## Sunshine and Rainbows

By Deb Pryzbylek

A sympathy card had been sent to the family of **Frank Griffin**. The Board voted to make a donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Board voted to make donations on behalf of **Beth Hickman** to the Tadmor Shrine Center in Akron, Ohio.

Please send information to me at [sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org](mailto:sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org).







## Attention All GMC Great Lakers Veterans!

By Jerry Newman

Your Executive Board wants to recognize our Veterans' service to our country. We must never forget the sacrifices you and others unselfishly gave to preserve the freedoms we enjoy daily. May our thanks extend throughout the year, and Veterans Day is the reminder of each hero.

In recognition of this appreciation, each Veteran in attendance will be recognized at all meetings and gatherings associated with the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club. In addition to your recognition, the Executive Board voted unanimously to offer a one-time 25% discount per GL# on a 2023 rally fee of your choice (This excludes GMCM conventions). Per your instructions, the discount will be honored at the time of registration and will be inclusive of a spouse, if applicable.

Once again, we cannot adequately express our gratitude to our Veterans for their service. Every individual in this country owes each of you their respect and sincere thanks for a job well done! I'm proud to have you in the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, and above all, to call you my friend.

# Celebrating 46 years!

**GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.**

Newsletter Editor

1151 Chapin Avenue

Birmingham, Michigan 48009-2034



# 1976-2022