

roam.

The newsletter of the GMC Great Lakers

2023 april

Oh!

**The places
we'll go...
in 2023!**



Rally Schedule Inside

from the Editor



M1 Concourse Ambassadors during the 2021 American Speed Fest Garage Reveal.



he cat is (finally) out of the bag!

If you've been privy to insider information or have been reading the GMC social media channels, you already know that Metro Detroit is hosting the [GMCMI 2023 Fall Convention](#)! This is a first!

I have lobbied hard for this event to take place in Metro Detroit for the 50th anniversary celebration of the GMC. And what better way than for our area to be showcased. We almost didn't land this opportunity because, as a metro area, there weren't enough campsites nearby. I made numerous calls to public and private campgrounds in order to find the number of sites that were necessary. I contacted MARVAC (Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds) and asked for references. Finally, Kim Weeks was able to locate a county campground that met GMCMI's guidelines.

We hope you can join us for what will be a wonderful opportunity to also visit [M1 Concourse](#). M1 Concourse is the former site of GM Truck and Bus in Pontiac, where our coaches were assembled. We are working on many on-site activities there on Monday, September 25. More information to come.

If you are a local and won't be able to join us at the Shiawassee County Fairground in Corunna from Tuesday, September 19 to Monday, September 25, try to clear your calendar and join us with or without your GMC at M1 Concourse. You won't want to miss it!

Karen E. Breen, Editor

President's Page



1975 Glenbrook at Henderson Beach State Park in Destin, Florida by Kate Sluman of Santa Clara, California in February 2022.

By Jerry Newman, GMC Great Lakers President

Welcome to spring!

I hope everyone has fared well through the winter break. The weather was unusually mild in Cincinnati with little precipitation to shovel. My kind of winter.

This is the issue with a lot of information regarding the great work your 2023 executive board has worked hard to present to you. It promises to be a summer packed with many opportunities to explore new adventures, rekindle old friendships, and gain more knowledge about our unique and marvelous motorhomes.

I would like to give each of you a thought that has been rattling around in my head: What is it about paying your dues and continuing to be a member? Is it the adventure of camping in places you normally wouldn't, or discussing technical issues to get answers to your questions, or learning of questions you should ask and should address, learning a new craft once a month, or the feeling of accomplishment and security of participating in the success of club functions?

If you strip away the obvious reasons for belonging, the underlying determination to belong or not to belong is fellowship.

Fellowship: A society of people sharing mutual interests, experiences, activities, companionship, friendship, etc.

Fellowship is the basis for our club. Are there differences of opinions? Yes. Are there disputes to how the club functions? Yes. Are there areas we can improve? Yes. Are there areas we need to bring up-to-date for the changing times of the club? Yes. However, the underlying foundation of the club is fellowship.

Bea and I had the distinct pleasure to enjoy the company of three different club members for a meal in the last three months. Three couples from three different states that we never would have had the pleasure to meet if it weren't for our Great Lakers Motorhome Club membership. I have had great conversations with several members on various topics via phone, email, text, and Zoom this winter that were very constructive and pleasurable. I also now have friends throughout the US through GMCMI. Enjoying the fellowship of like-minded others is comforting and satisfying.

Our club is comprised of individuals that continue to display that they are all willing to help others. The fellowship is

the strongest at rallies and is what makes getting together so successful.

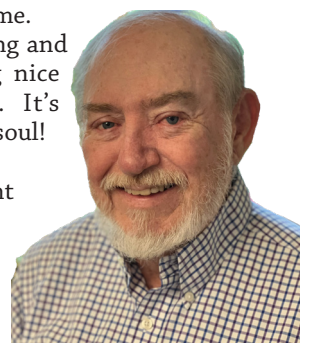
This crazy world in which we live is full of challenges and choices. We just need to always be kind and be certain to meet and greet others warmly.

How many people in today's society remember the Golden Rule? Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Each of you are bricks in the foundation of the club. Let's make the 50th anniversary the year of accomplishments, and strengthen our Fellowship into a stronger base, setting up the club for future success for years to come.

Keep smiling and do something nice for someone. It's good for your soul!

Jerry, President



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Volume 48 : Issue 2
gmcgreatlakers.org

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*What advice do you have for
a new GMC owner? Don't
immediately gut your coach.
Go camping.*

*What advice do you have for a
new GMC owner? Make sure
the mechanicals are good
before you worry about cos-
metics.*

*What advice do you have for a new
GMC owner? Always run on fully
charged batteries.*

Bill Helmore, Historian
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*What advice do you have for a
new GMC owner? Develop a
checklist to use each time you
move your coach.*



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*What advice do you have for
a new GMC owner? Join
GMCMI.*

Melissa Koenig, Membership
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*What advice do you have for a new GMC owner? Utilize
our club and GMCMI technical information and
experts.*

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*What advice do you have for a new
GMC owner? Do your research
and ask lots of questions.*

Sue Aubuchon, Sunshine Person
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*What advice do you have for a new
GMC owner? When winterizing
your coach, put a few drops of
peppermint oil on cotton balls
and place them around the in-
side to help keep rodents away.*

Becky Johnson, Past President
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beckystevej@aol.com



Nelson Secord

Member, with his wife Clarice, since September 2007



Nelson and Clarice Secord, October 9, 2018 at Tahquamenon Falls, Upper Peninsula, Michigan.



1977 Palm Beach, July 13, 2005, on the Alaska Highway taken between Kluane Lake and Beaver Creek, Alaska.

By Karen E. Breen

Let me introduce you to both Nelson Secord and a new feature article to our newsletter: our Q&A series. What better way to showcase our members than to ask them questions and feature them here. These are also great ice-breaker conversation starters at our rallies. So the next time you see a featured member, walk up, introduce yourself, and get the conversation started!

Question: What was your first GMC and when did you purchase it?

Answer: Our first GMC, a 1977 Palm Beach (Floor Plan 26-3), was purchased from—coincidentally—Palm Beach, Florida in 1994 for \$21K. It had almost 58K miles and now has 141K miles. We became the fourth owners.

Q: How long have you been a Great Lakers' member?

A: My wife, Clarice, and I joined in September of 2007.

Q: How many GMCs have you owned?

A: My wife and I still use the Palm Beach, but in 2003 when our neighbor died, his spouse said we could have their 1976 Eleganza II (Floor Plan 26-3) if I would drive it out of their yard. It had not been driven for six years. It had 77K miles on it and now has 140K. I put \$21K into it. Our third GMC is a 1973 Canyon Lands (Floor Plan 26-2). It was built in August of 1973. We purchased it in 2010 with 79K miles. All original interior and will take another two years to be road worthy. We have three daughters and three GMCs!

Q: What modifications do they have?

A: The Palm Beach was pretty close to original. It had newer carpeting, was reupholstered and came with a roof

pod, airhorn, and roof spotlight. I've added a 2000-watt Freedom 20 inverter, installed a Sensitor engine monitor, macerator, Alcoa wheels, replaced the timing gears, added throttle body fuel injection (TBI) with EBL (also installed in the Eleganza II), re-cored the radiator, and many other items.

Q: How often do you travel with your GMCs?

A: We travel about three to four times a year. My wife prefers the Eleganza II.

Q: Tell us about any travel companions.

A: We have traveled with my wife's aunt and uncle, and also with a few grandchildren at a time. We have 10 grandchildren and have taken them on several long trips to Yellowstone National Park, both U.S. and Canadian Rockies, and the east coast. We have traveled with all but one grandchild



7/19/2018 (l to r): Clarice Secord, Nelson Secord, Marin Emch, granddaughter, Rhonda Emch, youngest daughter, Clare Hawver, granddaughter, Annie Emch, granddaughter at D. H. Day Campground within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. 1976 Eleganza II and 1977 Palm Beach peeking from behind.

thus far! We make it a point to go to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore annually. We take both the Palm Beach and the Eleganza II and stay at the D.H. Day Campground. Sometimes all 18 of us make it!

Q: What was your favorite trip and why?

A: The best trip started the day after my wife retired from teaching in 2005. We headed to Alaska for three months in our Palm Beach. My wife's aunt and uncle followed us pulling their 1965 26' Airstream. My wife wanted to drive the entire trip; I did the navigating. 10,000 miles! We saw 11 GMCs on that trip! In our travels, our GMCs have carried us through about two-thirds of the states and nearly all the Canadian provinces.

Q: What is your favorite campground?

A: Algonac State Park is our most frequent local campground. We go to watch the freighters in the spring and fall. The park's proximity to the St. Clair River provides very close viewing of the river traffic.

Q: Do you do your own work or hire out?

A: I've hired out to have the heads machined when I

converted the Eleganza II to TBI. Both radiators were re-cored elsewhere, and I took the Palm Beach's right bogie assembly up to Cinnabar in 1994 to straighten and I can now do that myself if needed. I took the Palm Beach to Cinnabar in 1996 to align when I replaced the front suspension bushings and also when there was ice storm roof damage.

Q: If you could own any GMC new, which would you buy and why?

A: It would be the 1977 Palm Beach (26-3). Although we didn't buy it new, that's the one we would stick with.

Q: What is your background and occupation?

A: I attended the University of Michigan and have a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. I've worked for Ford at their Transmission and Chassis plant in Livonia as an intern, then King Seely Corporation in Ann Arbor, until they were bought out and I automatically became a Chrysler employee. I worked on engine governors for delivery trucks, diesel governors for Detroit Diesel, instrument cluster design, small car air fuel and emissions.



The interior of our 1976 Eleganza II.

I then worked out of Chrysler's Highland Park headquarters and eventually to Auburn Hills when the headquarters relocated there. I took an early retirement in 2001.

Q: When did you become interested in GMCs and why?

A: We first noticed the GMC when we were on spring break in 1994 at Fort Pickens Gulf Island National Seashore in Pensacola, Florida. There were several GMC motorhomes in the park. My wife said she wanted one so we approached one of the owners and they gave us a tour. There was no question what we would do next. The owner told us to find a *Trader* magazine at a gas station and look for GMC ads. That's how it was done before the Internet.

Q: How are your GMCs stored?

A: We built a 28' x 40' pole barn in 2000. It has two 12'x12' garage doors with a 6" poured floor. It is well insulated and keeps the temps 10 degrees cooler in the summer and 10 degrees warmer in the winter.

Q: What advice do you have for your fellow GMCers?

A: Enjoy your GMC and use it! A lot of engineering went into its design. There are three areas to consider where significant improvements can be made: the brake system, the engine fueling system, and the final drive ratio. It is easy to get all fired up about the latest modifications to improve these areas but it is wise to think over what you are doing and obtain an unbiased opinion from someone

who has made the change/s you may be considering.

I was almost tempted to put disc brakes on the forward arms of the bogies and modify the emergency cables to just work the rear arms with brake drums. Probably a more sensible move is a sensitized booster and a constant vacuum source, especially if you are still running a carburetor.

For fueling, I installed a throttle body injection (TBI) with EBL which uses parts that are readily available. No more stalling or stumbling 200 feet down the road after accelerating from a stop in 85°F or warmer weather. All of the TBI systems can stop the stalling and stumbling, but the EBL TBI system gives you better spark control for fuel economy.

Final drives with higher numerical ratios give you more passing acceleration, more hill climbing ability, and better trailer hauling performance, and there is another bonus: Your engine will operate at a little higher efficiency, but with a bit more engine noise.

Thank you, Nelson, for taking the time to answer these questions and allowing us a look inside your GMC world!

If you would like to nominate a fellow member, or yourself, for a future Q&A article, please email your submission to newsletter@gmcggreatlakers.org.

GMC Great Lakers May 2023 Rally

Camp Dearborn ~ Milford, Michigan

Thursday, May 11 - Sunday, May 14, 2023

1700 General Motors Road, Milford, Michigan 48380

248.684.6000 | www.campdearborn.com | sites 78-107 held until 4/26

Hosted by Your Great Lakers Executive Board

Please join us as we begin the 2023 GMC Great Lakers rally season!

Thursday, May 11 - Arrival after 1pm

6:00p Potluck dinner, behind Sites 101 and 102. Please bring a dish to share.

Friday, May 12

7:30a Coffee, behind Sites 101 and 102

8:00a Hot Breakfast

Lunch on own

1:00p Visit the "Pontiac Transportation Museum," Pontiac, Michigan \$10/pp (cash, at museum)

Dinner on own

Saturday, May 13

7:30a Coffee, behind Sites 101 and 102

8:00a Hot Breakfast

Visit the Open House at the "Warbirds of Glory Museum," New Hudson, Michigan and "Michigan War Dog Memorial," South Lyon (Need to GMC-/car-pool)

Lunch on own

5:00p Membership Meeting at the Chalet

6:00p Catered Dinner following the meeting

Sunday, May 14 - Checkout is Noon

Coffee at 7:30a

8:00a Light breakfast, behind Sites 101 and 102

Goodbyes and well wishes

Schedule subject to change. Detailed schedule provided in your welcome packet upon arrival. Book your campsite directly with the park. See registration form for details.

Questions: Nancy Donaghue: vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org | 248.933.0546

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

**Bring your own drink, plates, and utensils to each meal.
For morning coffee, please bring your own mug.**

An al fresco luncheon table steps outside a 1977 Palm Beach with rear twin bed floorplan, converted to king. Gifford Campground, Gifford, Washington on June 11, 2022 by Karla Stecker.



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Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Book your campsite directly with the park

Rally Registration Form



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Member1 Name

Member1 Email

Member1 Phone

☐ Mobile ☐ Home

Children Attending

Guest1 Name

Member2 Name

Member2 Email

Member2 Phone

☐ Mobile ☐ Home

Children's Ages (U12 gratis)

Guest2 Name

Emergency Contact Information



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

\$ 40.00
\$ 80.00
\$

Totals

\$
\$
\$

Prepaid Tours or Events

Number

x

\$

\$

Number

x

\$

\$

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

Total Rally Fees \$

Mail To: Steve Johnson, Treasurer • GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. • 681 Milford Farms Court • Milford, MI 48381-3353 • 248.378.3177 • treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org

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 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 on 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.

rev 20220301

2023 Rally Season

APRIL 27-MAY 3 Th-Wed

GMCMI SPRING CONVENTION NOT A GREAT LAKERS RALLY
FORREST COUNTY CENTER, 962 SULLIVAN DRIVE
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI
HOST: [GMCMI](#)

MAY 11-14 Th-Sun

CAMP DEARBORN in MILFORD, MICHIGAN
1700 GENERAL MOTORS ROAD : 248.684.6000
CAMPDEARBORN.COM : 30 SITES SECURED
RESERVE AFTER MARCH 1
HOSTS: GMC GREAT LAKERS EXECUTIVE BOARD

JUNE 15-18 Th-Sun

HOCKING RIVER RV PARK in LOGAN, OHIO
30761 CHIEFTAN DRIVE : 740.331.4840
HOCKINGRIVERRV.PARK.COM : 7 SITES AVAIL
HOSTS: NANCY AND PETER DONAGHUE

JULY TBD

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING THIS RALLY, PLEASE
CONTACT NANCY DONAGHUE

AUGUST 17-20 Th-Sun

HARBORTOWN RV RESORT in MONROE, MICHIGAN
14931 LAPLAISANCE ROAD : 734.384.4700
HARBORTOWNRV.COM : 25 SITES
UNRESERVED SITES WILL BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 1 \$72 and \$77 per night
HOSTS: NEEDED

SEPTEMBER 14-17 Th-Sun

ALGONAC STATE PARK in MARINE CITY, MICHIGAN
8732 RIVER ROAD : 800.447.2757
MIDNRRRESERVATIONS.COM : CAN RESERVE 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE
HOSTS: SHARON AND TOM GIANNOSA

SEPTEMBER 19-25 Th-Sun

GMCMI FALL CONVENTION "50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GMC"
SHAWASSEE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS NOT A GREAT LAKERS RALLY
2900 HIBBARD ROAD in CORUNNA, MICHIGAN
WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION! EVENT WILL CONCLUDE on MONDAY, 9/25
WITH A CARAVAN TO PONTIAC, MICHIGAN and M1 CONCOURSE (FORMER
LOCATION OF GMC PONTIAC TRUCK AND BUS: HOME OF THE GMC!)

OCTOBER 19-22 Th-Sun

CAMP TURKEYVILLE RV RESORT in MARSHALL, MICHIGAN
18935 15 1/2 MILE ROAD : 269.781.4293
CAMPTURKEYVILLE.COM : 25 SITES : \$55 per night
HOSTS: RENE AND RICHARD FOERSTER



GMC Pacific Cruisers Motorhome Club Rally at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort in Newport Beach, California by
Mike Kociela of San Diego on January 28, 2023. Mike is the owner of a 1977 Palm Beach, fourth from left, above.



Sunshine and Rainbows

Hopefully you received Jerry's "Newman's News" via email on March 14. Jerry introduced **Sue Aubuchon** as our new "Sunshine Person" and thanked Deb Pryzbylek for her many years of contributions as Sunshine Person.

Thank you, Deb and Welcome, Sue!

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

April 2023 Treasurer's Report

By Steve Johnson

Treasurer Report

Balance 12/31/2022 reported in February newsletter ... \$6,120.55
Expenses January and February 2023 \$0.00
Revenue January and February 2023 \$605.00
Balance 2/28/2023 \$6,725.55



Membership Report

By Melissa Koenig

Welcome to new GMC Great Lakers members:

- **Cary and Marcia Lawson** from **Washington, Ohio**
- **Janet Leslie** from **Saline, Michigan**
- **Joe and Lisa Desormeaux** from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**
- **Barry and Sandra David** from **Hazel Park, Michigan**
- **Mike Neithercut** from **Flint, Michigan**

We currently have 83 members. The directory has been created and emailed to those who paid dues prior to March 5th. An updated copy can also be found on our website (password protected). Those who joined after the initial publication date are listed in an addendum page which will be added to the website before our May rally.

Please remember to pay your dues for 2023 and contact me if you have any questions at membership@gmcgreatlakers.org.



1978 Royale OEM temperature gauge.



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.

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

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I'm turning
50!

