

roam.

The newsletter of the GMC Great Lakers

2023 july



Summer's in
full swing...
get out and
enjoy it!



Sebastian and Oma (Karen E. Breen) heading out and starting their adventures in Oma's 1978 Royale. Photo by Jessica Breen-Bondie.

from the Editor

I

was recently asked to submit a 500 word article to Hothouse Media's [M1 Momentum](#) magazine, they also publish Magneto magazine. Its editorial director, David Lillywhite, knows that I'm involved in the M1 Concourse community and asked that my submission explain the GMC Motorhome connection to the M1 Concourse site. Unfortunately, that random request made this edition of the newsletter quite overdue!

That article submission, though, ties in nicely to the event I mentioned here in our last issue: that M1 Concourse is hosting the culmination of GMCMI's convention celebrating the 50th anniversary celebration on September 25th. It sure will be a special event and hope you can make it! Watch [GMCMI's site](#) for registration information, events, and additional information.

How do you measure successes and disappointments as it relates to your GMC stewardship? Is it all the hard work you accomplished over the winter months and finally hitting the road? Is it the look in your children's and/or grandchildren's faces when you thrill them with a surprise trip? Traveling to rallies, tailgates, soccer games, or baseball games? Ticking something off of your bucket list?

It may seem daunting to make a formal article submission, but there are also social media outlets like our GMC Great Laker's Facebook group page that can also be utilized for that purpose. Make a posting or contact me directly through that Facebook group. We'd love to get to know more about you, so... what do you say?

Let's share our stories!

Karen

Karen E. Breen, Editor



Kaylen Mishler in her family's 1976 Birchaven at Ponto Beach in Carlsbad, California by Dillon Mishler of Carlsbad, California in September 2021.

President's Page

By Jerry Newman, GMC Great Lakers President

On June 26th I had eye surgery on my left eye to correct a slow evolving condition that needed attention. Even though I know I will make a complete recovery, the partial loss of a sense inhibited me from functioning to my full potential. For two days it was ice packs, 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off, applying antibiotics three times daily, Tylenol for pain every six hours, sleeping with an eye shield sitting up, and no lifting at all. After two weeks, I still have to sleep upright, no bending below my waist, no lifting or strenuous activity.

I point this out not because I want any sympathy but rather that the smallest things can alter the best we can be. It is like a simple valve stem failure on your coaches' drive wheels; it can stop the entire coach, until replaced for less than a dollar, or a small wheel weight, or flex plate weight falling off, can make a 12,000 pound coach either ride rough, or vibrate violently.

These metaphorical examples not only hold true with a person's wellbeing or the function of a complex piece of equipment, but also with an organization. You can't compensate for a flat tire by over inflating the other tires. We need officers that are interested in serving

their duties to the best of their ability. Organizations only function properly when all the parts are in good order and functioning as a cooperative unit.

Elections are coming up!

The Club seeks officers that are interested in serving their duties to the best of their ability.

Sounds simple enough, right? Ask yourself these three values when voting this fall:

This club needs and deserves officers that:

1. *Want to serve the membership in an unbiased manner*
2. *Follow the officer position description as stated in the documents governing our club, and,*
3. *Set aside any personal agendas and make decisions for the good of the club and its members.*

Lastly, I encourage each of you to think about holding a position on the Executive Board but most importantly I encourage you to participate in the club's functions. We have rallies coming up August 17-20 at Harbor Town RV Resort, hosted by The Koenigs and The Johnsons; September 14-17 at Algonac State Park hosted by Giannos, and October 19-22 at Camp Turkeyville RV Resort hosted by the Foerstes. Please log onto the website at gmcgreatlakers.org for addresses and details.

Thank you for your participation thus far. Nominations for officers remain open; let's finish the year strong. Hope to see you soon! Safe travels and remember kindness is redeemed in multiples. Karma rules!

Jerry, President



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Volume 48 : Issue 3
gmcgreatlakers.org

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Camp Dearborn on May 12, 2023 taken by Steve Johnson

May 2023 Great Lakers Rally

Camp Dearborn: Milford, Michigan

By Jerry Newman, President

The May Birthday Rally at Camp Dearborn in Michigan was a huge success! The weather was beautiful, and the tours were something special. The food was great with a potluck Thursday, a hot breakfast each morning to start our day, and Friday evening a delicious chicken dinner in the chalet.

The guest speakers were informative and entertaining. In his presentation, Frank Taverna, Senior Manager at the GM Proving Grounds, gave us a look inside the grounds and answered many questions regarding this very special facility. Karl Gross, a retired GM Engineer, and his wife Lucy also joined us for dinner and not only gave an excellent presentation regarding his extensive design work on our GMCs, but also came back to our campsites. He toured many of our coaches while answering questions and telling interesting stories about the development of them and stuck around until well after 10:00 that evening!

Many thanks go out to not only the Board for hosting this Rally but also to many others that pitched in and helped. A special thanks to the breakfast cook, Jim Wibby, Tom Giannosa, and Joe Baumbarger for the delicious breakfast each morning and Sandy Wibby for her organizational skills. The great job on arranging the guest speaker, the "Getting Around" flyer, and the tours, goes out to Karen Breen. Thanks to Nancy for putting the information packets together. Thanks to Rob Matras and Melissa Koenig for arranging the dinner and birthday cake. Thanks to Steve and Becky Johnson for taking care of the registration and inviting presenter Karl and

Lucy Gross and supplying the firewood. And finally, thanks to everyone for the help in cleaning up each day and packing up on Sunday. You are the best!

Also at this rally, Joe Baumbarger and Becky Johnson were each presented with a Presidential Award of Honor for their work and dedication above and beyond to the GMC Great Lakers. Congratulations Joe and Becky! And welcome to the GMC Great Lakers Hall of Fame.

This was also an important meeting to vote on the Nominations Committee. The vote was unanimous to entrust Tom Aubuchon, Ron Bolser, Bill Helmore, and Dolph Santorine as Nominations Committee. Thank you for volunteering and participation on this very important committee. All in all, it was a fantastic rally that was very busy, informative, while still being comfortable and relaxing. The camaraderie and friendliness of the group was outstanding!



At the Pontiac Transportation Museum: The second GMC sold to the public, a 1973 Canyon Lands. Photo by Karen E. Breen.

May 2023 Great Lakers Rally

Camp Dearborn: Milford, Michigan Field Trip Photos



Jerry Newman at the Pontiac Transportation Museum with a 1924 GMC Truck. Photo by Karen E. Breen



1973 Canyon Lands interior. Second GMC sold to the public at the Pontiac Transportation Museum. Photo by Karen E. Breen



1973 Canyon Lands interior. Second GMC sold to the public at the Pontiac Transportation Museum. Photo by Karen E. Breen.



John and Melissa Koenig, and Bill Helmore at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum next to a Hudson Hornet race car. Photo by Steve Johnson.

June 2023 Great Lakers Rally

Hocking River RV Park: Logan, Ohio

By Nancy Donaghue, Vice President

The June Rally held at Hocking River RV Park was a great success. All campsites are along the Hocking River, which is a 102-mile-long (164 km) right tributary of the Ohio River in southeastern Ohio. The river was slow moving Thursday; however, Friday was a different story. Rain Thursday night raised the river level by at least two feet. Saturday there were rafters and kayakers enjoying the river.

The main attraction in the area is Hocking Hills State Park. In some areas the park adjoins the Hocking State Forest. Within the park are over 25 miles of hiking trails, rock formations, waterfalls, and recess caves. Friday and Saturday were spent exploring Ash Cave, Old Man's Cave, Rock House, Conkle's Hollow, Cedar Falls, Cantwell Cliffs, and Whispering Cave Trail.



Ash Cave. Adobe Stock photo.

Nearby, downtown Logan held its annual Washboard Festival with carnival games, a petting zoo, live entertainment and tours of the last operational washboard factory in the United States, The Columbus Washboard Company.

And of course we ate. Thursday was pot luck hors d'oeuvres, Friday, BBQ from Millstone Southern Smoked BBQ (great reviews from our members) and Saturday was pot luck soup and salad and desserts. There are some great cooks among us.



Conkle's Hollow. Adobe Stock photo.

Do you know about Boondockers Welcome?

By Matthew and Mary Colie, aboard Chaumière, our 1974 Glacier



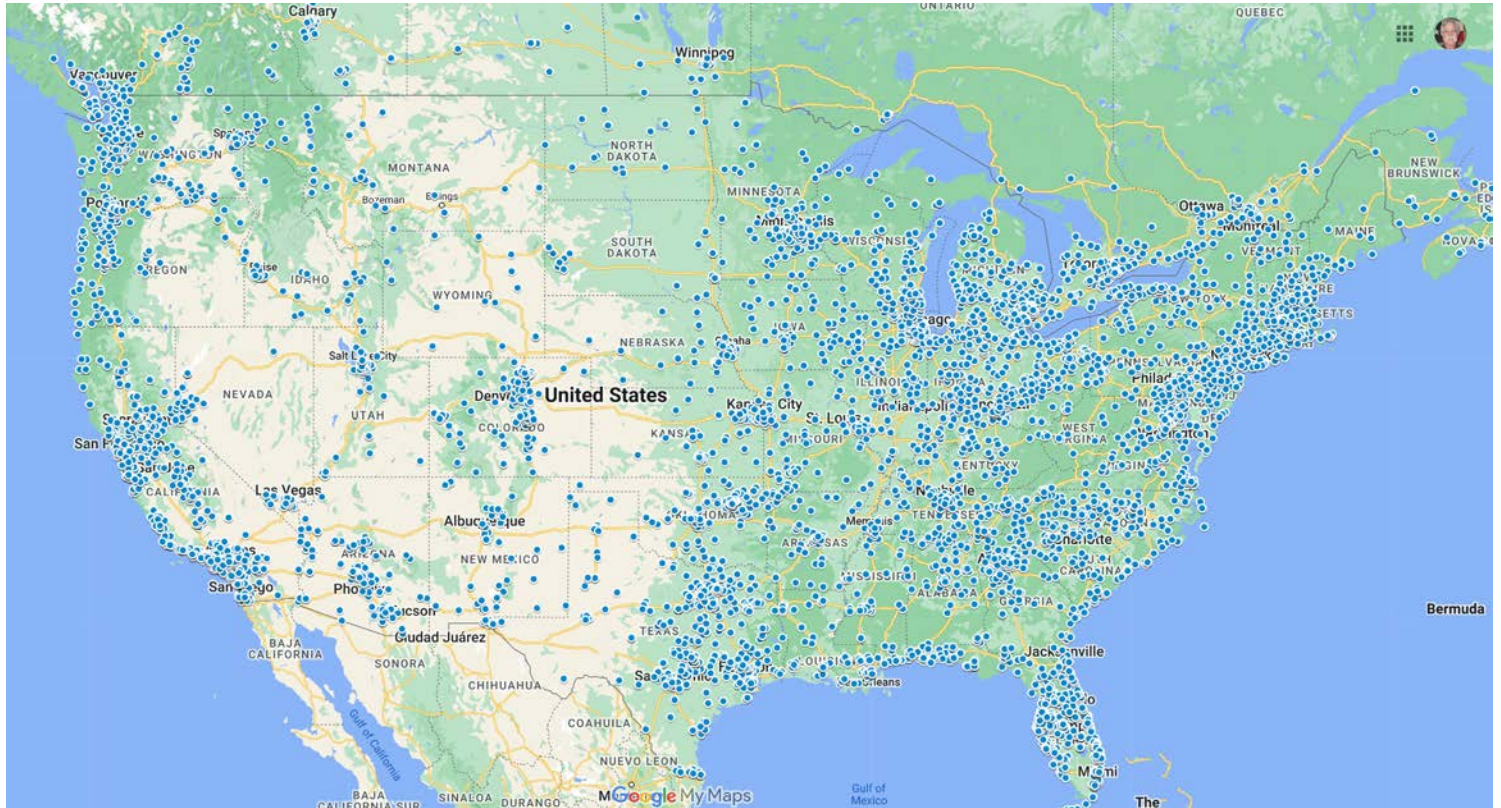
[Boondockers Welcome](#) offers a place to park for the night at no cost to its members. Boondockers Welcome does require that guests be self-contained—as all GMC were built—and nothing other than a flat place is guaranteed.

At our location, we offer 15 amp electric for \$5/night and potable water. Many of the Boondockers Welcome hosts are small locations and cannot accommodate giant diesel pushers, but most that we know of can accommodate a single 26' coach. Many will allow more than a single night. As we are in striking range of "The Henry Ford" Museum complex, we encourage guests to arrange longer stays. That is just us.

Why are we bothering to tell you all this? Because as a Boondockers Welcome host of some standing, we have a number of free annual memberships that we can gift to friends and family; GMC owners may qualify as family in our thinking. If you are interested, please contact Matt via email at [this link](#).

Updated GMC Ownership Stats

By Billy Massey and Karen E. Breen



Registry Statistics 6/29/2023

8,958 GMCs registered world wide (8,424 on 4/16/2020)

	2023	2020					2023	2020			2023	2020
UNITED STATES						CANADA			OTH COUNTRIES (CON'T)			
US Total	8152	7621	MT	45	4	CA Total	576	550	Netherlands	29	24	
AK	35	37	NC	164	159	AB	99	96	Norway	9	9	
AL	92	81	ND	13	12	BC	157	154	New Zealand	3	2	
AR	66	75	NE	50	50	MB	22	17	Philippines	1	1	
AZ	242	242	NH	48	40	NB	19	17	Poland	1	0	
CA	1120	1062	NJ	73	69	NL	--	1	Portugal	1	1	
CO	198	194	NM	86	89	NS	17	19	Paraguay	1	1	
CT	52	49	NV	132	95	ON	170	163	Slovakia	1	1	
DC	5	5	NY	178	177	QC	556	51	Sweden	4	2	
DE	5	8	OH	296	305	SK	30	28	Switzerland	4	4	
FL	722	733	OK	169	166	YT	2	1	Thailand	1	1	
GA	181	174	OR	213	217	Unknown	6	2	Taiwan	1	1	
HI	4	5	PA	147	146				UK	29	26	
IA	84	81	RI	10	10				Venezuela	9	7	
ID	65	67	SC	84	82	OTH COUNTRIES	227	147	Unknown	53	--	
IL	264	262	SD	35	36	Austria	2	2				
IN	226	219	TN	161	147	Australia	31	25				
KS	77	76	TX	812	621	Belgium	4	4				
KY	84	83	UT	73	74	Columbia	1	0				
LA	81	74	VA	117	107	Germany	22	17				
MA	77	66	VT	14	24	Denmark	4	4				
MD	61	60	WA	361	323	Finland	3	3				
ME	22	19	WI	152	141	France	6	5				
MI	445	429	WV	19	19	Indonesia	1	1				
MN	178	170	WY	19	13	India	1	1				
MO	116	115	Unknown1	345	345	Italy	2	2				
MS	102	63	Unknown2	53	53	Japan	2	0				
						Mexico	2	3				



GMC Great Lakers August 2023 Rally

Harbortown RV Resort ~ Monroe, Michigan

Thursday, August 17 through Sunday, August 20, 2023
14931 Laplaine Road, Monroe, Michigan 48161
734.384.4700 | www.harbortownrv.com
Hosted by Steve and Becky Johnson and John and Melissa Koenig

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, July 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

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 (includes two hot breakfasts and a group dinner at campground*)

One Member Only (no guests over age 12)

Up to Two Members (including children U12)

Each Additional Guest/Children 12+

Number

x

\$ 20.00
\$ 40.00
\$ 20.00

Totals

\$
\$
\$

Prepaid Tours or Events

Number

x

\$

\$

Number

x

\$

\$

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

Total Rally Fees

\$

Mail To: Becky Johnson • 681 Milford Farms Court • Milford, Michigan 48381 • 248.343.7636 • beckystevej@aol.com

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 20230702

* Friday Breakfast: DIY egg and sausage burritos, hash browns, fruit
Friday Group Dinner: Beef Brisket/ Chicken, sides, salad, DIY ice cream sundaes
Saturday Breakfast: Pancakes and fruit

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

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: BECKY AND STEVE JOHNSON AND MELISSA AND JOHN KOENIG

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.



July 2023 Treasurer's Report

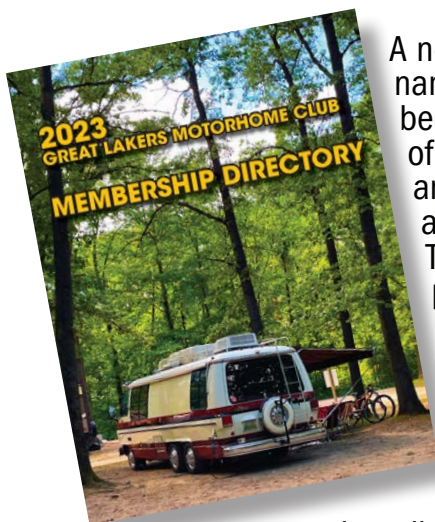
By Steve Johnson

Balance 2/28/23 reported in March newsletter.....	\$6,725.55
Expenses March through June 2023	-\$2,880.24
Revenue March through June 2023.....	\$2,504.84
Balance 6/30/2023	\$6,350.15



Membership Report

By Melissa Koenig



A new dash plaque and nametag vendor has been selected. A number of members have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of your items. Thank you for your patience while we secured a new supplier. For those who have been waiting, I will bring your items to the August rally. If you would like them prior to the rally, please contact me.

A new member directory addendum was added to the website on June 29th. Please note that a few email addresses were updated as well.



Sunshine and Rainbows

By Sue Aubuchon

It is truly my pleasure to be the new Great Lakers "Sunshine Person." Thanks to Deb Pryzbylek for her contributions over the past years!

My husband Tom and I purchased our 1977 Palm Beach in 2019. We have enjoyed many camping trips throughout lower Michigan, and made the trip to Lebanon, Tennessee for the GMCMI rally last fall. What a great experience! We are looking forward to many more travels, and spending time with our new Great Lakers friends.

A sympathy card was sent to Richard and Susan Waters, Sue's sister passed away. Get well wishes have been sent to **Dave Lenzi** and **Janet Leslie**.

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



1977 Palm Beach interior with friends of Karla Stecker at Gifford Campground, Gifford, Washington on June 11, 2022.



Touring the Pontiac Transportation Museum on 5/13/2023 and posing with Dan and Faye Smith's 1976 Palm Beach are (l to r): Karen Breen, Steve Johnson, Nelson Secord, Jim Wibby, Tom Giannosa, Sharon Giannosa, Dan Smith, Bob Lambert, Faye Smith, Jennifer Lambert, Richard Waters, Sandy Wibby, Jerry Newman, and Bill Helmore. Photo by Terry Connelly, Director, Pontiac Transportation Museum.

Additional photos of the Pontiac Transportation Museum visit can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#) or scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera:



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