

2024 Great Lakers
Meet the New Board of Directors!
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Roam.

Volume 49, Issue 1

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www.gmcgreatlakers.org

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB



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Cover: A few of the 130 coaches gathered for the September 2023 GMCMI 50th anniversary convention at Shiawassee County Fairgrounds in Corunna, MI. Photo by Janet Leslie.

Right: Roam editor Janet Leslie at her first Great Laker's rally in Hocking Hills, OH, June 2023. Pictured with Izzy, Jim and Sandy Wibby's granddaughter. Photo by Sandy Wibby.

According to my father, at age six I declared I would own a motorhome. I loved road trips, and our family's VW bus was undoubtedly my inspiration. In 2022 I achieved this goal through a 1978 GMC Royale. I named her Ginny after a mentor in college who had a free-spirited, flowerchild vibe.

I love Ginny, but my choice of RV was equally because of the amazing GMC owner community. I'm not completely sure I would still be living my dream without the support of the friends I have made along the way.

I'm a motorhome and auto repair newbie, so the maintenance learning curve has been steep! But through teaching, help, and encouragement I can now change a fuel filter, adjust the idle of a Quadrajet, and drive a 26-foot vehicle without risking a panic attack. And I survived blowing out a tire during my first long trip. My t-shirt fender is still somewhere in the middle of an Ohio cornfield, but I made it home with my coach (if not completely my pride) intact. I now know how to read tire age from the sidewalls.

If you are an experienced owner, THANK YOU for giving generously to the community! If you're a new owner, don't be afraid to reach out through social media or in-person avenues with

questions. Especially if you're feeling a little discouraged. Every GMC lover has their own challenge stories—insightful, funny, and comforting.

In this beautiful subculture it certainly helps to be social and friendly. And that's how I became this year's editor of Roam. I want to give back to the community that

welcomed me with open and generous arms. This newsletter is for you, so if you have any ideas, requests, or photos to share please contact me at

newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org .

See you at a campground this summer!

Janet





President's Page

by Steve Johnson

Steve and Becky Johnson's 1977 Eleganza at Port Crescent State Park

A few days ago, Detroit set a record with a high temperature of 73 degrees in February. That kind of weather tells us that the GMC will soon come out of hibernation and a new year of camping can begin.

Becky and I plan to start this year earlier than normal with a trip to Maumee Bay state park in Ohio for the total solar eclipse on April 8. If we are lucky, the spring weather will cooperate. Some of you may be heading to the GMCMI convention in Texas for the same event with clear skies almost guaranteed there. When the last total eclipse hit the US in August 2017, the Great Lakers had a rally in Padukah, Kentucky which we attended and were awed by the experience.

With the start of a new year, 2024 brings to the Great Lakers a new board to help orchestrate our club's activities. Please join me in thanking the out-going members of last year's board (President Jerry Newman, Vice President Nancy Donaghue, Secretary Jim Wibby, Membership Chair Melissa Koenig and Newsletter Editor Karen Breen) for their efforts over the last few years. Rob Matras, as webmaster, is our only board member returning in the same position; I am remaining on the board, but as your president rather than treasurer.

Next, you need to welcome our new board members (Treasurer Joe Gillen, Vice President Jeff Rider, Secretary Faye Smith, Membership Chair Sharon Giannosa and Newsletter Editor Janet Leslie) who all stepped up to fill their positions. All of the Great Lakers board are here to serve you. Ask us questions, give us suggestions of what you would like the club to do in the future and your feedback of how we can do a better job now.

Each Great Lakers board position is elected each year and we are always looking for new blood. You can help by volunteering to serve on the nominating committee, whose job is to find candidates to serve the club next year. Or, even better yet, you can tell the nominating committee to include you on the ballot later this summer. It may seem odd to introduce a new board and to start planning for our next elections at the same time, but September will be here before we know it. Please think about how you can contribute and let one of the board members know.

As you read this newsletter, you are seeing the first of many that Janet Leslie has planned for us. If you have anything that you think fellow Great Lakers members might enjoy, pass it along to Janet and she can see about including it in a future newsletter. The same goes for things to post on our website—send them to Rob. You may have parts to sell, tech tips to pass along, or photos from rallies. He can handle them all. Remember, Janet and Rob don't invent the content for their areas, they compile it. So help them out with all that you can.

Jeff Rider is in the process of putting together a great group of rallies for 2024. Our May "Birthday" rally will be at Pontiac Lake State Park in Waterford, Michigan on May 16-19. This rally will be hosted by the board and will include a Great Lakers gift to all participants. Many details are still being worked out, so stay tuned. I hope to see you there. Anticipated dates for the rest of the rally season are in the rally schedule on the website so block out some slots in your calendars. Jeff needs hosts for each rally so think about volunteering. The job is not that hard and there are lots of members to lean on for help if you have never done it before. Finally, if you have ideas for future rallies, pass them to Jeff also. It is not too early to begin planning for 2025.

My last request for you before I sign off is to ask that you **make sure to renew your Great Lakers membership for 2024**. This newsletter is being sent to our 2023 membership list so receiving it doesn't confirm that you are set for the year. Even if your renewal is late, Sharon wants to hear from you.

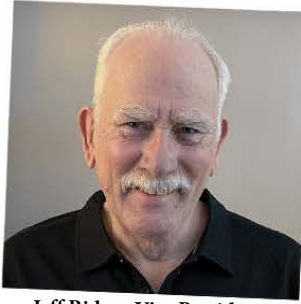
Stay safe, and I'll see you in May.

Steve

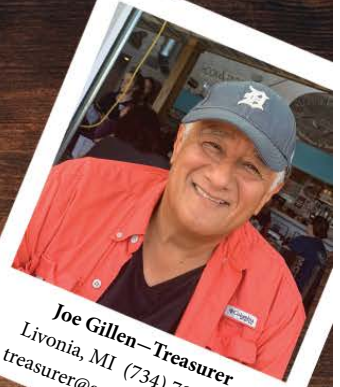
2024

Board of Directors & Contributors

GMC
Great Lakers



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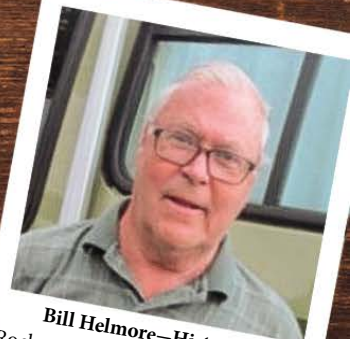
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Sue Aubuchon—Sunshine Person
Ortonville, MI (248) 227-3235
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Jerry Newman—Past President
Cincinnati, OH (513) 235-7848
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Bill Helmore—Historian
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2024

Rally Season Schedule

MAY 16-19 Thurs-Sun

Great Lakers Birthday Rally!

Pontiac Lake State Park

7800 Gale Road, Waterford, MI

www.midnrreservations.com

(800) 447-2757

Hosts: Great Lakers Executive Committee

June 20-23 Thurs-Sun

Lots of room for everyone!

St. Joseph County Fairgrounds

316 E. Charlotte St, Centreville, MI

Site booking through Great Lakers Board

(888) 873-0550

Hosts: TBD

July 18-21 Thurs-Sun

Details TBD

Contact a board member if you have a campground suggestion or would like to host!

August 8-11 Thurs-Sun



Let's visit our Canadian members!

Pinery Provincial Park

9526 Lakeshore Road RR2, Grand Bend, ON

www.ontarioparks.ca/reservations

888-668-7275

Hosts: *We're looking for a volunteer!*

September 12-15 Thurs-Sun

We're in Group Area 5

Addison Oaks Campground

1480 Romeo Road, Lenord, MI

<https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/splash.html>

248-858-1400

Hosts: Jeff & Maureen Rider

October 17-20 Thurs-Sun

Details TBD

Contact a board member if you have a campground suggestion or would like to host!

A group of Great Lakers coaches at the Fall 2023

GMCM rally in Corunna, MI. Photo by Janet Leslie



Great Lakers 48th Birthday Rally

Pontiac Lake State Park ~ Waterford, Michigan

Thursday, May 16 through Sunday, May 19, 2024
7800 Gale Road, Waterford, Michigan, 48327
800-447-2757 | www.midntrreservations.com
Hosted by the GMC Great Lakers Board

Registration Deadline: Thursday, April 25, 2024
Book your campsite directly with the DNR

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

Arrival Date

Departure Date

New Member Attending First Rally? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Site Number (The Club has reserved sites 30-42 & 68-76)

Rally Fees (includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners)

One Member Only (no guests over age 12)

\$ 55

Totals

\$

Up to Two Members (including children U12)

\$ 110

\$

Each Additional Guest/Children 12+

Number

x

\$ 55

\$

Prepaid Tours or Events

Number

x

\$

\$

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

Total Rally Fees \$

Mail To: **Jeff Rider, GMC Great Lakers VP, 6909 Montclair Drive, Troy, MI 48085-1654**

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 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.

May 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Pontiac Lake State Park: Waterford, Michigan

May 16-19, 2024

Hosts: Great Lakers Executive Committee

Each May we mark the start of camping season with the **Great Lakers Birthday Rally!** If you've been thinking of joining The Club, or are members who haven't attended a rally, this is the perfect time to come. As a bonus, all attendees receive a Great Lakers themed gift!

Camping enthusiasm is high for our first outing of the year. Come for food, fun, friendship, and learning. Great Lakers have a wealth of GMC experience and knowledge so this is the best time to get feedback and ideas for coach projects or repairs.

Make your reservation online at midnrreservations.com (this links to separate website), or call 800-447-2757. The primary group location is 20 sites, #30 to 42 and 68 to 76. The event hold was only until mid-January, so sites have now been released back to first come basis.



About Pontiac Lake

Pontiac Lake is a 3,745-acre park with 160 sites across two areas. Camping, horseback riding, picnicking, swimming, hiking, biking, paddling, hunting, fishing, and sightseeing are popular activities enjoyed by visitors. The park is home to the longest beach in southeast Michigan at just over half a mile.

Description by Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

August 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Pinery Provincial Park: Grand Bend, Ontario Canada

August 9-11, 2024

Hosts: We are looking for a local volunteer!



About Pinery Provincial Park



The Pinery is a beautiful 6257-acre park with 11 km of sand beach on the shores of Lake Huron. National Geographic ranked park sunsets as among the "Top 10 Best in the World"! Explore rare forests and dune ecosystems, 10 walking trails, and a 14 km bike trail.

Rent a canoe, hydro bike, paddleboat or a single or double kayak.

See our May newsletter for details on international travel, border crossing, and caravanning to the rally!

We love our Canadian Great Lakers! They often travel south to see us, so its high time we returned the favor. This park is just 46 miles from the Bluewater Bridge boarder crossing in Port Huron, MI. Save the date!

Riverside Campground is beside the Old Ausable Channel wetland and has electrical, non-electrical and pull-through sites. Water taps, comfort stations and laundry are located in each of the four areas of Riverside. Dunes Campground has a mix of electrical, pop-up and tent sites and is within easy walking distance of the beach, outdoor amphitheatre and Visitor Centre.

Book your site early as reservations opened on March 8th. Park information is available at: <https://ontarioparks.ca/park/pinery>. Reserve online at <https://ontarioparks.ca/reservations> or by phone at 888-668-7275. Sites are limited but there is a cancellation waitlist.



Treasurers Report

by Joe Gillen

March 2024

Bank balance January 1, 2024	\$4778.68
January & February 2024	
Expenses	\$ 505.82
Revenue	\$ 765.00
Bank balance February 29, 2024	\$5083.22



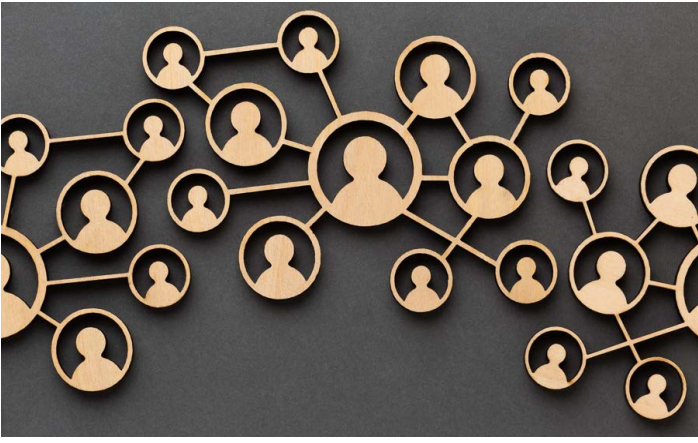
Sunshine & Rainbows

by Sue Aubuchon

Spring is right around the corner! Getting excited for another season of camping and fellowship! Since our last newsletter, cards with the following wishes have been sent:

Grandchildren:

- Dan and Faye Smith celebrated the birth of a grandson and a granddaughter.
- Bob and Jennifer Lambert celebrated the birth of a grandchild, who was born in Belgium. Jennifer spent a month there helping out!



Membership Report

by Sharon Giannosa

Welcome to the members who joined us in 2023 - we look forward to seeing you at rallies this season!

Jack Compton	Mike Neithercut
Barry & Sandra David	Andre & Janice Oosterbeek
Joe & Lisa Desormeaux	Marc & Jean Palmateer
Tom & Oki Katzenberger	Bill & Lauren Phinney
Cary & Marcia Lawson	Gary & Beverly Van Dyken
Janet Leslie	

And welcome to our new members so far in 2024!

Jim and Darlene Fetgerolf
Henry and Sharon VanWyk

Get Well:

Get well wishes were sent to Janet Leslie, Sharon Giannosa, and Matt Colie.

In Sympathy—Farewell and Safe Travels:

- Nancy Donaghue's husband, and Great Lakers member Peter, passed away in November.
- Steve Johnson's father passed away in November, and was a former Great Laker.
- Kim Weeks' husband Keith passed away in December.
- John Koenig's mother passed away in January.
- Ron Bolser's wife, and Great Lakers member, Janet, passed away in February.
- Bob Sovis passed away in March; a card was sent to his wife, Diane.
- Judy Dohm also passed away in March; a card was sent to her husband, Ed.

September 2023 Great Lakers Rally

Algonac State Park: Marine City, Michigan

September 14-17, 2023

Hosts: Sharon & Tom Giannosa



Our September 2023 rally took place at Algonac State Park. Our first rally night of Thursday began as usual with a potluck & appetizer dinner where members bring a dish to pass. It is always enjoyable to try everyone's cooking. It was a great day to watch the freighters go by on the St. Clair River.

Friday morning began with a hot breakfast of eggs, sausages, bagels, and Hawaiian rolls. And of course, plenty of coffee and tea.

*It wouldn't be a Great Lakers rally without good food and campfire evenings.
All pictures by Sharon Giannosa.*

In the afternoon we gathered to carpool for a paid outing to Stahl's Automotive Museum. They opened the museum just for us! Everyone enjoyed a private tour from the music machines to the cars. Afterwards we sat down together for grilled hamburgers, salad, and beans. We have a few people that enjoy cooking but the more the merrier.

Saturday started out with pancake and bacon breakfast. Everyone spent the rest of the day resting and exploring and enjoying lunch on their own. Saturday night dinner was Michigan-style Coney Dogs with all the local extras to go with it—Faygo pop and Better Made chips. Dessert was a decadent chocolate fountain with cookies, marshmallows, pretzels, and fruit.

When we gather at a rally, we always have a good time and lots of laughs. As long as the weather permits, we enjoy a nightly bonfire. There are always surprises and new ideas, like Dave roasting marshmallows then dipping them in Baileys!

Sharon

A visit to Stahl's Automotive Museum in Chesterfield, MI.
 Above: Bob and Jen Lambert hang with the Blues Brothers!
 Below: L-R Terry and Sonya Null and Jerry Newman check out
 vintage autos.



About Algonac State Park

The Algonac State Park Shooting Range includes archery, hand trap and rifle/handgun ranges. The 54-mile Bridge to Bay Trail goes through the park and is open to hiking, running and biking.

Description by State of Michigan DNR

Algonac State Park is best known for its views of freighters traveling along the St. Clair River. The 1,550-acre park boasts a half-mile of riverfront, campgrounds, trails and a 1,200-plus-acre dedicated natural area. The park features rare habitats, including lake plain prairies and oak savannas that are home to 22 threatened, endangered or special-concern species of plants, birds and butterflies.



GMC men are great cooks too! L-R Jeff Rider is the pancake man; the Blackstone Boys - Jim Wibby, Bob Lambert, Jerry Newman, and Tom Giannosa; Dave Lenzi the grillmaster.

In Season

by Janet Leslie

Spring can't come quickly enough! The unusually warm weather makes everything seem earlier this year. I'm itching to get my coach out of storage!

Even Easter is quite early, and if you observe it we wish you a day of reflection, peace, and happiness with your family.

Whether or not you celebrate this spring holiday it's impossible to miss the store displays of pastel candy and chocolates.



If you haven't enjoyed this campfire hack its certainly worth a try. This time of year I take advantage of the day-after Easter sales and stock up on Peeps!

These holiday standards are far superior to ordinary marshmallows for roasting over an open fire, and keep well in the freezer until summer comes.

And they might entertain your grandkids. The tiny hunters can cook their own catch of bunnies and chickens :-)

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Newsletter Editor

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