

Joe's Tech Trivia
Choosing the Right Oil Filter
> p. 6

June Great Lakers Rally Report
Fun in Centreville!
St. Joseph Fairgrounds > p. 7

Register Now for October Rally!
Sites Still Available!
Maumee Bay State Park > p. 9

Roam.

Volume 49, Issue 4

September 2024

www.gmcgreatlakers.org

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB



What's inside?

President's Page	3
Board of Directors and Contributors	4
2024 Rally Season Schedule	5
Joe's Tech Trivia—Oil Filters	6
Rally Report—June at St. Joseph County Fairgrounds	7-8
October Rally at Maumee Bay—Register Now!	9-11
Treasurer's Report	12
Membership Report	12
Sunshine & Rainbows	12

Time Flies!

I can't believe it's September already! Where has the summer gone? Of course, many people feel that as we "mature", time seems to go faster. But it turns out that traveling and camping in new places may help slow things down.

Psychological research supports that we aren't just imagining the days going faster. As we get older, we have fewer new experiences and the world around us becomes more and more familiar. When we're accustomed to an experience our brain and senses need to process less information so we spend less time "in the moment".

Along those lines, our experience of time expands in unfamiliar surroundings as we learn and process new details. Everything is new, so we pay closer attention, are more sensitive, and take in much more information.

So how can camping and travel expand our experience of time?

- Embrace the unfamiliar! Come to a rally at a new campground and make Great Laker friends. Travel to new places, explore, meet new people, share meals and conversation, and of course, talk tech shop. All these will gift new information and stretch out the experience of passing time.
- Live in the moment! Slow down camping time by making a conscious effort to be more "mindful". Pause to give more attention to what you are seeing, feeling, tasting, smelling, or hearing rather than to your thoughts.

I'm looking forward to our October rally as my last camping trip of the season. Let's hope we're blessed with fall's sunny days and cool campfire nights!

Janet

Janet Leslie, Roam Editor
newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org

Cover: Just a typical rally Friday night - Great Lakers Ben & Joyceann Pearson, Pete Carey & Lakan Shippy, and Andre & Janice Oosterbeek showed up in style at the 13th Annual Sturgis Camaro Rally during our June rally in Centerville, MI. Edited, original photo by Pete Carney.

President's Page



Steve Johnson at our May birthday rally at Pontiac Lake State Rec Area. Photo by Janet Leslie.

I am writing this column on a hot and muggy day in Detroit at the beginning of August. The weather reminds me of what we experienced during our June rally in Centreville only today I can't look outside and see 20 GMCs nearby. Two Great Lakers rallies in May and June are now history and our August rally in Canada is now only a week away. Unfortunately, Becky and I were not lucky enough to secure one of the sites at the Pinery so I'll have to depend on those of you who can attend to fill me in afterwards. Decades ago, in our younger tent camping days, Becky and I camped at the Pinery and enjoyed the park immensely. Our plans are in place for both the September and October rallies so hopefully we'll have a chance to see you at one or both of them.

Back in June I asked for your input on a proposal that had been made to the board to eliminate the term limits that applied to the Newsletter editor, Membership chair and Webmaster positions on the board. I want to thank all of you that responded and am happy to report that 100% of those who expressed an opinion on the matter were in favor of the change. That kind of support makes it easy for the board to feel like we enacted the will of the members when we updated our Standing Rules on July 15th to make the change.

At the September rally, the nominating committee will finalize the list of candidates running for our officer positions for 2025. If you have interest in any of our board positions, contact Dolph Santorine, Tom Aubuchon or Peter Carney to discuss your desires with

them. The elections will occur between the September and October rallies so watch for emails from them and please vote to indicate who you want to manage our club next year.

One of my favorite sayings is "If all else fails, read the directions". I, like most of the guys out there who think they know everything worthwhile already, am guilty of sometimes experiencing problems that could have been avoided with a little up front studying.

Last summer, my barbeque grill developed a tendency to cook extremely slowly. No matter which burner I used (or even turning them all on at once) it didn't get hot enough to cook in a normal amount of time. I was convinced that the grill must have developed a faulty pressure regulator so I dug up the owner's manual to see if it included a parts list that I could use to determine the correct replacement regulator to buy. While thumbing through the manual and concluding there was no parts list, I stumbled on the troubleshooting instructions for the problem "Grill lights but doesn't get hot enough". Well, it turns out that many gas regulators have a safety feature that limits their gas flow to about 10% of normal when the regulator "thinks" it has detected a leak, allowing the burners to light but not generate much heat. It turns out, this "misunderstanding" is often caused by a habit that I had of closing the gas shut-off valve at the propane tank before turning off the grill's burner control valve.

How to fix the problem when there really is no leak? If you simply disconnect the regulator from the propane tank and after a few seconds hook it back up, the safety valve will reset itself and you're cooking on a nice hot fire again. I'll bet there are lots of people out there who proudly "fixed" their grills by installing a new regulator when the act of disassembly and re-assembly was what really did the job.

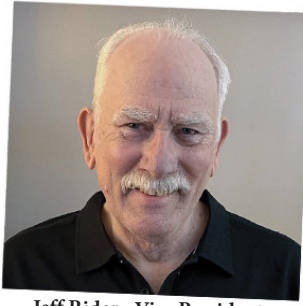
This time, I was lucky to stumble on the directions when I was actually looking for the parts list. Maybe the next time a problem arises I'll read the directions first, but something tells me I'll probably explore the "all else fails" alternatives first. That's the way guys work.

Steve

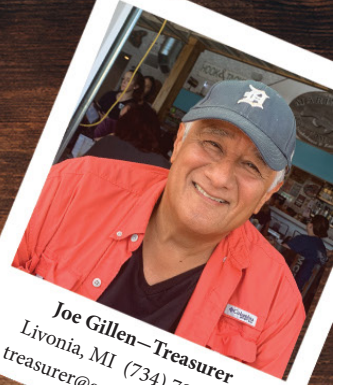
2024

Board of Directors & Contributors

GMC
Great Lakers



Jeff Rider—Vice President
Troy, MI (248) 877-1966
vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org



Joe Gillen—Treasurer
Livonia, MI (734) 788-6695
treasurer@gmcgreatlakers.org



Faye Smith—Secretary
Mason, OH (513) 235-7543
secretary@gmcgreatlakers.org



Sharon Giannosa—Membership
China, MI (810) 650-7923
membership@gmcgreatlakers.org



Janet Leslie—Newsletter Editor
Saline, MI (734) 864-6287
newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org



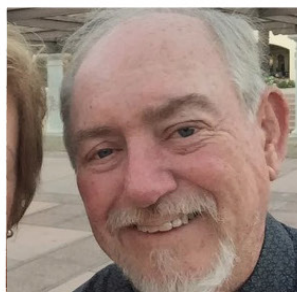
Steve Johnson—President
Milford, MI (248) 378-3177
president@gmcgreatlakers.org



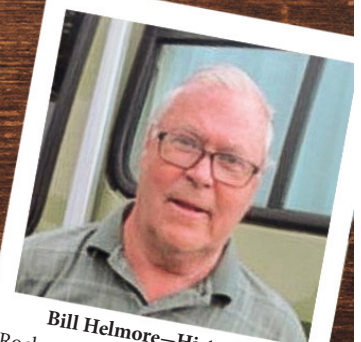
Rob Matras—Webmaster
Plymouth, MI (313) 363-9810
webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org



Sue Aubuchon—Sunshine Person
Ortonville, MI (248) 227-3235
sunshine@gmcgreatlakers.org



Jerry Newman—Past President
Cincinnati, OH (513) 235-7848
newmysr@gmail.com



Bill Helmore—Historian
Rochester Hills, MI (248) 804-0370
historian@gmcgreatlakers.org

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: Steve & Becky Johnson

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: Jean Price & Patricia Nau

September 4-8 Thurs-Sun

Bonus days Sept 9-10, no added cost

Addison Oaks Campground

1480 W Romeo Road, Leonard, MI

**BOOK YOUR SITE THROUGH THE RALLY
REGISTRATION FORM**

[https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/](https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/)

[webtrac/](https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/)

[web/splash.html](https://mioaklandctyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/splash.html)

248-858-1400

Hosts: Jeff & Maureen Rider

October 17-20 Thurs-Sun

Maumee Bay State Park

1400 State Park Rd, Oregon, OH 43616

www.reserveOhio.com

(419) 836-7758

Hosts: Faye & Dan Smith

A group of Great Lakers coaches at the Fall 2023

GMCM rally in Corunna, MI. Photo by Janet Leslie

Joe's Tech Trivia

by Joe Gillen

Choosing the Right Oil Filter

Some of the most important items on a GMC's maintenance list involve fluids. Our coaches were designed with long maintenance schedules--service manuals recommend that you change your engine oil and the filter at 3000-mile intervals. The 455 is a 7.5-liter engine and 403 is a 6.6-liter engine.

Here are some specs and tips to get you started:

- All have 13/16 thread size.
- The filters below will fit both the 455 or 403 engines, but check for height clearance in case you have headers.
- Price can vary. High-performance / heavy-duty filters cost more.
- When removing the filter always make sure the old gasket is not stuck to the base.
- Add a light smudge of grease to your new rubber seal. Apply an additional turn 3/4 turn after contact.



All part numbers were checked against RockAuto except when listed as old Part Numbers (PNs).

BRAND	PN	SIZE
AC Delco	PF63E	4.78 inches
AC Delco	PF30	very old PN
AC Delco	PF24	very old PN
AC Delco	PF45	
AC Delco	PF63E	
AC Delco	UPF61R	
Bosch	3423	4.01 inches
Champ	PH59	
FRAM	PH3675	
FRAM	PH3506	3.56 inches
FRAM	PH25	4.047 inches
FRAM	HP5	3.73 inches
FRAM	DG3429	
FRAM	TG3506	3.359 inches
FRAM	TG3675	4.078 inches
FRAM	XG3506	3.359 inches
Group 7	V5288	
Hastings/Baldwin	LF222	4-3/8 inches
Hastings/Baldwin	LF230	
K&N	PS2006	4.78 inches
NAPA	#1258	4.33 inches
Mobil	M1206A	4.4 inches
Purolator	PL25288	4.02 inch
STP	S3675	4.44 inches
Shell Rotella	TBD	
WIX	51515	
WIX	51258	
WIX	51045	4.828 inches

Joe

June 2024 Great Lakers Rally

St. Joseph County Fairgrounds: Centreville, Michigan

June 20-23, 2024

Hosts: Steve & Becky Johnson

Our second rally of the 2024 camping season was held June 20-23, 2024 at the St. Joseph County Grange Fairgrounds in Centreville, Michigan, hosted by Becky and Steve Johnson. After a couple cancellations, we officially ended up with 20 coaches and 37 Great Lakers in attendance, but that only tells part of the story;

- Former members Phyllis and Steve Thornburgh from South Bend, Indiana stopped by to visit (and subsequently re-joined).
- Former member Ed Dohm from Niles, Michigan also stopped by to reminisce.
- Long time member Forest Crow from Lagrange, Indiana couldn't attend the rally with his coach, but he did join us for our factory tour – more on that later.
- New member Scott Campbell from Osceola, Indiana was looking forward to attending his first rally, but had to return home when his GMC developed a problem on the way to the rally. We're glad that after making it home with his coach he decided to drive back to Centreville in his car and spend a little time getting introduced to some Great Lakers.



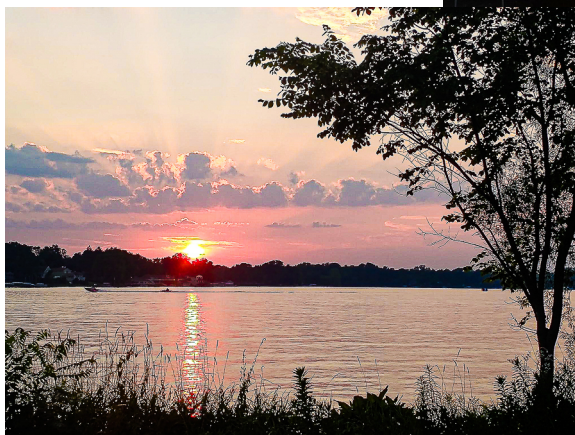
Seven people attended their first Great Lakers rally – Andre and Janice Oosterbeek from Grand Rapids, Michigan; Ben and Joyceann Pearson from Elkhart, Indiana; Bill and Lauren Phinney from Kitchener, Ontario; and Mike Clark from Kalkaska, Michigan. Mike even attracted to our rally some non-members who are friends of his based on following the 100+ YouTube videos that he has made to track the renovation that he is performing on his GMC. Find them at https://www.youtube.com/@Mike_Classic_Cars-GMCMotorhome



Left: Canopies and awnings helped with socializing on this HOT weekend. L-R Joe Gillen, Steve Thornburg, Mary Lenzi, Phyllis Thornburg, Ed Dohm, and Dave Lenzi. Photo by Sharon Giannosa. Above: Another rally birthday celebration! Best wishes to Patricia Schenk, with Tom Jetzer. Photo by Christine DeVries.

The weather for the entire weekend was hot, hot, hot! The high temperatures were over 90 degrees every day so air conditioners were getting a real workout – I think mine ran around the clock for all three days. Its safe to say that if you made it to and from this rally without any vapor lock issues you probably won't have problems elsewhere.

The rally started on Thursday evening with a pot-luck dinner. No one went away hungry. Friday morning started with Becky's breakfast casseroles before we headed off to a tour of the factory that makes Luxury DRV 5th wheel trailers in nearby Howe, Indiana. They may be 46' long and have multiple slide-outs to give them 3 times our floor space, but I didn't hear anyone wanting to trade their GMC for one.



Hot summer nights sunsets :-) Left: Fishers Lake, near the fairgrounds. Above: Patricia Schenk & Tom Jetzer's 1973 CanyonLands, Maggie and her toad, Florentine, a 1964 Corvair Monza Coupe. Photos by Patricia Schenk.

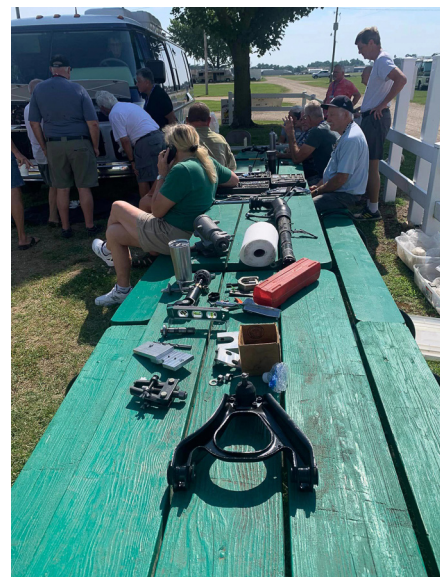
After a breakfast of blueberry pancakes on Saturday, Dave Lenzi guided a hands-on tech-session of sorts by helping Dan Smith inspect, adjust and replace a number of parts in the steering system of Dan's GMC to improve its steering behavior. The rest of us got to observe and ask questions along the way so we all went home a little smarter. I'll bet Dan had a big smile as he drove home.



Above: No one leaves a GMC potluck hungry! L-R Becky Johnson, Steve Johnson, Mary Lenzi, Faye Smith, and others. Photo by Sharon Giannosa.

Right: Dave Lenzi's tech session on steering improvements. All the guys showed up to learn from the master! Photo by Janice Oosterbeek.

Steve



Great Lakers & guests who took part:

Sue & Tom Aubuchon, Ron Bolser, Pete Carney & Lakan Shippy, Craig & Christine DeVries, Tom & Sharon Giannosa, Joe & Alesia Gillen, Bill Helmore, Tom Jetzer & Patricia Schenk, Steve & Becky Johnson, Robert & Jennifer Lambert, Dave & Mary Lenzi, Rick & Theresa Little, Marv & Sally Miller, Jerry & Bea Newman, Jeff & Maureen Rider, Dan & Faye Smith, and first timers Mike Clark, Andre & Janice Oosterbeek, Ben & Joyceann Pearson, and Bill & Lauren Phinney.

October 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Maumee Bay State Park: Oregon, Ohio

June 20-23, 2024

Hosts: Faye & Dan Smith



Our GMC Great Lakers October 17–20 rally will be held at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio – just east of Toledo. **A few sites are still available for the rally dates, and if sold out the park website does have the option to notify you by email if space becomes available.**

This park has much to offer:

- Big campsites
- Paved bike/hike trails
- The park is right along Lake Erie – complete with a sandy beach!
- Lodge
- Golf course – get a group together for 18 holes
Course phone number is (419)836-9009
- Wetlands with a boardwalk for hiking
- Nature center

This park does not charge any entrance fees. Please reserve your campsite at **reserveOhio.com**.

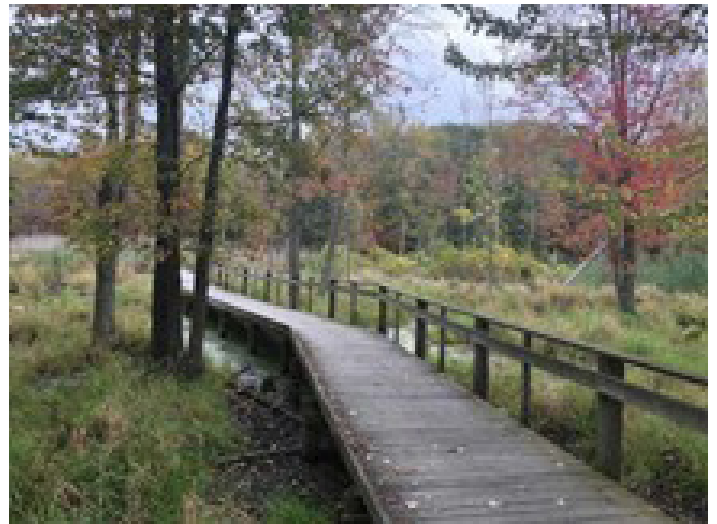
We recommend getting a site numbered **145–178** (or others that are close by).

Address for the campsite (for your GPS) is:
Park Road 10, Oregon, Ohio 43616.

There are other activities available in Toledo and the surrounding area this weekend, including The Toledo Zoo Harvest Fest and many Hallowe'en themed events and tours. Check them out at <https://www.visittoledo.org/events/?date=10-17-2024>

Or why not visit the National Museum of the Great Lakes? It's at 1701 Front Street Toledo, OH 43605, less than 10 miles from the park. For more information about the museum go to:

<https://nmgl.org/> Right near the museum is the famous Tony Packo's restaurant at 1902 Front Street, Toledo, OH 43605.



Hope to see many of you there!

Faye

October 2024 Rally Itinerary

(Developing and Subject to Change)

Thursday, Oct. 17	
Check In	Campground check-in is at 3:00 p.m. Hook ups are electric only. Fill up with water at the station just past the campground check-in building. Please come see Faye and Dan Smith at the host site 174 after you arrive and get settled to get your copy of our agenda and a list of where all our GMC's are located.
Dinner	6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner at the campground shelter house. Please bring a dish to share and your own drink, plates and utensils.
Friday Oct. 18	
Breakfast	8:00 a.m. at the host campsite (174). Bring your own plates and utensils. Breakfast will be eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, toast, and coffee.
Lunch	On your own
Activity	2:00 p.m. Non-tech activity. Card making make and take, hopefully at the shelter house. Our hosts are working on a tech/mechanical activity on either Friday or Saturday.
Dinner	On your own. If you'd like to eat out the Maumee Bay Lodge and the Oregon Inn (www.theoregoninn.com) are nearby. They take reservations for groups of 6 or more. Phone: 419.697.1000
Saturday Oct. 19	
Breakfast	8:00 a.m. at the host campsite (174). Bring your own plates and utensils. Breakfast will be waffles, bacon, sausage, fruit, toast, & coffee.
Lunch	On your own
Dinner	6:00 p.m. Dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse, 42 S. Superior St. Toledo, OH 43604. Hosts suggest leaving the campground at 5:30 p.m. for the 11 miles/ 20-minute trip from the campground. This meal is included with your registration.
Sunday, Oct. 20	
Breakfast	8:00 a.m. Whatever breakfast food is leftover will be served until it is gone.



Great Lakers October 2024 Rally

Maumee Bay State Park ~ Oregon, Ohio

Thursday, October 17 through Sunday, October 20, 2024

1400 State Park Rd, Oregon, OH 43616

419-836-7758 | www.reserveOhio.com

Hosted by Faye & Dan Smith

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Book your campsite directly on the website.

Rally Registration Form



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Member1 Name

Member2 Name

Member1 Email

Member2 Email

Member1 Phone

☐ Mobile ☐ Home

Member2 Phone

☐ Mobile ☐ Home

Children Attending

Children's Ages (U12 gratis)

Guest1 Name

Guest2 Name

Emergency Contact Information



RALLY INFORMATION

Arrival Date

Departure Date

New Member Attending First Rally? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Site Number

Rally Fees (includes 2 breakfasts & Saturday dinner)

One Member Only (no guests over age 12)

\$ 35

Up to Two Members (including children U12)

\$ 70

Each Additional Guest/Children 12+

Number

x

\$ 35

Totals

\$

\$

\$

Prepaid Tours or Events

Number

x

\$

\$

\$

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

Mail To: **Faye Smith, GMC Great Lakers Secretary, 5474 Old Farm Dr. Mason, OH 45040**

Total Rally Fees \$

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.

rev 20240320



Treasurers Report

by Joe Gillen



Sunshine & Rainbows

by Sue Aubuchon

Hope everyone is enjoying the delightful weather!
Looking forward to spending time in our GMCs!
Since our last newsletter, cards with the following wishes
have been sent:

Hope You're Feeling Better!

Get well wishes were sent to John Koenig, Jim Wibby,
and Richard Forester.

In Sympathy—Farewell and Safe Travels:

- Condolences were sent to Sandy and Jim Wibby, for the passing of Sandy's Aunt
- Condolences were sent to Mary and Dave Lenzi, for the passing of Mary's sister
- Condolences were sent to Steve and Becky Johnson for the passing of Steve's mother

Sue

P.S. If you know when a member has a life event and would benefit from a little Sunshine, please let me know at saubuchon6419@gmail.com.

June, 2024

Bank balance..... \$6069.27

July, 2024

Expenses \$600.00

Revenue \$250.00

July 26th., 2024

Bank Balance..... \$5146.67



Membership Report

by Sharon Giannosa

Welcome to our latest new member, Shawn Bryan of Sarnia, Ontario!

Come join us for our last rally this season and get to know others who love the GMC lifestyle! Interested prospective members can attend a rally to get to know us!

Sharon

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Newsletter Editor

511 Park Place

Saline, MI 48176

