

ROAM

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB



**JOE'S TECH CORNER
GREASING THE REAR BOGIES**

p. 14

**MEMBER SPONSORED EVENT
CAMPOUT & CAR SHOW**

p. 17

Creative Ideas

At the May rally, we held our first **Craft Supply Swap**. Like any other hobby, over time, crafters accumulate extra raw materials and tools and the stash starts to outgrow their space.

A few of us were able to pair down our extras. It's like a yard sale - one person's trash is another person's treasure. I was impressed that I went home with only half as much as I brought :-)

Even more than the swap, it was wonderful to chat and share ideas and techniques. **The event spurred Janice Oosterbeek to suggest a new project,** something the Great Lakers can contribute to this September's GMCMI Fall Rally.

Janice attended the spring rally. A North Carolina member had made wooden birdhouses and, at the start of the conference, supplied materials and invited attendees to decorate them. Their creations graced the dining tables all week as centerpieces. At the end of the conference, they were auctioned to raise funds for GMCMI. Even the Pride Resort owner bought one as a souvenir of GMCMI's visit.

Our group brainstormed and explored the possibility of doing the same in Traverse City, but with lighthouses as the centerpieces.

Janice offered to spearhead and organize the effort. We'll likely need woodworker volunteers to make the lighthouse models and others to bring materials to decorate them. **If you want to take part in this project's planning and creation, let Janice know at janiceo222@yahoo.com.**

I hope to see you at a rally this summer!

Janet



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*Cover: Joe and Alesia Gillen's 1978 Royale relaxing in Traverse City, Michigan.
Left: Lake Huron Lighthouse.*

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President's Page

by Steve Johnson

Some things seem to change and some never do. We just finished the May Great Lakers rally in Zeeland, Michigan and it lived up to expectations.

Visiting with fellow Great Laker members after 6 months apart was enjoyable and allowed us to catch up on the latest in their lives. We shared notes on the changes people have made to their motor homes since last fall and learned of the plans that they have coming. We had some great meals thanks to the cooking prowess of the Blackstone Boys and the excellent catered dinner that Jeff Rider arranged for our group. Dave Lenzi educated us some more, as he always manages to do, by leading a tech session on a variety of chassis topics. The ladies shared their excess crafting supplies in a swap that was arranged by Bea, Faye, and Janet. Three non-members who stopped by to visit ended up joining our club.

So far, my comments could describe activities at many different rallies over the years. But, there were some things at this rally that I have not experienced before:

G On Thursday night at about 10:00pm, the tornado sirens went off. For the next 45 minutes or so many of us huddled in a couple of the campground's buildings. There was rain and hail, but fortunately no damaging winds. Apparently, at another campground about 20 miles away, some RVs were tipped over. When we returned to our coaches, all was well even if some had to wade through 6" of water to enter their rig. With the campground's sandy soil, the water was mostly gone by morning.

G On Friday, many of us made a trip to the Windmill Island Gardens and De Zwaan windmill. It's safe to say that the 260 year old windmill was the same as it was when the Great Lakers last visited this area in 2019. However, in 2019 we experienced a sea of tulips whereas this year there were just a few. I'll bet you can figure which of the two photos below is from this year and which was from before.



Above: Steve at Windmill Island Gardens in May 2025. We missed the blooms by one thunderstorm. Image by Ron Bolser.



Left: Bea and Jerry Newman at the Gardens during our 2019 rally.

G At the campground this year, the poplar trees were dropping the stickiest seed pods that I have ever seen. They got all over everything. When on the soles of your shoes they caused you to track around whatever else was on the ground. I'll bet we will still be finding some of these months from now. I don't believe we saw any of these 6 years ago. Hopefully, if we return in the future, they will not materialize again.

G Fellow Great Laker Stephen Knowles told us at dinner about a 5500 mile trip he will be taking later this summer in his GMC to parks as far away as Yellowstone. He is coordinating travel plans with a lot of other people and because it is highly orchestrated trip he said that "nothing can go wrong". Oh boy. I'm looking forward to hearing his stories the next time our paths cross. I'll bet there will be some good ones.

After departing the rally on Sunday morning we headed to the cottage of former Great Lakers Merle and JoAnn Carpenter in Newago, Michigan on the Muskegon River.



Above: Andree Oosterbeek checks out the breakfast skills of one of our Blackstone Boys chefs, Tom Giannosa. Photo by Janice Oosterbeek.

We were joined there by Tim and Brenda Price as well as Andre and Janice Osterbeek. While there, we spent a day disassembling a GMC frame that Merle had left over from a parts coach that Andre is going to use for improvements to the Osterbeek coach. Another story to follow up on in the future and another example of the GMC community coming together for the good of all.

While at Carpenter's I took a phone call from Randy and Shellie Broadright. While on their way home from the rally, their coach had quit running 5 miles from home. With Merle and me providing troubleshooting help over the phone and Shellie's ingenuity (temporarily replacing an in line fuel filter with the tube of a ball point pen, some duct tape and a couple hose clamps) they got the coach started and made it home. Sometimes one of the best "fix-it" items that you can carry when you are traveling is the Great Lakers member directory.

This morning Becky and I left Carpenter's and headed north to Wilderness State Park on the shore of Lake Michigan a few miles from the Mackinac Bridge. We will be here for a few days over the Memorial Day weekend with our 3 children, their spouses and our 3 grandchildren. A first for us to get everyone together on a camping trip at the same time. Even though we were parked on grass at the Carpenter cottage and it rained 1/2" last night, the GMC got out with no issues. Sometimes luck works in our favor. We'll see if the rest of the crew with their modern equipment all show up tomorrow!

Enough of my travelogue. I hope to see you all at the June rally in Granger, Indiana next month. I'm sure that Phyllis and Steve Thornburg have some great things planned for us.

Steve

2025 Rally Season

MAY BIRTHDAY RALLY

May 15th to 18th, 2025
Dutch Treat Camp & Recreation

10300 Gordon St., Zeeland, MI 49464
<https://www.dutchtreatcamping.com/>
616-772-4303
Hosts: Great Lakers Executive Committee
Book online or call for a reservation.
Sites are still available and we're actively planning meals and activities.

JUNE

June 19th to 22nd, 2025
Elkhart RV Resort

50707 Princess Way, Granger, IN 46530
509-957-2941
Hosts: Steve & Phyllis Thornburg
Sites are sold out but you can call for possible cancellations..

JULY - Christmas in July

July 17th to 20th, 2025
Chain O' Lakes Campground

7231 South M-88, Bellaire, MI 49615
<https://www.chainolakescamp.com/>
(231) 533-8432
Host: Nancy Donaghue
Call for a reservation, ask for Cameo, and mention that you are with the Great Lakers.

AUGUST

August 13th to 20th, 2025
Groveland Oaks County Park

14555 Dixie Highway, Holly, MI 48442
<https://www.oakgov.com/community/oakland-county-parks/parks-trails/groveland-oaks>
248-634-9811
Hosts: Tom & Sue Aubuchon
We have reserved a group site for 20 coaches - camping cost is included in the rally fee.
After the 20 are gone, book through the park.

SEPTEMBER

September 11th to 14th, 2025
Algonac State Park

8970 River Road, Clay Twp., MI 48001
<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=433&type=SPRK#overview>
810-765-5605
Hosts: This is formally a "do nothing" rally, but the Giannosas and Riders will be adding some fun to the weekend with organized games.

OCTOBER

October 16th to 19th, 2025
Harrison Lake State Park

26246 Harrison Lake Road, Fayette, OH 43521
(419) 237-2593
<https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/harrison-lake-state-park>
Hosts: Bea Newman & Sandy Wibby
Make your reservation in through the website link to the Ohio State Park reservation system.

For rally questions please email Jeff Rider at vice-president@gmcgreatlakers.org.

May 2025 Rally Report:

Great Lakers 49th Birthday

As is traditional, the Great Lakers Board hosted our first rally of the year. It was a good reminder that our 50th Golden Birthday is coming up in 2026. We are the oldest regional GMC organization. **Our historian, Bill Helmore, has been a member since the beginning and has attended 348 rallies!**

It was definitely an interesting time, marked by wild weather but good luck in how we fared (see Steve's *President's Page* column for more rally details).



This was our annual birthday celebration rally, so of course there was cake. Everyone received a gift of an enamel lapel pin of the Great Laker's traditional logo. **We have a few extra, so if you attend a rally this summer ask Steve for one to add to your lanyard collection.**

Our first Craft Supply Swap event was fun, as much for the ideas shared and social time. I managed to only take home half as much as I brought! We'll have more craft events in the future.

Above Right: Photo by Alesia Gillen. Above Left: Photo by Janice Oosterbeek. Right: Dutch wooden shoes. Photo by Ron Bolser.



Attendees visited Windmill Island Gardens and toured the five-story DeZwaan ("the Swan" or "Graceful Bird") windmill, the only authentic Dutch windmill operating in the United States. It was brought to Holland, MI in 1964 from the town of Vinkel and was the last Dutch windmill to leave the Netherlands.





Above Left: Dan Smith and Tom Giannosa examine the windmill's workings. Photo by Sharon Giannosa. Above Right: Dave Lenzi demonstrating chassis repairs. Photo by Janet Leslie. Below: A cluster of coaches at Dutch Treat. Photo by Alesia Gillen.



Spring weather is unpredictable, once dropping from 95 degrees to 45 overnight. The campground had an ample group room reserved for our use, so it was easy to move events indoors. **Dave Lenzi's** carload of parts illustrated his usual high-quality technical education session. **He gave us valuable information on replacing rear wheel bearings, easily measuring front wheel toe, maintaining ball joints, and more.**



Attendees of the May 2025 rally: Ron Bolser, Randy & Shellie Broadright, Kim & Larry Brown*, Christine & Craig Devries, Sharon & Tom Giannosa, Alesia & Joe Gillen, Bill Helmore, Becky & Steve Johnson, Steve Knowles, Tim Koski*, Dave & Mary Lenzi, Janet Leslie, Maria & Mike McCoy, Marvin & Sally Miller, Bea & Jerry Newman, Sonya & Terry Null, Andree & Janice Oosterbeek, Ben & Joyceann Pearson, Brenda & Tim Price, Jeff Rider, Dan & Faye Smith, Henry & Sharon VanWyk, Richard Waters, Jim & Sandy Wibby. * *New members.*

June 2025 Great Lakers Rally

Elkhart RV Resort: Granger, Indiana

June 19-22, 2025

Hosts: Steve & Phyllis Thornburg



We're going to Indiana! This tiny picture on the resort homepage suggests that they have hosted a GMC rally in the past. **This RJourney resort was once a KOA, owned by Great Lakers Patricia Schenk and Thomas Jetzer.** They will be joining us for the rally, and doing some reminiscing.

As is typical of a private campground, there are extra amenities to enjoy, including mini golf and swimming. They also have an onsite restaurant, snack bar, and convenience store if you need a break from cooking or just want a treat.

If you're looking for an offsite activity, the area surrounding Granger has plenty of options – Steve and Phyllis list suggestions on the Itinerary (next page).

This will be your best opportunity to visit the [RV/MH Hall of Fame](#) in nearby Elkhart. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$12 for older kids, and free for kids 5 and under. And the museum is pet friendly!

Right: The 1974 GMC Motorhome at the RV/MH Hall of Fame, from their website.

About the
Elkhart
RV Resort



Tech Session

"I will be working on a new Great Lakers member's coach in Indiana. Troy Bungard has excessive backlash in his steering, and wants me to look at it and have the necessary parts/tools with me to fix his problem. I expect we will be performing the same type of "fix" that was performed on Tom Giannosa's coach last year. This is a complex procedure, and will take most of the day. It is a very common issue on our coaches, and should be of interest to all owners."

Dave Lenzi



June 2025 Rally Itinerary

(Developing and Subject to Change)

Thursday, June 19			
3:00 p.m.	Arrival and campground check-in.		
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Meet and greet at the host site. Snacks optional, and please remember your name badge!		
5:30 p.m.	Cook-out with hamburgers and brats. Bring your own beverage and tableware.		
Friday June, 20			
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Copper Creek Cafe - the group will go in two shifts. See below for address.		
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Time for local visits. Some options include:		
	The Chief Creamery of Granger	12479 Adams Road, Granger	(0.7 mile)
	Crystal Springs Creamery	60020 Ash Road, Osceola	(13.1 miles)
	Rocket Science Ice Cream	401 E. Market Street, Nappanee	(26.5 miles)
	Coppes Commons	401 E. Market Street, Nappanee	(26.5 miles)
	The History Museum	808 W. Washington Street, South Bend	{10.5 miles}
	Oliver Family Mansion	808 W. Washington Street, South Bend	{10.5 miles}
	Studebaker National Museum	201 Chapin Street, South Bend	(10.4 miles)
	RV Hall of Fame & Museum	21565 Executive Parkway, Elkhart	{14.2 miles}
	Dinosaur Museum & Chocolate Factory	7102 Lincolnway West, South Bend	(16.1 miles)
Copper Creek Café	12797 IN-23, Granger	(0.3 mile)	
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Rock painting in the Pavillion.		
7:00 p.m.	Card Bingo in the Pavillion. Other games are available.		
8:00 p.m.	Campfire (weather permitting)		
Saturday, June 21			
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Donuts		
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Potluck dinner at the Pavillion. Ham will be provided, bring a dish to pass.		
8:00 p.m.	Campfire (weather permitting)		
Sunday, June 22			
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Pavillion. Whatever food is leftover will be served until it is gone.		
11:00 a.m.	Campground check out.		

"Christmas in July" 2025 Great Lakers Rally

Chain O'Lakes Campground: Bellaire, Michigan

July 17-20, 2025

Host: Nancy Donaghue

Northern Michigan is one of the most popular camping regions of the state. It offers a spectrum of activities, from outdoor beauty and adventure to pure relaxation. Some of the region's attractions:

Water

The Chain of Lakes Water Trail is a 100+ mile inland water trail of 12 lakes and interconnected rivers that flow into East Grand Traverse Bay, part of Lake Michigan. Rent a kayak, paddleboard, or boat, or just lounge by the campground pool.

Sand

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is the perfect place to get sand between your toes. The towering sand dunes and breathtaking views of Lake Michigan are ideal for hiking, picnicking, and photography.

Wine

The region is home to several excellent wineries. Take a tour and enjoy wine tastings at local vineyards. [Here's a guide to some of the best spots to visit](#) while staying at Chain O' Lakes Campground.

Bike

Glacier Hills offers excellent mountain biking trails. The scenic routes through forests and hills provide both challenging and leisurely rides for all skill levels.

Golf

Northern Michigan is renowned for its golfing - spend a day at one of the local courses.

Explore

Take a day trip to explore the nearby towns like Charlevoix, Alden, and Petoskey. Each town has its own unique charm, with beautiful waterfronts, historic sites, and vibrant downtown areas. Jim and Sandy Wibby, who live in the region, may have some suggestions.



History

If you love exploring the past, visit the Leland Historic District. Known as Fishtown, this area features historic shanties, docks, and unique shops. It's a great place to learn about the local history and enjoy some fresh seafood.

Lighthouses

Northern Michigan is renowned for picturesque lighthouses. The Grand Traverse Lighthouse offers stunning views and rich maritime history.

Shop & Eat

Downtown Bellaire is filled with unique craft shops, local boutiques, and cozy cafes. Or visit The Village at Grand Traverse Commons. This historic site is a vibrant community with shops, restaurants, and beautiful grounds.



Above: Bellaire Lake, Photo from the campground website.

August 2025 Great Lakers Rally

Groveland Oaks County Park: Holly, Michigan

August 13-20, 2025

Hosts: Sue & Tom Aubuchon

For our August rally at Groveland Oaks, the Club has reserved Group Area 1 with 12 sites; your site fees are included in the registration cost. In addition, attendees may stay at the park for the full week of Wednesday 13th to Tuesday the 20th for your three-day rally fee!

Groveland Oaks is located on Stewart Lake. Enjoy a day at the sandy beach or rent a rowboat, pedalboat, kayak, or paddleboard. You can also relax with shore and dock fishing. There are two Island group pavilions for group parties. Amenities at the park include a camp store, miniature golf (no charge, but bring your own putter and golf ball), shuffleboard, bocce ball court, bike rental, and paved trails.

The 12 sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so register now! You can book other nearby sites directly through the park.

There are many interesting events, activities, and restaurants in Oakland County. One summer favorite that you may enjoy is the [Michigan Renaissance Festival](#).

Take a journey through time in the 16th-century village of HollyGrove. Faire characters in authentic costumes entertain with performances recreating the Renaissance through jousting, swordfights, music, and period pastimes.

Above: Janet Leslie at the 2023 Renaissance Festival.



About Groveland Oaks County Park



Pirates, fairies, elves, Vikings, and peasants add to the mix. The Faire is known for its interesting food, adult beverages, games, and artisanal shops featuring one-of-a-kind crafts.

Our rally weekend of August 16 & 17 has a special faire theme of **Pirates & Pups**. Dogs are always permitted at the Faire, but this is a special weekend of dog-friendly fun. Enter themed contests and let your furry first mate join in the high seas revelry. Get their [dog registration form online](#).

Go in costume of any type, or just enjoy the creativity of those who do!

Full-day admission at the gate is \$26.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children, and \$24.95 for seniors. [Advanced purchase through their website](#) is discounted.

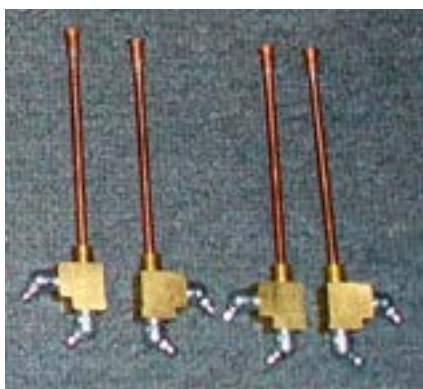
Early Season Maintenance: Greasing the Rear Bogies

Early in the season is a good time to think about lubricating the rear bogies on your GMC RV. Excessive pin wear can cause tire wear and affect coach handling. Not to mention it is quite an expensive repair!

Okay, so get out at least a 3-ton jack and raise the right-side rear tires slightly off the ground. This takes the load off the bogie pins.

Clean all fittings off before you use the grease gun! If it has been a while since the last greasing, you might want to remove the zerk fittings and use a plastic straw to remove the old and hardened grease.

Secondly, you might want to install the Bogie Pin Greaser Kit available at **Applied GMC** for about \$90 bucks for a set of (4)



For newer owners, [Applied GMC describes](#) how to clean out the grease channel:

- G** Remove the existing grease fitting.
- G** Insert a plastic straw at least 8 inches into the opening (McDonald's straws work great!)
- G** Twist the straw several times
- G** Place a finger on the end of the straw to create a vacuum and remove
- G** Insert Bogie Greaser (if using) into the opening and grease both Zerk fittings.
- G** Repeat the process for the remaining three pins.



Also, let air out of the airbag to take the load off the bogies. Use a heavy-duty grease gun and have someone help by placing a flat shovel under the tire and bouncing it up and down while you're greasing. Apply 8-10 pumps or until you hear the grease squishing out of the back and front.

Keep a small piece of cardboard handy to lay on the ground and catch any droppings. Ditto for a few shop towels to wipe up the excess grease on your hands. When done, you can add on a few plastic grease caps to keep dirt out. I do this once to twice a year, and we put in about 3,000 miles per year.

Years ago, **Matt Collie** recommended that I use Valvoline Full Synthetic Grease (part number VV985), which is about \$9 /14 oz tube. Yeah, the price surely went up!

How to do all this was taught to me by Jeff Rider, who is quite the master mechanic.



Treasurer's Report by Joe Gillen

Great Laker's financial activity for May 2025:

Starting Balance 5/01/25	\$4,574.00
Credits	\$2000.00
Debits	\$1091.00
Ending Balance 5/31/25	\$5483.00

Joe



Rainbows & Sunshine by Sue Aubuchon

I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather, and have had an opportunity to enjoy some away time with your coach! Since our last newsletter, the following get well wishes have been sent:

Hope you are feeling better!

Margaret Guske Walt Halley
Bea Newman Sharon Van Wyk
Sharon Giannosa

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

Sue



Membership Report by Sharon Giannosa

The Great Lakers are having a wonderful year. **We now have 105 memberships with 190 people!** This will make for some great summer rallies.

Welcome to our newest members:

- G** Larry & Kim Brown from Frankton, IN
- G** Bill & Carole Christopherson from Adrian, MI
- G** Tim Koski from Chesaning, MI
- G** Tim & Diana Shannon from Winamac, IN
- G** Mark & Wendy Warmuth from Iron Mountain, MI

Summer is prime season for new owners, so if you see a GMC for sale encourage the seller to pass on information about GMC groups.

Interested owners can get info at <https://www.gmcgreatlakers.org/membership-application/> or by contacting me at membership@gmcgreatlakers.org

Sharon

GMCFI - Fall 2025 in Traverse City!

September 2-7, 2025

[GMC Motorhomes International](#) hosts two week-long rallies per year, and this fall it will be in Michigan!

This is for our Great Lakers members who aren't part of GMCFI but may enjoy taking part. Many of us are only able to attend when this conference is close to home, so its a great opportunity.

These rallies are a wonderful experience of community building and learning. You'll get to meet and socialize with GMC owners from across North America. And the many technical sessions are the best organized opportunity you'll find to learn about operating, maintaining, and repairing our coaches.



[Register now!](#)

A number of Great Lakers and their coaches attended the **Spring 2025 Convention** in Waynesville, NC. All reports I've heard were positive, especially about the quality of social events and meals. Axe throwing, karaoke, happy hours, HotWheels races, and even a GMC band helped make for a great week.

Right: Conference attendees. Photo by GMCFI. Below: Great Lakers convoy to NC. Photo by Bea Newman.



Left: Great Lakers explore Waynesville. L-R Tom & Sharon Giannosa, Jim & Sandy Wibby, Bob & Jen Lambert, Jerry & Bea Newman. Below: Giannosas and Newmans on Lumberjack Day. Photos by Bea Newman.



Member Events: Campout Weekend & Car Show

by Tim & Brenda Price

On August 2nd, from 9am-2pm, we will be hosting the **Lakeshore Community Car Show** at our roller skating rink, [Rollxscape Skating Center](#), in Holland, MI.



Above: GMCs at the 2024 Car Show

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.
Newsletter Editor
511 Park Place
Saline, MI 48176



Spectators and participants have really enjoyed seeing the GMC Motorhomes at this car show. Last year, we decided to host a campout at the [Ottawa County Fairgrounds](#) and invited GMC owners to join us and participate in the car show. It was a great success, and we are doing it again this year.

We have blocked out 10 sites and can add more if needed. **Blocked dates are from Thursday, July 31st through Sunday, August 3rd.** If you want to come in earlier or stay later, you will need to ask them about availability when you make your reservation.

On Saturday, August 2nd, those who want to participate will drive their GMC motorhomes 6 miles to Rollxscape Skating Center, where we will be having a car show. There is no cost to attend the car show with your GMC. However, if you would like to participate and have your vehicle judged, you may [register with the organization group](#) for \$15.

This is a simple campout with no meetings or meal planning. Many of us cooked and ate together at the campground, and I have heard talk of some wanting to go into town to eat at one of Holland's great breweries. There are also other things to do and see around Holland, and you're only 6 miles from Holland State Park Beach.

For questions you may contact **Tim Price** by email at tp72chev@gmail.com or by phone/text at (616)566-2736.

For camping reservations, contact Ottawa County Fairgrounds' camping office at (616) 422-5445 or [book online](#).
Reference GMC Group site area D