October in Ohio Sites Still Available! Maumee Bay > p. 14

Roam.

Volume 49, Issue 3

July 2024

www.gmcgreatlakers.org



Coach Repair PSA

Recently a number of GMC owners have posted on social media that they had difficulty contacting **Cinnabar Engineering.** We imagine that like many other small businesses, during the busy season their staff time may be stretched thin. To help alleviate any concers of losing this valuable resource, Great Lakers' Treasurer Joe Gillen spoke with the company and confirmed the following:

For parts purchases:

• The office is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, per their recording at +1 (810) 648-2444. For parts purchases, if you have a part number, please leave a message with it and your return phone number. Steve or another associate will get back to you.

For technical support

- Consult their Web site (https://www.thegmcmotorhomepeople.com) which has over 500 answers on how to solve your GMC Motorhome concern.
- You can also order an informative binder covering many repair topics from Cinnabar that the owner, Wes, has published quarterly over the years.
- If you need to speak with a qualified engineer, call Cinnabar at 231-564-1122 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Wes will answer or follow up on your message (please leave your name and phone number).

What's inside?

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Board of Directors and Contributors

2024 Rally Season Schedule

Joe's Tech Trivia—Brake Maintainance Tips

May Rally at Pontiac Lake—Report

Coming Soon—August Rally at the Pinery

Register Now—September Rally at Addison Oaks

Space Still Available - October Rally at Maumee Bay

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Sunshine & Rainbows

Some like it hot!

Meteorologists had predicted higher-than-average temperatures for the Great Lakes region this summer, and they certainly weren't wrong! After a Michigan winter, I often feel bad when complaining about the

- 4 heat. But I can't help it I'm a bit of a polar bear.
- 5 I just enjoyed a few days with Ginny, my '78 Royale, at Sugarloaf Lake, where I learned a bit about window
- 6 treatments. I recently switched from the PO's aluminum mini blinds to honeycomb day/night blinds. I expected
- 7 that the new blinds would reduce heat transfer, but was surprised by the huge difference between the day and
- 8 night sides. So in addition to being more attractive and easier to use, these blinds are certainly worth it to help
- 10 beat the heat!

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I'd love to hear from you about the ways you keep your coach cool in the dog days of summer.

- What window treatments do you use?
- Do you have a favorite windshield cover?
- Are there ways to cool down your fridge more quickly on set up?
- Are there any little-known hacks you've discovered over time?
- Do you have ideas about staying hydrated and sunburn-free?

Help our Great Lakers beat the heat this summer. Please email me your tips, tricks, and pictures, and I'll pass these along in our August newsletter.

And as usual, I hope to meet you and your GMC at a rally or campground. But this year that may be more likely to happen in the cool of fall!

Janet

Cover: Great Lakers Fred Perkins & Jean Price rocked their 1976 Palm Beach, Kermit, at the May birthday rally in Pontiac Lake, Michigan. His toad friend, Sunshine the 1970 Empi Imp Dune Buggy, is also a rally fan favorite! Photo by Janet Leslie.

Janet Leslie, Roam Editor newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org

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Steve Johnson at our
May birthday rally at
Pontiac Lake State Rec
Area. Our welcome
banner always graces
the host's campsite, a
gathering place for meals,
learning, campfires, and
socializing.
Photo by Janet Leslie.

club who think just like you. And remember, an added bonus of hosting a rally is the club pays your camping fees.

Want to contribute to a rally but not as a host? Maybe you could lead a tech session. Tell us about GMC issues that you have encountered and how you overcame them. Every one of us has more to learn and unique knowledge to pass along. Are you a cook? Maybe you could make a special dessert or salad for a meal that the host is planning. A rally host who gets a phone call from another member offering to contribute anything to their rally will surely say "yes".

Are you a writer? Perhaps you could provide an article for a newsletter or our website. Remember that our newsletter editor Janet Leslie (newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org) and our webmaster Rob Matras (webmaster@gmcgreatlakers.org) should not need to invent the information that they communicate but rather should be gathering it together and passing it on to our members. Photos of GMCs and our members are always in demand. Information that is of interest to you is probably of interest to other members too, so go ahead and send it along.

All of our board positions are up for election every year. Help us conduct our election process by being a member of the nominating committee. If you want to play a greater role in how the club operates, run for one of the seven board positions that fit your skills and experiences. We are always looking for new leadership from those who want to contribute.

We are a club approaching 50 years old that is run for our members and by our members. Find the role that you can play to help us continue to thrive for another 50 years.

What can I do to help the GMC Great Lakers thrive? That is a question I hope we are all asking ourselves. What brought us together in the first place was a common interest in the 1973-1978 GMC motorhome. As stated on our website "The club's purpose is to promote the enjoyment and preservation of the GMC motorhome. We do this by gathering at rallies held monthly from May to October to share our ideas and experiences with others who have a similar passion."

Keeping in mind that we are a club whose existence depends on volunteers for everything we do, we all should be looking for ways that we can contribute. Everyone has different experiences, knowledge, skills, and talents that I'm sure can be put to use. Let me propose some areas for you to think about.

As stated above, our primary way to share is by gathering at rallies. We are always looking for ideas on where to go for rallies. Perhaps you are familiar with a great location that the club has never camped at before or you have a favorite that you would like to visit again. Remember that Jeff Rider, our vice president who is in charge of developing our rally schedule, is from Michigan so he may be less likely to know about some of the gems that are in other states. Pass on your thoughts/ideas to vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org so Jeff can consider them as we start to plan for 2025, especially your ideas outside of Michigan.

Speaking of 2025, perhaps you have wondered about volunteering to host a rally. The job is not as difficult as you may fear and there are lots of experienced members to ask for help and ideas. Perhaps you could co-host with someone else to ease your concerns. No two rallies are the same and being a host allows you to schedule those things that you find especially appealing. Museum tours? Factory tours? Bocce ball tournaments? Scavenger hunts? Craft projects? We have done them all. You will probably find that there are others in the

Steve



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Rally Season Schedule

MAY 16-19 Thurs-Sun Great Lakers Birthday Rally!

Great Lakers Birthday Rally!
Pontiac Lake State Park
7800 Gale Road, Waterford, MI
www.midnrreservations.com
(800) 447-2757
Hosts: Great Lakers Executive Committee

August 8-11 Thurs-Sun Let's visit our Canadian members!

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

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

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

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/webtrac/web/splash.html 248-858-1400

Hosts: Jeff & Maureen Rider

A group of Great Lakers coaches at the Fall 2023 GMCMI rally in Corunna, MI. Photo by Janet Leslie

Joe's Tech Trivia

by Joe Gillen

- Check your rear flex line for swollen rubber. This
 is the first indication the line is worn and should be
 replaced.
- If you have no history of when the front rubber flex lines were changed, do it now! Flexible lines can break down from within the line. The breakdown of the rubber creates a "tongue" that can drop down and keep pressure on the wheel cylinder or brake caliper causing it to overheat and eventually fail.
- Flush out your old brake fluid to rid your system of moisture build-up that causes rust. Using 100% synthetic fluid is a decent plan.
- Put a rubber cover across the master brake cylinder in the bonnet area. This serves as a shield to keep rainwater from weeping into your master cylinder.
- Check your brake line across the rear frame area.
 The attachment bracket is known to vibrate loose and then the galvanized line can start chaffing and wear through causing a major brake failure.
- Check out the emergency brake. Keep the cable in working condition; if rusty it could stick.



The Only Thing More Important than Going is Stopping:

Tips for Healthier Brakes

- There is a simple way to adjust your rear brakes. In a
 K-Mart size parking lot back the coach up and stop
 hard. Repeat this several times. Or you can jack up
 the rear of the coach, spin the tires, and use a brake
 spoon to get the same results.
- Rocks can wear down the brake line that leads to the multi-proportioning valve, located by the left sidewheel house. You can add a rock shield to cover and protect it. I once lost my front brakes tiptoeing through Chicago due to rocks hitting that area.
- Pull the rear brake drums and physically check your brake shoes for excessive wear.
- Check your front rotors for wear, scratches, or gouges. Change those pads to a recommended front disc pad.
- Never throw away that proportioning valve. They
 don't have any mechanical moving parts that wear,
 and the replacement parts lack quality.



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May 2024 Great Lakers Birthday Rally Pontiac Lake State Rec Area: Waterford, Michigan

May 16-19, 2024

Hosts: Great Lakers Executive Committee

The Great Lakers got this camping season off to a great start with our 48th birthday rally. There were 35 attendees, 20 coaches, and enough canine friends to keep us all smiling and busy petting. We made a special welcome to first-timers Mark and Barb Grajek and their Golden Retriever Murphy. The Grajek's had just purchased their coach and made their first-ever trip to the rally!



Photo by Janet Leslie.

As is the club's tradition, every attendee received a birthday gift. This year's choice was a wooden, laseretched magnet (below; mine will become a key tag).



Photo by Pater Carney



Photo by Alesia Gillen

Pontiac Lake is perhaps the closest campground to the Pontiac, Michigan birthplace of our coaches. Many of us attended the 50th birthday celebrations at the Pontiac M1 Concourse last fall, so it seems a fitting place to start the year.

Once in the densely wooded camparound, it's hard to tell that you are this close to a city and major metropolitan area.



Clockwise from bottom left are Jeff Rider, Dave Lenzi, Mark Grajek, Richard Waters, Steve Johnson, Jim Wibby, & Tom Giannosa. Photo by Alesia Gillen.

Educational tech sessions are a valuable part of rallies. Above, Dave Lenzi did a dry run for his planned hands on session on steering installation and repair at our June rally. Dave discussed and showed examples of the available replacement parts and needed corrections before installation. He also demonstrated how to remove and replace front suspension components. Thanks Dave!



Left: Randy & Shellie
Broadright's festive site and
coach Below: Saturday
evening at the nearby Shark
Club. Pictured Bea & Jerry
Newman, Sandy & Jim
Wibby. Photos by Janet Leslie.
Right: Bill Helmore with
his custom Zip Dee Great
Lakers chair. Photo by Nancy
Donaghue.





Great Lakers don't pass up an opportunity to celebrate, and **Randy Broadright** certainly had the spirit. I think he gets extra husband points for his decoration of their coach and site for **his wife Shellie's** 40th birthday (photo above left). He also brought delicious cakes to share and we all helped her enjoy her special day.

Some of the group took in the Phase 1 public opening of the nearby Pontiac Transportation Museum. The eventual 55,000-square-foot facility "pays homage to both the tremendous vehicle legacy of the Pontiac community as well as the social history of how the community interacted with its transportation industry." For its collection, the museum is rebuilding one of the first GMC Motorhomes. If you have parts or funds to donate to this historical coach, please contact them.

As an unexpected treat, **Dave Lenzi** donated a custom Zip Dee camp chair embroidered with the Great Lakers' name. Our club historian **Bill Helmore** was the happy winner of the drawing (photo above right).

Our weekend camp meals were delicious, but the group also enjoyed a catered meal at the nearby Shark Club on Saturday night (photo above center). Our buffet dinner was held in a private dining room with a bar. Large round tables made for easy conversation and socializing. Thanks to **Nancy Donaghue** for her recommendation of the Shark Club.

Janet

Great Lakers & guests who took part:

Tom & Sue Aubuchon, Ron Bolser, Randy & Shellie Broadright, Peter Carney & Larkan Shippey, Nancy Donaghue, Tom & Sharon Gianossa, Joe & ALisha Gillen, Mark & Barb Grajek (first timers!), Dave & Millie Gronow, Bill Helmore, Steve Johnson, Dave & Mary Lenzi, Janet Leslie & Sharon Hurd, Jerry & Bea Newman, Fred Perkins & Jean Price, Lawrence & Helderard Rebholz, Jeff & Maureen Rider, Dan & Faye Smith, Richard Waters, Jim & Sandy Wibby.

August 2024 Great Lakers Rally Pinery Provincial Park: Grand Bend, Ontario Canada

August 9-11, 2024

Hosts: Jean Price & Patricia Nau

Congratulations to everyone who was able to book a site at this very popular campground. You're sure to enjoy it!

This rally is only a few weeks away, so send in your registration form soon!

Five meals are included in your rally fees:

- Full breakfast on Friday and Saturday, with fruit and toast on Sunday.
- A light dinner on Friday with a restaurant catered meal on Saturday.



While you wait, park information is available at: https://ontarioparks.ca/park/pinery. Check out a Pinery Camping Review and Video at the Going Awesome Places Travel Blog.

https://goingawesomeplaces.com/pinery-provincialpark-guide-and-review/





Great Lakers August 2024 Rally Pinery Provincial Park ~ Grand Bend, Ontario Thursday, August 8 through Sunday, August 11, 2024 9526 Lakeshore Road RR2, Grand Bend, ON, NOM 1TO Canada 989, 669, 7375 Lakeshore Road RR2, Grand Bend, ON, NOM 1TO Canada

888-668-7275 | https://ontarioparks.ca/reservations Hosted by Jean Price and Patricia Nau

Registration Deadline: Thursday, July 29, 2024 Book your campsite directly with Ontario Parks

Registration Form

1ember Name		Member2 Name	
Member1 Email		Member2 Email	
Member1 Phone Mobile	Home	Member2 Phone	☐ Mobile ☐ Hom
Children Attending		Children's Ages (U12 grat	tis)
Guest1 Name		Guest2 Name	
Emergency Contact Information			
RALLY INFORMATION	l-	Arrival Date	Departure Date
New Member Attending First Rally? Yes Rally Fees (includes 3 breakfasts & 2 dinners (1 catered restaurant dinner)	No.	Site Number	Totals
One Member Only (no guests over age 12) Up to Two Members (including children U12) Each Additional Guest/Children 12+	Number	\$	45 90 \$ 45
Prepaid Tours or Events n/a			
Make Checks Payable to: GMC Great Lakers Motorl	Number home Club, Inc.	х \$то	stal Rally Fees \$
Mail To: Joe Gillen, GMC Great Lakers Treasurer, 1	5628 Ellen Drive L	ivonia, MI 48154-2322	
Waiver: Viwe hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damage, perso is intended to discharge-in advance-the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, its offic club rally even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the p knowing those risks, Viwe hereby assume those risks. It is further agreed that this waiver Motorhome Club, its officers, rally hosts, volunteers and agents from any loss, liability, any activity at this rally. It is my express intent that this Waiver of Liability and Hold this release, I acknowledge and represent that Vue have read the abov	ers, rally hosts, volunteers, and art of those parties. It is unders , release, and assumption of risl damage cost, or expense which Harmless Agreement shall bind	l agents from any and all liability arising out of a tood that activities such as the ones I/we may pa is to be binding upon my heirs and assigns. I/w they may incur as the result of my/our death or I the members of my family and spouse (if any) a	or connected in any vasay with nny/our participation in actu rricipate in may involve an element of risk and danger of a se agree to indemnify and to hold harmless, the GMC Great any injury or property damage that I/we may sustain whi is well as any guests, including children that accompany n
inis reieuse, 1 acknowieuge ana represent that ywe nave reau the abov	e waiver of hability and	nota narmiess agreement, unaerstana ti	t, and sign it voluntarity.

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

September 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Addison Oaks County Park ~ Leonard, Michigan

September 4-8, 2024

Hosts: Jeff & Maureen Rider

Our September rally is coming soon! For this event the Club has reserved the enitre Group Area 5 (orange on the park map), and your site fees are included in the registration cost. In addition, attendees may stay at the park for the Monday and Tuesday following the rally for no extra charge!

Sites are first come, first served so register now! Once the 16 sites are filled you can book additional sites directly through the park and pay a reduced registration fee. There are general site areas nearby.





Thursday, Sept. 4: Potluck dinner

Friday, Sept. 5: Hot breakfast; lunch on your own; catered dinner with details TBA

Saturday, Sept 6: Hot breakfast; lunch on your own; group dinner TBA

Sunday, Sept 7: Hot breakfast



Details about local events, activities, and restaurants coming soon. One nearby summer favorite that you may enjoy is the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

The September 7-8 weekend theme is Wonders of the World. Ready for a weekend of adventure? Discover the Ren Faire adventure with a diverse world market and live performances. Join the Michigan State Belly Dance Championship or take a dance lesson. Go in costume or enjoy the creativity of those who do!

https://www.michrenfest.com/





Great Lakers September 2024 RallyAddison Oaks County Park ~ Leonard, Michigan

Thursday, September 4 through Sunday, September 8, 2024

Optional bonus camping days Sept. 9-10 included in fee

1480 West Romeo Road, Leonard, MI 48367

Hosted by Jeff and Maureen Rider, vice_president@gmcgreatlakers.org

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Book your campsite directly through the Board with this form. Group area 5 with 16 sites, first come first served. Additional sites must register through the park.

Rally Registration Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION					
Member I Name		Member2 Name			
Member1 Email		Member2 Email			
Member1 Phone Mobile O	lome	Member2 Phone		Mobile Home	
Children Attending	Children's Ages (U12 gratis)				
Guest1 Name		Guest2 Name			
Emergency Contact Information					
RALLY INFORMATION		Arrival Date	Departu	re Date	
New Member Attending First Rally? Yes No		Site Number			
Rally Fees (includes 3 breakfasts & 2 dinners) One Member Only (no guests over age 12) Up to Two Members (including children U12) Each Additional Guest/Children 12+	Number	\$ \$ x \$	100 140 40	Totals \$ \$ \$ \$	
Prepaid Tours or Events n/a	Number	x \$		\$	
Make Checks Payable to: GMC Great Lakers Motorho	me Club, Inc.		Total Rally Fees	\$	
Mail To: Jeff Rider, GMC Great Lakers VP, 6909 Monto	clair Drive, Troy,	MI 48085-1654			
Waiver: I/we hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damage, personal is intended to discharge-in advance-the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, its officers, club rully even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part knowing those risks. I/we hereby assume those risks. It is further agreed that this waiver, rel Motorhome Club, its officers, rully hosts, volunteers and agents from any loss, liability, dan any activity at this rully. It is my express intent that this Waiver of Liability and Hold By signing this release, I acknowledge and represent that I/we have read t	rally hosts, volunteers, and a of those parties. It is understo ease, and assumption of risk is age cost, or expense which th Harmless Agreement shall	gents from any and all liability arising on of that activities such as the ones I/we ms is to be binding upon my heirs and assign: yey may incur as the result of my/our dea bind the members of my family and sp	ut of or connected in any way ay participate in may involve s. I/we agree to indemnify and tth or any injury or property o ouse (if any) as well as any	with my/our participation in activities at this an element of risk and danger of accidents. In to hold harmless, the GMC Great Lakers lamage that I/we may sustain while participating in guests, including drildren that accompany me/us.	
Required: Member/s Signature and Date					

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GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

October 2024 Great Lakers Rally Maumee Bay State Park: Oregon, Ohio

June 20-23, 2024

Hosts: Fave & 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.

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.

Sites are still available for these days, so book now to enjoy our last rally of the season!

Planned meals include:

Thursday, Oct. 17: a Pot Luck dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct 18: Group breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m.; lunch and dinner on your own.

Saturday Oct. 19: Group breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m; lunch on your own; provided dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse (about 10 miles from the park).

There are other activities available in Toledo and the surrounding area. One suggestion is the National Museum of the Great Lakes – 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 - 1902 Front Street, Toledo, OH 43605.



Hope to see many of you there!

Faye



Treasurers Report by Joe Gillen

GMC Great Lakers Monthly Financial Report May 2024

May 2024		Rı	unning Balance				
May Starting Balance \$4,43							
Expenses	Image Crafter Inc, 20 large coach plaques	-\$445.20	\$3,992.66				
Rally #1, May I	+ 40 member name badges, check #1581 Pontiac Lake						
5/9/2024	Jeff Ryder, food expenses Rally #1, check #1578	-\$500.00	\$3,492.66				
5/18/2024	Shark Club, debit to credit card, May rally dinner balance	-\$1,121.22	\$2,371.44				
5/20/2024	Melissa Koenig, rally refund, check #1574	-\$110.00	\$2,261.44				
5/20/2024	J Baumbarger, rally refund, check #1579	-\$110.00	\$2,151.44				
Income							
Rally #1, May I							
5/9/2024	Received from Jeff (15) @\$110 ea, Rally	#1 CEO 00	¢2 001 44				
5/9/2024	#1 fees Received from Jeff (4) @\$55 ea, Rally #1	\$1,650.00	\$3,801.44				
3/ 3/ 2024	fees	\$220.00	\$4,021.44				
5/18/2024	Received from Jeff (3) @\$55 ea, Rally #1	,	1 /-				
	fees	\$165.00	\$4,186.44				
	Janet Leslie Rally #1 fees, + guest (1)	\$110.00	\$4,296.44				
	Nancy Donaghue Rally #1, dinner guests	\$68.56	\$4,365.00				
Membership Fees							
•	New membership, Mark & Barbara Grajek	\$50.00	\$4,415.00				
	New membership, Peter Carney	\$50.00	\$4,465.00				
5/9/2024	Annual membership (1) received from Sharon	\$15.00	\$4,480.00				
5/18/2024	Annual memberships (3) received from Sharon	\$45.00	\$4,525.00				
May Ending	g Bank Balance		\$5,222.15				

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Membership Report

by Sharon Giannosa

Welcome to our new members so far in 2024! Come join us at a rally this season and get to know others who love the GMC lifestyle!

Jim & Darlene Fetgerolf Henry & Sharon VanWyk Mark & Barb Grajek Peter Carney & Lakan Shippy

Sharon

GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Newsletter Editor 511 Park Place Saline, MI 48176





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

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.