

**2025 Rally Schedule!**  
Save the dates and book your sites.  
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# Roam.

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[www.gmcgreatlakers.org](http://www.gmcgreatlakers.org)

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB



BEFORE...







**AFTER!**

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Cover and first page images: GMC owner friends and comrades in Western Michigan know how to do upgrades in style! When someone says they need help with their coach, the others are there at the drop of a dime. Tim Price needed a new engine, so the guys got together, took an old engine out of a parts coach and set about restoring it. The project made for a fun weekend at a warehouse in Rockford, MI.

L-R in both pics: Great Laker Andre Oosterbeek, Thomas Wynants, Great Laker Tim Price, & Merle Carpenter. Thanks SO much Ashlee Anvik for sharing these iconic photos!

## Honoring Our Veterans

Hello Everyone,

November 11th was Veteran's day, so we'd like to take a special opportunity to honor and appreciate the Great Lakers members, present and past, whose life contributions include serving in the Armed Forces.

It feels like there should be more than the usual

*"Thank you for your service."*

So I'll add

*"Thank you for your sacrifices."*

There are as many unrecognized sacrifices as there are veterans, but some are common:

Thank you for living with what you didn't realize could be part of what you signed up for. For the grief of losing people you cared about, and the conflicted guilt of being the one to come home. For physical pain, mental glitches, or emotions that are hidden in daily life. For simple things that most take for granted but you aren't able to do anymore. For relationship problems, or failed ones. For feeling alone with memories. For becoming a symbol to strangers for their dislike of military actions, or their making assumptions about your values. For the sacrifices your family made too.

For some, the service was easier than the sacrifices. For both, I offer respect, compassion, and gratitude.

But if I meet you in person maybe I'll just do what a friend said he'd like on Veterans Day.

*"Just wish me a great day!"*

*Janet*

Janet Leslie, Roam Editor  
newsletter@gmcgreatlakers.org





Above: Steve Johnson exploring during our October rally at Maumee Bay State Park. Photo by Becky Johnson.

Have you heard the question “Is the glass half full or half empty?” When driving vehicles that are roughly 50 years old, it is safe to say that we will have issues. Our challenge is to look for the good when bad things happen.

Last week Becky and I attended the Great Lakers rally at Maumee Bay state park in Ohio. This rally, hosted by **Faye and Dan Smith**, brought together 26 GMCs of our members as well as 2 who came in their SOBs, **making it the highest attended Great Lakers rally in a decade**. We even ran into another GMC at the campground who wasn’t a Great Laker – I’ll bet he was surprised by his campground neighbors.

At the beginning of the rally, when I greeted **Dave and Mary Lenzi** with “How you doing?”, Dave’s response really got my attention. “We’re doing good...now”. The “now” was a word that called for an explanation. It turns out that the transmission in Dave’s GMC had a failure on his way home from a work rally he attended in Minnesota. He was able to limp the rig home and had just finished reinstalling his repaired transmission the day before our rally. That was why it was important to say “...now”. Think about how different things would have been if instead the failure would have left him stranded hundreds of miles from home.

I mentioned earlier that two of our members came to the rally in SOB’s rather than their GMCs. **Marcia and Cary Lawson** were on their way home from our September rally at Addison Oaks when their transmission stopped shifting into third gear. Like Dave, Cary was able to limp his rig home but he wasn’t able to get it fixed in time to drive it to Maumee. No problem. We were glad that Cary and Marcia were able to join us, even if it was in

# President's Page

their SOB instead of their GMC. Cary found a shop near his home that understands our THM425 transmission so I expect we will hear from him in the spring what the issue was.

The other SOB at our rally belongs to new members **Jim and Darlene Fetherolf**. They had attended their first Great Lakers rally at the Pinery in Canada in August in their GMC and made it home OK. However, on their way to Maumee, disturbing engine noises from the GMC caused Jim to turn around and go home where he switched vehicles rather than risk a catastrophic failure. Like the Lawson’s, we were glad they could attend even if we would have preferred to see another GMC. Now Jim has the entire winter to get things taken care of.

My last example of motorhome troubles at the October rally involves **John and Melissa Koenig** discovering a puddle of engine coolant under their GMC when they arrived at Maumee. Apparently, while they were in route, something kicked up from the road and damaged their radiator, causing a geyser of coolant to squirt out of the punctured cooling tube. After getting situated at their campsite, and before our pot-luck dinner, an effort to band-aid their damaged rig began so that two days later they would be able to safely make the 80-mile trip back home. **Bob Lambert** found just the right spots to pinch off the damaged tube with a pair of pliers, reducing the leak to drips rather than a stream. After dinner, a quick trip to the store for a container of Stop Leak provided the finishing touch to the temporary fix, eliminating the leak for their drive home. I was able to confirm with John after the rally that their trip home was uneventful and that he now has the radiator removed and undergoing a permanent repair at his local radiator shop.

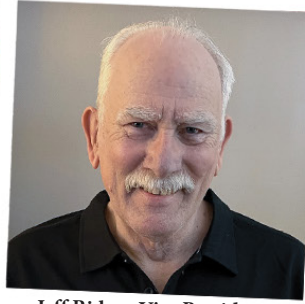
If the glass is half empty, each of these incidents could scare us into staying home instead of travelling in the GMCs we love. I like to think that the glass is half full and that these experiences tell us that although there may be bumps in the road, it will work out in the end.

**I hope to see you all at our next rally in your GMCs in May 2025.**

*Steve*



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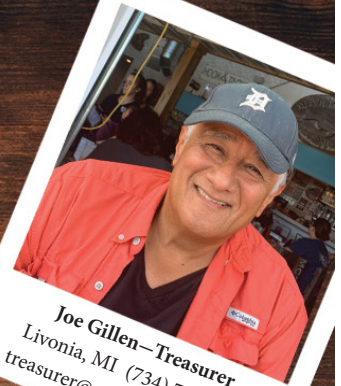
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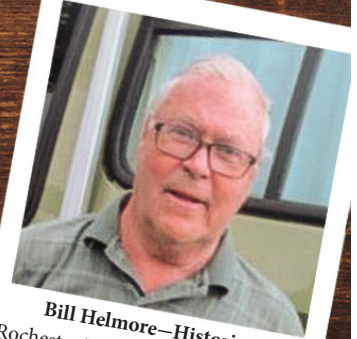
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# Rally Season Schedule

## 2025

More details to come so you can plan and book your summer trips!



## May

Dutch Treat Campground  
Holland, MI  
May 15th to 18th, 2025

Call 616-772-4303 for a reservation. but they usually have plenty available in May. We suggest reserving in January.

## June

Elkhart RV Campground  
Granger, IN  
June 19th to 22nd, 2025

Call 509-957-2941 for a reservation. The line is staffed 9 to 5, Monday-Friday; ask for Auturo. They are not holding sites so make your reservation early.

## July

Chain O Lakes Campground  
Bellaire, MI  
July 17th to 20th, 2025

They are holding 20 sites for us until January 1st. After that they are open to the public. Call 231-533-8432 for a reservation; ask for Cameo and mention that you are with the Great Lakers.

## August

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

We have a group site for 20 coaches - your camping fee will be included in the rally fee. After the first 20 coaches register with us you will need to book your site directly through the park.

## September

Algonac State Park  
Algonac, MI  
September 11th to 14th, 2025

This is a return of the Do Nothing Rally in a completely refurbished campground. Make your reservation through the Michigan DNR website by March to get a site near the riverside.  
<https://www.michigan.gov/DNR>

## October

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

Make your own reservation in April through the Ohio State Park reservation system online.  
<https://www.reserveohio.com/OhioCampWeb/>





# Treasurers Report

by Joe Gillen

## October 2024

### October Starting Balance

### Other Incomes

Bank chk#4249 by J.Gillen Pinery Rally fees

### Other Expenses to reconcile our Ledger

### Expense Total

### Rally # 5 Maumee Income Fees

Bank deposit for 20 members at \$70/couple

Bank deposit for 6 members at \$35/person

Bank deposit for 2 members at \$20/person

### Rally # 4 Cost Maumee Cost

Camp fire wood Dan Smith chk#1602

Reimburse Jeff Rider 1/2 Rally for one person Chk #1604

Spaghetti Warehouse credit card

Office Depot to make copies

Rally Food

	Debit/Credits	Balance
October Starting Balance		\$4,444.56
Other Incomes		
Bank chk#4249 by J.Gillen Pinery Rally fees	\$76.00	\$4,520.56
Other Expenses to reconcile our Ledger		
Expense Total		
Rally # 5 Maumee Income Fees		
Bank deposit for 20 members at \$70/couple	\$1,470.00	\$5,990.56
Bank deposit for 6 members at \$35/person	\$210.00	\$6,200.56
Bank deposit for 2 members at \$20/person	\$40.00	\$6,240.56
Rally # 4 Cost Maumee Cost		
Camp fire wood Dan Smith chk#1602	-\$67.00	\$6,173.56
Reimburse Jeff Rider 1/2 Rally for one person Chk #1604	-\$35.00	\$6,138.56
Spaghetti Warehouse credit card	-\$906.44	\$5,232.12
Office Depot to make copies	-\$7.46	\$5,224.66
Rally Food	-\$256.59	\$4,968.07

## October Maumee State Park Rally #5

### Rally #5 Cost

Camp fire wood Dan Smith chk#1602	-\$67.00
Reimburse Jeff Rider 1/2 Rally for one person Chk #1604	-\$35.00
Spaghetti Warehouse credit card	-\$906.44
Office Depot to make copies	-\$7.46
Rally Food	-\$256.59

### Expense Total

-\$1,272.49

### Rally # 5 Income Fees

1 Jeff & Maureen chk #1257	\$70.00
2 Tom & Sue Aubuchon chk#7985	\$70.00
3 Randy & Shellie Broadright chk # 4001996	\$70.00
4 Sharon & Tom Giannosa chk #5246	\$70.00
5 Dave & Mary Lenzi chk# 1302	\$70.00
6 Joe & Alesia Gillen chk# 4245	\$70.00
7 Stephen & Rebekah Johnsonchk # 4508	\$70.00
8 Nancy Donahue & Beth Barnett chk # 101	\$70.00
9 Bill & Lauren Phinney (cash )	\$70.00
10 Robert & Jennifer Lambert chk#8126	\$70.00
11 Cary & Marcia Lawson chk# 1123	\$70.00
12 Janet Leslie & Guest chk # 1035	\$70.00
13 Rick & Theresa Little chk# 1007	\$70.00
14 Terry & Sonya Null Chk# 2085	\$70.00
15 Dan & Faye Smith chk# 8069	\$70.00
16 Bea & Jerry Newman Chk# 5568	\$70.00
17 Henry & Sharon VanWyk Chk# 13721699	\$70.00
18 Jim & Sandy Wibby chk# 5183	\$70.00
19 Darlene & James Fetheroff chk # 1081	\$70.00
20 Janice & Andre Oosyerbeek #(cash)	\$70.00

1 Bill Helmore chk# 195	\$35.00
2 Peter Carney chk # 2023	\$35.00
3 Rob Matras chk # 3180	\$35.00
4 Dan Shaub chk # 2037	\$35.00
5 Ron Bolser chk # 1069	\$35.00
6 Jack Compton chk # 1533	\$35.00
1 John & Melissa Koenig chk# 8773	\$20.00
2 Steve & Phyllis Thornburg Cash breakfast (cash)	\$20.00
	<u>\$1,650.00</u>

**Net Proceeds \$377.51**

# August 2024 Great Lakers Rally

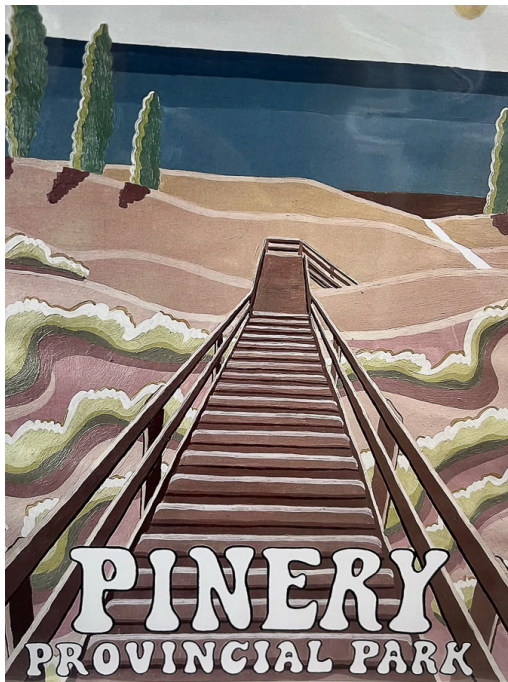
Pinery Provincial Park: Grand Bend, Ontario Canada

August 9-11, 2024

**Hosts: Jean Price & Freddy Perkins, & Trish & Phil Nau**

Great Lakers go international! For the first time in many years the group travelled north for a rally in Canada.

Our third rally of the 2024 camping season was held August 8-11, 2024 at Pinery Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. The Pinery turned out to be a very popular location with sites in high demand, but we represented well with 11 coaches and 21 members.



*Beautiful scenery shots by  
Alesia Gillen.*

*Jean  
&  
Trish*



It was a fun rally with great August weather and lots to eat at the breakfasts and potluck.

Trish and I fed the group on Friday night. Jeff and Maureen Rider hosted the evening bonfires which were enjoyed by many.





On Friday afternoon we enjoyed a tour of the Lambton Heritage Museum. Photos by Sharon & Tom Giannosa.



Below left: Maureen & Jeff Rider with Sir Reggie their loyal Lab. Right: A sparkly Canadian campfire evening. Photos by Alesia Gillen.



**Great Lakers & guests who took part:**

Hosts Fred Perkins & Jean Price and Phil & Trish Nau, Shawn Bryan, Jim & Darlene Fetherolf, Nancy Donaghue & guest Mary Jo, Joe & Alisha Gillen, Tom & Sharon Giannosa, Sonya & Terry Null, Jeff & Maureen Rider, Dan & Fay Smith, Gary & Bev Van Dyken.



# September 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Addison Oaks County Park ~ Leonard, Michigan

September 4-8, 2024

Hosts: Jeff & Maureen Rider



September's rally at Addison Oaks County Park was a typical GMC event characterized by good food, fellowship, and campfire evenings with S'mores & Dave Lenzi's marshmallows dipped in Baileys.

Because Addison Oaks provided extra days for the same price, some members continued the rally until Tuesday.



*Top: The ever-social Fred Perkins & Jean Price. Photo by Alesia Gillen.*

*Above: Cameron, Steve and Becky Johnson's grandson, is getting a head start on developing his GMC tech skills. Photo by Becky Johnson.*



On Saturday the wonderful Dave Lenzi could be found working his magic on Tom & Sharon Giannosa's coach.



The local wildlife joined in at breakfast. Coffee is an obvious priority for the local squirrels!

*Above and left: Photos by Alesia Gillen. Below: L-R Fred Perkins, Jean Price, Alesia Gillen, Joe Gillen, Mille Wiszniewski & Dave Gronow. Photo by lunch server :-)*



During rallies many of us take the opportunity for a local lunch out with Great Laker friends (right).

The group enjoyed a Friday night dinner from Four Corners Diner in Romeo, MI - prime rib, chicken parmesan, potatoes, green beans, alfredo noodles, salad, rolls & butter meant no one went to bed hungry.

Nancy Donaghue provided dinner with a Mexican flair on Saturday night.



**Great Lakers & guests who took part:**

Hosts Jeff & Caitie Rider, Tom & Sue Aubuchon, Nancy Donaghue, Tom & Sharon Giannosa, Joe & Alesia Gillen, Mark & Barbra Grajek, Dave Gronow & Millie Wiszniewski, Bill Helmore, Steve, Becky & Cameron Johnson, Cary & Marcia Lawson, Dave & Mary Lenzi, Mike & Maria McCoy, Phil & Trish Nau, Janice & Andre Osterbeek, Jean Price & Fred Pickens, Richard Waters.



# October 2024 Great Lakers Rally

Maumee Bay State Park: Oregon, Ohio

June 20-23, 2024

Hosts: Faye & Dan Smith

We had a wonderful turnout at the October Rally in Maumee Bay State Park in Ohio. There were 28 coaches (3 were SOB's), 51 members (some came just for a day), 3 guests, many friendly dogs and lots of comradery. One of our guests, **Angela Boomer**, and day visitors **John Sullivan** and **Carolyn Berge**, became members after the rally. Welcome to the group! The park had lots of trails, things to do, and spacious campsites. The weather was spectacular for this event!

The rally started with our traditional potluck Thursday evening dinner. No one went home hungry. Breakfast was provided on Friday and Saturday mornings and there was enough eggs and bread leftover to provide French Toast on Sunday morning. Each evening there was a bonfire for all to enjoy.



Above: One of our new members enjoying a campfire with friends. L-R Robert Kulick, Rob Matras, Angela Boomer. Below: Janice Oosterbeek and Sonya Null soak in the firelight. Photos by Janet Leslie.

Above: Great Laker's hot breakfasts are always worth getting up for, even on crisp October mornings. Photo by Pete Carney.



Below: Dan Smith conducting his Central Vacuum repair clinic. Photo by Faye Smith.



Dan Smith led a tech event about Central Vacuum Bushing Repair on Friday. Dave Lenzi held a tech event on Saturday on the Back Up Brake Vacuum Boost Pump.





Saturday evening 43 members made the trip to Toledo to have dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse. The food was great and there was the unexpected surprise of a magician who visited our banquet room and briefly entertained us.



Above: The group awaiting dinner at the Spagetti Warehouse with entertainment by a magician! Photo by Pete Carney.

There was another GMC motorhome at the park. The owner, Mark St. Germain, came over to one of our group events to find out what was going on. He had never seen another GMC coach before! He was given a membership form and he and Cindy have since joined us! Hopefully, we will see them at future rallies.

Overall, it was a fun and informative rally. Maumee Bay State Park is certainly a location that we should come back to in the future!

**Great Lakers & guests who took part:** Hosts Dan & Faye Smith, Tom & Sue Aubuchon, Ron Bolser, Randy & Shellie Broadright, Peter Carney, Jack Compton (first timer!), Nancy Donaghue & Beth Barnett, James & Darlene Fetherolf, Tom & Sharon Giannosa, Joe & Alesia Gillen, Bill Helmore, Steve & Becky Johnson, John & Melissa Koenig, Robert Kulick & Vicki Erickson, Robert & Jennifer Lambert, Cary & Marcia Lawson, Dave & Mary Lenzi, Janet Leslie & Keith Kolasinski, Rick & Teresa Little, Rob Matras, Jerry & Bea Newman, Terry & Sonya Null, Andre & Janice Oosterbeek, Bill & Lauren Phinney, Jeff Rider, Dan Shaub, John Sullivan & Carolyn Berge, Steve & Phyllis Thornburg, Henry & Sharon VanWyk, Jim & Sandy Wibby.



Left: Our lovely and capable hostess, Faye Smith, organizing breakfast. Photo by Sharon Giannosa.

Below: One of Faye's delicious pumpkin muffins. Photo by Faye Smith.

Faye was certainly hostess extraordinaire! For the crafters in our group, she offered a card and gift-tag make and take session. And for our breakfasts she baked 4 batches of **Pumpkin Muffins**, about 80 in all. Below is the recipe for those who requested it:

- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. ground cloves
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Grease or line muffin cups.  
In a large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt and the spices.  
In a separate bowl, beat together pumpkin, oil and the eggs.  
Stir the wet mixture into the flour mixture until smooth.  
Scoop into the muffin cups.  
Bake for about 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.  
Makes approx. 20 muffins - They freeze very well.



*Faye  
&  
Dan*



## Sunshine & Rainbows

by Sue Aubuchon

Well, fall is here, and another wonderful season of fellowship and fun is behind us. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season! Since our last newsletter, cards with the following wishes have been sent:

### Hope You're Feeling Better!

Get well wishes were sent to Sandy Wibby and Dick Foerster.

### Cheer!

- A note was sent to Maureen Rider because she was missed at our last couple of rallies.
- A note was also sent to Shawn Bryan due to the coach fire he suffered.

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

*Sue*

## Membership Report

by Sharon Giannosa

October brought us a good group of new members! Welcome to our latest new members:

Angela Boomer	Trenton, Michigan
Bud & Dorothy Ransford	Flat Rock, Michigan
Mark & Cindy St. Germain	Lambertville, Michigan
John Sullivan & Carolyn Berge	Ann Arbor, Michigan

2025 is coming and its not too soon to renew your membership. Any submitted now will apply to the whole of 2025. And Great Lakers renewals are the World's best deal at only \$15.

If you know anyone in our region who is the proud guardian of a TZE vehicle, encourage them to join us!

*Sharon*

## A Member Note

We thought we'd share an update below from René Foerster; she and Dick have been busy this summer and are missing the rallies. Dick, you're in our hearts and we're all wishing good health for you and your special needs chicken! :

"I thought I'd give you an update on Dick's cancer. He had the prostate out, unfortunately he is still testing positive for cancer, however in a small way. So prayers and thoughts appreciated. I hope you are all having a fun summer camping. I miss it. We are busy trying to get work done on Dad's house I inherited this year. It was never finished. A lot of outdoor work to get done before winter. I hope next year will be better for us. Miss you guys! We have chickens! But one is special needs."

René



# Nominating Committee Report

by Tom Aubuchon

Our yearly election is now complete.

- Steve Johnson and Nancy Donaghue ran for President, all of our other current officers were unopposed. Steve was elected as our President for another term, as were the current slate of officers.
- We had a total of 46 members voting, which is 48.4% of our total membership (thanks for calculating, Bill)!
- Thanks to Bill Helmore and Peter Carney for being valuable members of the committee, and to Rob Matras for his expertise and assistance.

Thanks to all who voted, and congratulations to the 2025 Board!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Tom Aubuchon, Nominating Committee Chair

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## GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc.

Newsletter Editor

511 Park Place

Saline, MI 48176

