



1973-2023

# Celebrating 50 Years!



## GMC MOTORHOMES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

# MISSISSIPPI



Spring 2023

Hattiesburg

Thursday, April 27 – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

### Hattiesburg and a RV Park!

#### Craft Your Own Adventure

Come a day or two early (\$30 a night camping fee) and connect with the bustling live music scene and impressive variety of local eateries. Taste the selections created in the barrels of the downtown breweries. Discover the art scene, military museums, shopping, and outdoor recreation offerings. (More information about the area on next page.)

Learn more at:  
[www.visithburg.org](http://www.visithburg.org)

Download the guide at:  
[www.visithburg.org/media/1585/mobile-visitors-guide.pdf](http://www.visithburg.org/media/1585/mobile-visitors-guide.pdf)



#### Welcome to the Forrest County RV Park

Enjoy the concrete slabs and patios found at all of the sites. Plus full hook-ups of water, sewer, and 30/50 amp electricity connections. The RV Park is located beside the 16-acre Forrest County Lake adjacent to Convention facility.



### Hattiesburg Geotour

With more than 40 geocache hides to find, Hattiesburg offers one of only 100 active official GeoTours worldwide. The Hattiesburg GeoTour is the first of its kind in Mississippi.

<https://hattiesburggeotour.com/>



### The Longleaf Trace

South Mississippi's premier running, biking, hiking, and equestrian trail. It is a beautiful, paved 44-mile linear park that extends from Hattiesburg through Sumrall, Bassfield, and Carson to Prentiss.

<https://www.longleaftrace.org/>



## EXPLORING HATTIESBURG!

Hattiesburg is a centre for the surrounding agricultural area and is the seat of the University of Southern Mississippi (1910) and William Carey College (1906). Paul B. Johnson State Park and a section of DeSoto National Forest lie a few miles to the south; the International Checker Hall of Fame (dedicated to the game of checkers) is in the adjoining town of Petal.

- **History.** Hattiesburg, is the county seat of Forrest County. Located in a longleaf-pine forest area, was founded in 1882 by Captain William H. Hardy, lumberman and engineer, who named it for his wife (it was previously known as Twin Forks and Gordonville). The arrival of railroads in 1884 and 1897 stimulated the lumber industry.



## Area Brochures and Maps!





### Hattiesburg Public Art Trail

Whether you walk it, bike it, or drive it, share in the beauty of the public art trail featuring an enriching collection of murals, sculptures, and utility boxes designed by artists both local and from across the nation.  
<https://hburgart.com/>



### Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

Experience Mississippi's role in military history, while honoring the service of both Mississippi veterans and those who have trained in Mississippi. Open Tuesday through Saturday 9am-4pm. No Admission Fee  
<https://msarmedforcesmuseum.org/>



### African American Military History Museum

The museum focuses on Hattiesburg area African American Soldiers who have served in the US Military since Spanish American War. Open Wednesday through Friday 10am-4pm. Saturday 12am-4pm. No Admission Fee  
<https://hattiesburguso.com/>

- **Economic Environment.** Timber continues to be important, but Hattiesburg's economic activities now include poultry processing and the manufacture of kitchen appliances and paper products.
- **City nickname.** Ever wonder if Hattiesburg has a nickname? Well, it does! In fact, some people call it the "hub city." The town gained this title in 1912 because it linked different railroad

lines. Hattiesburg is also known as the "hub city" because it is located at the intersections of Interstate 59 and U.S. Highways 49, 98, and 11.

- **State size ranking.** Currently, Hattiesburg is the fifth most-populated town in Mississippi.
- **Historic theater.** The Saenger Theater, which was constructed in 1929, is still in operation today, thanks to restoration

efforts after it shut down in the '60s. If you have ever been to New Orleans, the name of this theater may sound familiar, and for good reason. The architect behind the Saenger Theater, Emile Weil, was famous for designing buildings in The Big Easy.

- **Two Counties?** The land in Hattiesburg belongs to two counties, not one. Residents live either in Lamar or Forrest County.

The team at VISITHATTIESBURG™ strives to make your trip as enjoyable and easy as possible. Download one of these at [www.visithburg.org/travel-guide/maps-guides-brochures/](http://www.visithburg.org/travel-guide/maps-guides-brochures/)



## GMC Clinics...

### Windshield Clinic

We are happy to announce that our previous installers are willing to travel to the 2023 Spring Convention in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

At this point in time, Ken Burton does not have a price per window but needs to know how many are interested in having their windshields replaced at the Clinic. All pre-orders and communications (questions, etc.) will be taken and processed by Ken at GMCWindshield@gmail.com. Only

windshields that are pre-ordered will be shipped to the site. If you cannot do email, contact Kim Weeks for assistance.

Since this is a clinic, you are welcome and invited to stop and watch them work and ask occasional questions.

*Thank you Ken for coordinating this big project!*



## EDUCATIONAL TECH SESSIONS, VENDORS,

## Tech Notes...

### GMC's Full Service Parts & Repair Facility Owners

- Jeff Sirum of Alex Sirum Vintage GMC will be present with an array of parts, fiberglass parts, and products. He is offering "free delivery" to the Convention, so order today! He will also be conducting a couple of tech sessions and the famous "Weighing of the Coaches".  
[www.sirumvintagegmc.com](http://www.sirumvintagegmc.com)

- Jim Kanomata of Applied GMC will be present with a selection of GMC parts and products. Pre-order parts that you need (up to 10 lbs.) and have them delivered to the Convention "free".  
[www.gmcrcvparts.com](http://www.gmcrcvparts.com)

## Notes of Interest!

### Convention First-Timers

We are pleased that you are planning on coming to the Convention. Plan on attending the First-Timers Orientation Meeting on Thursday at 3:15 pm. We invite first-timers to sign up on the bulletin board to serve ice cream on Monday evening. It is a great opportunity to meet all of you!

### Can't Come for the Entire Week?

Not a problem. Call Kim at 612-501-4600 or email her at [kimweeksgmc@gmail.com](mailto:kimweeksgmc@gmail.com) and let her know when you would like to arrive and depart. See you there!

### Additional Sessions

We have a couple of session slots open, just in case you have an idea or session you would wish to lead or assist with, please contact Kim. Thank you.

### Sing, Sing, Sing...Play, Play, Play

Sunday morning we have a non-denominational worship with a choir! We need you...join the choir and fun.

Choir rehearsal is on Friday, April 22 at 1:00 pm. Instruments welcome! Contact Kim at [kimweeksgmc@gmail.com](mailto:kimweeksgmc@gmail.com) for the commonly known music selection.

# Convention Highlights!

## Weighing of the Coaches Clinic

Is the weight in your coach evenly distributed? How about your height of the coach? Jeff Sirum of Alex Sirum Vintage GMC and crew will be measuring and weighing your coach.

**Why is it important?** Jeff will conduct a tech session the next day and help your understand the importance of the numbers.

## GMCMC Flashdrive Update Clinic

Bring your GMCMC Flashdrive and have it updated with all the new items available

**Note:** the program that we use will not delete any of your files from the flashdrive.

If you do not own one, purchase one at the Convention for only \$20!

- Six nights of camping, Friday through Wednesday night in a RV Park with a Lake!
- Restrooms, showers, and **FULL HOOKUPS!**
- Come early for Wednesday and Thursday for only \$30 a night
- 15-21 hours of tech sessions
- Vendors, Vendors, Vendors...
- 12-19 hours of non-technical sessions
- Full catered breakfast first morning of Convention
- Hot waffles daily, one egg breakfast, and one SOS breakfast
- One Lunch/Brunch
- Two Dinners
- Three Ice Cream Socials
- "Mardi Gras!" featuring a Parade, Dinner, and FUN!
- "Free" Bingo Sessions with prizes!
- Book Exchange & Bookworms and Their Diet
- "Pajama Party" Ladies Brunch
- GMC Parts Exchange, Craft & Flea Market
- "Show & Shine" Open House Tour
- GMCMC Silent Auction
- Weighing of the Coaches
- Participate in the Sunday Worship Service Choir

**PLUS...**



**DAILY DOOR PRIZES**

## CRAFTS, FOOD, FUN, AND LAUGHS!

## Indoor and Outdoor Vendors

Vendor space is available. We are leaving it up to the vendors where they prefer to present their products and services. Vendors, please indicate on the registration form if you wish to utilize the indoor vendor area. Thank you.

## GMC Part Exchange, Craft & Flea Market

Bring those no longer needed items to sell! Also, we enjoy seeing and purchasing those lovely things you make.

## Early Arrivals

Come early and explore Hattiesburg. Stay at the RV Park with full hook-ups for \$30 a night. All camping reservations prior and for the Convention are made only via the GMCMC Convention registration form and/or the Convention office.

## In Closing

This is just a few of the items we are planning. I know there will be more as the Convention gets closer. Please do check the website ([www.gmcmi.com](http://www.gmcmi.com)) for additional information along with the special "Convention Update eNews" that will be emailed to all attendees.

# What's a Happening

## Pineblock Derby!

Get those GMC racers out of the closet and fine-tune them for the Derby! For rules go to: [www.gmcmi.com/gmcmi-pineblock-derby](http://www.gmcmi.com/gmcmi-pineblock-derby)

## Fred & Diane Dugger Food Drive

Bring nonperishables and paper products for the local food pantry in Hattiesburg. We ask that you check the expiration date on whatever you bring. Thank you.

**New! Family & Friends CPR Class**  
GMCMI is pleased to offer this class at the Spring Convention. The Family & Friends AHA CPR/AED course is a video driven, hands on skills, community class for those who wish to learn adult, child, and infant life saving skills.

The class will be held on Thursday, April 27 at 9:00 am. Pre-registration and payment of \$20 per person (value of \$30-50 per person) is required. Limited to 18 participants.



## GMC MOTORHOMES INTERNATIONAL

### Crafts

We have a couple of craft items scheduled but if you would like to share and lead a group... fantastic! This is always a fun time and it is amazing what we make and how proud we are when we are done. Email Kim today at [kimweeksgmc@gmail.com](mailto:kimweeksgmc@gmail.com)

### Silent Auction

Thank you to those that donated and bid previously. We have replaced the coffee pot and one sound system. We are almost there and looking forward to replacing the other sound systems. Have something to donate, contact Kim?

### Book Exchange & Book Worms

Remember to bring your books, tapes, and DVDs for the Book Exchange held during the Convention. Bring your favorite book and share it at the Bookworms and Their Diet Session. A list will be provided of all books shared following the session. Check out previous lists at: [www.gmcmi.com/community-book-list](http://www.gmcmi.com/community-book-list).



## Convention T-Shirt Options!

### Thank You to Byron Songer!

Byron shared his illustration talents and supplied GMCMI the 1973 standard color options for the Spring logo. When ordering your Convention t-shirt you can choose which one you would like!

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**PINEBLOCK Derby Kit**

Order your kit on the Convention registration form for the Clinic (pickup on arrival) or build your derby racer at home. Only \$20 each with free shipping.

Order at: [thegmcmhstore.com](http://thegmcmhstore.com)



# GMCMI Mardi Gras DAY!



*"Let's have fun!!"*

**Decorate the RV Park in "Mardi Gras" style**

Judging on Sunday, April 30

Prizes will be awarded!

## Welcome!

**GMC Regional Rallies**  
 GMCMI is happy to welcome the GMC Dixielanders and the GMC Flatlanders who will be utilizing the GMCMI Spring Convention as one of their rallies! Each of them will be having a get-together during the Convention.

## It's a Parade!



Bring your attire to celebrate the first day of May by watching and/or participating as dancers weaving ribbons around a the May Pole.



Monday, May 1 **Pajama party** 10:00 am Brunch

Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite teddy bear and/or bring a teddy bear to donate to the local fire department/children's charity.

*Brunch will be served, along with a lot of fun!*

# The Schedule TENTATIVE THAT IS...

## WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26 | PRE-CONVENTION

- 1:00 pm Early Arrival & Registration Begins (closes at 5pm)
- 6:30 pm Early Bird Social & Ice Cream (more information to come)

## THURSDAY | APRIL 27

- 7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts & Waffles
- 9:00 am GMCMI Arrival & Registration (closes at 4pm)

## SUNDAY | APRIL 30 | MARDI GRAS DAY!

- 7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles, Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal, Juice & Fruit
- 7:30 am SOS Breakfast
- 8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
- 9:00 am Worship Service
- 10:15 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 3:30 pm "Mardi Gras" Parade
- 6:00 pm **Mardi Gras Party!** Catered meal



## AN EVENT TO NOT MISS!

- 9:00 am Family & Friends CPR Class (pre-registration required)
- 1:00 pm Choir Practice for Sunday Worship
- 3:15 pm First-Timers Meeting – All Members Welcome
- 5:00 pm GMCMI Board Meeting
- 7:30 pm Ice Cream Social
- 8:00 pm Bingo (free cards, prizes awarded)

## FRIDAY | APRIL 28

- 7:30 am Catered Breakfast
- 8:15 am Welcome Meeting &
- 10:15 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 6:00 pm GMC Flatlanders Get-Together

## SATURDAY | APRIL 29

- 7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles, Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal, Juice & Fruit
- 8:00 am Update Your GMCMI Flashdrive Clinic
- 8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
- 9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 1:15 pm GMC Parts Exchange, Craft & Flea Market
- 3:00 pm "Show & Shine" Open House Tour!
- 6:00 pm GMC Dixielanders Get-Together

## MONDAY | MAY 1 | MAY DAY!

- 7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles, Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal, Juice, & Fruit
- 7:30 am Pineblock Derby Weigh-in
- 8:00 am Egg Breakfast
- 8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
- 9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 10:00 am "Pajama Party" Ladies Luncheon
- Noon Chili for the Men
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 2:00 pm GMCMI Regional Member Meetings
- 3:45 pm Weighing of the Coaches
- 7:30 pm Ice Cream Social
- 8:00 pm Pineblock Derby Races

## TUESDAY | MAY 2

- 7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles, Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal, Juice, & Fruit
- 8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
- 9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Session
- 5:00 pm Membership Meeting, Awards, GMCMI Raffle, and Meal
- 7:30 pm GMCMI Board Meeting

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 3

- Noon Campground Checkout – Convention Ends – *Have A Safe Trip Home!*

### APRIL 29 - MAY 1 Windshield Clinic

What an opportunity to have your windshield replaced!

Better yet...stop and watch the installers work and ask occasional questions.