NOVEMBER 2026

GMCSS HAPPENINGS



REMINDERS

Rallies

It is important that members make their reservations in a timely manner for the 2026-2027 Rally Schedule. The resorts will release our held sites to the general public after the "reserve by" dates listed in the rally schedule.

Timely reservations are important not only to the campground, but also to the rally host for planning meals and activities and determining whether we will have enough members in attendance to have the clubhouse available to us.

Membership Dues

Membership dues for 2027 should be paid by **January 1, 2027**.

Annual dues are **$30.00 per family unit** and may be paid online using PayPal or Zelle, or by mailing a check payable to **GMC Sunshine Statesmen** to:

1117 Northern Way
Winter Springs, FL 32708-4303

For instructions on paying online, please visit **GMCSS.com** and select **Membership Dues**, or contact me directly.

Dues may also be paid in person at our **December 2026 rally**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at donnasdale@yahoo.com or call 407-446-5552.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of the GMC Sunshine Statesmen!

Your GMCSS Treasurer,
Donna Dale

HOST NEEDED FOR OUR MAY 2027 RALLY

We are looking for a volunteer to host our May 2027 rally at Forest Lake Village in Zephyrhills, Florida.

If you're willing to step up and take on this fun opportunity, please know that you won't be on your own! You'll have plenty of helping hands and support from our members to make the rally a success.

Please consider volunteering—we'd love to have someone step forward to help make our May rally a memorable one!

If you are interested in hosting a rally, please contact Lori Meyer at 386-986-8886.

PREZ SAYS

It's not missing – Harold has computer problems so we will have to wait until next month for an update!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Scott and Cindi Jones from Gulfport, Florida. They attended their first rally at Clover Leaf Forest RV Resort in Brooksville, Florida and were very helpful and fit right in and joined in our activities and we hope we will see them again.



RECAP OF NOVEMBER FRIENDSGIVING RALLY

Our third rally of the season brought us to Zachary Taylor RV Resort in Okeechobee, Fl. Attendees were hosts Deb and Ed Bickley along with their guests Maria and Jose Inglesis, and Gise and Edwardo Riusech who were a tremendous help in the kitchen, co-host Mary

Boutte, Cat Meyer and Lori Meyer, Arthur and Oliver Norek, Bob Hughson and Don Fenwick, Russell and Jenny Keith, Donna Dale and Bob Heller, Rick and Cindy Michelhaugh, Mel and Dorean Woods, Harold and Charlie Coffield. Jeff Sirum brought Sally by for Saturday breakfast and she joined in on the craft and both Sally and Ramona Sirum were in attendance for Friendsgiving on Saturday evening.



Our early arrivals kicked things off with pizza which was brought in from Domino's. After dinner, we gathered in the clubhouse for some socializing, card playing, and catching up with friends.

Friday breakfast we had cold cereals and Cuban pastries. Jeff Sirum came by and the men went to his shop and then to a deli for a quick bite. Jeff then took a bunch of us out on the pontoon boat. Dinner by Deb was three wonderful types of salad and four homemade soups - butternut squash, lasagna soup, chicken with white beans and corn, and New England clam chowder. She had wonderful friends Maria and Gise who helped her in the kitchen.





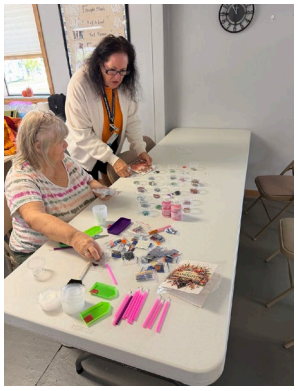


For dessert create your own sundae and pie!! Socializing in the clubhouse and card playing after dinner. We also were treated to a home made whoopie birthday cake made by Bob Hughson to celebrate Cat Meyer's 65th birthday which was November 3rd.



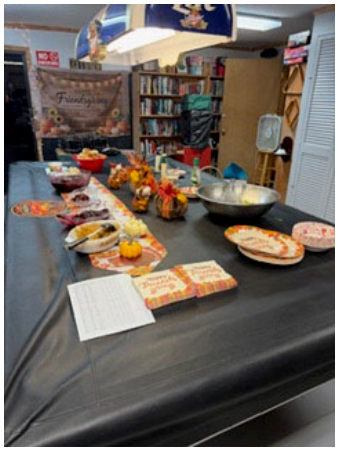
Saturday morning we were treated to French toast and sausage (real maple syrup). Board meeting was held and a lot was accomplished. Ladies did a craft, men went out on pontoon boat, we had special visit from Sally and Ramona Sirum at dinnertime.





Friendsgiving dinner was outstanding with Turkey, gravy, stuffing, green beans, ruttabaga, candied sweet potatoes, corn casserole, mashed potatoes, salad, three different kinds of cranberry sauce, dessert was pecan and pumpkin pie. The plan was to play trivia and left right center but the night ended with girls playing cards until the wee hours of the morning.





Sunday morning we gathered for one last breakfast featuring leftover pastries, yogurt, cereal and plenty of coffee. All the leftover food was given to those that had containers or baggies.

Before long, it was time to clean up, pack up, say our goodbyes until December where our joint rally with the Dixielanders will have a theme of -- Jingle Bells and Crazy Pajama Bottoms. There will also be a "decorate your coach for Xmas" with the prize being a free rally fee for two to be used within a year.

A big **THANK YOU to Deb and Ed and their friends, Mary Boutte and all those who pitched in to make this rally such a wonderful success. It's the help and participation of our members that make these weekends so special.**

POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY

I received the below email. If I get ten responses back that people are interested, I will pursue it further. If you think this is a good opportunity, please contact me at gmcsswebmaster@gmail.com and I will coordinate.

Hi GMC Sunshine Statesmen team,

I'm Evan, I built a free vanlife app called Roam Meet Explore. Your club's rally season — monthly rallies from Flamingo Lake to Clerbrook to Keystone Heights, September through May — is exactly the kind of regular group rhythm RME is built for.

Right now most rallies coordinate across emails, calls, and scattered group chats. RME puts it in one place: your rally's page, a rally chat where attendees can talk before and during the event, and a Friends Map so people can see who's nearby — all free. If you ran the club's rally coordination in RME, your members would just download the app to join the chat.

The app is free on iOS and Android now. App Store: https://apps.apple.com/app/rme-roam-meet-explore/id6794237012 | Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.roammeetexplore.app&hl=en_US You can check it out at roammeetexplore.com

Thanks for considering it,
Evan Freer
Roam Meet Explore

PHOTOS

Want to relive some of the fun? Take a look at the albums created from our November Friendsgiving rally. Click here and here. (apology on the dates it states in the first album – I can't figure out how to change it).

SAFETY TIP:



November is a transitional month — drivers face shifting conditions from

autumn to winter, with unpredictable weather, reduced visibility, and increased travel demand. These factors combine to make even minor errors more dangerous.

It seems that more and more, we rely on internet technology to consolidate the combined knowledge of the masses, for the greater good, or in this case, to provide a synopsis and insight of potential hazards to drivers during the month of November. As I coordinate this November information, it is raining, which is fitting with our amazing Florida weather. See below for the references to websites who provided some of the below topics for thought and consideration.

November brings a mix of seasonal weather changes, reduced daylight, and holiday travel that create multiple road safety risks, including wet roads, low-light hazards, fatigue, and wildlife encounters. Add that to hasty travel planning and other human factors that plague any road trip, reviewing the below basics may aid in completing a safe and successful trip. Please refer to prior GMCSS safety tips for additional information.

Key Road Safety Hazards in November:



1. Wet and Slippery Roads
Wet pavement is the dominant weather-related crash factor — about 74% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on wet surfaces, far more than snow or ice. Rain, combined with fallen leaves, can reduce traction and visibility.



2. Reduced Daylight and Low-Vision Periods
Shorter days and earlier sunsets increase the risk of accidents between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., when light levels drop and driver fatigue rises. This is especially dangerous in fall and winter months.



3. Drowsy and Fatigue Driving
The fall back clock change and shorter days heighten drowsy driving risks. Drowsy Driving Prevention Week is observed in early November to raise awareness. Fatigue impairs reaction time and judgment, making it as dangerous as impaired driving.



4. Wildlife Collisions
Deer and other wildlife are more active near roads at dawn and dusk in November, increasing the likelihood of collisions.

5. Holiday Travel and Distraction Risks
Thanksgiving and Black Friday travel bring more vehicles on the road, along with distractions from phone use, cargo shifts, and road rage. Construction on the Turnpike, and the interstates, complicate travel.



6. Cold Weather and Road Surface Changes
Early frost, ice, (mostly in Northern Florida) and high winds (I noticed on I-10) can create hazardous conditions.

Safety Focus Areas for November

- Increase vigilance during low-light hours and after the clock change.
- Maintain tires, wipers, brakes, and lights for fall to winter readiness.
- Plan rest stops for long trips to prevent fatigue.
- Slow down in wet conditions and avoid sudden maneuvers.
- Be alert for wildlife at dawn/dusk.

- Minimize distractions while driving, use technology to reduce not complicate driving.

In short, November's road safety challenges are driven by weather, light, fatigue, and travel patterns — and addressing them requires proactive preparation and awareness.

References: DriveTeam.com, blog.oshaonlinecenter.com, safetalkpro.com, NationalDayToday.com

As always, safe travels and thanks for reading!

Johnny Niedzwiedzki
GMCSS Safety Guy
74 Canyonlands

OUR RALLY SEASON SCHEDULE 2026-2027
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILED RALLY INFORMATION

December 10-13, 2026 Flamingo Lakes RV Community Campground 3640 Newcomb Rd Jacksonville, FL 32218 (904) 766-0672 Hosted by the Board	**March 11-14, 2027** Eagles Roost RV Resort 5465 Millstore Road Lake Park, GA 31636 229-559-5192 Host: Deb Bickley Co-Host: Mary Boutte
January 7-10, 2027 Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort 20005 US Highway 27 Clermont, FL 34715 Hosts: Lori Meyer/Cat Meyer Co-Hosts: Donna Dale & Bob Heller	**April 8-11, 2027** Keystone Heights RV 1177 SE Keystone Avenue Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 645-4330 Hosts: Jenny and Russell Keith Co-host: Johnny Niedzwiedzki
February 20-28, 2027 Caribbean Cruise Regal Princess out of Ft. Lauderdale (for more info contact Cat Meyer)	**May 6-9, 2027** Forest Lake Village 41219 Hockey Drive Zephyrhills, FL 33540 813-782-1058 LOOKING FOR HOST

OUR OFFICERS - CLICK HERE