



Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

January
2008

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January 9

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Jan. 2, 9, 16

POKER

Jan. 8, Feb. 5

RACQUETBALL-Men 60+

Tuesdays

QUILTING

January 15

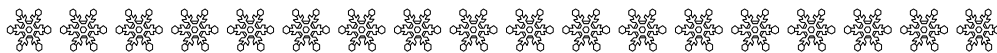
SNOWSHOE & X-CTRY SKI

January 5, 19

Feb. 2, 16, etc.

SOLOS

Jan. 16, Feb. 3



Please join us for the next program:

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

7:00 PM

Traverse City Library - Woodmere St.

TV 7 & 4 Weatherman Greg MacMaster is an avid scuba diver in Grand Traverse Bay and has many a tale to tell about this exciting activity. Not only will he describe scuba diving, he also will weave the weather into his very spontaneous presentation. Think about the boat the Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve Council would like to sink as a diving attraction. Weatherman MacMaster is in the middle of the negotiations with County officials. He is an entertaining speaker with a story we all will enjoy and should hear.

As usual, Newcomers are invited to arrive at 7:00 PM for refreshments and a chance to socialize before the actual program begins at 7:30. All Newcomers are encouraged to come and enjoy these programs and each other. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING GUESTS! The public is welcome!

Questions? Contact Jim Neibauer
267-9553, jeneibauer2@charter.net



Start the Year with a History Lesson - Page 3

Courtesy of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and Karl DeFoe, volunteer at the Traverse City Convention and Visitors Bureau, we have a short summary of the Grand Traverse area's history. We've all heard some of this, but the overview, sorted into four eras, is entertaining and educational for both visitors and newcomers. Enjoy learning more about our new 'roots'!

Please visit
gtnewcomers.org

Many thanks to
Judy Albert for
creating and constantly
updating the site.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse is a social and civic organization whose purpose is to extend a welcoming hand to people living in the Grand Traverse area. The Newcomers Club also provides opportunities to meet and socialize with other re-located people sharing common interests.

2007-2008

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

JANUARY 2008

By Co-President
Tom Custance



Tom Custance and
Brad Spencer

'Twas the end of oh-seven and all through the land,
The Newcomers were shouting "This year was so grand",
Our cups overrunneth, we've had tons of fun,
Now we look forward to a year just begun.

We kayaked and hiked and had dinner for eight,
Played euchre and bridge, there's more now, just wait.
Played golf and made quilts, even went to some shows,
Read books, ate more breakfast my waistline sure
knows.

We partied, played ping pong, again went to eat,
Whether couples or singles it all is so neat.
Our programs were awesome, the auction made money,
All in all this year was a honey.

So many new friends who now call this home,
Grand Traverse is calling each time we do roam.
We thank all who helped make this year really great,
Look forward to more of the same in oh-eight.

Celebrating the Season

The holidays caused Co-President Tom Custance to wax poetic (above), but they really sprouted with our other Co-President Brad Spencer. We are fortunate to have leaders who are so 'into' the season.



'Helping Hands' Request

The Newcomers Club 'Helping Hands' coordinator attempts to acknowledge happy and sad times in our members' lives. Please notify Marlene Steider at 922-2183 or marlenesteider@msn.com if you know of any of these circumstances.

COMING IN FEBRUARY!!

Concerned about what the Grand Traverse region is going to look like in the future? Here is your chance to have some input. Representatives of the The Grand Vision, a 1.35 million dollar federally funded land use and transportation study, is putting on a presentation for our Newcomers Club. It will be held on Tuesday evening, February 26, at the Traverse City Library. Look for more details in the February newsletter.



BEST
WISHES
FOR
A HAPPY
AND
HEALTHY
NEW
YEAR!

2007-2008 Membership Directory Addendum #1

Addendum #1 is inserted in this newsletter. The directories are being distributed at general meetings and activities. If you need yours mailed, please contact Ron Wallace, 231-222-0060 or wallacergl1@yahoo.com.

**PLEASE HELP RECRUIT MEMBERS!
KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS JUST MOVED
TO THE AREA?**

Contact Sharon Finch, City Hostess,
with their names and she will do the rest.
947-8403, hsfinch@charter.net

NEW MEMBER CORNER



Joe and Nancy Coffman - Minneapolis, MN
Bob & Ginny Postma - Newago, MI
Ted & Diann Nance - Corpus Christi, TX
Albert & Evi Sickinger - Bloomfield Hills, MI

HISTORY OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE REGION
By the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce

The history of the Grand Traverse Bay Region can be divided into four eras: Native American Settlement, Logging, Cherries, and Tourism. The last two combined to give the region its current period of prosperity. Big scale logging operations are a thing of the past, but the cherry and tourism industries are growing each year.

Wherever the visitor goes in the county, reminders of the past are at hand. The Boardman River floated pine logs to the mills at Traverse City eighty years ago.

In the 1800s, the area of what is now Clinch Park was the site of a big logging mill. At the old pier countless sailing vessels were first a common sight to be loaded with lumber, and when their era ended, steam barges followed.

For many years a zoo at Clinch Park was home to a collection of some 40 native Michigan animals of the same species that provided food, clothing, shelter and fur exchange in years past.

However an increasing subsidy of \$380,000 a year and concerns over the zoo's inadequate size and closeness to busy Grandview Parkway, led to its closure in 2006. The zoo's residents were successfully relocated to many other zoos, wildlife centers and other desirable locations throughout the country. A study is soon to be completed that includes suggestions from the public to determine the best use for the zoo's three acres.

The recorded history of Grand Traverse County begins in 1838 with the appearance of Protestant missionaries on Old Mission Peninsula, beginning at what is now known as the Village of Old Mission.

Based at Sault Ste. Marie, Reverend Peter Dougherty, a missionary, was sent here by Henry R. Schoolcraft and later was joined by John Johnson.

In 1841 there were five buildings at Mission Harbor. The residents were as cosmopolitan a group as could be found anywhere.

Until 1845, the Indian tribes held a considerable portion of the land in the Grand Traverse Area. A government treaty then expired and the tribes had to surrender the

land if there was a demand by "whites". Parcels on the west shore of the Bay, now Leelanau County, were taken up by homesteaders, and in 1846 became the site of a white settlement.

In 1847, a new village began to grow at the south end of the Bay, and in 1881 it was incorporated as the Village of Traverse City, later incorporated as a city in 1895.

In 1852, Reverend Dougherty moved his staff and all portable goods from Old Mission to New Mission (now Omena on the Leelanau Peninsula).

In the fall of 1853, the schooner Madeline dropped anchor in Old Mission Harbor. Aboard were four young men, two Fitzgerald brothers, William Bryce and Edward Chambers, who had sailed into port with the intention on wintering somewhere in the vicinity. But before winter fell, the Madeline was moved to what has since been named "Bowers Harbor".

Realizing their lack of education, the four decided to utilize their idle time in self-improvement and hired 17-year-old S. E. Wait, an Old Mission resident, to tutor them through the long winter months. Bowers Harbor was the first educational system of Grand Traverse County. The location of this first school is marked at Bowers Harbor by a small bronze plaque that reads:

"In memory of S. E. Whittier Wait. Born July 21, 1834. Died March 17, 1919; who taught the first school in the Grand Traverse Region during the winter of 1851, aboard the schooner Madeline anchored off this point."

Although the logging industry of Grand Traverse County is now in the past, its influence is still felt. The original stands of timber in the region were pine, hardwoods, cedar, spruce and balsam. It was pine that brought the first operators.

Light, cheap, easily worked lumber was needed by the rapidly settling prairie states that had little or no timber of their own. It was also necessary to find stands of timber that afforded access to water transportation, at the time the only method of getting lumber to market.

(Continued on page 7)

ACTIVITY GROUPS

Ping-Pong

**Wednesdays: January 2, 9, 16
2:00 - 4:00 PM**

The Ping-Pong Groupies are gathering under the brilliant lighting of the Hayden Table Tennis Training Center on Bates Road. Nothing could be finer. Like bugs to the light, they come and swarm around the World Class \$1,800 German tables hoping to score a victory.

Nostalgia for youth? Memories of glorious victories? Vengeance upon a mean Newcomer? It's difficult to say why...but new members are popping in with regularity now. Some of the most recent newbies include John Strickler, Ed Canright, and Joe Coffman adding new challenges to the group.

Two skilled players, Pete Peterson and George Cairns, just completed their first tournament at the Center, playing against some of the best players in the various leagues. The feedback is that they really enjoyed the tournament. We have been invited to participate in a FREE general tournament on Dec. 27. Hopefully, some of our team players will have been able to take advantage of that offer.

Active members now count 13 with five members in waiting (for various exigencies). Family members are invited to join the group. Bring a friend. Women invited! Daily passes for the Center are \$7. We will be approaching a new league play period in a few weeks. League play dues will be \$35 for 10 weeks at that time.

Equipment needed for this sport is very limited (about \$29 for a paddle), unlike many other sports. Table Tennis is an Olympic sport, you know! And the fifth most-watched sport at the Olympics!

The Hayden Table Tennis Training Center's website is www.httc.net. Call Brad Spencer at 946-3365 for more information.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, January 9, 1:00 PM

Join the OTL BUNCH at North Peak Brewing Company, located at 400 W. Front Street, downtown. Restaurant parking provided. Please contact Gloria Brown for reservations no later than Monday, Jan. 7, 947-5318 or gbrown14@charter.net

SNOWSHOE & X-CTRY SKI

Mark your calendars on the following dates. Contact Joe Harris at grizharris@charter.net or 223-9844 to be placed on the contact list, if you are not now on it and wish to be. Being on the list is not required to participate, but any short term updates will be facilitated between newsletters. Please call Joe to let him know you are planning to come on a given date, so he knows who to expect.

The locations selected for these winter sports are suitable for both cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The skiers and the snowshoers meet at the same site, but often use different trails and then go to lunch together.

Please note time change to 11:00 AM.

Sat., January 5, 2008 11AM at Muncie Lakes Pthwy
Follow Supply Rd. south of TC to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trail-head parking lot is on the left about a mile.

Sat., January 19, 2008 11AM at Lost Lake Pthwy.
Take US #31 west just beyond Interlochen Golf Course, turn north (right) on Gonder Rd. and follow the signs, the trailhead parking lot is within the first couple miles on the left hand side of the road.

Sat., Feb. 2, 2008 11AM at Sand Lakes Quiet Area
Follow M 72 east, past Turtle Creek Casino to Broomhead Rd. (first road after Ginop Sales), turn south (right) go approximately 6 miles to trailhead parking lot on left hand side of road.

Directions to the following areas will be in upcoming newsletters:

Sat., February 16, 2008 5PM at Timber Ridge

Sat., March 1, 2008 11 AM at Lake Ann Pathway

Sat., March 15, 2008 11AM at Muncie Lakes Pathwy.

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Looks like Lois Goldstein, John Heiam, and other enthusiasts (with help from Representative Howard Walker) have convinced the DNR to plow XC trailhead parking lots this winter and groom selected trails, including Muncie Lakes. In that case, we won't have to look for alternate sites to play on this winter.

RACQUETBALL - MEN 60+

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM

Looking for a great workout this winter but don't care to venture out into the cold? A men's over 60 Racquetball League is now forming. The Grand Traverse Athletic Club on Park Drive near South Airport Rd. in Traverse City has four racquetball courts. We meet each Tuesday at 11:00. Drop-in rate to play is \$10 and loaner equipment is available.



Waivers for under 60 players are available and players with walkers, wheelchairs or oxygen tanks will receive an appropriate handicap. Aides/nurses and guide dogs accompanying players will not be charged a player fee as long as they do not enter the court during play. There is no charge for use of the club's defibrillator.

If you are a current or former racquetball player or would like to learn how to play racquetball contact George Kobernus at george@kobernus.com. More on the sport of racquetball at <http://www.usra.org/>.

NEW!

SOLOS

Wednesday, January 16 - Movie Night

Mark your calendar to satisfy your curiosity about the renovated State Theater. We'll be meeting in the lobby of the theater after purchasing tickets for the early show. Exact show time and movie details will be available after the new year.

Sunday, February 3 - Super Bowl Party

We will be graciously hosted by Josie Grant.

RSVP to either or both events to Judy Owen, 922-9619 or Joanne Davis 922-9672, jdavis4798@aol.com.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 8, 10:00 AM

January 's selection is the wonderful memoir by J.R. Moehringer, *The Tender Bar*. Moehringer recounts his childhood, living with a single mother and a houseful of relatives, with humor and grace. J.R. is currently a Pulitzer Prize winning feature journalist for the Denver Post. We will meet in the lower level of Horizon Books. Contact Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

QUILTING

Tuesday, January 15, 1:00 PM

The quilting group will meet on **January 15**, at 1pm, at Bernadette Albers home, 622 Old Inochee Farm Trail, Traverse City. Please contact Bernadette- 231-922-7289, or bmalbers622@gmail.com for information and directions. We welcome anyone who has a desire to learn new quilting skills and inspiration, whether for on going projects, or just the joy of quilting. **Please note the date.** We will resume meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in February.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, January 27, 5:00 PM

Join us at the Bay View Inn on 31 across from East Bay. Please reserve by Sunday, Jan. 20. Later reservations are usually not turned away, but the restaurant needs to know an approximate number. Contact Constance Kilbride, 944-1203, inspiringkind@gmail.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, January 9, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the **Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza** every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster. Contact George Kobernus 933-9321 or george@kobernus.com.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, January 10

Specifics as to exact time, film and location will be emailed or telephoned to the group one week prior to meeting. Please check the Newcomers website for the most current information as well. To join this group please contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or call 231-668-6490.

Because we are unable to get film schedules in advance of the publication of the newsletter, the specific time, film and location will be announced by email to those individuals who have signed up for this group. Solos are welcome. We'll go out after for libations and discussion.

ACTIVITY GROUPS, cont.

CARDS

BRIDGE:

Four groups are meeting at various times.

EUCHRE:

Euchre Groups meet once a month, September through May. Presently we have four Couple's Euchre Groups meeting at each others' homes.

(See the December 2007 issue for details of these two activities.)

INDIVIDUAL'S EUCHRE GROUP IS PROPOSED -

NEED LEADER: Are you an individual who wants to play euchre, but find it difficult to persuade your spouse or friend to commit to a Couple's group? If someone will offer to be LEADER of this new proposed Individual's Euchre Group or are interested in subbing in the other groups, please call **Karen or Mike Coquillard at 932-9883**. As leader, you would be totally responsible for contacting and being contacted by interested players. Your group would consist of single and married individuals who are members of Newcomers. You would lead your group in finding a place to play and choosing the day of the month your group would gather. It could be during the day or evening.

Hiking and Quilting are just two of the activities Newcomers can join. Both indoor and outdoor pursuits are available. If you have an idea for a new group, please contact Susanne Bonner, 932-0943, mbmarbon@aol.com



POKER

Tuesday, January 8

The poker group which normally meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, will be meeting the **2nd Tuesday, Jan. 8**. The poker group meetings are rotated among members' homes. For those wishing to join in for the Jan 8th meeting, it will be held at Steve Lockwood's home. steve.640@hotmail.com. Please contact Steve or Mike at wdcspike@yahoo.com if you are coming.

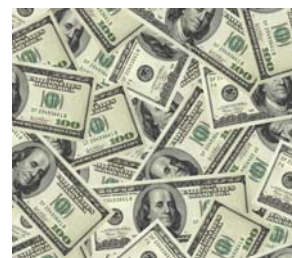
MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 28, 10:00 AM

The next scheduled discussion is **January 28, 2008**, *Gorilla Prince* by George Geyer. The selection for Feb. 25 is *The River at the Center of the World* by Simon Winchester. For more information and the remainder of this year's list, contact John Auld, 938-1341, jwa64mma@charter.net. The group meets in the lower level of Horizon Books.

And now, a message about our sponsors:

Please patronize them! See the list on the back cover of this newsletter. Be sure to tell them we appreciate their efforts in helping newcomers settle into their new lives in the Grand Traverse area.



(Continued from page 3) History

Grand Traverse Bay made an excellent anchorage for the schooners that carried the pine boards and planks to Chicago, Racine and other ports for shipment to the south and west. Raw materials and facilities attracted more of the region's pioneers.

Horace Boardman built the first sawmill at the head of West Bay in 1847. It stood on the bank of the little creek then known as Mill Creek, later as Asylum Creek, now as Kid's Creek. With the erection of the Boardman Mill, the local population increased.

Mr. Boardman operated the mill until 1851, when it was purchased by four men from Chicago. Its company, composed of Perry Hannah, A. T. Lay, James and William Morgan, was known as Hannah, Lay and Company. Soon a larger mill was erected on the present site of Clinch Park, continuing until 1914.

1893 was the high point in the logging industry in the Grand Traverse region. That year, fourteen sawmills operated in the county, and shingle mills also gained in importance. While timber continued to be cut into great quantities for two decades, the number of mills in operation slowly declined until the timber disappeared about 1915.

After the turn of the century the culture of the community underwent a sharp change. The rough and ready characters that logged off the hills of the region left descendants who decided to stay. It is interesting to note that at the end of the logging era, Traverse City had 21 saloons but only 14 churches.

Agriculture made steady progress at the end of the logging era. The earliest clearings in the region were in the vicinity of Old Mission, giving way to farms that spread rapidly over much of the county.

New soil is a particularly happy medium for potato growth and in the early 1900's, Grand Traverse potato farmers did remarkably well. Hay crops and grains also flourished. Today, the typical Grand Traverse farmer is a producer of many diversified crops.

The story of fruit in the region is another matter. When Reverend Dougherty first came to what was to be Old Mission, he found fruit bearing apple trees. Pioneer farmers had planted the usual orchards of different fruits for

family use. Apples and cherries did particularly well and still remain in the county as important produce.

In 1923, the cherry industry became so important it attracted more than just local attention. The cycle of the cherry year was a tremendous gamble with the orchardists. They faced winterkill, spring frosts and pests. It was in 1923 that the combined churches of the Grand Traverse region were asked to pray for the success of the harvest. From this came the "Blessing of the Blossoms" ceremony held in the orchards on a Sunday in May when the cherry blossoms are at their peak.

"Blessing of the Blossoms" is considered the forerunner of the National Cherry Festival, held each July. In 1926, the festival lasted only one day and consisted of a parade and the coronation of a queen with some three thousand people attending the celebration. The current National Cherry Festival is now one week long and is attended by more than 500,000.

The Interstate Highway System begun in the 1950s led to the region becoming a major tourist destination. In summer, its many beaches, marinas, charming towns, wineries, nearby Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and more draw raves from young and old alike.

In October, breathtaking fall colors bring many to the region for leisurely drives, often on lightly traveled county roads.

Winter means snow and the region's several nearby ski areas, cross-country, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails welcome countless enthusiasts.

In spring, nature awakens and our region's flowers and trees start to bloom once again, attracting those enjoying this rather quiet time of the year.

The Grand Traverse Region is truly one for all seasons, a place where more and more businesses are prospering; a "paradise of the north", offering ample proof it is one of the premier areas in our country in which to live, work, vacation and retire.

Updated April 2007
By Karl DeFoe, Volunteer at the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Center

FOR SALE

Antique Simmons brass double bed. Ex. cond. \$250 or best reasonable offer. 929-1107 or email jwatt1107@charter.net.

PLEASE !!!

Send news, articles, photos, letters, or ads to the newsletter editor, bennettjj@charter.net or 932-9249. The deadline for the February 2008 newsletter is January 15.

Patronize our sponsors

AAA of Michigan

940 N. US 31N, TC
Debra Kurtzal
947-8045, ext. 14008

Arbonne Products

Angel Craker, Regional V.P.
649-2347

Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
4020 W. Royal Dr., TC
946-9644

R. W. Baird & Co. Investments

1001 Bay St., TC, 933-6050

Banfield Pet Hospital

2544 Crossing Circle (next to
Pet Smart), TC 922-9844

BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

Bellisimo Travel Services

Priscilla, 946-4313, TC
13685 SW Bayshore, Ste. 114

Benjamin Franklin —The

Punctual Plumber

929-9999

Bob's Furnace Svcs.

2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

The Copy Shop - Printers

713 E. 8th St. 947-2080

The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St. TC 947-6820

Dennis, Gartland & Niergerth Business and Financial Advisors

415 Munson Ave
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-946-1722 www.dgncpa.com

Dennos Museum Center

1701 E. Front St., TC
995-1055

Eastland Apothecary Shoppe

1217 E. Front St., TC
947-9825

Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or
ecowater.com

Edward Jones Investments

Briant Sikorski, 947-3032
12930 So. West Bay Shore, TC

Epiphany Hair Salon

518 E Front St., TC 933-8010
3779 M-72, Acme, 933-8010

EXCEL Rehabilitation Services

3 locations: 2 in Traverse City,
1 in Suttons Bay
929-0303

Gaudette & Co CPA's

1107 East 8th St., TC
946-8930

Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St., TC
922-2600

G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC

929 Business Park Dr., TC
947-6246

G.T. Pavilions

1000 Pavilion Cr., TC
932-3000

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

3000 Racquet Ball Dr., TC
933-9622

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Interlochen Center for the Arts

4000 S. M-137 Hwy.,
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Juice Plus

Nancy Kroupa, 946-7877 or
944-4082, www.kroupa.com

Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal, TC
935-0555

Legacy Financial Svcs.

Kelly Rowe 933-0631
13919 S.W. Bay Shore Dr., TC

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Master Craft Cabinets/Grawn

276-0292
www.mccwoodworking.com

Music House Museum

U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd.
947-6510

Old Town Playhouse

148 E. Eighth St.
947-2210, ext. 3

Omelette Shoppe

1209 E. Front St., TC
124 Cass St., TC

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

Reynolds-Jonkhoff

Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

Schelde's Restaurants

Traverse City: Schelde's Grille,
Travino, Freshwater Lodge

Sheren Plumbing and Heating

Energy Services, Design, Build
943-7916

State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse
933-5400

Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174

TC Optimist Club

Bill Bassett, 267-5102
Kathy Olney, 946-3600



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Karen Spencer - Membership
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
kspencerc@charter.net

«Fname1» «Lname1» «Fname2» «Lname2»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Quick Tip! If you change your email address please notify us at kspencerc@charter.net.
Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomer News.