

GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



THE VERY BEST

By Steve Ferguson,
Technical Vice President

In the 13 years we have owned our GMC Motorhome, I have seen a lot of products offered by vendors. Most have been cosmetic, some have been mechanical. Typical examples are the variety of fiberglass replacement parts, add-ons, remanufactured engines, distributors, carburetors, sway bars, trailer hitches etc. Most of these have been necessary to keep our coaches looking good and have helped keep the “old stuff” working like it did when new.

In the past few years, vendors have started looking harder at the future and have worked towards actually improving on the GMC to make it better than it came from the factory. Just look at the offerings for rear suspension improvements; the two bag replacement, the 4-bag system, and lately, the Quadrabag system. Most of us are familiar with these products and probably have a plan for future purchase.

The one GMC system that has seen little improvement over the original system is the brakes. Different pads, shoes, master cylinders, boosters etc., all have made incremental improvements over the stock system, but none have given us a system that stops the GMC as well as a new car or truck. Let's face it; every stop in a GMC has to have some planning in advance such as a steep grade, emergency stopping, towing etc., all lead to an increase in pulse rate.

Enter the Reaction Arm Braking system by Chuck Aulgur and Rick Flannigan. Chuck has been touting this enhancement for at least 3 years that I know of, and working on its design for at least 5 years. Those of you who have attended GMCWS rallies in the past few years have seen the demo and listened to the technical seminars, but admittedly, few of us have really understood how it works. I am not going to go into “drive you nuts” details here but to sum it up, the device harnesses the same energy that lifts the rear end of our coaches (making the rear brakes very ineffective) and uses it to pull the rear end down forcing the rear brakes to do what they were intended to do. Help stop the coach. It is as simple as that. This year, at the GMCWS Spring rally in Auburn, Ca. many of us finally had a chance to drive a coach with the system installed. I was pretty much on the sidelines, content to gauge

reactions of GMCers as the exited Rick's coach after a test drive. After watching the reactions and listening to the comments, I had to see for myself. All I can say is that there is no other GMC aftermarket product out there that delivers this much excitement. At any speed and under any conditions, Rick's coach stopped as well as a new car or truck. In fact, it stopped better than my 2010 Colorado pickup and my 1994 Caprice. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the number one, all time, GMC Motorhome aftermarket product out there. Nothing I have ever seen or purchased matches this enhancement and there is definitely one of these systems in my future. Thank you Chuck Aulgur and Rick Flannigan for mechanical genius that brings us this product and a special thanks to Jim Kanomata for the financial investment that is bringing this product to the marketplace.

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to make it to the GMCWS Auburn rally, you missed a good one. Most of the seminars were reruns with the exception of the alternative energy presentation by Gary Worobec, and Gene Fisher's coverage of 12VDC problems every GMCer has ever encountered from the battery to the frame. If you had any questions about solar augmentation, they were answered by Gary in his very comprehensive seminar. Gary covered every type of solar panel available, how they work, which ones are best for us, how to control them and a little about what the future holds for solar power for our application. You might get one more chance to attend this powerful presentation if you attend the GMCWS Fall rally in Las Vegas. (I'm working on Gary to do it again.) Not to make a promise that this will happen again, but Gary passed out tickets to all of the attendees and at the end of his seminar, the winning ticket holder was awarded one solar panel and a controller. What a pleasant way to end a tech session!

Nancy and I hope to see you all this Fall.