# GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016 Vol. 103





# ... and another year draws to a close.

We have had a great year in GMCWS. The Spring Rally in Temecula was well attended - Joann and Phil Hernandez did

a great job getting all the folks parked, entertained and fed. In the membership meeting we passed a dues increase starting in 2017 and made an adjustment to publish only three newsletters to keep the cost down. The tech sessions were well attended and we fixed some coach steering issues. Another great rally experience by the GMCers.

The Fall Rally at Mill Casino in Coos Bay was a super rally with 100 coaches in attendance. Thanks to our Tech VP Gary Bovee and his wife Rebecca, the parking lot was full of coaches. The weather held out until the last day when it rained some, followed by a storm, tornado and tsunami in the next few days, which we fortunately missed. The Casino provided the hall for the meals and the tech sessions, which were arranged by Gary Bovee. The Cascaders gave us a B-B-Q dinner and the Pacific Cruisers

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made a great lunch – thanks to all.

In the membership meeting we nominated and elected officers for the next year; only Gary Bovee stepped down. The club rewarded him for his great service. His replacement for Tech VP is George Beckman. George is a long time GMCer and very knowledgeable. His picture and intro are in this newsletter.

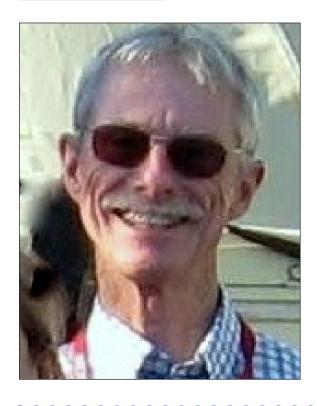
Now we are looking forward to the next year and the Spring Rally in Pahrump, NV. Donna Ventura, George and Jodell Banovich, and I will be the rally hosts at the Preferred RV Park in Pahrump, with catering by the Nugget Hotel and Casino. We will be using the Nugget's hall for some meals and the membership meeting. George Beckman will provide some interesting tech sessions, and Carol Minnie will have some nice sessions for the ladies. We hope you will attend this rally and bring some GMC friends. The full agenda and signup sheet will be posted on the website, along with photos of the RV Park and Casino. There's something for everybody.

The 2017 Fall Rally has been set for Paso Robles, CA. We do not have hosts for this rally yet, so if you can host or assist hosting this rally, please let me know. The area is wonderful in the Fall, with the colorful foliage in the vineyards and the cool evenings.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season - and we will see you in Pahrump in 2017.

Nick Roenick, GMCWS President

# Meet Your New Technical Vice President



I am George Beckman. I spent my life teaching 6th graders. We had a great time and learned a great deal. I was the meanest and the best.

I seem to attract old iron. I have two old tractors and drive a 1937 Ford Pickup. We also have a GMC! Life is good.

We are driving our second GMC. Our first GMC was a cute 23' we bought from Marc and Lillian Trubert. When CA wouldn't let us put fuel injection on that coach, we purchased our current coach. When we brought it home, the little neighbor boy asked his grandpa, "Papa, why did George buy such an ugly motorhome?" After paint, engine, transmission, brakes, final drive and 40K miles of fun, we love our coach.

I am your new Technical Vice President and am beginning to gather presenters for our Spring 2017 Rally in Pahrump, NV. We are especially looking for those who have done clever things with the interior of your coach. Fear not, we will also have some presentations that will help enlighten those who like to twist bolts.

If you have an idea for a presentation for the Spring (or future) rally, contact me at <a href="mailto:gbeckman@graestone.org">gbeckman@graestone.org</a>

# News from Your Secretary

GMCWS would like to warmly welcome the following members who joined our club since our last Newsletter. We look forward to meeting them (if we haven't already) and including them in our festivities and activities. Our new members and their locales are shown below.

Keith Bergey, Oakdale, CA
Thomas Dawson, Felton, CA
John & Karin Fellegi, Atascadero, CA
Russell Ferlita, Tampa, FL
Dean & Gwen Hanson, Fremont, CA
Carl Hockett, Santa Rosa, CA
Don Horntvedt, Kennewick, WA
Bob & Susie Lucas, Rainier, OR
Rick Long & Lydia Townsend, Atascadero, CA
Dan Molnes & Bobbie Rogers, Seattle, WA
Donald & Pamela Schmidt, Tucson, AZ
Marty & Gail Walch, Brookings, OR
Fred & Wendy Wolsleger, Durango, CO

If I forgot anybody, please let me know. It was an inadvertent omission, and I hang my head!

# Reminder - Increased Rally Fees for non-GMCWS Members

If non-GMCWS members want to attend a GMCWS rally, it was agreed that they will pay an additional \$10 per coach, starting with their second rally.

#### Annual Dues Are Due by December 31, 2016

Thanks to all members who have already paid their 2017 membership dues. To all members: Your continued support and participation at our rallies make it possible for our club to be as successful as it is. If we don't receive your payment by **December 31, 2016** you may not be included in the 2017 Membership Roster.

See you in Pahrump!

Donna Ventura GMCWS Secretary



# Spring 2017 Rally in Pahrump, NV

The 2017 Spring Rally will be in Pahrump, NV at the beautiful Preferred RV Resort. All spots are outfitted with concrete pads and full hook-ups. The Resort also has 10 rental cabins with full kitchens and separate bedrooms. There are many trees and two small but lovely oases for relaxation. The clubhouse is great, and there is a separate Crafts building. The large pool is heated year-round, with a dome cover in the wintertime. There is an exercise room, billiards room, multiple laundry and shower facilities, picnic and barbeque areas, free Gigabit-fiber WiFi access, and an indoor spa/hot tub. Look on our website for photos of the RV Park and Nugget Casino.

Our meals will be catered by the Nugget Casino next door, where we have the use of a banquet hall for our dinners and membership meeting. The Nugget has a nice casino with shows, great rooms and a bowling alley, so bring your ball!

The city of Pahrump has lots of entertainment to offer. Local points of interest include two golf courses, museum, China Ranch date farm, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and wineries. Death Valley National Park is only a few miles away, where you can visit Furnace Creek and Scotty's Castle. And you are only 60 minutes away from fabulous Las Vegas, which you may want to visit before or after the rally.

We are looking to have a blast in Pahrump, with great tech sessions, good food and friends.

Make your reservations NOW. The registration form is included in this newsletter and posted online.



## Coos Bay Rally Report

Gary Bovee, Technical Vice President and Rally Host

The Coos Bay Rally had 95 motorhomes from four Canadian Provinces and seven states. There were 32 registrations from folks who were first-time Rally attendees.

"Way to go!" to the Registration team headed up by George and Jodell Banovich, with excellent assistance from Ted Freemire, Linda Clark, Fay Curtis and Alyce Shutzbaugh for getting everyone checked in! And thanks to Jack Christensen for leading a group of GMCers at 7:00 am with an early morning walk! I know it was tough filling Freddi Condos' shoes.

Big thanks to all the technical presenters for outstanding sessions. For more information on these sessions, please see my Technical VP Report elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Cascaders Club, headed up by President Jim Hupy and assisted by his lovely wife, Judy Countermine, put on an absolutely outstanding Tri-Tip BBQ Dinner. To give it a special touch, the Club also provided 59 dozen homemade cookies for dessert! It was just fantastic!!! Thank you, Cascaders!!!

Following the barbecue, folks saw a short film - "Live Monumental" - by Keen Footware. If you have not seen it, check it out on the Internet. The Keen company has at least two GMC motorhomes that they use in their business, and their representatives were first-time rally attendees. We hope to see them again.

After the film came the evening's main entertainment -the Auction. Auctioneer Tom List and his lovely assistant

Suzanne Statler List, aka Vanna White, did a great job handling the auction. It was definitely very entertaining and shockingly raised \$2,670 for the Club. Thank you to everyone who contributed and purchased items to help make the auction such a success!

I also want to give credit where credit is due and that goes to the folks who put on great non-tech sessions. "Do Alaska on Your Own, It's Easy" by Sharon Work, "A Walk in RV History – 1938-1965" by Dean Hansen, "Super Photo" by Dave de Graffenreid, and "The Lost Alex Birch Lecture" by Grandson, Greg Birch, were all hits.

Dave and Donna de Graffenreid led the book review where members discussed the book "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed, who hiked the Pacific Coast Trail. You may recall that the book was made into a movie a few years go. There was a great turnout of readers. Some enjoyed the story, others pretty much disapproved of Cheryl's way of reacting to what life gave her. In the beginning she was wild, in the middle she was strayed and by the end she was Cheryl. No book was chosen for the next rally, but we will let you know when the choice is made.

First Vice President Carol Minnie was prevented from attending when their GMC stopped them cold, begging for attention in San Jose!!! She mailed the program materials with instructions to the Rally. Annette Elmer stepped in to lead the "Adult Coloring Books" seminar, allowing time for attendees to visit and share their amazing artwork. The Adult Coloring class, attended by about 20 ladies, gave attendees the time to sit and color (reverting back to childhood).

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#### Coos Bay Rally Report (continued)

Throughout the week many artists could be seen during other seminars using their coloring sheets and pencils.

Fay Curtis volunteered to host the Ladies' Coffee/Tea by the Bay and had almost 50 ladies laughing as they grabbed for pennies when they answered "yes" to her questions. Prizes were awarded to the winners while all enjoyed yummy treats provided by the Casino.

Everyone enjoyed root beer floats with the BBQ Hamburger/Hotdog Lunch put on by Pacific Cruisers Dave and Donna de Graffenreid. Way to go, Dave and Donna!!! Keep them coming back for more!!! Then it was time to load the buses for a free tour of the beautifully landscaped Shore Acres State Park.

After the final evening's catered dinner, it was time for the professional Karaoke DJ to do his thing and for GM-Cers to "let down their hair" and ham it up in front of the microphone! It was good, old-fashioned fun and most folks stayed around until the entertainment ended. I didn't know our very own "Beach Boys", and Jim and Grace Kanomata, and so many others were such great singers!

Open House was the only event stopped by the rain. So with many first-time attendees wanting to see what others have done to improve their GMCs, we hope to see everyone at the next rally at the Preferred RV Resort in Pahrump, Nevada, April 20-24, 2017!!!

# GMCWS General Membership Meeting Minutes

Mill Casino and RV Resort, Coos Bay/North Bend, OR October 13, 2016

Note: This is a summary. A detailed report can be found at www.gmcws.org

President Nick Roenick called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

He thanked the audience for their attendance at this rally and Gary and Rebecca Bovee for being the hosts and arranging such a great event. Gary was also presented with a VISA gift card for serving as 2015 and 2016 Technical Vice President.

President Roenick thanked the volunteers at this rally, as well as the Cascaders for a great BBQ dinner, the Pacific Cruisers for a delicious BBQ lunch, and Tom and Suzanne List for being a great auctioneering team. The auction made \$2760 for the Western States Treasury – awesome!

President Roenick once again expressed the need for an FMCA Alternate National Director; details about this position can be supplied by Sharon Work – please let her or President Roenick know if you are interested.

Only one Executive Board position – VP for Tech - will be vacated at the end of this year. The incumbents in the other positions have agreed to serve another year. George Beckman was nominated for Technical VP and elected by the membership. (He was absent due to coach difficulties.)

#### Treasurer Report, Dave de Graffenreid

The Treasurer reminded attendees, especially presenters, that presentation-related expenses can be reimbursed; he has forms available. As a point of interest, approximately 33% of our members pay their membership dues via PayPal.

#### FMCA Report, National Director Sharon Work

The ongoing towing issue encountered by Paul and Jackie

Jones (as discussed at the spring rally) has become a national issue. According to Paul and Jackie, FMCA learned about the 10-yr issue in June 2016 but didn't pass on the information to the FMCA representatives. More details can be found on our website at www.gmcws.org/

The 95th FMCA International convention will be in Chandler, AZ, March 7-10, 2017. Refer to the most recent FMCA Magazine for details. The Saguaro Jetsetters may hold a rally prior to the FMCA convention, and then caravan to Chandler.

The FMCA Western Region rally will be held in Indio, CA, January 11-15, 2017. Pacific Cruisers may hold a rally beforehand.

Sharon emphasized that attendance at FMCA rallies and events is fun and informative. In addition, our presence gives the GMC motorhome community some exposure.

#### Technical Vice President report, Gary Bovee

Gary expressed his thanks for the opportunity serve as Tech VP. As rally host, he presented certificates for one-year free membership to GMCWS to some of the volunteers/presenters at this rally.

#### President Roenick

President Roenick was pleased to announce that 60% of this rally's attendees are Cascaders, and one couple is from the Mountainaires Chapter. Western States makes a concerted effort to hold its rallies at locales that are "do-able" by all chapters of GMCWS. It is important that we all become members of GMC Western States and your local chapters. Your membership and participation is critical to make the club, and the rallies, the most fun and interesting for all of us.

The Spring GMCWS rally will be held in Pahrump, Nevada, April 20-24, 2017. Information on this rally will be on the GMCWS website in the very near future.

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# GMCWS General Membership Meeting Minutes (Continued)

The Fall 2017 rally will be in Paso Robles. We need a rally host/hosts to make this a fun rally. We also need rally host(s) and locations for our 2018 rallies. Please let the President know if you would like to volunteer and make this valuable contribution to the club and its members. We will provide you with any support needed.

#### Secretary Report, Donna Ventura

GMCWS currently has ~210 members, with 17 new members in 2016.

As discussed at the Spring rally, chapter dues have been raised to \$25. The Secretary will be sending out reminders that dues are due by end of December, for the calendar year January - December. If the Secretary doesn't receive your dues by the end of December, your name may not appear in

our 2017 roster.

IMPORTANT: Please update your personal information on the GMCWS website. Early in 2017 the Secretary will be preparing the GMCWS roster for publication, both in printed form and for our website. If you like, the Secretary can make any changes for you – please send her an email or phone call.

Newsletters: As discussed at the Spring rally, we have reduced the number of newsletters to three per year, to reduce costs. We are welcoming ideas to make the newsletter more interesting for you, the members. We would like to have more stories from our members about their experiences, e.g., while at rallies. Let the Secretary know what types of information or news you would like to see in the newsletters. Please send the Secretary photos from this rally so they can be included on the website as well as in the newsletters.

# Fall 2016 Technical VP Report

Getting Dick Paterson to come out West to a Western States Rally has been on my Bucket List for the last two years, and now I can check that off as a task completed. Dick agreed to do four tech sessions at the Coos Bay Rally – (1) Ignitions Systems – How They Work and Rebuild, (2) Oiling System – Top to Bottom, (3) How to Start and Run-In a Rebuilt Motor, and (4) Installing a Crossover Block Off Kit. All his seminars were very detailed and generated lots of interest! Please come back again, Dick.

Whether Gene Fisher is on the agenda or not, he is always there with helpful tips and advice. Every morning during breakfast Gene started the technical discussions with helpful and informative mini-tech seminars.

The two tech seminars put on by Jerry Work – "FiTech EFI It's the Real Deal" and "Fueling the Barbarian, Running the Onan on Propane Instead of Ugly Alcohol Gas" - caused many GMCers to considering switching to FiTech EFI and think seriously about converting their Onans to propane. See his detailed slideshow presentations at http://www.gmcws.org/.

Jeff Fraisure's presentation - "Air Conditioning — How it Works, How to Repair It" - was another seminar for those "hands on" folks to learn how the system operates and how to fix it. Jeff's slideshow should be up on the GMC Western States website in a couple of weeks.

Jim Kanomata's seminar on "Front Bearing and Knuckle Procedures to Guarantee 80,000 Miles without Greasing" demonstrated how to disassemble the parts and explained what can be done to get 80,000-plus miles without greasing.

Our first ever, live Skype seminar with Jim Bounds was a

fun experience! It was nice to see Jim's new 18,000 square foot shop in Orlando, Florida, and some of the coaches they are working on. In his two presentations - "Restoration Processes" and "How to Attach Your Sliders (New Designed Windows)" – Jim told us about his exciting new process for creating interior cabinets and other wooden parts that will look better than a factory original finish. He also showed off his new front side window design that is now available. Skype also allowed Jim to be available for the "Ask the Experts" panel, which also included Frank Condos, Jim Hupy and Jim Kanomata. This seminar is always appreciated by attendees needing their GMC questions answered by our more experienced members. These Skype seminars proved to be an interesting way to see and participate in from afar.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Tech VP the last two years and have the opportunity to get better acquainted with many of you. It has been an interesting journey, a little stressful at times; however, you never let me down. I was amazed at the Fall 2015 Pueblo Rally where many of you stepped up to the plate and put together spur-of-the-moment slideshow presentations to fill in for unforeseen seminar vacancies. This group is loaded with talent and a willingness to share information like I have never seen before! So thank you, Western States membership, for being there when I needed you and making me look good when it was really you that went that extra mile to make things happen!

I am pleased that the membership elected George Beckman as the new GMCWS Tech VP. I feel that I am leaving this position in very capable hands! Good luck, George.

See you all down the road!

Gary

## Members' Experiences

The following article is the first of (we hope) many personal stories by our members of their experiences with their motorhomes, whether challenging, like Armand and Carol's, or having good times on the road. We hope you will contribute your own stories, brief or not – our members will relate, and find them very interesting. Send your stories to the Newsletter Editor. This story by Armand has been edited (shortened) because of space constraints. To see the entire story – and some great writing by Armand – check out his story on the GMCWS website.

#### We didn't make it to Coos Bay this time . . . .

We didn't make it to the Coos Bay rally this time – instead, we experienced the difference between the Classic GMC Motorhome community and all others and, overall, had a pretty good time to boot. On September 27, we left our home in Arizona for a three-week trip to the Fall 2016 GMC Western States rally at Coos Bay, stopping to visit friends and family in the San Jose and Sacramento areas before joining a caravan to the rally. On the third day, our engine basically disintegrated just outside of King City, CA.

We heard some loud "crackling" sounds coming from the engine. I pulled off the road and saw large clouds of steam billowing out of the exhaust pipe in the back, indicating at least a blown head gasket and possibly worse.

I called Good Sam Roadside Assistance and told them that I needed a tow to "the nearest, willing and qualified service center". They tried to find a place to tow us for some major work. Back in 2007, we broke down in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Good Sam towed us 90 miles to a qualified service center for an engine replacement. This time they seemed to be less interested in "qualified" and were more focused on "nearest". They said they had found a "willing and qualified" (apparently, in their own opinion only) repair shop only 5 miles away. The mechanic on duty changed his mind when he saw the coach. We parked in the county park for the night, where we called Good Sam and asked to be towed somewhere else on Friday morning.

Good Sam said they found a shop in Salinas – 50 miles farther north – that said they could fix our engine. After talking with the shop owner, I persuaded him that he did not have the knowledge or the equipment to do the work. Good Sam, however, insisted that, since he initially said he could do it, he was "willing and qualified" and would tow us no farther. After arriving at the shop, my suspicions were confirmed.

Frustrated, I called Manny Trovao in San Jose to see if he had any ideas. For those not familiar with the GMC:

Manny is a legend in the GMC community. Manny, with no hesitation, told me to "bring it to my house". He said he would help as much as he could, but was leaving for an 11-day cruise in just over a week and was very busy. I would have to do most of the work myself. I agreed – still hoping it was only a head gasket. We were towed to Manny's on Saturday morning at our own expense - \$825 (we are appealing this with Good Sam).

We arrived at Manny's on Saturday around noon. Manny tried to start our engine and declared it to be "trash" and would have to be replaced. We left to visit our son and his family whom we had not seen for about a year and a half. I told Manny I'd be back on Monday morning to get started. On Monday I discussed engine replacement alternatives with Manny. Due to lack of other options, Manny suggested using the engine from a 1975 23-foot coach that had been sitting next to his driveway for at least 10 years.

Seven days before Manny was to leave for his cruise, we removed the engines from the old coach and my coach, and Manny prepared the "new" engine for use. During this time I got a call from George Beckman – he said he also had problems getting to Coos Bay because of a problem with his transmission. He was about 4 hours away from Manny's and, if I needed help, he would be there by the end of the day. How lucky could I get? First Manny provides a work place, knowledge, tools and even an engine, and now a fellow GMCer has offered to help remove and replace the engine. I think I would still be there if it were not for George.

George and Ruth arrived late on Wednesday afternoon and George and I, along with Manny, worked from 8:00 am until about 5 or 6:00 pm every day for the next 6 days. Manny left on schedule on Tuesday morning. George and I got the "new" engine started on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday, October 12th, we gave George and Ruth a ride home to Colfax, CA, near Sacramento. The engine ran very well – much better than the old engine had been running before disintegrating.

We didn't make it to the Coos Bay rally but we did have our own little "Minnie" rally, learned a lot, and solidified our friendships with Manny, his wife Deo, and George and Ruth Beckman.

Armand Minnie

### **GMC WESTERN STATES 2017 SPRING RALLY**



**April 20-24, 2017** 

### Preferred RV Resort, Pahrump, NV 1801 Crawford Way, Pahrump, NV 89048 Near the intersection of Highways 160 and 372 Phone 775-727-4414 or 800-445-7840

RALLY HOSTS: Nick Roenick, Donna Ventura, George and Jodell Banovich

Coach License Number	Tow Car License Number	
Home Phone:	Cell:	<b>.</b>
Email address for updates:		
Emergency Contact – Name/No.:		
Is this your first GMCWS Rally?		
Do you need Handicapped Parking?		
Are you a vendor?	Yes	No
Rally Fees include full hook up spaces (Wat breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.		
	ter, 30/50 am \$ <u>400</u>	
breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.		
breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.  Per Couple with full hookups	\$ <u>400</u>	\$ \$
breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.  Per Couple with full hookups  One Person in coach with full hookup	\$ <u>400</u> \$ <u>275</u>	\$ \$ \$
breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.  Per Couple with full hookups  One Person in coach with full hookup  Per Guest in Coach	\$ <u>400</u> \$ <u>275</u> \$ 195	\$ \$ \$
breakfasts and 3 dinners, seminars.  Per Couple with full hookups  One Person in coach with full hookup  Per Guest in Coach  Non-GMCWS Members add \$10.00	\$ <u>400</u> \$ <u>275</u> \$ 195	\$\$ \$ \$

# Fall 2016 Coos Bay Rally Photos















































The GMC Western States Inc., a chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association, is comprised of GMC Motorhome owners from all fifty states and the three southwestern provinces of Canada. The Chapter's purpose is to promote the preservation of the GMC Motorhome with a technical program of professional seminars and published information and to further the mutual association, membership, enjoyment and common interests of GMC Motorhome owners, their families and friends.

#### **GMC Western States Officers**

Nick Roenick, Chapter President 510 326-5236, pickle4k@gmail.com

Carol Minnie, First Vice President 520 744-1775, carol@minniebiz.com

George Beckman, Technical Vice President 559 706-3485, gbeckman@graestone.org

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Sharon Work, FMCA National Director 541 592-5360, glwork@mac.com

FMCA Alternate National Director Vacant

#### **GMC** Western States Newsletter

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To submit an article or item for our Newsletter, email the Newsletter Coordinator, Donna Ventura donaveee@gmail.com or call 925 200-6227.



# GMC Rally Schedule January - June 2017

List may not be all-inclusive. Events and dates may change. Refer to the specific GMC Club's websites for more information.		March 16-18	Rally at Distant Drums, Camp Verde, AZ (Saguaro Jetsetters)
Dec 30, 2016- Jan 1, 2017	New Year's Eve Gala, Casa de Fruta, Hollister, CA ( <b>49ers</b> )	March	Temecula Bluegrass Festival, Temecula, CA ( <b>Pacific Cruisers</b> )
Jan 20-22	Blythe Bluegrass Festival, Blythe, CA (Pacific Cruisers)	March	Johnson Ranch, Desert Hot Springs, CA (Pacific Cruisers)
Jan 27-29	Rally at Pinal County Fairgrounds, Casa Grande, AZ (Saguaro Jetsetters)	March 24-30	GMCMI Spring Convention, "A Celebration of Vintage Front-Wheel Drive Motorhomes", Shawnee, Oklahoma (GMCMI)
Feb 9-12	Valentine Rally, La Conner/ Concrete Eagle Festival	April 20-24	Spring Rally, Pahrump, NV (GMCWS)
	(Cascaders)	May 4-7	Covered Bridges Rally, West Central Oregon (Cascaders)
Feb 14-16	Valentine' Day, Elks Lodge, Vista, CA ( <b>Pacific Cruisers</b> )	June 8-13	Rolling Rally in Goldendale, Bicketon, Toppenish areas (Cascaders)
Feb 17-19	Rally at Grand Vista RV Park, Wilcox, AZ ( <b>Saguaro Jetsetters</b> )	June 9-11	Parrish Ranch (Mountainaires)