

# GMC Western States Motorhome Club

Promoting the Preservation of the Classic 1973-1978 GMC Motorhome

# NEWSLETTER

Special Edition 2019 Vol. 109

## Special Holiday Edition

### Greetings from Your Secretary

*Blanca StClair, GMCWS Secretary*



I just want to introduce myself as your new Secretary of the GMC Western States

My name is Blanca StClair. My husband Hal and I are retired and live in Rio Rancho New Mexico. We have been avid RVers for many years having bought our first 'camp trailer' when we were Married in 1972 and have owned one type or another RV ever since.

In 2013 we purchased a 1977 Royale GMC which my husband promptly converted to diesel, something he had always wanted to do, at least that's what he told me LOL. We are so thrilled with our GMC. Last year we actually spent about six months on the road with it, including attending a couple of GMC rallies and a big section of the Route 66 starting in Chicago, Illinois and ending in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A most fun and amazing trip.

#### 2020 Annual Dues Are Due by December 31, 2019

Thanks to all of our members who have already paid their 2020 membership dues. Your continued support and participation at our rallies make it possible for our club to be as successful as it is.

**For those who haven't renewed yet: We have decided to not mail the Dues Renewal letter/form to our members this year, and instead include it in this newsletter.** We would appreciate your sending the completed form with your check, payable to GMCWS, to Armand Minnie – his address is shown on the form. It's even easier for you to use PayPal. Just log in to the GMCWS website [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org). Click on the tab titled Membership, scroll down to How to Renew, and click on the yellow PayPal button.

If we don't receive your payment by December 31, 2019 you may not be included in the 2020 Membership Roster.

### GMCWS 2020 Officers

Bobbie Schultz, Chapter President  
760-941-1589, [bobbie@daygotours.com](mailto:bobbie@daygotours.com)

Shirlee McArthur, First Vice President  
503-502-5277, [shirlee@westcoastbc.net](mailto:shirlee@westcoastbc.net)

Jim Kanomata, Technical Vice President  
510-742-1101, [jimk@appliedairfilters.com](mailto:jimk@appliedairfilters.com)

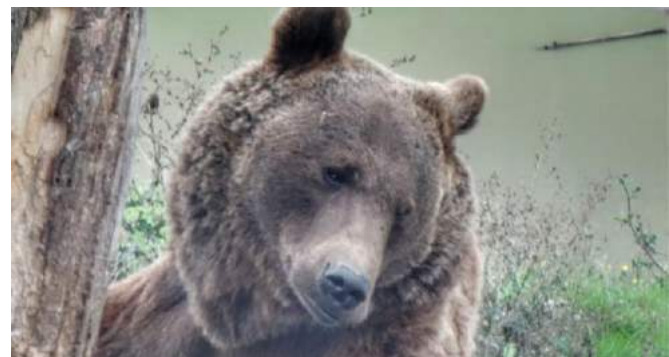
Blanca StClair, Secretary  
702-300-7911, [Bstclair777@gmail.com](mailto:Bstclair777@gmail.com)

Dave deGraffenreid, Treasurer  
949-642-6827, [gmcdegraff@gmail.com](mailto:gmcdegraff@gmail.com)

Sharon Work, FMCA National Director  
541-592-5360, [sharonwork@mac.com](mailto:sharonwork@mac.com)

Manny Trovao, FMCA Alternate National Director  
408-923-4257, [gmcers@gmail.com](mailto:gmcers@gmail.com)

Donna Ventura, Newsletter Editor  
[donaveeee@gmail.com](mailto:donaveeee@gmail.com)





## 7 Feathers Rally Report, October 1-5, 2019

*Shirlee McArthur, First Vice President*



The rally started on Wednesday with pumpkin decorating for our table centerpieces, and a Happy Hour supplied by our very own **Jim Kanomata**. A wonderful Southern BBQ dinner was catered by the 7 Feathers Casino Dinner, and was followed by a jam session with **Grace, Steve Ferguson, and Gino Sanfilippo**.

Thursday would bring more adventures as we would be going on a tour for the day. After breakfast by the **Cascaders**, two buses took us to a nice rest area along the Umpqua River. On we went to the Tiller Ranger Station, where our driver/guide showed us the old Ranger Station and the rebuilt observatory on top. We drove through a covered bridge (the Milo Academy Bridge) to a nice little farmer's mini market, where they only sell homegrown, absolutely fresh and delicious products, including honey, vegetables, etc. We then drove to Melrose Vineyards in Roseburg, the site of an early French settlement. We had a delicious lunch and, of course, various wines had to be tasted! A wonderful lunch of Bowtie Cajun Prawn Pasta, Salad and Garlic Bread, and 3 wine tastings were included ... and as extra the most delicious French baguette. Our final stop was the Wildlife Safari in Winston, where we drove through the 600-acre animal park and see many wild and exotic animals. Fun was had by all!

Friday would again begin with a wonderful full breakfast by the **Cascaders**, followed by a session for all on Genealogy presented by **Shirlee McArthur**; a lot of tips were shared. The book "The Oregon Trail" by Rinker Buck was discussed at the Book Club meeting, hosted by **Carol Minnie**. The afternoon included tech sessions on learning how to switch our batteries out for lithium batteries by Jerry Work, and a Great Ideas Swap presented by **Stuart and Shirlee McArthur**; many great ideas were discussed.

In the late afternoon we were provided with an Oregon Craft Beer tasting by Two Shy Brewery, where we chose from all kinds of beer ... a hazelnut dark beer, a bit sweet, was my choice - it had a very interesting flavor. Pizza and salad followed, after which we played 2 rounds of the GMC Couples Game, with **Dave deGraffenreid** as Showmaster.

Saturday would start with another great breakfast by the **Cascaders**. The Western States Membership Meeting followed, where a slate of officers for 2020 was approved by members present. Only one change for 2020: **Blanca StClair** will take over as Secretary; **Donna Ventura** will continue as Newsletter Editor [see list of Officers elsewhere in this newsletter]. Tech sessions by **Jim Hupy and Hal StClair** were conducted, and a lunch of hot dogs and chili for all was followed by the Swap Meet and Open House of participating coaches. This was followed by a wonderful catered dinner of broasted chicken, potato salad, and peach cobbler by Vickey & Sisters. Many attendees dressed in their Halloween finest - **George Beckman** as Sylvester the Cat won best costume, with **Nancy Ferguson**, costumed as the Wicked Witch, and **Gary Bovee**, as Dracula, giving him a run for his money.

Sunday started with a pancake and sausage breakfast by the **Cascaders**, followed by Church service, with **Ruth and George Beckman** presiding. **Armand Minnie** then explained how to use the GMCWS website. Ladies Brunch included a presentation of Indian basket weaving and traditions of the Cow Creek Tribe by artisans Beth Gipson and Tabitha Johnson. Afternoon tech sessions included **Gary Bovee** on the Onan generator, and **John and Alyce Shutzbaugh** told us about their 41-year history as first generation GMC owners .... imagine! they only had 3 major breakdowns in all those years!

After a great Happy Hour and delicious catered dinner, we had a fantastic auction with our auctioneer, **John Lockwood** and his wife **Dee** as assistant - he not only made attending worthwhile but also made us laugh till tears ran down our cheeks!

Monday we said goodbye to old friends and new, until the Spring 2020 Rally at Black Oaks RV Park and Casino in Tuolumne, CA, May 1-5! See you there!

Shirlee McArthur









## Christmas in the Netherlands

*by Daniel & Marjon Jacobs, The Netherlands*

Around Christmas is a wonderful time to visit the Netherlands. It shows itself from its most atmospheric side. There is a Christmas market in almost every city, but the best Christmas markets in the Netherlands are the Christmas markets of Maastricht, Dordrecht and The Hague. Or pay a visit to the Dickens Festijn in Deventer.

Christmas markets in the Netherlands do not yet have such a long tradition as in Germany, for example, but more and more cities are organizing cozy Christmas markets in their old town center to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. In addition, the Netherlands has more to offer around Christmas.

Cozy illuminated shopping streets, beautiful shop windows and of course the Christmas markets. Come Christmas shopping in the Netherlands and discover how warm the Dutch winter can feel. Plan a city trip in December to do your Christmas shopping. Discover the Dutch Christmas markets in many major cities. Don't miss the beautifully decorated shop windows and department stores, Christmas lights in the streets, beautiful shop windows, coziness in the cafes and restaurants ... the Christmas period in the Netherlands is all atmosphere.

So do you want to get away for Christmas, and do you still have some Christmas shopping to do? Then come shopping for a weekend in one of the cozy cities in the Netherlands.

### Winter on the Dutch coast

The Dutch coast is a beautiful landscape, even in winter. The Netherlands has 250 kilometers of beautiful coast with beautiful seaside resorts, surrounded by beautiful dunes and nature reserves. You can enjoy walking under the most beautiful Dutch cloudy skies, enjoy and warm up in one of the cozy beach tents, and there's even snow snowboarding and cross-country skiing on the beach. Perhaps the best beach locations for this winter are Zandvoort, Scheveningen, Nordwind and Zeeland. Walk along the beautiful coast and warm up in a cozy beach bar. Experience the winter sports options on and near the various beaches. In the south in the cities of Landgraaf and Zoetermeer, more near Amsterdam, are even big indoor ski halls.





Then there is ..... of course .... Romantic Amsterdam. Winter in Amsterdam is so romantic! The intimacy of the old center with its beautiful canals, the many illuminated shopping streets with beautiful shop windows and of course the countless cozy brown bars and tasty restaurants. In wintry Amsterdam the feeling temperature quickly becomes a few degrees higher.

Celebrate Valentine's Day in Amsterdam. Invite your great love for a Valentine's trip to Amsterdam and the romance cannot fail. There is a lot to do! The best Valentine tips: Dine in the dark or on the canals. Take a trip by horse and carriage through the Vondelpark, for example, and end with a romantic dinner. Or invite your great love for a classical concert in the beautiful Concertgebouw. For a truly unique and romantic dinner, go to Ctaste in Amsterdam. Here you eat in the dark and all senses - except your eyes - are put to the test. The chef takes your taste into account, but the menu is a surprise. A so-called "dinner cruise" in a saloon boat on the Amsterdam canals is also very romantic. Let yourself sail from restaurant to restaurant while you enjoy the most delicious dishes on board or in the restaurants themselves.

In the Netherlands we have learned over the centuries how to make the dark days cozy. While we used to do that with candles in ancient times, nowadays very high-tech light festivals are organized. With unique, futuristic light installations or an old Dutch candle party ... winter in the Netherlands is a shining example of coziness. The old Christmas feeling we all enjoy is combined with the modern and fantastic lighting .... from December till the end of January, but especially around Christmas, the Netherlands are a very nice place to stay and enjoy the holidays. Both ways, the old and the new, are worth it. Admire the enchanting lighting, such as the high-tech light installations in Eindhoven, the City of Light. Visit the historic candle town of Gouda, in the dark! So turn on your light in the Netherlands this winter!

The Amsterdam Light Festival is very special! This year – 2019-2020 - the historic center of Amsterdam in December and January will be the setting for 50 days for the most unique light installations. Thirty light artists from all over the world have been invited to show their creations. The 'Illuminade' walking route takes you through historic Amsterdam along special light art objects. The 'Water Colors' boat tour shows the works along the canals and the Amstel. Another very nice event: Glow Eindhoven















## GMCWS Membership Renewal Due by December 31, 2019

It's time to renew your GMC Western States Membership for 2020 (Jan 1 – Dec 31). If we don't receive your payment by **December 31, 2019** you may not be included in the 2020 Membership Roster.

Make any revisions to your membership information below, and return to Armand Minnie (address below) along with your check (made out to GMCWS) for 2020 dues. Add \$10 if you wish to receive our newsletters in the US Mail.

**Note:** Multiple-year renewal (up to 5 years) can be made in one check @ \$25 per year (\$35 per year if you wish to receive your newsletters via US Mail).

Mail this form and your check to:

Armand Minnie  
13533 N Buckhorn Cholla Dr.  
Marana, AZ 85658  
Check payable to GMCWS

2020 dues	\$25.00
Mail newsletters	\$10.00
Total enclosed:	\$_____



If you would like to pay with PayPal: Log in to the GMCWS website [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org) Click on the tab titled Membership, scroll down to How to Renew, and click on the yellow PayPal button.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill in the blanks below ONLY if the information has changed! Otherwise, leave blank.**

Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
FMCA# \_\_\_\_\_

### COACH

Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
VIN# \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Note:** Current FMCA membership is required for membership in GMCWS. If you have not yet joined or renewed, please visit their web site at [www.FMCA.com](http://www.FMCA.com) and click on the tab titled JOIN.

Thanks for being a part of our community. Your continued support and participation at our rallies make it possible for our club to be as successful as it is.

Sincerely,  
Blanca StClair, Secretary