March 2013-Vol. 89

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



Inside

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Tech Center
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Coaches for Sale
- 6 Spring Rally Schedule
- 8 Officers RallySchedule Publication Schedule

President's Letter – March 2013

Happy Anniversary to us!



L he GMC Western States chapter of the FMCA was founded 25 years ago this month. March 29, 1988 is the date when our club became part of the FMCA. Our first club rally was held at a KOA in Chula Vista, CA that same month with 112 coaches attending. That first rally was sponsored by the GMC Pacific Cruisers Club and members of that club continue to be strong supporters of GMC Western States – they deserve our thanks.

Carol and I have been busy preparing for our next rally to be held in Amado, Arizona just south of Tucson for the 5 nights from Tuesday, April 9th and ending on Sunday, April 14th. We think everyone will enjoy the many things to do in the area and the variety of technical and non-technical seminars and fun evenings that we have planned for our Wild West Rally.

Besides planning for the Spring rally we are keeping busy with a variety of club-related activities, especially related to the club's web site. We now have the beginning of a membership roster with photos of each of the members. The idea is that many of us communicate with each other via email and the various web-based technical exchanges and we love to put faces with names. Also, it would help new members and those of us with memory issues to know who we are, or were, talking to. If your photo is not part of our photo roster or you would like to update the one we have, please send me one and I'll get it into the roster with the next (usually monthly) online update. If you notice that a member does not have a photo in the roster and you have one of them, please send it to me but make sure you tell me who it is.

The printed roster is being prepared as I am writing this (early February) and you should have it in your hands long before you read this. Both the online and printed roster information is taken directly from the web site and it is the individual member's responsibility to keep it up to date. If you need help, please let me or Carol Minnie (our club Secretary) know and we'll do our best to guide you through the process.

The club membership is down a little from last year (we currently have 227) because more than 30 members did not respond to several emails and a snail-mailed paper invoice. The good news is that new people are joining the club weekly and we will probably be back up to our 260+ members by the end of the year again.

Stay warm for now and we hope to see you at the Spring rally.

- Armand Minnie

WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



SPRING IS HERE! By: Nick Roenick, Technical Vice President

Hello fellow GMCers. The seasons have changed and we are getting ready to go off to the next rally or just down the road for a weekend trip. BUT... before we get going let's review the coach for safety issues and the maintenance required to get us through the up and coming driving months.

First check that the registration and insurance are up-todate and proper. Is your membership to your favorite club or organization current? See if you have the latest version of the Blacklist (download at http://www.bdub.net/Black_List/) and Gary Bovee's Idiot's Internet Guide to Finding 1973-1978 GMC Motor Home Information. You will find it at: www.gmceast. com. A copy of both in your coach, either a hard copy or on your computer, will point you in the right direction at the time when you are in need.

As you walk around the coach, check the date-codes on the tires. They should be replaced at about six years of age, sooner if they show signs of cracking or Ozone damage. A blow out can do more damage than the cost of a set of tires. Check this discussion: http://gmc.mybirdfeeder.net/GMCforum/index.php ?t=tree&goto=25896&rid=0#page_top

Tire pressure is a personal choice. Some like a softer or firmer ride but the weight of the coach and recommended pressures need to be observed to ensure the safety of the coach and its riders. Turn on all your lights and see if they are still bright and the lenses are in good condition. Replace any bad bulbs. Are the headlights aimed correctly? Take off any lenses that have water or dirt behind them and clean them. It is good to see and be seen.

When inspecting under the coach, check the drive shaft CV boots and replace any which are torn or damaged. They are a vital part of your drive train. The steering assembly should be greased and inspected for wear or loose parts. A loose steering component or drive train can cause loss of control or at least lessen the fun of a trip. We have great vendors who have new parts, some of which are better than the original GM versions. As you move to the rear bogies, observe any leaks or unusual wear patterns on the parts. The bogies need to be greased and serviced annually. All shock absorbers should show no signs of leaks or damage. Bad shocks will affect your handling and ride. While you are underneath, also check for fuel leaks at the tanks, hoses and fittings. The rubber hoses have been under attack

from the "NEW" fuel and tend to deteriorate at a more rapid pace than ever. The recommended fuel lines should be 30R7 or equivalent to withstand the "NEW" fuel. Fuel leaks can cause fires.

Do not forget the Onan (Generator). Check for proper oil level, loose wiring and fuel/oil leaks. Start it from the outside compartment switch and observe it for a few minutes. It should run smoothly without surging or stumbling. Improper RPM can cause the voltage to be too low or too high and damage your appliances.

Fill your propane tank. The lines and fittings should be checked for leaks with a soapy solution. If you see bubbles, you have a leak. Fix it promptly - it can cause a fire.

Inspect the black tank and grey tank if so equipped. The plumbing has to be tight and leak free. The valves should operate freely and the water drains functional. Any signs of a leak can lead to bigger issues later while on the road.

Open the compartment behind your refrigerator and clean it out. The propane style refrigerators especially need a clean and unobstructed air flow. Fires have occurred in these areas.

On the roof of your coach, make sure the A/C unit does not have debris or extra passengers nesting in it. Remove the cover and clean the evaporator area. Look for signs of damage from a storm or hail. If so equipped, the roof pod needs to be secure, and the "Bat wing" antenna should raise and lower freely. Loose parts can fly off and cause damage to other vehicles behind you.

Now, on to the all-important engine compartment: An annual oil and filter change is recommended, if you don't do it by actual mileage driven. The condensation and acids from the engine combustion will wear your engine parts excessively.

The spark plugs should be clean and gaped to spec. The distributor cap should have no signs of cracks or carbon traces; if it does, replace it. The spark plug wires need to be free of burn marks and oil residue. Good spark will deliver good engine performance. Clean the air filter housing and replace the air filter. A dirty air filter will rob you of power and engine response. Inspect ALL vacuum lines for severe bends, collapse or cracks, especially at the ends. When in doubt, replace them. Leaks will affect the carburetor's operation. The fan belts need to be tight, free of oil and not frayed. One bad belt will wipe out the others when it breaks during high RPM. Carry spares! Add fluid to the power steering reservoir and check the filter at the windshield wiper motor, which is fed by the power steering pump (electric wiper motors exempted). The filter can get clogged and cause the pump to bypass fluid. This will cause hard steering, possibly blow the seal at the steering gear and impact windshield wiper

GMC Western States Newsletter

Continued from page 2

function. Top off the ATF in the transmission. Do not overfill or run low, as either will damage your transmission. Check the antifreeze condition with an inexpensive coolant mixture tester that can be bought at any auto parts store, or change it if it looks discolored or is too diluted. A 50/50 mix is recommended for most climates and effective cooling.

The brake fluid needs to be changed about every two years to perform at its best. Power-bleed the system and check for leaks and rusted lines. Brake fluid will absorb water and cause it to boil during hard or prolonged braking and you may lose braking power. Check out this webpage: http://gmc.mybirdfeeder.net/GMCforum/index.php?t=tree&goto=117224&rid=0

If you are in a position where you can check your brake pads/ shoes for wear, please do so at this time. Otherwise have a mechanic check them before heading out on your first trip.

The batteries should have the recommended liquid level and be secured in their holders. Clean the battery terminals and cable ends to get good connections. The engine battery should be wired direct to the starter solenoid for best power transfer. The ground wire should be attached to the engine block. (See Gene Fisher's article: http://www.gmcmotorhome.info/chassis. html#GROUND Corroded wires will cause your electrical systems to perform poorly. Do not forget the house batteries and their wiring. Test the converter and inverter functions of your system.

On the house-side of the coach there are several items to check. Check the batteries in your smoke alarm and replace annually. You should have a CO (Carbon Monoxide) detector as well for your safety. There are many solo and combination detectors on the market. Take a look at your fire extinguisher. How long has it been there? Is it still serviceable? Is it the right kind? Do you have an exit tool for breaking the glass in case of fire or if you are trapped? Is the emergency pull ring on the back window rubber molding attached to the wire? The above listed items could save your life.

The fresh water tank and lines to the faucets should be flushed while checking for leaks in the galley, bathroom and cabinets along the pipe run. Add a cap full of bleach to the tank to sanitize it, flush and refill after the check out. Bacteria can flourish in water tanks.

If your coach was stored, look for sign of critters in the cabinets and hidden compartments. They like to travel too, but don't chip in for gas. Any wires or hoses that look chewed need to be repaired. Damaged wires can cause a fire.

Finally, sort through your tools and spare parts which you carry in your coach and determine if they are still useful or you need to add or lose some. A good two stage jack, with a jack hook and a correct size lug nut wrench should be in your box of tools. The beauty of our coaches is that we are able to repair most things with simple tools and supplies. We have some of the best vendors, who will support us anytime, anywhere. The Blacklist will get us advice and, when needed, a helping hand. We have the greatest support system in the coach world! An annual comprehensive inspection at the beginning of the season can point out any issues which we might have been put off last year or never were addressed due to time constraints. But if we start with a good coach, the trips will be more fun with fewer issues. There is a good PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST on the web at: http://www.gmceast.com/lifestyle/GMCPreTravelChecklist.pdf

Get out there and enjoy your coach.

See you on the road or at the next rally and... BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.



Treasurers Report 2/3/2013

2012 was a successful year for our GMC Western States Club, thanks to our enthusiastic members support. With our dues, we were able to do many things.

Thanks to our Clubs all volunteer officers, rally masters, rally helpers, seminar presenters, webmasters, newsletter and roster producers, our treasury has a positive cash flow.

We were able to support past, present and future Club rallies, the production of newsletters and roster as well as all the expenses affiliated with them.

We have two great rallies coming up; this spring in the desert and the fall on the northern coast. We look forward to enjoying them with you.

GMCWS Treasurer Dave de Graffenreid

NORCOLD 1200 Series RV REFRIGERATOR RECALL

Thetford, the parent company of Norcold has asked us to tell our members about a recall of their 1200 series RV refrigerators. Details of the recall, including serial numbers, is available at http://norcoldrecall.com. Please take a look if you have a Norcold RV refrigerator.

GMC Western States Newsletter

Check the web site, gmcws.org, for interesting technical and non-technical articles not found anywhere else including John & Nancy Williamson's "A Gherkin Tale".

How to log into the GMCWS.org web site.

Below is a quick review of how to log into the GMCWS.ORG web site. You will need to be logged into the web site to update your membership information and to view and print the most up-to-date membership rosters including the photo roster. All other functions are available without logging in.



Parts For Sale

Carburetor-removed from 455 to install TBI \$150.....Airtex E8228 fuel pump-new-used on Howell TBI-lifetime warranty \$99.....Distributor (not HEI) w/cap, drive gear, ign. cable & boots. Cap appears new, 1 ign. wire bad \$45.... Watts IR-56 brass water pres. regulator \$50.....Axle boot strapping tool-KD3191-new \$14.....Oil pump for 455, OH by Jasper Engines \$15.....Hour meter, mfg. VDO, 12v, new \$22.....Speed Pro cam CS-102R, new \$55 Contact: John Glatz 928 468-6212 outdog31@hotmail.com 0613

PARTING OUT (26') front-end damaged. Completely restored. Call for items available. Contact: Dan & Barbara McCurter - 909 980-4251 Alta Loma, CA 0613

TURBO CITY CUSTOM TBI INJECTION for 455ci GMC motorhome. Computer w/several different chips, wiring, Adapter plate & of course the throttle body. I'll throw in an HEI distributor base set up for this unit with high power Module and complete installation instructions. Cost \$1400....now \$485. Contact: Ken Booth - 928 764-3378 _1113

hobo@citlink.net Lake Havasu City, AZ_

1973 GMC 455 cid engine, transmission, 3.07 final drive, hall effect distributor, headers, overhauled at 85K miles,

bored 0.020 over, now has 155K miles runs strong, has finned aluminum transmission pan and finned aluminum final drive cover, recent transmission filter, (less carburetor and engine cooler adapter).

- 4 Front knuckles, original style, clean, degreased
- 2 455 exhaust manifolds, original, no cracks, with used header pipes.
- 1973 GMC axle shafts with CV joints, 1 rebuilt has 10K miles. 2
- 4 Front calipers, original style, good for cores.
- Front hub, original style with disc & Timken bearing w/10K miles. 1
- Steering wheel from 1973-74 GMC motorhome, no horn button 1
- 3 GMC wheel covers, original style for 16.5 wheels, fair to poor condition.
- 1972 Cadillac Eldorado 2 Lower A arms good for modifying for motorhome
 - 2 Upper A arms same as motorhome
 - 2 Front axles w/CV joints, hubs, discs, save on core charges
- 2pr Inner & Outer CV joints used, good for cores
- 2pr Rear settee seat brackets for GMC motorhome
- 1pr Windshield wiper arms from Pontiac Transport APV modified to fit GMC motorhome. Takes larger wiper blades, wipes larger area of windshield, parks down close to windshield gasket, more modern style, wiper blades easier to locate than originals.
- Might be able to bring some parts to Spring Rally @ Amado, AZ and save shipping.

Contact: John Williamson – 505 298-0147 thewellguy@juno.com Albuquerque, NM_

GMC Coaches FOR SALE

Your ads are welcome and will run for one year unless we are informed otherwise. Please inform us if your items are sold before the ad runs out. The last four digits at the end of the ad represent the expiration date (month/year). Contact: Judy Booth, 928 764-3378, <u>hobo@citlink.net</u>

1976 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (78,000)

Excellent original condition with side bath, rear gauchos, which make a double bed, and a side dinette. The custom stainless steel trim (approx. 1/32 in. thick) makes a strikingly beautiful coach. The interior is the original birch wood. The wood and appliances are in excellent condition. Rebuilt transmission, AC thoroughly gone thru and six new Firestone 10 ply tires. Complete maintenance record for last 4-1/2 yrs available. Comes with 2008 heavy duty car dolly. Price \$14,000 Contact: Chuck & Sharon Taylor - 916 331-3320 cdtaylor300@msn.com Sacramento, CA _____0613

1977 GMC ELEGANZA II (26')

Owned 40 years...been updated...wheels, tires, brakes, Mondello directed engine improvements during rebuild, clear coat exterior matches awning, chairs & blending with soft tones of beige/browns in interior...two small size rocker swivel reupholstered in complementary fabric with custom size table with hanging lamp, new 3 burner stove recessed & covered with new formica woodgrain pattern, microwave, hardwood floor from door to rear, quality drapes, front beige carpet, new headliner, insulated cabinets, improved roof & dash A/C, electric leather seats, "Sound Down" conditioning in forward section for less engine noise...many more innovations. Flat screen TV with adjustable inside antenna. Price: Reasonable offers only...NO TRADES Contact: Bob Sternfels - 949 497-3534 rwsternfels@cox.net Exterior & Interior pictures available via e-mail 0613

1975 AVION (26')

455 engine, rear twin beds, hardwood floors and tile counters. Garaged. 2 A/C & many upgrades. Call for more information. Price: \$12,000 obo. Contact: Jim Cook – 928 445-0351 Prescott, AZ______0613

1977 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (Under 60K miles) 455 engine, yellow, always garaged.

Price: \$7500 Contact: Ralph Johnson 702 328-5606 Henderson, NV______0613

1977 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (Under 3,000 miles) New 403 engine. All new paint, front-end, Generac generator, converter system and interior. Must see. Price: \$19,750 obo Contact: Tom & Pat Hanlon 310 831-8530 Sun City West, AZ______0613

1977 GMC COCA COLA (26') #3 Interior (2000 miles) Complete 403 engine rebuild w/70,000 mi. warranty.

Complete tranny, final drive & carb rebuild. NEW bearing, seals, front disc brakes & rotors, radiator core, engine & tranny lines, belts & hoses, 16.5 Firestone tires (6), exhaust system, hot water tank, ceiling, Norcold fridge & red carpet in cockpit. Dual air, good glass, good upholstery & carpet and some Coca Cola memorabilia. Original blinds cleaned & repaired. Exterior could use some touch up. We have used the coach for 2000 miles & it runs very strong. Receipts available. Call for details. Price: \$18,000 Contact: Dick & Isola Olsen – 509 464-1434

<u>artsoil18@msn.com</u> Cell – 509 290-0030

Spokane, WA_____1113



Tentative Schedule for Spring 2013 Rally as of 2/10/2013

Tuesday, April 9th, 2013		Friday, April 12th	
12:00 - 5:00	Check-in at park office	7:30 - 8:30	Catered Breakfast
1:00 - 5:00	Decorate tables (make western	9:00 - 10:00	Tech seminar
	themed centerpieces)	9:00 - 10:30	"Women of the Wild West"
4:00 - 5:00	Executive Board Meeting		Book Review / Book Exchange
5:00 - 6:30	Social hour – BYOB		(see details \rightarrow)
6:30 - 7:30	Catered Dinner	10:30 - 11:30	Tech seminar
7:30 - 8:00	Welcome meeting in	11:00 - 12:00	Movie – Annie Oakley
	restaurant area		(PBS production)
		12:00 - 1:00	Lunch on your own
Wednesday, April 10	th	1:00 - 5:30	Working session – ride height
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast		& alignment?
8:45 - 9:00	Announcements	1:00 - 5:00	"Driving Miss Daisy"(?)
9:00 - 10:00	Swap meet and vendor	1:00 - 5:30	"Be a Tourist" (Tubac, Desert
	introductions		Museum, Saguaro NP, etc.)
9:30 - 11:30	Cowgirl Coffee (cowgirl dress)	5:30 - 6:30	Social hour – park-hosted
	– coffee, pastries, guest speaker		margarita party on the patio
10:30 - 11:30	Tech seminar	6:30 - 7:30	Catered Dinner
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch on your own	7:30 - 9:00	Entertainment – (Karaoke, jam
1:30 - 2:30	Line dancing lessons or on-site		sessions, line dancing, games)
	activities		
1:00 - 5:30	Coach weigh-in or "tourism"	Saturday, April 13th	
5:30 - 6:30	Social hour – Dave's GMC	7:30 - 8:30	Catered Breakfast
	Margarita Bucket on patio	9:00 - 10:00	Membership Meeting
6:30 - 7:30	Catered Dinner	10:30 - 11:30	Tech seminar
7:30 - 9:00	Entertainment - music	10:30 - 11:30	Health Issues (Kathy Stouffer)
		11:30 - 1:00	Lunch on your own
Thursday, April 11th		1:00 - 5:30	Coach Open House
7:30 - 8:30	Catered Breakfast		(interior & mechanical)
9:00 - 10:00	Tech seminar	5:30 - 6:30	Social hour – no-host cocktails,
9:00 - 10:00	Line Dancing Practice &		beer & wine at bar
	Possible Craft Marketplace (?)	6:30 - 7:30	Catered Dinner
10:30 - 11:30	Tech seminar	7:30 - 9:00	Entertainment (Karaoke, jam
10:30 - 11:30	Crafting session & Craft		sessions, line dancing, games)
	Marketplace (?)		
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch on your own	Sunday, April 14th	
1:00 - 5:30	"Be a Tourist" (Tubac, Desert	7:30 - 8:30	Continental Breakfast
	Museum, Saguaro NP, etc.)	8:30 - 12:00	Checkouts and Goodbyes

Please note: this schedule is very preliminary and will definitely change before the rally. We will keep the version on the web site up to date and will give you the latest/final version when you arrive at the rally.

5:30 - 6:30

6:30 - 7:30

7:30 - 9:00

Social hour with cowboy/cowgirl or western period costumes –

no-host cocktails, beer & wine

Entertainment – Wild West

Catered Dinner

Casino Night

Books for "Women of the West" Book Review & Discussion

GMCWS Rally in Amado, Arizona - April 9 - 14, 2013

Since our April rally will be in Arizona and our theme for the week will be the Old West, our book club meeting will be a discussion of women's lives in Arizona at the turn of the century. Instead of selecting a single book, I thought it would be fun to let everyone choose from among several books that all deal with women's lives in Arizona in the late 1800's/early 1900's.

Here is a list of the books I read since I took on the task of choosing a book for the book club meeting at the



upcoming rally. They are all available on Amazon (some on Ebay also) – new and used, or at the public library. Choose as many or as few as you wish...and we'll talk! Feel free to attend the session whether or not you've read any of the books. Or read another book that you discover and come share it with us.

Non Fiction:

Vanishing Arizona – A Young Wife of an Officer of the U.S. 8th Infantry in

Apacheria During the 1870's by Martha Summerhayes

A true account of the life of a young army wife who followed her husband during his service in the late 1800's. What a time it was! Though she's not a polished author, Martha's story is fascinating.

Elsie - Adventures of an Arizona Schoolteacher 1913-1916 by Barbara Waite

A good read. Elsie Haye's diary provides an interesting look at a woman who led a very nice life back in the early 1900's. The diary entries are interspersed with narratives by Elsie's granddaughter, Barbara Waite. There were telephones but using them was a big production and traveling was a real ordeal.

Amazing Girls Of Arizona : True Stories Of Young Pioneers by Jan Cleere

Jan Cleere is an attorney in Tucson and she assembled a great collection of stories. Fun to read because each story is only a few pages long. A nice, varied look at women's lives at the turn of the century.

Levi's & Lace: Arizona Women Who Made History by Jan Cleere

Jan Cleere's second collection of stories. Interestingly written portraits of 35 heroic women of the time categorized according to their lifestyle/profession: art, law, education, ranching, etc.

Fiction:

These Is My Words by Nancy Turner

A fictional story based on a historically correct depiction of the life and times of Sara Prine, "one of the most memorable women ever to survive and prevail in the Arizona Territory in the late 1800's". A great story. Well written. The author is a Tucson resident who was inspired by her family's memoirs.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you might have. We will also be having a book exchange to bring a book or two along to trade or sell if you'd like.

Thank you, Carol Minnie

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

Spring 2013 April 9-14 2013 DeAnza RV Resort Amado, AZ Theme: The Old West Hosts: Armand & Carol Minnie Dave & Donna deGraffenreid

Fall 2013 October 2-7, 2013 The Mill Casino, Hotel & RV Resort Coos Bay, OR Hosts: Sharon & Jerry Work

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES GMC WESTERN STATES

ISSUE 2013 2nd	2013 3rd	2013 4th	2014 1st
PUBLICATION May 31st	DATES: Aug 2nd	Nov 1st	Feb 28th
INFO TO COOI May 17th	RDINATOR: Jul 19th	Oct 18th	Feb 14th
TO PUBLISHE May 24th		Oct 25th	Feb 21st

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter, Email Judy:hobo@citlink.net

GMC Western States Officers

Armand Minnie, Chapter President 520 744-1775, armand@minniebiz.com

Melissa Fisher, First Vice President 925 447-8079, mr.erfisher@gmail.com

Nick Roenick, Technical Vice President 510 486-8181, pickle4K@comcat.net

Carol Minnie, Secretary 520 744-1775, carol@minniebiz.com

Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer 949 642-6827, davebamboo@aol.com

Dorris Garton, FMCA National Director 760 375-5568, ceg777@earthlink.net

Gene Dotson, FMCA Alt. Nat. Director 828 465-0678, shawnee@charter.net

Judy Booth, Newsletter Coordinator 928 764-3378, hobo@citlink.net

Golden State Graphics , Newsletter Publisher 760 752-9500, elizabeth@goldenstategraphics.com

GMC Western States Newsletter Designed and Printed by Golden State Graphics, San Diego, CA

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter, email Judy: hobo@citlink.net

The GMC Western States Inc, 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 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 interest of GMC Motorhome owners, their families and friends. Web site: www.gmcws.org, Armand Minnie

DISCLAIMER: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS AND ARE PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS. ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED. INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION IS URGED.