



GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 53 - October 10, 2003

Retiring President's Message from Claude Brousson



Our fall rally, in the extreme southern part of BC, Canada, right on the lake, in Osoyoos, certainly surpassed our expectations with about 87 coaches, pulling GMC'ers from BC, Alberta, and even Saskatchewan. As well, we had a fair number of first timers (17). Denny Allen, our

experienced Rally Master, did a superb job of keeping every thing running smoothly, and even had time to have his little trailer loaded with stuff to sell in his spare time, from hub caps to GMC stamps! Thanks Denny for looking after us all so well and doing a superb job, with good food, excellent entertainment, and a neat location.

This being our last rally for the year, we voted in our Executive for the remainder of this year and next year. There are no changes in the Executive, other than I am stepping down as President, and **Milt Wade** of Las Vegas will now be our **President**. Milt had a hard time making it to the rally, due to transmission break down, but with long driving into the night, made it before the end of the rally. Many know Milt, however, for those who do not know him, he belongs to wife Carmen, who generously gave him two sons, Joel and Milt Jr. and now there are more Wades, with three granddaughters they are all proud of. Milt spent most of his growing up years in Rainier, Oregon. Then started off working in parts for Ford Motors, but later switched over to the airline industry working for Western Airlines and Delta. He says he is a "bit of a car nut" as he is restoring a 40 Ford Deluxe Coupe, but I think he is a bit of a GMC nut also, as he has two GMC's and is restoring a 77 GMC Gadabout! Thanks for agreeing to be President, Milt.

With many of us getting older, and more fragile, and myself briefly ending up in a California hospital the other year, I have increasingly become aware of the need for us to be prepared for medical emergencies. One of our members, who was coming to the rally, enroute had a major medical emergency, had to be air lifted to hospital, and today is very thankful for life after 10 hours of life saving surgery. As sometimes is the

case they were many miles from home when this occurred, and were not able to get their own coach home, so **Medex**, our insuring agent through FMCA, is paying for the return of their coach to their home, three states away as they qualify due to the medical emergency. They are able to access a major benefit at a time when one does not want or need any extra worry. Last year we mailed out the **Medex** brochure outlining all the services provided to us and suggested you all carry it in a handy place in the vehicle. You never know when you may need it. I hope you are all carrying it, and also the **Vial of Life** tube in the fridge. Be sure to update it yearly with changes in health conditions or medications.

And now a few comments and personal thoughts as to the current status of our club. With the support of the members, a dedicated Executive, Editors, Wagon master, Web Master, and State and Provincial Reps, I feel the club is doing well. We are steadily growing in membership, and I hope we will reach 450 members in the next couple of years. We are encouraging vendors to come to our rallies and that is good for all. Our finances are in good order now, and our rallies are real times of solid enjoyment along with excellent learning experiences. There is no question, that anyone who owns a GMC, will substantially benefit by belonging to **GMC Western States**. I know I certainly have learned a lot. There are benefits of enjoyment, health, mechanical expertise, and even possible major financial help in case of trouble as mentioned earlier in this article.

Personally, I have found this club to be a great support and as President, have been most appreciative of all the positive encouragement I have received. I must say thank you to the club for the gifts at the close of our rally for my work for the club. It certainly has been a pleasure for me as you all made it so easy. Just so you all know, I was given a Ragusa front bumper license plate step. I installed it while down on the spit, at the Haynes Point Provincial Campground on Osoyoos Lake and I must say it is sure a lot easier to climb up and clean off that big high windshield now! Many thanks. It was the perfect gift.

And in case any might think I am going to disappear now (with new wife), I am going to be the BC Rep. for the club taking Denny Allen's place. So keep all six turning smoothly, **Claude Brousson**

New President's Message – Milt Wade



As some of you know, I've accepted the president's position with mixed feelings. I feel reluctance on one hand, but feel very honored on the other hand. Hopefully I can fulfill the duties of this office with the professionalism that so many of you are expecting of me.

I want to thank Claude for all of his help in trying to make this a smooth and painless transition. Also, I want to thank Tim and Cass Jones, George and Carol Baxter, Manny Trovao, Frank and Freddi Condos, John Lennartson, Norm and Joan Engman, and many others for the support that they've given me. Thank you for the confidence you have expressed in my abilities. If you have encouraged me and I've omitted your name, please don't be offended.

Our next rally will be at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, CA, March 15-20, 2004, hosted by the Dave and Donna deGraffenreid. Hopefully we'll have a good attendance there. It's a beautiful location at that time of the year. So, I hope to see you there.

Milt Wade

Secretary's Report – Frank Condos



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING September 18, 2003

President Claude called the Executive board meeting to order. The following were present: Dorris Garton 1st VP, Gene Fisher Tech. VP, Bill Shumway Treasurer, and Frank Condos Secretary. Others included State and Provincial Representatives Carol Baxter, Mike Cherry, Harold and Bette Kennedy and Manny Trovao. The secretary reported the current membership at 427, a significant increase over last year including 27 Canadians. The Technical VP suggested that in the future the list of GMC suppliers and repair facilities be included with the roster as a separate insert.

Treasurer Bill reported that expenditures were within the estimated budget. (See treasurer's report) Bill requested that the rally master's budget include all rally expenditures including an allocation for the technical and nontechnical program unless the president has approved the use of club funds.

Wagon Master Freddi Condos outlined the rallies scheduled through 2005.

President Claude reviewed the past few years and club accomplishments during his term including the stabilization of the club's treasury and recovery of contingency funds.

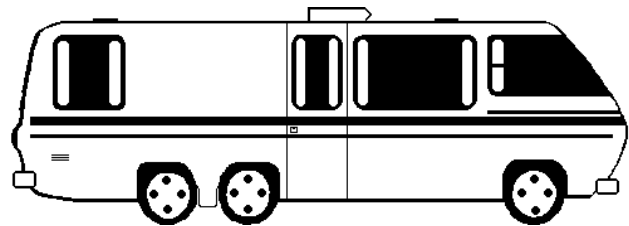
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING September 19, 2003

President Claude called the General Meeting to order at 1 PM. Two past presidents were present and recognized. It was moved, seconded, and approved to waive the reading of the previous meeting minutes. The secretary reported the current membership had increased to 430 as the result of three new members signing up at the rally.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted.

All incumbent officers willing to serve an additional term were introduced and elected by acclamation. President Claude then introduced Milt Wade as the new presidential candidate and gave a short biography. NO nominations were made from the floor. Milt was elected unanimously.

Larry Calhoun, Wagon Master of the Cascaders, invited all members to join the Cascaders as a group to attend the Northwest FMCA rally at Moses Lake, WA in August of '04. If we register as a group we will be located as a group. Registration information is available on the Cascaders web site at www.cascaders.org.



Watch for your 2004 membership renewal notices to arrive by mail during November or December. Don't miss out on next year's rallies and newsletters!

Treasurer's Report - Bill Shumway



GMC Western States Interim Financial Report:

12/15/02 - 09/30/03

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP	\$8,045.00
TEMECULA RALLY ADV. RTN.	\$1,100.00
TEMECULA RALLY PROFIT	\$444.65
TOTAL	\$9,589.65

EXPENDITURES

NEWSLETTER	\$1,984.45
ROSTER	\$772.63
DUES NOTICE	\$297.10
OFFICE	\$324.59
EMERALD DESERT RALLY ADV.	\$1,400.00
WEB MASTER	\$100.00
MISCELLANEOUS [BOARD]	\$452.19
PRESIDENT EXP.	\$138.27
TOTAL	\$5,469.23

BANK ACCOUNTS:

CHECKING ACCOUNT

12/15/02 BALANCE	\$7,802.05
2003 YR INCOME	\$9,589.65
2003 YR EXPENSE	\$5,469.23
CURRENT BAL.	\$11,922.47

INTEREST ACCOUNT

12/15/02 BALANCE	\$17,740.17
2003 YR. INTEREST	\$111.24
CURRENT BAL.	\$17,851.61

BALANCE - BOTH ACCTS. \$29,774.08

Note: OSOYOOS RALLY still to be finalized

Osoyoos Rally Report

About ninety coaches, including seventeen first timers, assembled in the beautiful Nk'Mip Resort RV Park, on the shore of Lake Osoyoos, in Canada's only pocket desert. We experienced a few light showers during the five days we were there. It was enough to help dampen the fires raging through parts of BC, but not enough to dampen our rally activities. Rallymaster Denny Allen and his able assistants had everything ready to welcome us. Our Technical and NonTechnical Vice Presidents, Gene Fisher and Dorris Garton, had scheduled sessions to keep us busy and informed. The meals catered by The Ridge Restaurant in Osoyoos were bountiful and delicious. Morning walks with Freddi Condos helped many of us start each day off with a little movin' and shakin'. It seemed that anyone who wanted to play Jokers and Marbles could always find a game going on somewhere, day or night. Also you could usually find small groups of people working on coaches here and there, even sometimes after dark. As usual, there was so much to do and so many people to see and visit with that it was hard to have time for everything. But that's how rallies are.

You'll find more details on our Technical Sessions in the Tech Center portion of this newsletter. Nontech Sessions included assembling and decorating tiny birdhouses with Sharon Cerrina, a Care and Share idea sharing session, and a session on Reducing the Risk of Respiratory Infections by Dorris Garton. On Wednesday of our week together, many of us took a bus tour to see the Keremeos Grist Mill and Living History Center, the S.S. Sicamous, a historic sternwheeler being restored in Penticton, BC, and one of the many wineries in the Okanagan Valley. The scenery in this part of British Columbia is certainly spectacular.

On our last evening in Osoyoos, we were treated to a Barbecued Salmon Dinner and then 50's music for listening and dancing by local entertainer Tom Shields. Thank you Denny for hosting such an enjoyable rally. You enticed a lot of us to join you in BC, and we're glad we came!

Judy Cherry, Rally Reporter

Attendees at Osoyoos Rally:

Denny and Fran Allen, Cowichan Bay, BC Canada
Jim and Olie Anstett, Loveland, CO
Jim and Sally Aucutt, Coeur d'Alene, ID *
Joe and Jenny Baker, Portland, OR
Buck and Roses Barrie, Dundee, OR *
Dwight and Ginny Bare, Mesa, AZ
Bernie and Kathy Bartko, Spruce Grove, Albt, Canada
George and Carol Baxter, Vashon Island, WA
Chuck Blanford and Lynn McGinnity, Post Falls, ID
Chuck and Mary Botts, San Diego, CA
Alan and Margaret Bovee, Powell Butte, OR
Terry and Jo Anne Boyd, Vancouver, WA
Zay and Betty Brand, Seal Beach, CA
Claude and Irene Brousson, Victoria, BC Canada
Jim , Mary, and James Brown, Loveland, CO *
Francis and Margery Burgess, Hanford, CA
Ed and Emma Burner, Fullerton, CA
Larry and Gaynor Calhoun, Oak Harbor, WA
Rob and Penny Cameron, Calgary, Albta, Canada
Dave and Arlene Cantrell, Rowland Heights, CA
Pat and Sharon Cerrina, La Habra, CA
Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ
Den and Ann Clark, Gardnerville, NV
Ron and Linda Clark, North Plains, OR
Bob and Susan Clarke, Jacksonville, OR *
Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA
Norm and Joan Engman, Olds, Albta, Canada
Chuck and Jane Field, Bainbridge Island, WA
Gene and Melissa Fisher, Livermore, CA
Richard Floyd, Courtenay, BC, Canada *
Irwin and Ilse Forsee, Burbank, CA
Chuck and Dorris Garton, Ridgecrest, CA
Betty Gaw and Marilyn Maxwell, Atascadero, CA
Laurence and Betty Gordon, Kirkland, WA
Frank and Carol Gray, Calgary, Albta, Canada
George and Doris Griffith, Lodi, CA
John and Vera Gruenwald, Anacortes, WA
Bob and Sylvia Gummersall, Mercer Island, WA *
Jim and Nancy Harding, Gresham, OR *
Russ Harms, Medicine Hat, Albta, Canada *
Phil and Joanne Hernandez, Fallbrook, CA
Carl and Helen Hove, Seahurst, WA
Dave and Linda Ireland, Williams Lake, BC, Canada
Tim and Cass Jones, West Linn, OR
Jim Kanomata, Belmont, CA
Gary and Judy Kaylor, Sacramento, CA
Harold and Bettie Kennedy, Loveland, CO
Al and Janet Kruebbe, Sequim, WA *
Alex and Margo Landskron, Edmonton, Albta, Canada *
Leon and Lucille Leinan, Bremerton, WA
Fred and Ruth Leitch, LaGrande, OR
John Lennartson, Sandpoint, ID
Bill and Jo Lingrey, Downey, CA
John and Catherine Lonsdale, Delta, BC, Canada *
Carl and Lita Malone, Coarsegold, CA
Bob and Ruth Martin, Coronado, CA
Jack and Alice McKenzie, Walnut Creek, CA *
Joe and Rose McMichael, Walla Walla, WA
Bud and Marlene Meineken, Kendrick, ID
Mike Nooney and June Timmons, Issaquah, WA *
Larry and Nancy Oakley, Reno, NV
Bob and Pat O'Betz, Vista, CA
Vern and Mary Olson, Edmonds, WA
Walt Ovens, Seattle, WA
Rod and Maurrie Price, Vancouver, WA
Gene and Carol Ransom, Grants Pass, OR
Gene and Marie Rizzolo, Lodi, CA
Marilyn Rowland, Venice, CA
Bill and Dorothy Shumway, San Jose, CA

Duane and Billie Simmons, Orange, CA
Alan and Janet Sims, Edmonton, Albta, Canada *
Phil and Wendy Singleton, Roseburg, OR
Terry and Diane Skinner, Tacoma, WA *
Bill and Kib Smith, Long Beach, CA
Robert and Elizabeth Smith, Delta, BC, Canada
Ed and Eileen Staal, Redondo Beach, CA
Emery and Michelle Stora, Santa Fe, NM
Wendell and Lola Streech, Capistrano Beach, CA
John and Darlene Sue, Oakland, CA
Ted and Jane Swanson, Olympia, WA
Tom and Margie Thompson, Portland, OR
Manny and Deo Trovao, San Jose, CA
Marc and Lillian Trubert, Coarsegold, CA
Milt Wade, N. Las Vegas, NV
Fred and Rose Walsh, Swift Current, Sask., Canada *
Ken and Jean Wilson, Anacortes, WA
Dan and Carol Winchester, Portland, OR
Heinz and Louise Wittenbecher, Langley, BC, Canada *
David and Leone Wood, Coronado, CA
Ted and Mary Wood, Victoria, BC, Canada
Jerry and Sharon Work, Kerby, OR

* First Timers at this rally

For pictures of the Osoyoos Rally First Timers, see our website at www.gmcws.org Pictures in the Photo Section of this newsletter marked with a JL were taken by John Lennartson. All others were taken by Mike or Judy Cherry

Summary of Nontech Seminar on Reducing the Risk of Respiratory Infections by Dorris Garton:

Most people think they catch colds and other respiratory infections by inadvertently putting germs in their mouths. But our resident RN says we get such infections by touching our noses or eyes with our fingertips. She recommends using the back of your hands or wrists to scratch as needed. Dorris is a firm believer in hand washing with soap. She was responsible for the foaming soap containers in our restrooms at the rally. She says antibacterial soaps aren't necessary, that the mechanical action of rubbing with soapy foam and rinsing will do a good enough job.

There are over 200 identified microbes or virus that can cause cold-type illnesses. The people who make decisions about the flu vaccine for each winter season must do so by predicting which strains of virus will be most prevalent that year. This is done six months ahead to insure that there will be adequate vaccine when the flu season starts. Dorris recommends that you get your flu vaccine in early November because it loses its effectiveness after 3 to 4 months and the flu season can continue into March or April. She also emphasized the importance of the pneumonia vaccine, especially as we age and our immune systems begin to weaken.

A Reminder from Dorris Garton:

If you presented something at the Share and Care Session for women in Osoyoos, please write it up and send it to Dorris so it can be included in a catalog or perhaps on our GMC WS website. Dorris Garton, 604 Las Posas St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 or dorris777@earthlink.net

Also, if you are interested in making a crocheted tote bag out of plastic grocery bags at our next rally, you should begin to collect 100 bags to bring with you. A finished tote bag is pictured below.



**Next Rally: Emerald Desert
March 15 - 20, 2004**

Come and spend St. Patrick's Day with us out at Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA. We will be spending 5 nights (March 15 thru 20th). This Spring rally of 2004 will be filled with lots of fun things to do, great entertainment, wonderful food, and especially being with our good GMC buddies out in the desert of Southern California. Anyone arriving early or staying late needs to make reservations through Emerald Desert RV Resort...1 800 426-4678. Stayed tuned for more information..Dave and Donna deGraffenreid.

Western States Rally Schedule

- Spring 2004 Emerald Desert RV Resort
Palm Desert, CA
March 15-20, 2004
Rallymasters:
Dave & Donna deGraffenreid
- Fall 2004 Albuquerque, NM
Oct 5 -10, 2004
Rallymaster: Al Chernoff
- Spring 2005 Canyon Vistas RV Resort
Gold Canyon, AZ
March 21 - 26, 2005
Rallymasters: Dwight and Ginny Bare
- Fall 2005 Rallymaster: Kerry Tandy

A Note from Bettie Kennedy:

Those of you who attended the Cody, WY Rally in the fall of 2002 may remember meeting John Sapp, Jr. who attended the rally with his daughter, Connie. John is the gentleman who makes the Jokers and Marbles Games Bettie usually brings to our Rally Swapmeets. His sight has been failing in recent years, but he still manages to crank out these games for people who want them. He loves to be needed in this way because it keeps him occupied and involved. Anyone who wants a game may contact him by mail or phone at:

John Sapp, Jr.
349 S. Newcomb St.
Lakewood, CO 80226
303-475-3312

A Snake in the Grass:

The visitor below came to our campground during the swapmeet, but all he bought was some excitement among the humans there. The campground staff likes these bull or gopher snakes because they eat rodents and rattlesnakes.



Coaches For Sale

*We welcome your ad. Each ad will be run for one year unless you tell us to continue. **Please tell us when your coach has been sold** or if you want to stop the ad before it runs out. The last four digits are the month and year of the expiration date.*
Contact: 928-445-7875 or jcherry@northlink.com

1976 Birchaven 23' – 74,000 original miles. Interior renovated in teak wood. Custom exterior paint. TV, roof air, pod, cook top, microwave (no oven), rear bath, excellent condition, set up for two people, smogged and ready to go. Asking \$25,000.
 Bob Philbrick, Riverside, CA 909-683-0565

1003

1977 Palm Beach 26' with 455 engine. Complete new paint job using PPG Series base coat/clear coat. New rub rail with stainless steel end caps. New door seal, running lights and roof vents for holding tanks and refrigerator. New windshields. Zip-Dee awnings, full length, both sides. New stainless steel hot water heater. All new solid oak cabinets throughout. Thorley Tri-Y exhaust headers. New Bilstein shock absorbers. New 3.42 final drive from Cinnabar. Seven new Alcoa forged aluminum wheels with Cooper tires plus one more new tire. Many more good features.
 Asking \$26,900 OBO.
 Don Swagman, Naples, FL, 239-793-4121, dps4@earthlink.net

1003

1977 Coca Cola 403 engine (fresh 455 available). Wallace hubs, Bilstein shocks, Caspro powerdrive, steering box, front stabilizer. Flowmasters. Alcoa wheels w/ Goodyears. Rear hitch. Roof ladder, storage pod, A & E awnings. Electric step. Recent custom base coat, clear coat repaint in 3 silver tones. Original red interior. Two roof airs, pleated shades, microwave, Norcold 3-way refrig. Always garaged. Many happy miles spent in this coach. Asking \$24,000.
 Don Klusman, Scottsdale, AZ 480-585-5599

0204

1978 Custom 26' 455 engine, port fuel injection, turbocharged, 3 air, rear disk brakes, Tru-Trac with 4 air bag rear suspension, 16" aluminum wheels with 245/75 Goodyears, macerator, custom interior, Levelor blinds with valances, laminate floor, 40 gal. gray water tank under 80" rear bed. Much more. Call for an extensive list of upgrades and modifications. \$29,500 OBO. Seller: Ralph Brumbaugh, Wasilla, AK (907) 373-3726. Coach is in Missouri with Ralph's son Jonny Brumbaugh at (606) 747-3353. He can show the coach and has all the details about it.

0604

1975 Glenbrook 26' 455 engine with 22,065 original miles. Updated in 2001 and 2002 including: dash air compressor, belts/hoses, 1 roof bubble, 1 Fantastic Fan, Daylight window shades, new captain and passenger chairs, new upholstery, new carpet, burnished welcome step, macerator. Original owner's manual included plus detailed list of specific items checked and updated from 2000 to 2002 (including money spent on them!) Asking \$20,000 OBO. Contact T.A. or Michelle Heckel in Fresno, CA. (559) 275-0844 or (559) 307-7227.

0604

1974 Painted Desert 26' 78,000, 4K on rebuilt 455, transmission, brakes, bias ply, door and window moulding. All air bags, lines, compressor new. Ext. sun visor, extra passenger air conditioner. Ext. paint 2 yrs old. Interior mostly original, like new. Microwave. Asking \$19,500. Richard Klux, Phoenix, AZ, 623-584-2874, irklux@aol.com

1005

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. Website: "www.gmcws.org", **Billy and Debbie Massey**

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Did everyone notice Frank's Fancy Flames on his newly completed paint job?





Rallymaster Denny Allen in Formal Attire



Irene and Claude Brousson JL



Experts Panel #1 JL



Gene Fisher with Front Jacking Tool



Experts Panel #2



George Baxter's Fan Demo JL



Dorris Garton Promotes Healthy Behavior



Emery Stora Talking Air Conditioning



Campground Scenery #1



Campground Scenery #2



Talking Things Over at the Fishers' Coach



Denny Allen's "Store"



Pre Dinner Conversations JL



Enjoying our Breakfast JL



Our Caterers from The Ridge JL



Salmon on the Grill



The Keremeos Gristmill



Making Bannock



Inside the Gristmill



Sampling Bannock and Tea



Touring the SS Sicamous



Looking Over the Vineyards



A Melon That's Really a Gourd



We're Always Talking or Eating



Showing Off Birdhouses



Birdhouses #2



Birdhouses #3



Playing Jokers and Marbles



Morning Walkers with Freddi



Walkers' View from the Winery



Walkers in the Apple Orchard



Dancing to Music by Tom Shields