



# GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 55 – April 15, 2004

## President's Message from Milt Wade



Another great roundup with 122 coaches attending has come and gone at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, CA. It was hosted superbly by Dave and Donna deGraffenreid. Emerald Desert is a beautiful facility, and the weather was very cooperative. Those that signed up for the gondola ride received quite an experience. The gondola traveled from the valley floor to over 8000 ft., close to the top of Mt. San Jacinto. The gondola slowly rotates 360 degrees while it's in motion allowing all passengers to get a total view. We were treated to a very nice buffet at the lodge. It was my first gondola ride.

Our next roundup is to be held in Albuquerque, NM at the State Fairgrounds there, Oct.5-10, 2004, and it promises to be spectacular. The roundup coincides with the annual balloon festival. Al Chernoff is hosting the second time around with this roundup. He hosted the first time in the fall of 1999 with the same format. That roundup proved to be very successful with 140 coaches

attending. Hopefully we'll have even more attendees at this next roundup.

Plans for this roundup include the Balloon Fiesta with mass ascensions of over 800 balloons, a Flea Market at the fairgrounds each weekend, a Bingo Night with snacks and treats, optional tours to Santa Fe and Shodoni Foundry, to Old Town Albuquerque, and the Tram to the Sandia Mountain Crest for dinner. There is a casino at the Fairgrounds also. The cost will be \$275 for two people and coach and \$225 for one person and coach. Meals provided will include breakfast each day and several catered dinners (Mexican, pasta, pizza, BBQ). Gene Fisher is putting together a good variety of technical sessions, and Dorris Garton is doing the same for nontechnical sessions.

The FMCA International Convention will be held Aug.16, 17, 18, and 19, 2004 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo grounds in Redmond, OR. Larry Calhoun, the Cascaders' Wagonmaster submitted the following: Group parking is in place. All you have to do is to submit the registration form in the FMCA magazine and write in **BIG** letters "GMC" in the Coach Make & Model space. He's going to post this message on the GMCnet also. Larry needs you to e-mail him when you register with FMCA to help with the numbers in working with the parking crew. His e-mail address is: lcalcharly@juno.com. The Cascaders had 60 GMCs at the last FMCA rally at Moses Lake, WA. Larry hopes we'll have an even better turnout this time. It was quite a sight when 60 GMCs came in together amongst all of those high end coaches.

Just a reminder in parting, that the dues at FMCA have been raised to \$45 a year for new members, and \$35 a year for membership renewals. I hope to see you all down the road at either the FMCA Convention at Redmond, OR and/or at the Balloon Festival at Albuquerque, NM.

Milt Wade – President, GMC Western States

**Secretary's Report – Frank Condos**



**GMC Western States Executive Board Meeting  
March 17, 2004  
Emerald Desert Resort, Palm Desert, CA**

The meeting was called to order by President Milt Wade. Present were First VP Dorris Garton, Technical VP Gene Fisher, Secretary Frank Condos, FMCA National Director, Norm Kasch, State Representatives Manny Trovao, Mike Cherry, and Harold and Betty Kennedy. The newsletter editor, Judy Cherry also attended.

Milt Wade announced the need for the nominating committee to find replacement candidates for the Technical VP, Treasurer, and Wagonmaster for the fall election.

The Secretary's report indicated 378 currently paid members since the first of the year. The 2004 membership roster is available and included in the attendee packages. The remainder will be mailed this week. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the secretary's report.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Dorris Garton reported the club's first aid kit was being updated and revised to eliminate out of date supplies. She will investigate the advisability of the club obtaining a defibrillator as part of the kit.

The FMCA National director reported the extension of dues paid before the end of March can be made at the old rate of \$20 per year for up to five years or through 2009. Norm Kasch reported he and Kerry Tandy were trading off attending FMCA Conventions depending

upon locations. The occasional barring of older coaches (more than ten years old) at some parks was discussed. Norm Kasch was requested to bring this to the FMCA for a possible way of identifying such parks so they could be avoided.

Under new business, the board approved the payment of \$300 toward the speaker at the women's tea. The board also approved a motion to authorize Al Chernoff to purchase a video projector for the women's program at the Fall Rally.

**GMC Western States General Meeting  
Emerald Desert Resort, Palm Desert, CA  
March 19, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Milt Wade. Milt recognized past presidents in attendance and introduced the officers.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting since they were published in the newsletter. The secretary reported that the current membership stood at 380 with 2 new members signing up at the rally. The 2004 rosters were included in the attendee's packet. The rest are being mailed.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The wagon master outlined the upcoming rally dates and locations through 2005.

Norm Kasch, the FMCA national director covered the FMCA Redmond, OR. Rally for August and the importance of the FMCA medical evacuation benefits from FMCA, citing the experience of two of our members. There were no requests under the call for new business.

**Treasurer's Report - Bill Shumway**



**GMC Western States Financial Report:**

**2003 Year End Report  
12/15/02 - 12/30/03**

**INCOME\***

**MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$8,105.00
TEMECULA RALLY ADV. RTN.	\$1,100.00
TEMECULA RALLY PROFIT	\$444.65
OSOYOOS RALLY PROFIT	\$95.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,744.65</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

NEWSLETTER	\$2,971.73
ROSTER	\$772.63
DUES NOTICE	\$448.68
OFFICE	\$324.59
EMERALD DESERT RALLY ADV.	\$1,400.00
ALBUQUERQUE RALLY ADV.	\$375.00
WEB ACCOUNT.	\$100.00
PRESIDENT EXP.	\$138.27
MISCELLANEOUS {BOARD}	\$600.09
SHIPPING	\$130.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,260.99</b>

**BANK ACCOUNTS:**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

12/15/02 BALANCE	\$7,802.05
2003 YR. INCOME	\$9,744.65
2003 YR. EXPENSE	\$7,260.99
<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$10,285.71</b>

**INTEREST ACCOUNT.**

12/15/02 BALANCE	\$17,740.17
2003 YR INTEREST	\$137.97
<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$17,878.14</b>

**BALANCE (Both Accounts) \$28,163.85**

\*Doesn't include interest of \$137.97

\*\*Includes 2004 membership dues of \$420.00

**01/1/04 - 04/5/04 GMC WS INTERIM FIN.  
REPORT - YEAR 2004**

**INCOME**

MEMBERSHIP	\$7,520.00
RALLY ADV. RTN.	\$0.00
RALLY PROFIT	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,520.00</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

NEWSLETTER	\$0.00
ROSTER	\$1,006.31
DUES NOTICE	\$49.95
BANK CHARGE	\$22.79
CAPITAL EXP.	\$239.64
STATE FEE	\$20.00
MISCEL. {BOARD}	\$452.55
PRESIDENT EXP.	\$0.00
WEB MASTER EXP.	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,791.24</b>

**BANK ACCOUNTS:**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

12/30/03 BALANCE	\$10,285.61
2004 YR. INCOME	\$7,520.00
2004 YR. EXPENSE	\$1,791.24
<b>CURRENT BAL.</b>	<b>\$16,014.37</b>

**INTEREST ACCOUNT**

12/30/ 03 BALANCE	\$17,878.14
2004 YR. INTEREST	\$26.90
<b>CURRENT BAL.</b>	<b>\$17,905.04</b>

**BALANCE {BOTH ACCT'S} \$33,919.41**

Note: EMERALD DESERT RALLY  
still to be finalized

## **Emerald Desert Rally Report**

About 122 GMC coaches gathered on the beautiful grounds of the Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert for five days of learning, camaraderie, and fun. The weather was warmer than normal (90s) during the day and we were glad to have our air conditioners, but the evenings, nights, and mornings were quite cool. Rally masters Dave and Donna deGraffenreid were ready with all their plans for a successful rally.

Two of our dinners were barbecued and presented by Duane Simmons, Zay Brand, and their able helpers from Pacific Cruisers. Delicious! The other two dinners and all our breakfasts were catered by Linda and her helpers from the Emerald Desert Resort. The variety and quality of the food was excellent.

Fiddle Girl entertained us two evenings with Irish music and Country Western music. She's a very accomplished and infectious performer. Jim Rowe arranged an evening of learning about and tasting bourbon. We all learned a lot about how bourbons vary and how to sample them. Bourbon is a genuine American tradition. Audree Rowe planned and directed our Victorian Tea with lovely sandwiches, cookies, and of course tea. She invited Shelley Cooper who taught us about women's beauty culture through history, and displayed some of her personal collection and the jewelry she designs and manufactures. Audree was assisted by quite a few helpers, including men who served as waiters (dressed in aprons made by Beverly Lopez). A number of rally folks rode the Palm Springs Tram to the top of the mountain for dinner one evening, where they enjoyed the mountain weather and the view. Another evening found some of us trying out our stage presence with the karaoke machine. The game players were out in force, some playing Jokers and Marbles every chance they could get. Freddi Condos helped many of us start each day with a good stretch and walk.

With all this, the swap meet, Open Houses, tech sessions, crafts, discussions on health, and more, there was something for everyone. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this a great rally. To those who didn't attend, join us on our next one.

Judy Cherry

### **A Message From Freddi:**

Kudos to those energized GMC WS walkers. All 20+ of you hung in there until the end. Even had a minor spill that was more embarrassing than injurious. I know you are all continuing to S T R E T C H and WALK several times a week. The fall rally is just around the corner and the pavement is waiting for our tracks. Have a fun filled summer and keep moving to maintain flexibility and a healthier Y O U! Freddi Condos

## **West Nile Virus Medical Seminar By Dorris Garton**

This concerns an infection caused by the West Nile virus, which is spread to people by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus. Approximately 20% of people infected may experience a mild illness with fever, headache, eye pain, muscle aches, joint pain, a rash on the trunk, swollen lymph nodes, or nausea and vomiting. Less than 1% of people infected will become severely ill. Symptoms of severe illness include extreme muscle weakness, inflammation of the brain, paralysis, and coma. It is rarely fatal. So far they think you can get it only once, but they don't know what the long range effects will be.

It is coming to California, Washington and Oregon this year. Health authorities start checking birds and chickens. Crows and blue jays show it first. Some West Nile virus showed in California last fall. The peak season is from April to October. The control plan is getting rid of breeding places, such as standing water areas in and around your yard (ceramic pots, bird baths, roof gutters, etc.).

Protect yourself from mosquito bites by: limiting time spent outside at dawn and dusk; wear shoes, socks, long sleeve shirts and long pants; apply insect repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, you don't need to go over 30% DEET in a product, it just gets more expensive) on those areas of your body not covered by clothing; stay away from bushes during the day; and don't wear perfume.

Make sure your home and RV window and door screens are in good repair. Carry Off Lamp (candle) in your coach. Mosquitoes are attracted by carbon dioxide. Thiamine (vitamin B) is a good repellent. It may work for some, not for others.

More information can be found at the Division of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

## Attendees at Emerald Desert Rally:

Ray and Judy Alden, St. Augustine, FL  
Edward and Judy Allen, Harper, TX \*  
Chuck and Bernie Aulgur, La Mesa, CA  
Dwayne and Lucille Barclay, Nanoos Bay, BC, Canada \*  
Dwight and Ginny Bare, Mesa, AZ  
Gary and Diana Berry, Manteca, CA  
Jack and Sally Biersdorff, Hollister, CA \*  
Ken and Judy Booth, Lake Havasu City, AZ  
Chuck and Mary Botts, San Diego, CA  
Jim Bounds, Orlando, FL  
Terry and Jo Anne Boyd, Vancouver, WA  
Bernice Brady and Joe Rubio, San Pedro, CA  
Zay and Betty Brand, Seal Beach, CA  
Claude and Irene Brousson, Victoria, BC Canada  
Francis and Margery Burgess, Hanford, CA  
Ed and Emma Burner, Fullerton, CA  
Dave and Arlene Cantrell, Rowland Heights, CA  
Skip and Patti Carlson, San Diego, CA  
Ken and Betty Carlsted, Rocklin, CA \*  
Pat and Sharon Cerrina, La Habra, CA  
Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ  
Don and Lois Claar, Lake Havasu City, AZ  
Den and Ann Clark, Gardnerville, NV  
John and Bev Clement, Corona, CA  
Gene and Irma Cole, Carmichael, CA  
Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA  
Jim and Joann Cook, Thousand Oaks, CA  
Bob Cook, Redondo Beach, CA  
Gary and Wilda Cook, El Paso, TX \*  
Jerry and Suzanne Covington, San Dimas, CA  
Bert and Fay Curtis, Kneeland, CA  
Cal and Sharyn Danielson, Napa, CA \*  
Bill and Joan Daubenspeck, Temecula, CA \*  
Bill and Lill Deal, San Diego, CA \*  
Dave and Donna deGraffenreid, Costa Mesa, CA  
Cec and Ann Dunning, McKinleyville, CA  
Charlie and Terry Edwards, Oceanside, CA  
Duane and Amelia Edwards, La Mesa, CA  
Russ and Barbara Ellis, Sun City, CA  
Steve and Nancy Ferguson, Spring Valley, CA  
Gene and Melissa Fisher, Livermore, CA  
Larry and Barbara Frear, Aptos, CA  
Ray and Barbara Gandola, Buena Park, CA  
Chuck and Dorris Garton, Ridgecrest, CA  
Betty Gaw and Marilyn Maxwell, Atascadero, CA  
Roy and Karin Gosen, Hacienda Heights, CA  
Jack and Deanna Gray, Napa, CA \*  
George and Doris Griffith, Lodi, CA  
George Groth, Carson City, NV \*  
Greta Hayward, Oceanside, CA  
Fred and Pat Heidner, Santa Barbara, CA  
Phil and Joanne Hernandez, Fallbrook, CA  
Bob and Dorothy Hooten, Downey, CA  
Carl and Helen Hove, Seahurst, WA  
Art and Priscilla James, Cerritos, CA \*  
Charlie and Patricia Kanenbley, Anaheim, CA  
Jim Kanomata, Belmont, CA  
Norm and Julia Kasch, Littleton, CO  
Harold and Bettie Kennedy, Loveland, CO  
Gary and Selma Lachman, Glendora, CA \*  
Robert Leary, San Diego, CA \*  
Fred and Ruth Leitch, LaGrande, OR  
Bob and Raye Lenson, Coronado, CA  
Steve and Deb Lester, Seattle, WA \*  
Tom and Brenda Lester, La Jolla, CA  
Bill and Jo Lingrey, Downey, CA  
Tony and Kathy Lloyd, Castro Valley, CA  
Dave and Beverly Lopez, Altadena, CA

Toby and Nancy Maki, Riverside, CA  
Bob and Ruth Martin, Coronado, CA  
Tom and Faylene Mason, Clovis, CA  
Joe and Rose McMichael, Walla Walla, WA  
Frank and Jan McQuilliams, San Diego, CA  
John Meier, Alta Loma, CA \*  
Gordon and Helen Miller, Arcadia, CA  
Terry and Gloria Morris, Seattle, WA  
Ralph and Annie Mundia, Yorba Linda, CA \*  
Bob Nerrie, Redwood City, CA  
John and Ann Nelson, Westlake Village, CA  
Gus and Jane Nottberg, Loveland, CO \*  
BeBe and Nancy Pettit, Prescott, AZ  
Win and Jackie Porteous, Camarillo, CA  
Rod and Maurrie Price, Vancouver, WA  
Donna Prishmont, Incline Village, NV  
Gene and Carol Ransom, Grants Pass, OR  
Jim and Jeanette Richardson, Solvang, CA  
Gene and Marie Rizzolo, Lodi, CA  
Richard Roberts, National City, CA \*  
Marilyn Rowland, Venice, CA  
Jim and Audree Rowe, San Dimas, CA  
Doc and Alice Scott, Santa Barbara, CA  
Ernie and Ann Seth, Glendale, CA  
John and Alyce Shutzbaugh, Vacaville, CA  
Duane and Billie Simmons, Orange, CA  
Len and Betty Simmons, Rogue River, OR  
Alex and Ramona Sirum, Okeechobee, FL  
Henry and Marge Sirum, Juno Isles, FL \*  
J.R. and Jeanne Slaten, Louisville, KY  
Bill and Kib Smith, Long Beach, CA  
Bob Sobrito, La Mesa, CA  
Lyle and Beth Srsen, Sutter Creek, CA \*  
Ed and Eileen Staal, Redondo Beach, CA  
Craig and Joan Stanley, Eldorado Hills, CA  
Warren Steinman and Nora Westphal, Sacramento, CA  
Wendell and Lola Streech, Capistrano Beach, CA  
John and Darlene Sue, Oakland, CA  
Phil Swanson, Bonita, CA  
Frank and Norma Sullivan, Sierra Madre, CA  
Terry and Debra Taylor, San Lorenzo, CA  
Cal Terry, Reseda, CA  
Brian and Joy Tripp, Chula Vista, CA  
Manny and Deo Trovao, San Jose, CA  
Al and Nan Vinzant, San Diego, CA  
Milt Wade, N. Las Vegas, NV  
Rod and Lee Walling, Palm Desert, CA  
Fred and Rose Walsh, Swift Current, Sask., Canada  
Chuck Will, Lompoc, CA  
Dan and Carol Winchester, Portland, OR  
Heinz and Louise Wittenbecher, Langley, BC, Canada  
David and Leone Wood, Coronado, CA  
Jerry and Sharon Work, Kerby, OR  
Fred and Helen Wulff, Penngrove, CA  
Jack and Helen Wykle, Bullhead City, AZ

\* First Timers at this rally

For pictures of the Emerald Desert Rally First Timers, see our website at [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org)

The following true story was told to us by Helen Miller in a nontechnical session at the Emerald Desert Rally. She graciously agreed to share the story in this issue of our newsletter. We were all so pleased to have Gordon and Helen attend this rally, their first since the events of this story unfolded.

## On The Rock by Helen Miller

On September 10th, 2003 Gordon and I started out for a GMC motorhome rally being held in British Columbia, Canada. By the 13<sup>th</sup>, we were in Idaho and had stopped to make a sandwich at a rest stop (45 miles from the nearest town). After eating, Gordon felt pain in his chest. He lay down on the floor of the motorhome and asked if we had an aspirin. We didn't, so I went to several people at the rest stop asking if anyone had one. A couple pulled into the rest stop and the woman said she had an aspirin. Meanwhile, I felt Gordon's arms and they were in a cold sweat. I called 911. The operator asked what the problem was and where we were. I told her that I thought my husband might be having a heart attack. While I was still on the phone, a person trained in Emergency Medicine who was going by that location stopped to see what the problem was. She went into the motorhome to check on Gordon. Just minutes later an ambulance arrived and they loaded Gordon on a stretcher to take him to a hospital in Grangeville. Because I have never driven the motor home, the couple that had given Gordon the aspirin offered to follow the ambulance and drive the motor home the 45 miles north to the hospital.

Arriving at the emergency room in the hospital, they started doing tests to determine if Gordon was having a heart attack. All tests seemed to indicate that it was a stomach problem and he was admitted to the hospital. The doctor offered to drive our motor home to a small RV park just next door to the hospital. Gordon was kept in the hospital for observation over night and the following day, Sunday, he was released with medicine to treat a stomach problem. This was a new experience for us, because Gordon had never experienced any problem like this before, stomach or otherwise. While we were in the hospital we read a newspaper in which there was an article telling that John Ritter had died several days before from an aneurism.

The next two days we just stayed in the motor home and rested. There was a market nearby, a pharmacy, the hospital, and even an espresso coffee shop. I could easily walk to get whatever we needed. So we just took it easy. We were expecting to leave each day, but Gordon didn't seem to be regaining the energy to proceed to British Columbia or to return home.

On Tuesday afternoon, I walked back across the street to the hospital to get copies of the tests that were done on Saturday to take home to our doctor. While I was at the counter waiting for the papers, one

of the doctors who had seen Gordon on Saturday said, "Well, you're still here. Are you checking out the sights?" I replied that Gordon was still very tired and was sleeping a lot, which was very unusual for him. He said, "Have him come up to the office tomorrow so we can check him out."

On Wednesday morning we walked three blocks to the doctor's office. The doctor said there was something that couldn't be explained in the chest x-ray and she wanted Gordon to have a CT scan. This was arranged, and at 2 p.m. he had the scan. The info had to be transmitted to Boise, Idaho, and then back to Grangeville. At 4 p.m. the doctor called and said to come to the hospital immediately. We walked up the street, but still didn't know the reason. The doctor told us that Gordon had an aneurism that was leaking and this was a very critical situation. They put him on a gurney and started giving him medicine. Meanwhile, she told me to pack a bag because we were going to be airlifted to Spokane for immediate open heart surgery. I asked her if he could die, and her response was, "Yes, anytime." She called a chaplain, who prayed for Gordon. She then told me that I would probably get lost in the emergency and that I would have a difficult time finding a place to stay near Gordon. The doctor's nurse, Karen, told Gordon and me that she and her husband would drive the motorhome to their house and that we could make arrangements to pick it up anytime.

I called family and friends to let them know what was happening and to request prayer. Earlier in the day I had called our church, requesting prayer, for what I wasn't sure, but something seemed to be wrong with Gordon.

We were taken by ambulance to a waiting plane and two emergency nurses started preparing him for the upcoming surgery. We were in Spokane by 9:15 p.m. and were met by the surgeon who was on call. His name was Dr. Neil Worrall. He told us that Gordon had an aneurism and that when an aneurism develops, each hour a person survives his chances of surviving drop by 1%. I thought back from the time this pain started and realized it was now 104 hours after it had started and according to statistics Gordon should be dead. He told me that the surgery would take about 5 hours and he would come and talk with me about 2 a.m. They whisked Gordon off immediately to begin the surgery. I met the team and the anesthesiologist. A nurse named Laura told me she would call me with updates.

I returned to the cardiac intensive care unit where we were brought and a nurse told me that she would make a bed for me in a little conference room. She brought in a telephone and brought me a sandwich

and coffee. I picked up the book I had grabbed from our motor home, called *Radiant Glory*, by Gordon Gardiner. It is the biography of Martha Wing Robinson who had been healed by the Lord and used in a mighty way. In this book, which Gordon and I had been reading earlier that afternoon, Martha had been so sick that she felt like a hopeless invalid. She had sought healing and was very discouraged that she had not been healed. One day while praying a minister asked her to read Exodus 33: v. 21, 22. about how Moses had waited patiently on **The Rock** for the Lord to pass by. In other words, God has shown you **The Rock**, and you have to stand upon it.

I prayed and reminded God that Gordon and I were standing on **The Rock, Jesus Christ**. We had given our lives over to Him years before and were now just standing on **The Rock**.

Later, I went to sleep and awoke and looked at my watch and saw that it was about 3 a.m. I wondered why Gordon wasn't back down in CICU (cardiac intensive care unit) and why no one had called. About 4 a.m., Laura called and said they were having trouble, that Gordon had been on the heart bypass machine for 4 hours and they were experiencing difficulty. I told her I wanted her to make a public statement in the operating room, that almost everyone I knew was praying for Gordon and that we were also praying for the surgeon. I continued to pray and reminded the Lord that both Gordon and I were standing on **The Rock**. At 4:30 a.m., Laura called again to say that things had changed, and were going better, but it would still be several more hours.

I didn't go out of the room I was in to ask what was happening, I just felt that we were standing on **The Rock** and someone eventually would come and tell me what was happening. I said "Lord, I am not going to run up the road, or down the road, I am just standing on your Word." Also, that night while reading the Bible, I turned to Psalm 71, verse 3, "Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are **My Rock** and my fortress."

One of the nurses came in to see if I was ok. She asked me if I knew anything about the surgeon who was operating on my husband. I didn't, so she told me that he was a Cardiothoracic Surgeon who also did Pediatric surgery and was one of the ten best surgeons in the United States. She said that he had graduated from Johns Hopkins, trained at Harvard Medical School, and graduated from Washington University of Medicine. She also said that if she or any member of her family needed heart surgery, she would want Dr. Worrall to do it.

At 7:30 a.m., Gordon was brought down from surgery to the CICU. Dr. Worrall, had been up all night. He came to talk with me and told me that the operation had been much more intensive than they had expected and that Gordon was very lucky. He said that the aneurism was just above where the coronary artery connects to the heart, and that if the tear had been one-half inch further up, he would have died instantly. He said the coronary artery was shredded and that his body had formed a clot on the tear which was keeping him from bleeding to death. They had to replace a section of the artery and do an arch graft (this is the area where the aorta divides into sections, sending blood to the arms and the brain). He also had to replace the aortic valve with a St. Jude's aortic valve and put in 2 bypasses. He was so tired, that I just thanked him. When I saw Gordon being brought down I was so incredibly happy, I went to call our family about the success.

As the day wore on, a dear friend flew in from Los Angeles to be with us for several days. In recovery, the nurses commented that Gordon was doing better than expected. They were removing the breathing equipment and other tubes quicker than normal. This improvement just continued the following day.

After Gordon started to improve and I could talk to him, I remembered our motor home, which was still in Idaho. Somehow I got the idea to call the rally people in British Columbia and ask if I could pay someone to drive it back to southern Calif. When I called, I was told that our membership in the Family Motor Coach of America would cover emergency expenses of getting our motor home back home. This all worked out wonderfully, and on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the motor home was delivered to our backyard.

Gordon was released from the hospital three days earlier than expected, but we were told that we should stay in Spokane for three additional days, to make sure Gordon wasn't having any problems. The chaplain in the hospital made arrangements for us to stay at a beautiful inn along the Spokane River at a reduced rate. We were able to just walk and sit in the sun and relax and watch the ducks and birds.

We flew home on September 27 and Gordon is doing very well. The incisions are healing quickly and he is regaining his strength slowly. We are so very thankful for each and every one of you and for your prayers for us. We are also thankful for the calls so many of you made to see how we were doing, and for those who visited with us. The Lord was with us every step of the way and helped us stay planted on **The Rock**.

In His Love, Helen and Gordon Miller

## Personal Corner

We are saddened by the sudden passing of Bob O'Betz on February 21<sup>st</sup> at his home in Vista, CA. His wife Pat attended our Red Hat Tea at Emerald Desert, and many friends were glad for the opportunity to talk with her. She reports the local Hospice Chapter is offering her bereavement counseling, and she wanted to be sure Western States members know that this might be available in their home areas too.



Former GMC WS NonTech Vice President and Wagonmaster Marilyn Harvey is home in CO fighting ovarian cancer with chemotherapy. At the Emerald Desert rally many women signed a card for Marilyn and she sent this reply:

**To the Women of Western States:**  
**It was such a wonderful surprise to receive the card signed by so many of my friends. Western States is a great organization. I enjoyed every minute I spent with it. Thank you so very much.**  
**Love, Marilyn Harvey**

The photos in this issue's photo pages were taken by Greta Hayward (labeled GH), by Heinz Wittenbecher (labeled HW), and Mike or Judy Cherry.

## 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**

**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 Klix, Phoenix, AZ, 623-584-2874, [irklix@aol.com](mailto:irklix@aol.com)

1004

**1978 Royale 26'** Center kitchen, side dry bath. Rebuilt transmission with 3.42 Cinnabar final drive. Thorley headers. Color coordinated ZipDee awnings, full length, both sides. Bilstein shock absorbers. Rear hitch. Roof ladder and storage pod. 3 way fridge. Macerator. Remodeled interior with expanded living area. Rear twin beds. Includes manuals and GMC Western States and GMC International newsletters. Call for pictures and list of additional upgrades. Asking \$25,900. Chuck Davenport, CA 707-451-1092.

1204

**1977 Eleganza II 26'**. Good mech. condition. 8K on rebuilt 403 engine and transmission and a new 3.42 final drive. Thorley headers, new mufflers, and 3" exhaust. Fairly new gas-elect. refrigerator/freezer. Stereo, tape deck, 8 changer CD player, speakers, and CB radio. Fairly new macerator and no-odor toilet. GMC manuals and parts catalog. Configured to sleep 3 with dinette and 2 swivel chairs. Original furniture available to sleep 6. Asking \$17,500. OBO. Gale Gregg, Sacramento, CA 916-391-1120

0405

**1976 Eleganza 28'**. 13,500 miles on rebuilt 455 fuel injected engine, modified transmission for hill climbing; stretched 2' to accommodate twin beds in rear. 6 wheel disc brakes, 4 bag suspension, macerator with timer, custom instrument panel, enlarged overhead cabinets in rear, dual air conditioners, convection oven, drawers under couch. \$25,000. Picture at [www.obetz.com](http://www.obetz.com). Tow vehicle also for sale: 1997 Geo Tracker, 105K miles, automatic transmission with driveshaft mod. for towing. Works great. Stowmaster tow bar and trailer hitch. \$3,500. Contact at [motorhome@obetz.com](mailto:motorhome@obetz.com) or 760-789-5711 for Michael O'Betz in Ramona, CA or 909-294-1092 for Dennis O'Betz in Temecula, CA.

0405

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](http://www.gmcws.org)", **Billy and Debbie Massey**

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**Next Rally: Albuquerque, NM  
October 5-10, 2004**

**Come one come all.** GMC Western States is planning a super Rally in Albuquerque during the International Balloon Fiesta. Some 800 balloons go up during mass ascensions and it is a spectacular show. Set aside Oct 5 to the 10<sup>th</sup> in sunny Albuquerque. Early arrivals are possible, but we have to give the fairgrounds time to clean up from the annual state fair that ends September 26. You know horses, cows, and pigs (both human and animal).

ONLY the first bunch will get electric, water, and sewer although we plan on having electric and water for the remainder. (We have a couple of GMCers who last time ran 2500 feet of waterline, and they plan to help again.) We have space for special needs as well. For those with special meal requirements, we will do whatever it takes. If you want to park together, arrive together. Parking will be on a first come first served basis.

There will be lots of food, lots of things to do, and lots of sessions. Our own Gene Fisher will preside over the technical sessions and Dorris Garton will have activities as well.

Tech Seminars:

Cadillac exchange engine seminar, Propane AC refrigerant, Hands-On Fiberglass repair, living on Solar Power, New Technology, and others.

Non-Tech Seminars:

George Scott on Vitamins and Minerals, Dorris and Melissa Fisher on Dementia (but I can't remember what this is), Issues with Water in the Coach, a Tech Talk for Women, and my wife Dr. Marilyn with a talk on Feeling Tired and Worn Out – What Can We Do? All Tech and Non-Tech Seminars can be for both men and women.

Did I forget to mention the catered meals, great breakfasts, and special treats? Oh, there will be ice cream, both for those with Atkins in mind and those without a mind.

There is one of the biggest flea markets on the fairgrounds each weekend and you can walk and see all sorts of things (many items you probably threw away years ago) both new and old, and many items from Mexico (and China) will delight you.

For the gamblers, there is a casino at the fairgrounds, so bring some cash (that which you plan to lose). However, if you want, you can give it to me and not worry about losing it.

We will also have vendors (not GMC types) offering great southwestern treats for you to buy and take home. Of course, we will have our GMC flea market for you to get rid of or buy some items you just must have for your GMC.

We have optional tours to Santa Fe and to a great foundry, Shodoni, where they make 1/2" miniatures to 20' tall bronze statues. (Only one bus so send in your \$\$ early) We hope to have one of my friends lead the tour through the foundry, and it will educate as well as delight you.

For those who want to make a trip to Old Town Albuquerque and to some of the great shops (bring your credit cards), we have a bus that will take you to and from a number of great shops where you can buy the best in turquoise and Indian art with the assurances that it was handmade. (Again, one bus only). There is a great deal of junk coming from China, and places east, so be careful what and where you buy.

The Tram as it is called is the longest in North America and there is a great restaurant at the top of the Sandia Mountains. For those who come early and pay, we have tickets for the tram and a dinner planned, so send in your money right away as only 50 people can be served. Enjoy going to the top of the mountain just before dusk to see the splendor of the city, then eat and return afterwards looking at the city lights below.

As a special treat, and one that all will enjoy, we are celebrating 50 years of married bliss (sigh) for Jan and Dave Greenberg. We will have one heck of a party when he goes before our preacher and he and Jan redo their wedding vows. ALL should dress in 1800s Western garb and there will be GREAT FOOD, Western music, dancing etc. So come and enjoy time with MR. GMC Dave Greenberg.

Rallymaster Al Chernoff

**Western States Rally Schedule**

Spring 2005 Canyon Vistas RV Resort  
Gold Canyon, AZ  
April 4 - 9, 2005

**Note this change of dates!**

Rallymasters: Dwight and Ginny Bare

Fall 2005 Rallymaster: Kerry Tandy

**How do I get to the New Mexico State Fairgrounds  
in Albuquerque?**

The following map of a portion of Albuquerque shows  
you how to get there from Interstate 40.



Hosts Dave and Donna deGraffenreid HW



Fiddle Girl Celia



Clubhouse Entrance HW



Emerald Desert Pool HW



Walkers Standing Still



Walkers with Mtn Snow



Jokers and Marblers



Enjoying the Top of the Tram Ride GH



Gene Fisher on Alternator Protection



John Clement on Saving Money



Duane Simmons on Onan Generators



Bob Cook on Junkyard Gems



Dorris Garton on Food Prep Safety



Fay Curtis on Fiberglass Repair



Engines – Ferguson, Sirum, and Condos



Jim Bounds on Coach Interiors



At the Victorian Tea #1 GH



At the Victorian Tea #2 GH



Collector/Designer Shelley Cooper GH



Our Handsome, Able Waiters GH



At the Victorian Tea #3



At the Victorian Tea #4



Audree Rowe in Her Finery GH



Suzanne Covington and Passenger GH



Kanomata Does Karaoke Too!



And So Do All These Folks



Sharon Cerrina with Boscarelli



Deo Trovao and Melissa Fisher



Swapmeet Activity



Don Klaar's Swapmeet Booth



Jim, Dwight, and Bill on St. Patrick's Day GH



Relaxing at the Campsite GH

## **First Timers at the Emerald Desert Rally – March 2004**

**Edward and Judy Allen, Harper, TX**



**Dwaine and Lucille Barclay, Nanoose Bay, BC, Canada**



**Jack and Sally Biersdorff, Hollister, CA**



**Ken and Betty Carlsted, Rocklin, CA**



**Gary and Wilda Cook, El Paso, TX**



**Cal and Sharyn Danielson, Napa, CA**



**Bill and Joan Daubenspeck, Temecula, CA**



**Bill and Lill Deal, San Diego, CA**





**Jack and Deanna Gray, Napa, CA**



**George Groth, Carson City, NV**



**Art and Priscilla James, Cerritos, CA**



**Gary and Selma Lachman, Glendora, CA**



**Robert Leary, San Diego, CA**



**Ralph and Annie Mundia, Yorba Linda, CA**



**Gus and Jane Nottberg, Loveland, CO**



**Richard Roberts, National City, CA**



**Henry and Marge Sirum, Juno Isles, FL**



**Lyle and Beth Srsen, Sutter Creek, CA**



**John Meier, Alta Loma, CA**

