



GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 60 – November 1, 2005

Outgoing President's Message from Milt Wade



As many of you already know I have stepped down from the presidency, and Estes Park was my last roundup as president. It's been an honor to have served as your president.

Alan Tolle heads the slate as the next president along with returning 1st.Vice President Dorris Garton, Secretary Frank Condos, Treasurer Mike Cherry, and Kerry Tandy has moved into the FMCA National Director's position. Other new additions are Bert Curtis as Technical Vice President, and Gene & Joan Dotson will share the position as Alternate FMCA National Director. I hope you will join me in welcoming Alan, Bert, Gene, and Joan in their new official capacities. I also want to thank Norm Kasch as FMCA National Director, and Jerry Work as Technical Vice President for their service.

Alan Tolle comes well qualified as he spent some 33 years as a college professor teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology, and was responsible for starting the careers of 4000 nurses. Alan was born and educated in Missouri, and did his graduate work at UCLA. He's been involved in aviation as a pilot and has logged 10,000 hours. He's constructed 8 aircraft over the last 25 years, and he currently owns Nuventure Aircraft.com, an Aircraft kit company. Although he has owned an RV since 1970, he has only owned his GMC for 3 years. He has already overhauled the drive train, brakes, suspension, interior, appliances, and painted the exterior of his GMC.

He's been married to his wife Diana for 47 years. They have a son David who owns a GMC, and a daughter

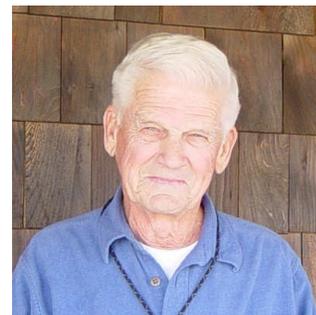
Laura who is looking for a GMC. They also have 5 grandchildren.

Wi Fi was supplied at both the GMCMI rally in Rapid City and at the GMCWS roundup in Estes Park by Kerry Tandy. I used it at both functions, and it worked well which made my life easier. I would like to thank Kerry Tandy for the service.

If you weren't able to attend the roundup at Estes Park you missed a really great time. Kerry and Leanne Tandy did a superb job. Both roundups in 2006, the Wine Fest III at Casa de Fruta Orchard R.V. Park near Hollister, CA hosted by Manny and Deo Travao, and Mariposa Fairgrounds near Mariposa, CA hosted by Frank and Freddi Condos, promise to be a great time. Western States has held events at both of these sites before, and I understand those roundups were very successful. I missed both roundups, but hope to make both of these.

Milt Wade

New President's Message from Alan Tolle



Hello there, fellow GMCers. Well, it was quite a road trip - 30 days, 4,400 miles, eight states, and three GMC Rallies (International, Western States, and Cascaders.) Beautiful scenery, wonderful people, good food, and the tool box didn't get opened even once! Regarding the latter, if someone had told me you could drive that far in a 27 year old GMC and have nothing break, I might have questioned their veracity. (Seriously, as a good many of you know since you have done the same

yourself, it has taken us a lot of work to get our 1978 Royale back to that kind of reliability.) Speaking of food, Diana and I each picked up an extra five pounds, probably due to lots of bagels and ice cream, so it is back home to raw vegetables and long walks.

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. It is a pleasure for me, and I know I speak for new Technical VP Bert Curtis as well, to join an Executive Board which is already up and running and doing a good job. The obvious purpose of that Board is to serve you, the membership, and we welcome your comments and suggestions. The Board also proposes to work closely with all other GMC groups (International, etc.) to coordinate Rally activities so as to permit maximum participation by any and all who so desire. The proximity in both location and time of the recent Rapid City and Estes Park events is a good example. The Board will continue to strive to benefit the membership by both providing useful information and endeavoring to make our times together at the Rallies relaxing, enjoyable, and entertaining.

While I have become acquainted with a good many of you during the three years of my GMC motorhome ownership, it is appropriate that you be provided with a bit more personal background. I was born, raised, and educated in Missouri, did my graduate work at UCLA, and met and married Diana, a native Californian, 47 years ago. We have two children, son David (who also owns a GMC) and daughter Laura, and five grand kids. Vocationally, before retirement 11 years ago I was a college professor of Human Anatomy and Physiology for 33 years, during which time I started some 4000 nurses on their careers. Avocationally I am a mechanic and an airplane pilot and as I stop typing and look at my finger nails, yes, there is grease under them. My first car engine overhaul was done at age 15, and there have been hundreds since (car, boat, and aircraft.) I have been a pilot for over 50 years, have logged over 10,000 hours (all on my own nickel) and since 1980 Diana and I have constructed (from kits) the aircraft we fly. We find ourselves currently working on kit number nine. In the course of aircraft building we have ended up owning an aircraft kit manufacturing company, located on the web at NuVentureaircraft.com for those who might be interested. On the GMC we have painted the exterior, redone the interior, overhauled the engine and drive train (thank you Manny Trovao and Jim Kanomata on the latter) and done all the rest, from the airbags in the rear to the wheel bearings in the front and everything in between. My philosophy has always been that if someone else can design and build an item and make it work, I should be able to take the item apart and fix it and make it work.

So much for ancient history - on to the recent past and the future.

It will be difficult to top the Estes Park Rally. The scenery at Elk Meadow was spectacular - I stumbled more than once walking up the hill to our coach because I was looking up at the surrounding mountains rather than looking where I was putting my feet! The seminars were timely and well attended, aided considerably by a new projector, a good screen, and the ability to control lighting. (The obsolete audio system was a bit cantankerous, and your Board is working on that.) Some of the gals even learned that they were better at water color painting than they imagined. And the food, oh, the food! Way too good and way too much, which probably had more to do with the weight gain than bagels and ice cream. Many thoroughly enjoyed the activities in the community of Estes Park, and no one who went will forget the ride to the top of the mountain. Well, Kerry Tandy said he wanted to provide not just a Rally, but an "experience." We can agree that he succeeded - well done, Kerry. Remember that Leanne gets credit too, for she had to put up with the guy who was putting up with the problems.

Be sure to mark your calendars now for the Spring 2006 GMCWS Rally at Casa de Fruta near Hollister, CA. I have no idea what Manny and Deo Traveo have in mind, but knowing them, it will be fun! Until then, keep the dirty side down, take it easy on the comers, and stay within the speed limit. (The latter is sometimes difficult when driving a GMC.)

Alan Tolle

Secretary's Report - Frank Condos



Executive Board Meeting Report:

Milt Wade called the board meeting to order on September 21 at Estes Park, CO. Other board members present were Dorris Garton, Mike Cherry, Frank

Condos, and Kerry Tandy. Others present included Betty and Harold Kennedy and Alan Tolle.

Betty Kennedy reported the nominating committee's recommendation for 2006 officers. They are:

President; Alan Tolle
 1st VP: Dorris Garton
 Technical VP: Burt Curtis
 Secretary: Frank Condos
 Treasurer: Mike Cherry
 FMCA Representative: Kerry Tandy
 Alternate FMCA Representative was still open

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Mike Cherry reported that after a discussion with a federal tax preparer that detailed receipts of income and expenditures were not required to be kept beyond 3-4 years Therefore he requested a motion to allow the destruction of detailed records older than 4 years. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Judy Cherry, newsletter editor, reported the deadline for the next newsletter as October 17. and requested the support from all members for articles.

General Membership Meeting:

The general membership meeting was held on September 23. President Milt Wade recognized past President Duane Simmons who was present.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the last spring meeting since they were published in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

The nominated officers were reported and introduced. The nominating committee reported that Gene Dotson had agreed to be the alternate FMCA representative. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to close nominations. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect the nominated slate by acclamation.

Other business included a report of the future rallies and the newsletter schedule.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Cherry



**GMCWS Interim Financial Report-2005
 1/1/05 – 10/21/05**

Income	
Membership Dues	\$5,925.00
Gold Canyon Advance	\$4,865.01
Return	
Total	\$10,790.01

Expenditures	
Newsletters 57, 58, 59	\$1,326.96
Roster Print, Dist.	\$734.66
Bank Adjustment	\$4.04

Board Expenses:	
Secretary – Misc.	\$233.70
Annual Web Acct.	\$100.00
Treas. CPA advice	\$125.00
Pres. Gifts/Misc.	\$88.33
Gifts Ret. Board Mem	\$50.00
Purch Video Projector	\$1501.72

Rally Expenses	
Gold Canyon Misc	\$670.09
Estes Park Misc	\$1,467.02
Total	\$6,301.52

Bank Accounts	
Checking Account Bal.	\$9,065.69
1-1-05	
2005 Year Income	\$10,790.01
2005 Year Expenses	\$6,301.52
Balance 10/21/05	\$13,554.18

Interest Account Bal.	\$18,176.07
10/21/05	

Balance (Both Accts.)	\$31,730.25
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Note:-Estes Park Rally not Finalized

**Barbara Blenkinsop
1922-2005**

Barbara Blenkinsop, passed away on October 10 after a long illness. Barbara's husband Bob is one of the founders of GMC Western States. Bob and Barbara traveled extensively prior to her illness and never missed a rally. We remember Barbara for her smile, her classy dress, and her pretzel jello salad that we could sample at the occasional pot luck. She could also walk fast enough to keep up with Freddi on the morning walks!

Report from Long's Peak Rally

The scenery surrounding us at the Elk Meadows RV Park was certainly spectacular, with high mountain peaks on two sides, patches of golden aspen shining in the sunlight, and mountain foothills completing the Rocky Mountain horizon. We heard elk bugling at night, and the crisp mountain air was exhilarating. We were all huffing and puffing to climb the hill from the lodge to our coaches in the 7500 foot elevation, but by the end of the week at least some of us felt we had acclimatized to some degree to the altitude. After all, with all that delicious and plentiful food, we needed to work it off somehow.

The technical sessions were worthwhile and well attended. Look for details on these in the accompanying Tech Center section of this newsletter.

Nontechnical sessions included a water color painting session led by Judy Lierly. It was amazing to see the lovely variety of finished products from this session. Dorris Garton, Bettie Kennedy, and Ramona Sirum led an idea sharing session for women that was very well attended. Gloria Morris taught a session on creating yarn covered hangers. Finished products were pretty and functional. Then of course, if Jokers and Marbles is your thing, you could always find a game going on somewhere! Freddi Condos continued her stretching and walking program each morning. It was easy to get us all breathing hard at this elevation.

Field trips included an afternoon bus tour of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and an evening climb into the mountains in large heavy duty vehicles for an evening of food and fun. All who went enjoyed these events. One evening many of us participated in karaoke and dancing with Travis and Shelvia Golden. It was a rockin' good time.

Thanks go to Kerry and Leanne Tandy who planned this mountain adventure for us, to Freddi and Frank Condos who worked hard on catering, tech sessions, and anything else that needed attention, and to all the volunteers who pitched in on registration, parking, serving food, and meal cleanup. As always, this was another fun Western States Rally!

Judy Cherry

Attendees at Long's Peak Rally:

Denny and Fran Allen, Cowichan Bay, BC
Edward and Judy Allen, Palacios, TX
Keith Barnett, Centerville, UT *
George and Carol Baxter, Vashon Island, WA

Ron and Jan Bolser, Richmond, IN *
Chuck and Mary Botts, San Diego, CA
Terry and Jo Anne Boyd, Vancouver, WA
Bill and Bobbie Bramlett, Tulsa, OK
Albert and Sheila Branscombe, Tiverton, ONT *
Jim and Peggy Buchanan, Conover, NC *
Bruce Burtan, Prescott, AZ
Ken and Laurie Burton, Hebron, IN
Dave and Arlene Cantrell, Rowland Hgts, CA
Glen and Chris Chase, Swift Current SASK *
Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ
Den and Ann Clark, Bishop, CA
Bob and Susan Clarke, Jacksonville, OR
John and Bev Clement, Corona, CA
Larry and Sue Coldren, Denver, CO
Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA
Bob Cook, Redondo Beach, CA
Bill and Lill Deal, San Diego, CA
Gene and Joan Dotson, Conover, NC *
Harry and Mattie Driskell, Lovelady, TX
Gordon and Emmy Dunlap, White Oak, TX
Mark and Beth Elmer, Eagle Mtn, UT
Norm and Joan Engman, Olds, ALB
Steve and Nancy Ferguson, Sierra Vista, AZ
Chuck and Jane Field, Bainbridge Isl, WA
Richard and Ali Floyd, Courtenay, BC
Irwin and Ilse Forssé, Burbank, CA
Ted and Jackie Freemire, Seattle, WA *
Chuck and Dorris Garton, Ridgecrest, CA
Howard and Midge Glenna, River Falls, WI *
Jim and Robin Hadcock, Woodville ONT
Bob and Nadine Hall, Colorado Spgs, CO
Glen and BJ Herzberger, Bluff Springs, IL
Dave and Linda Ireland, Williams Lake, BC
Randall Johnson, Columbia SD *
Jim and Grace Kanomata, Belmont, CA
Harold and Bettie Kennedy, Loveland, CO
John Kennedy, Bountiful, UT *
Paul and Marilyn Leavitt, Warrenton, MO *
Dave and Mary Lenzi, Davison, MI *
Ken and Judy Lierly, Fresno, CA
Eugene Mazzurana (and Mom & Dad), Benbrook, TX
Bob and Joan McKechnie, Sacramento, CA
Buck McGibbony, Carbondale, CO
L.D. and Johnnie McWilliams, Whitehouse, TX *
Gordon and Helen Miller, Arcadia, CA
Terry and Gloria Morris, Seattle, WA
Willard and Joyce Murdock, Midlothian, TX
Lee and Suzanne Nelson, Alta Loma, CA
Gus and Jane Nottberg, Loveland, CO
Art and Carroll Owens, Aransas Pass, TX
Reed Parr, West Jorday, UT *
Donna Prishmont, Incline Village, NV
Fred and Sandy Saunders, Phoenix, AZ
Bill and Sandy Scott, Scotts Valley, CA
Duane and Billie Simmons, Orange, CA
Len and Betty Simmons, Rogue River, OR
Alex and Ramona Sirum, Okeechobee, FL
Narod and Jessie Skiles, Chino, CA
JR and Jeanne Slaten, Louisville, KY
Richard and Sharon Smith, Castle Rock, CO
Ray and Carol Southwick, Bountiful, UT *
Emery and Michelle Stora, Santa Fe, NM
Larry and Tricia Stroud, Livingston, TX
John and Darlene Sue, Oakland, CA
Dorothy Sunday, Strasburg, CO
Ray and Carol Swartzendruber, Syracuse, IN
Kerry and Leanne Tandy, Conner, MT
Alan and Diana Tolle, Fresno, CA
Manny and Deo Trovao, San Jose, CA
Marc and Lillian Trubert, Coarsegold, CA
James Ulmer, Denver, CO

Milt and Carmen Wade, N. Las Vegas, NV
Fred and Rose Walsh, Swift Current, SASK
Les and Sharon Watson, Orem, UT
Larry and Lucy Weidner, Menomonie, WI
Charles and Janice Wersal, Duncanville, TX
David and Leone Wood, Coronado, CA
Jack and Helen Wykle, Bullhead City, AZ

* GMCWS First Timers at this rally

The photos in this issue's photo pages were taken by Charles Wersal(CW) and Mike or Judy Cherry.

Western States Rally Schedule From Wagonmaster Sharon Cerrina



Spring 2006 Wine Fest III Rally
Casa de Fruta Orchard RV Park
On Hwy 152 near Hollister, CA
April 25-30, 2006
Rallymasters: Manny and Deo Trovao

Fall 2006 Mariposa Fairgrounds
Near Mariposa, CA
October 8 - 13, 2006
Rallymasters: Freddi and Frank Condos

Spring and Fall 2007 northern Oregon and southern
AZ are probable - locations and dates not
finalized yet

Preview of Casa de Fruta Rally From Manny Trovao

For the latest information about the Casa de Fruta Rally
as it develops, go to the web page listed here.

<http://www.gmc49ers.com/casareally/CASA.html>

This is going to be a super Rally with excellent access from the north, south, and west. Casa de Fruta Orchard RV Park is located in the middle of California near the ocean with many things to see and do on your way to/from the rally. San Jose airport is close so you can fly into the area for the rally. Casa de Fruta has rooms to rent, lots of RV parking, and the meeting facilities are excellent.

The tech agenda is going to be topnotch. Have you ever seen a transmission test stand? Probably not. Not many exist, but we will have one there. We are going to encourage all of the vendors to come to the rally with a vendor row to show and sell their products. Many of the California GMC vendors have not been to a rally in many years.

There are over 800 GMC coaches in California so we hope to see a lot of these at the rally. Many have not gone to a rally in a long time, so it should be interesting.

Make your reservations early so we will be sure to have enough resources available. Keep checking the web page to see what tours and activities are going to be available. Western States has a reputation for great rallies, and this is going to be one of the best.

Manny

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 jmcherry@cablone.net**

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. Now asking \$15,500 OBO. Richard Klix, Phoenix, AZ, 623-584-2874, jrklix@aol.com

1005

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

1205

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. 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 or 760-789-5711 for Michael O'Betz in Ramona, CA or 909-294-1092 for Dennis O'Betz in Temecula, CA.

1205

1977 GMC Royale 26' Original yellow color, garaged all but last two years, then under a cloth cover. Finish redone on walnut cabinets. New microwave/convection oven, new cook top, new refrigerator. Rebuilt transmission, 87K total miles on coach, tires new in Nov 2003. Rear suspension modified with new levelers. 6KW generator with 350 hours, runs well, also has new house battery charger. Asking \$15,000. Fruita, CO Phone: 970-858-6886 Cell: 970-250-8180

0206

1974 GMC 26' 455 cid. Wet side bath, convection/microwave, 3 way Dometic refrig., Alcoa wheels, Onan generator, inverter, macerator, hitch. Newly replaced items: Flexsteel seats, sofa, side chairs, upper/lower ball joints and control arm bushings, brakes and wheel bearings, transmission, Michelin tires, mufflers, batteries, 2 roof a/cs, AM/FM XM ready radio w/ CD. Asking \$16,000 OBO. Mike Sheffield, Henderson, NV 89015, 702-564-5910. E-mail: Gsheff749@aol.com.

0206

1976 Eleganza 26'. Excellent condition. Loaded. Insured for \$25,000. Asking \$20,000. Make offer. LA area. 626-355-7753.

0506

1976 Glenbrook 26'. 455 eng. Rear bed plus two front sideby. 3-way refrig, dual air, like new tires on Alcoa rims. New front seats rest-tilt. Hall TV for 2 way viewing. Lots of storage in and out. Reduced price \$20,000. Will accept best offer. Jacky Clutter 951-244-8340.

0506

1973 Sahara 26'. 12,000 miles on rebuilt 455 engine, 3,000 miles on rebuilt transmission and transfer case. All running gear completely checked over. Bilstein shock absorbers, rear hitch. All new upholstery with oak wood finish, new microwave, Kenwood stereo with tape deck and six speakers plus woofer, new TV with VCR and new carpet. GMC manuals and parts catalog. New two tone paint, new radial tires and Alcoa wheels, flares, sun visor, new flow master exhaust, new carburetor plus HEI. Invested 35,000, asking \$22,000 OBO. Cruz Charles in West Sacramento, Calif. 916-372-0507

1106

Parts for Sale

For Sale: GMC transmission parts, reinforced A-arms, and other parts too. Call to find out! BeBe Pettit, Prescott, AZ, 928-445-9432.

0206

5 Original hubcaps for 1973 GMC motorhome. \$125 OBO. Call Jerry at 805-434-1213.

0506

For Sale: Fiberglass wheel well flares like Buskirk model, set of 4 \$500. Dark color cabinet LH side \$75. Chrome spare tire cover \$25. Safety-Plus steering shock \$50. Front driving mirrors set \$25. Jacky Clutter 951-244-8340

0506

425 GMC Motorhome Transmission, fresh, recently rebuilt with correct clutches, kits, bushings, seals, gaskets, bearings, and 1975 case This unit was completely torn down and all parts were inspected. Contact "The Transmission Shop," BeBe Pettit in Prescott, AZ (928)445-9432 for price and questions.

0606

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**

Alan Tolle Chapter President

4184 W. Kelley, Fresno, CA 93722
559-447-1112, alantolle@earthlink.net

Dorris Garton, First Vice President

604 Las Posas St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760-375-5568, dorris777@earthlink.net

Bert Curtis, Technical Vice President

5990 Greenwood Heights, Kneeland, CA 95549
707-443-8523, curtisunlimited@aol.com

Frank Condos, Secretary

42744 Windy Gap Drive, Ahwahnee, CA 93601
559-683-5185, fcondos@sti.net

Mike Cherry, Treasurer

2212 Tonto Ridge Rd. Prescott, AZ 86305
928-445-7875, jmcherry@cablone.net

Kerry Tandy, FMCA National Director

P.O. Box 335, Conner, MT 59827
406-821-3284, bewartz@bewartz.net

Gene Dotson, FMCA Alt. Nat. Director

730 10th St. Drive NW, Conover, NC 28613
828-465-0678, shawnee@charter.net

Sharon Cerrina, Wagonmaster

500 S. Cofax St., La Habra, CA 90631
562-694-6800, magiccatz2@earthlink.net

Judy and Mike Cherry, Editors/ Publishers

2212 Tonto Ridge Rd. Prescott, AZ 86305
928-445-7875, jmcherry@cablone.net



Rallymasters Kerry and Leanne Tandy



The Lodge With Mountains Behind



Campground Scene #1



Campground Scene #2



Tech Session Audience



Dinner in the Lodge



The Guys Talking Things Over



Travis and Shelvia Golden During Karaoke



At the Swap Meet



Dorris, Bettie, and Ramona at Gabfest



Painting Class #1



Judy Lierly Teaching the Class



Painting Class #2



Finished Products



Jokers and Marbles



The Nude Over the Bar in the Lodge



Campground Ducks



Covering Hangers with Yarn



More Eating – Great Food!



We're Diggin' In!



Michelle and Emery Stora (CW)



John and Darlene Sue on the Mtn (CW)



Alex Sirum (CW)



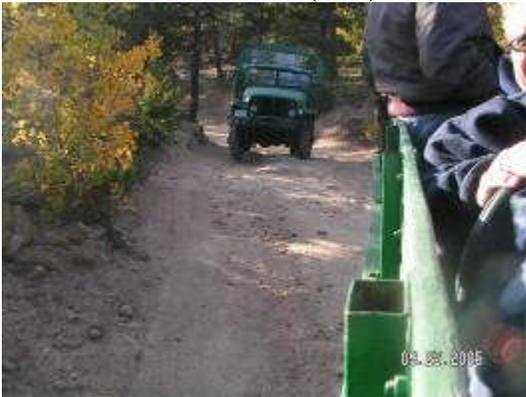
George Baxter (CW)



Wilderness Tour Truck (CW)



More Trucks – Yahoo! (CW)



On The Tour (CW)



The Lookout Tower (CW)



Wilderness Dinner #1 (CW)



Wilderness Dinner #2 (CW)



Denny Allen (CW)



View from Mt. Chapin Rocky Mtn Nat Pk