



GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 62 – May 30, 2006

President's Message from Alan Tolle



Another very successful Rally has gone into the GMC Western States history book! Good weather, great facility, superb program, excellent food, and over 100 coaches with congenial people --- for what more could one ask? Manny and Deo Trovao (with a little help from their relatives) were the perfect organizers and hosts, and really, the credit for the success goes to them. As with any good program, planning ahead is the key, and it was a real pleasure to have the entire Rally "cast in concrete" before the first coach arrived.

And many thanks to all those involved in presenting the seminars, demonstrations, and craft projects. The line dancing was a big hit, and of course, for those who have seen it all there was always Jokers and Marbles. In my book the program organizers (Dorris Garton and Bert Curtis) did a really fine job of making things interesting, varied, and timely, and that pattern will certainly be continued in the future as we look forward to the Mariposa Rally in the fall.

Speaking of the Mariposa Rally it will surely be one that you do not want to miss! It will be hosted again by "old hands" Frank and Freddi Condos, and I am told we can expect fine Greek food, a widely varied program, and a day at Yosemite!

I usually include something technical in my writings for this column, so let me tell you a sad story. There is no question that our GMC coaches are getting old, with the average age now being over 30 years. Thus we usually spend more time doing maintenance (and restoration) than we spend traveling, or so it seems. Fortunately the old parts usually give us some warning that they are tired and need replacement.

On the morning we headed back toward home from the Estes Park Rally last fall there appeared a few drips of antifreeze under the radiator when I warmed up the coach motor. No problem - a few pellets of Barr's Stop-leak and the drip went away. But I had been warned --- the radiator was getting tired. Dumb thing was I had anticipated that and had just purchased a new aluminum radiator from Motorhome Enhancements at the Rally. I should have installed the new radiator just as soon as I got home, but I didn't. Big mistake.

A month later I was climbing Grocer Grade (7%) towing the Jeep when the transmission just quit pulling and over boarded about a quart of fluid! Once cooled it came back to life, but the transmission fluid was kind of the color of pink milk. So when I got home I changed the entire fluid load (about 3 gallons) and kept driving. Warned again. But this time it was transmission, not radiator, right? Wrong! I never linked the two.

So in February I was climbing Siskiyou Summit on I-5 towing the 14 foot trailer loaded with stuff making the move to Oregon. Same thing -- quits pulling, overboards, pink milk. I call Manny, and in his very matter of fact way he says one word "WA-TER." Sure enough, the transmission cooler tube INSIDE the radiator had rusted through allowing water and antifreeze to contaminate the transmission fluid and vice versa. So I not only had a worn out radiator to replace, I had trashed a perfectly good transmission with only 25,000 miles since overhaul. Sorry, Manny.

Moral to story ---Postponed maintenance always costs more in the end. So if it needs it, do it now! See you in Mariposa in October.

Alan Tolle

Secretary's Report – Frank Condos



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 25, 2006

President Alan Tolle called the meeting to order. The following Board members were not present: Gene Dotson, Alternate FMCA Director. The Secretary's report, including minutes of the September, 2005 meeting was accepted. The treasurer's report was presented. Discussions covered rally costs and the need to coordinate with the president as covered in the Rally Master's hand book. An action was taken to make sure all Board members have a hand book. An action was taken by President Tolle to see if a search engine could be added to the web site for a subject search in the Tech Centers. There was a discussion about keeping the rallies and newsletter fresh and interesting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to issue a members' survey to obtain desires and requests. The newsletter editor was requested to include information on how to order the permanent club badges. Terry Taylor has volunteered to advise the club on new sound equipment purchases that were authorized in 2005.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
April 28, 2006

President Tolle called the meeting to order. The reading of the previous meeting minutes was waived since they were printed in the news letter. The secretary reported 365 members. The treasurer's report was given and is included below. President Tolle spoke on the need to maintain a reserve for rally emergencies but acknowledged that there is a surplus. Some will go for a new sound system, an additional screen for Ladies' seminars and subsidies for special rally activities. Allan requested suggestions from the members for additional fund uses. The current slate of officers for the fall election was discussed.

The meeting concluded with discussions of up-coming rallies and members. Thanks to Deo and Manny for this rally.
Frank Condos
Secretary

Treasurer's Report – Mike Cherry



GMCWS Interim Financial Report-2006
1/1/06 – 5/22/06

Income	
Membership Dues	\$3,060.00
Return overpayments on dues	(\$40.00)
Bank charge on returned check	(\$35.00)
Net Dues Income	\$2,985.00
Expenditures	
Newsletter #60	\$467.86
Roster Print, Dist.	\$1,532.22
Secretary Expenses	\$331.40
Board Expenses:	
CA franchise bd (tax filing)	\$10.00
CA Sec. State filing fee	\$20.00
Rally Expenses	
Casa de Fruta (not finalized)	\$0
Mariposa (fall 2006)	\$1,884.09
Benson advance(fall 2006)	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$5,398.57
Bank Accounts	
Checking Account Bal. 1/1/06	\$8,668.94
Cking Acct. Bal. 5/22/06	\$6,255.37
Interest Acct. Bal. 1/1/06	\$26,237.19
Interest (5 mo.)	\$177.76
Interest Acct. Bal. 5/22/06	\$26,414.95
Balance (Both Accts.)	\$32,670.32



Rallymasters Manny and Deo Trovao



Ready With Dessert



Our Chefs



Too Pretty to Eat?



Jerry Work Presenting GMC History



Our President Pointing the Way



Marc and Lillian Trubert with Coach



Truberts' Coach - Another View



Ready for Morning Walk



At the Swapmeet #1



At the Swapmeet #2



At the Swapmeet #3



Melissa and Dorris at Red Hat Tea



Emma in Her Fine Red Hat



Darlene Sue Teaches Tatting (DG)



Linda Sue Teaches Tatting (DG)



Frank Installing Four Airbag System (FB)



Tech Session Socializing



Checking It All Out



Catching Up On Everything



Dorris Presenting Her Health Update



An Evening of Dancing



Some Wild and Crazy Dancers (DG)



Working on the Steps



Bob Blenkinsop is Back (FB)



Woods and Aulgurs (FB)



Beverly and Dave Lopez (FB)



Ken and Judy Lierly (FB)



Marie and Gene Rizzolo (FB)



The Brain Trust of Team Trovao (FB)



Gene and Irma Cole (DG)



George and Doris Griffith (FB)

Report from Casa de Fruta Rally

They say it takes a whole village to raise a child. Those of us who attended the Casa de Fruta Rally saw how it took a whole family to host a rally. Manny and Deo Trovao, assisted by the Trovao extended family, made sure we were all busy, fed, and entertained during our time at Casa de Fruta, April 25th - 30th. (How many times does the rally host pull an all-nighter, redoing transmissions for two coaches at the rally? This must be a first, and it's above and beyond the call of duty!) The food was plentiful and delicious. The weather was cool with fog and periods of sunshine. No one suffered from the heat this week.

Many folks started each day stretching and walking with Freddi Condos. There were plenty of technical sessions and demonstrations to attend (see Tech Center portion of this newsletter). Jerry Work again presented his updated History of the GMC. It gets better each time he does it. Non technical sessions included the health update and sharing session led by Dorris Garton, tatting by Linda and Darlene Sue, a quilting craft by Diana Tolle, and line dancing by Donna Prishmont, Fay Curtis, and Judy Cherry. Other events included the swap meet and the Red Hat Tea featuring Weekenders clothes for women.

At the coach Open House, we all got our first look at Marc and Lillian Trubert's completely new coach, redone by Jim Bounds' Cooperative Motor Works in Orlando, FL. It's beautiful and functional as well. There were several other newly redone, more do-it-yourself coaches to inspect during open house. Never let it be said that GMCers are not a creative group of innovators. Of course it doesn't hurt that we start out with THE ageless, classic coach, and build on that.

The rally culminated with a couple evenings of dancing with music by the Duartes and the Spring Wine Festival /Barbeque. A good time was had by all!

Thank you Manny and Deo and family for hosting this fine rally.

Judy Cherry

Attendees at Casa de Fruta Rally:

Chuck and Bernie Aulgur, La Mesa, CA
Paul and Joan Baity, Mariposa, CA
George and Jodell Banovich, Pleasanton, CA
Gary and Diana Berry, Prosser, WA
Manuel Berumen and Mary Gonzales, Castro Valley, CA
Albert and Augie Bettencourt (our chefs!)
Fin and Mary Beven, Pasadena, CA *

Jack and Sally Biersdorff, Hollister, CA
Jack and Shelby Birch, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA *
Bob Blenkinsop, Fresno, CA
Chuck and Mary Botts, San Diego, CA
Jim and Janie Bounds, Orlando, FL
Terry and Jo Anne Boyd, Vancouver, WA
Claude Brousson, Victoria, BC
Francis and Margery Burgess, Hanford, CA
Ken and June Burgett, Bonny Doon, CA *
Ed and Emma Burner, Fullerton, CA
John and Anne Bush, Sunol, CA
Dave and Arlene Cantrell, Rowland Hgts, CA
Dave and Vickie Case, Alameda, CA
Al and Peggy Cash, Auburn, CA
Al Chernoff, Albuquerque, NM
Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ
Chris and Elaine Christensen, Washington, UT *
Den and Ann Clark, Bishop, CA
Ron, Linda, and Jack Clark, North Plains, OR
Bob and Susan Clarke, Jacksonville, OR
Gene and Irma Cole, Carmichael, CA
Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA
Bob Cook, Redondo Beach, CA
Bert and Fay Curtis, Kneeland, CA
Jim and Susan Dale
Sharyn Danielson, Napa, CA
Fred and Cyndia Davis, Santa Paula, CA *
Dave and Donna DeGraffenreid, Costa Mesa, CA
Lee and Marie Duarte (our music makers)
Dave and Gerri Elwood
Jim and Linda Faulkner, Lake Havasu City, AZ
Steve and Nancy Ferguson, Sierra Vista, AZ
Gene and Melissa Fisher, Livermore, CA
Rick Flanagan, Berkeley, CA
Richard Floyd and Brian Pitman, Courtenay, BC
Larry and Barbara Frear, Aptos, CA
Mike and Judy Frothinger, Santa Rosa, CA
Chuck and Dorris Garton, Ridgecrest, CA
Betty Gaw and Marilyn Maxwell, Atascadero, CA
Eric Gibbons, Grass Valley, CA
Jack and Deanna Gray, Napa, CA
George and Doris Griffith, Lodi, CA
Hoss and Charlotte Hauge, Garden Grove, CA
Fred and Pat Heidner, Santa Barbara, CA
Al and Barbara Hobson
Bill and Betty Hubler, Caldwell, ID
Charlie and Patricia Kanenbley, Anaheim, CA
Jim Kanomata, Belmont, CA
Jack and Mary Kincaid, Castro Valley, CA *
Leon and Lucille Leinan, Beaverton, OR
Cindy Liebeck, Irvine, CA *
Ken and Judy Lierly, Fresno, CA
Dave and Beverly Lopez, Altadena, CA
Bob and Ruth Martin, Coronado, CA
Bob and Joan McKechnie, Sacramento, CA
Miguel and Erlinda Mendez, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Ralph and Annie Mundia, Yorba Linda, CA
Chris Musselman, Hayward, CA
Dave Myers, Stockton, CA *
Joe Nehl
Lee and Suzanne Nelsen, Alta Loma, CA
John and Anne Nelson, Westlake Village, CA
Gus and Jane Nottberg, Loveland, CO
Dick and Isola Olson, Spokane, WA
BeBe and Nancy Pettit, Prescott, AZ
Donna Prishmont, Incline Village, NV
Richard Reyes
Abbey and Yvonne Rivera, Castro Valley, CA
Gene and Marie Rizzolo, Lodi, CA
Marilyn Roland, Venice, CA
Lorne and Catherine Rosenblood, Victoria, BC
Richard Scattini and Lucy Gory, Gilroy, CA

Larry and Zenna Schaffer, Castro Valley, CA
George and Alice Scott, Santa Barbara, CA
Bill Shourt and Michele Logan, Sherman Oaks, CA
Bill and Dorothy Shumway, San Jose, CA
Duane and Billie Simmons, Orange, CA
Alan and Miki Singleton, San Jose, CA
Narod and Jessie Skiles, Chino, CA
Bill and Kib Smith, Long Beach, CA
Dick and Cindy Spooner, Reno, NV
Lyle and Beth Srsen, Sutter Creek, CA
Ed and Eileen Staal, Redondo Beach, CA
Joan Stanley, El Dorado Hills, CA
Warren and Nora Steinman, Nampa, ID
John, Darlene, and Linda Sue, Oakland, CA
Phil Swanson, Bonita, CA
Kerry and Leanne Tandy, Conner, MT
Terry and Debra Taylor, San Lorenzo, CA
Alan and Diana Tolle, Fresno, CA
Brian and Joy Tripp, Chula Vista, CA
Manny and Deo Trovao, San Jose, CA
Marc and Lillian Trubert, Coarsegold, CA
Roger and Wanda Umber, Albuquerque, NM
Bob Valpey, Riverside, CA *
Al and Nan Vinzant, San Diego, CA
Jack and Jeanie Weaver, Aptos, CA
Chuck Will, Lompoc, CA
David and Leone Wood, Coronado, CA
Jerry and Sharon Work, Kerby, OR
Jack and Helen Wykle, Bullhead City, AZ

* GMCWS First Timers at this rally

The photos in this issue's photo pages were taken by Dorris Garton (DG), Fin Bevan (FB), and Mike or Judy Cherry.

New Journeys:

Bill Exline, of San Rafael, CA, left this life May 20th, 2006. Bill wanted to be remembered by his many friends in GMC Western States, with whom he had many happy times. Bill had a wonderful career in the radio and television industry. He loved music and singing barbershop harmony. He is survived by children, grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Egon Elssner, of Atherton, CA, passed on in early 2006. At the fall 2000 rally near Newport, WA, many members especially remember Egon telling about the device he designed and ordered to be made, for getting the engine in and out of his GMC. When he was asked how many times he had taken his engine out, he reported, "Nine times!" He is survived by his wife Helga. We remember Egon with fondness.

Western States Rally Schedule From Wagonmaster Sharon Cerrina



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

Spring 2007 Still pending

Fall 2007 Cochise Terrace RV Resort
Near Benson, AZ
September 4 – 8, 2007
Rallymasters: Steve and Nancy Ferguson



Our Next Rallymasters – Frank and Freddi Condos (FB)



A Celebratory Cake

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**

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.

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

1978 Royale Coachman interior. Sale due to health. Day/night shades with walnut trim. Rear queen with custom mattress. Microwave under cabinet. Built in blender. TV under cabinet above table. Front leather captain chairs with lumbar adjustment. Recent upholstery with fireproof aircraft material. Hand rails in shower. Walnut hand rails under cabinets. Newer refrigerator. Front extended bumper with tool box, grab handle, and flat to stand on to wash windshield. Vacuum pump for dead engine brakes. Ragusa battery carriers and side step. GM fuel injected engine. TB engine and transmission rebuilt. Extended air horn on breather with K&N air filter. Engine hatch holder by Rex. Sensitized brake booster. New macerator with electric shut off valve. Jim Anstett brake system. Hubs and knuckles rebuilt. Steering hear rebuilt (my specialty). Complete frony end rebuilt. Rear airbag risers for softer ride. Side toolbox with slide out drawer. Side lift for lifting wheel chair into coach. Alcoa wheels with Goodyear tires 159R E's. Ted and Lavonne Smith, 5624 SW 14th St., Topeka, KS 66604-2207 (785)272-1552, cell (785)640-6603, e-mail: lavonned@sbccglobal.net

0507

1973 Sequoia 26' Side bath model. Only coach model with light wood interior. 455 CI original engine, runs well. Alcoa rims/Michelin tires 2 yrs old, Phantom screen door, Norcold 3 way refrig., Denny Allen macerator. New transmission, not rebuilt, with braized fin torque converter. Caspro steering box and steering column linkage. Strengthened lower A arms, all new bushings. 3" exhaust system. New Suburban furnace. Ragusa step and transmission pan. Front steering knuckles rebuilt by Ken Thoma. Rotary valves for air system replaced with Kanomata valve system. Coach ran 2700 miles in fall 2005 to SD and CO without problems. Many more improvements made. Call for further details. \$10,500. Mike Cherry, Prescott, AZ, (928)445-7875, e-mail: jmcherry@cablone.net.

0507

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.

0506

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. Colfax St., La Habra, CA 90631
562-694-6800, maicicatz2@earthlink.net

Judy and Mike Cherry, Editors/ Publishers

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