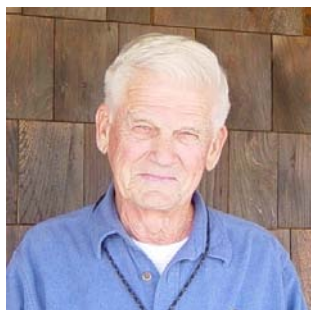




GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 66 – June 15, 2007

President's Message From Alan Tolle



Well, another great GMC Western States Rally is in the history books! The Oregon weather cooperated reasonably well (there was more sunshine than rain,) the food was good and plenty, we sang, we danced, we were educated, and we were entertained.

My personal thanks go to all who were part of the program or planning for same. The Executive Board served as Hosts for the Rally, and the combined efforts of the Lierlys, Cherrys, Curtises, and Tolles prevented anyone from carrying too much of the responsibility. We incorporated expertise from our own group in the program, as well as that of several folks from the local area. The program is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and a full account of the technical seminars will be posted in the Technical Archives on our GMC Western States web site.

For the open day on Wednesday most of the crowd made the trek up the hill to Timberline Lodge. We learned a lot of history, had lunch, during which we were treated to a minor snow shower. Some also visited the spectacular Oregon Garden and at least one party made it all the way around Mount Hood on what is known as the "Fruit Loop." For most of us Oregonians the drive doesn't get any more spectacular than the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Byway.

My only disappointment regarding the Rally was the low turnout of coaches. The problem can't be location or time, because a Rally at this same resort years ago drew nearly two hundred units. I think this says several things to us, namely that good program, good food, and visits with old and new friends are no longer quite the attraction, and that, maybe most importantly, the high cost of gasoline is taking its toll. One can add to that the increasing age of both our drivers and our coaches, although regarding the latter I only know of only two units which reported mechanical problems on the way north. On the more positive side, there were no less than nine first time Rally attendees.

I should note that Rally attendance has remained stable in the GMC social clubs which hold smaller, shorter, cheaper, closer to home, and more informal conclaves on a bimonthly basis. I suspect for the foreseeable future this pattern will continue.

I also note that GMC International is aware of all of the above (decreasing Rally attendance) and in the last several of its Rally events the International has solicited the participation of local clubs based in the area where the Rally is held. In this light the International has slated a Rally at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa, CA for the Spring of 2008 (only the second Rally ever in California) and has asked Western States to join in their effort. This will happen, hopefully to the benefit of both clubs.

I know that in the beginning there was some "bad blood" between the International and Western States, but times have changed and the reasons for animosities no longer exist. Bottom line – both groups have the same goals and it is time to cooperate, not compete. More on this issue later.

In the more immediate future it is time to look forward to GMCWS Fall 2007 Rally in Benson, Arizona. Steve and Nancy Ferguson are the hosts and have made arrangements for our event at the Cochise Terrace Resort. Please re-

fer to our website www.gmcws.org for further details.

Hope to see you there. Alan

Secretary's Report – Judy Cherry



Executive Board Meeting April 22, 2007

President Alan Tolle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following people were present: Alan Tolle (President), Judy and Ken Lierly (1st Vice Presidents), Bert and Fay Curtis (Technical Vice Presidents), Judy Cherry (Secretary), Mike Cherry (Treasurer), and Diana Tolle.

Kerry Tandy (FMCA Director) and Gene Dotson (Alt. FMCA Director) were not able to attend.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were made and accepted.

Alan Tolle informed the meeting that Emery Stora had contacted him about the possibility of holding a joint convention/rally between International and Western States in Santa Rosa, CA during the spring of 2008. International has scheduled the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for the week of March 30th through April 5th. A discussion ensued about the possible contributions that each group could bring to such an event, and about the compromises that might need to be made for arrangements to work well. For instance, International is known for continental breakfasts with endless coffee and ice cream socials, whereas Western States is known for catered breakfasts and dinners. Other issues discussed included rising gas prices, aging of GMC coaches and owners, and diminishing numbers of coaches at some gatherings in all RV organizations from local clubs to FMCA. The general feeling of the board is that the GMC organizations should support each other for the sake of preserving and enjoying our GMCs. The board passed a motion to bring the joint convention/rally before the WS membership for discussion and comments at the meeting on April 24th.

Alan Tolle asked for board members to give him any items for the membership meeting agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

GMC Western States Membership Meeting April 24, 2007

President Alan Tolle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Rod Price commended Ken and Judy Booth for loaning their tow car to Joe and Jenny Baker, so the Bakers could take their puppy to Sandy, OR to the veterinarian to treat a broken leg. As Rod said, the Booths didn't know the Bakers at all but they trusted them with their car. Ken and Judy replied that they trust fellow GMCers.

The reading of the previous minutes was waived since they were printed in the newsletter that went out to all members. Newsletters are also posted on the website. Secretary Judy Cherry reported Western States currently has 311 members. New membership rosters were distributed at the rally and were mailed out to other members before the rally. Treasurer Mike Cherry gave his report and it is printed below. There was no report from our National Director, Kerry Tandy, because he is currently in treatment at Mayo Clinic in Florida. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Alan Tolle noted the new sound equipment, screen, and projector which were recently purchased for rallies in an effort to use our funds for the benefit of members. The next GMC Western States rally is scheduled for September 4-8, 2007 at Cochise Terrace RV Resort near Benson, AZ, with rallymasters Steve and Nancy Ferguson.

Alan Tolle spoke about the rising gas prices, rising ages of coaches and owners, and attendance levels falling in many of our GMC and other RV organizations. He noted the need to support each other in our local, regional, and national organizations. He invited comments about whether Western States should join with International to sponsor a convention/rally in Santa Rosa, CA at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, March 30th – April 5th, 2008. Bob Blenkinsop, former WS president, talked about the divisive events surrounding the formation of GMC Western States in 1988. He feels it's time to put some of those differences behind us now. George Baxter, former president of the Cascaders and International, told us that he has lobbied for a far western convention for years, and he told us that there are more International members in CA than there are Western States members in CA. International's one previous convention in CA drew less than 100 coaches, the only time they had a turnout that small. Frank Condos related that in 2000, WS President Claude Brousson asked the membership for an opinion on

holding a joint rally with International. It was a close vote between pro and con, and nothing was pursued. He thinks we should be able to work together now toward a joint convention/rally. Alan called for show of hands as to whether he should pursue the joint effort with International. An overwhelming majority said to go ahead with further talks with International.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Report from Mt. Hood Rally

Fifty-four coaches convened at Mt. Hood Village RV Resort for our week of learning and enjoying being together with other GMCers. The setting was beautiful with temperate rainforest vegetation and the occasional moisture to go with it, but some sunny weather too. We were fed well by Chef Ron Clements and his staff for both breakfasts and dinners, and we enjoyed our time together.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Cherry



Seminars included making your coach more livable by Jerry and Sharon Work, coach remodeling experiences by Dan Winchester, Gene Ransom, and Len Simmons, bearings and lubrication by a representative from Timken/Applied Industrial Technology, oils – truth and fiction by Kelly Bennett of Carson Oil, preventing and recovering from disasters on the road by Fay and Bert Curtis, CPR demo by Kim Jarmin and others from the Hoodland Fire District, a new design in front suspension by Bill Hubler, digital photography by Jerry Work, Myth Busters by Frank Condos, Ask the Experts panel moderated by Frank Condos, and coach driving for women by Carol Ransom. In addition, Darlene and Linda Sue taught tatting, Judy Lierly taught a watercolor painting session, Sue Allen led a yoga experience, and Julie Anderson led a demo and tasting of some of the high flavor recipes in her cookbook. Whew, that's a lot of seminars!

Freddi led our morning walks through the beautiful forest surrounding our campground. We had our usual swapmeet and open houses where everyone could trade goods and get new ideas from each other. It's always fun to see the new things people have done to their coaches. Vendors Denny Allen, Bert and Fay Curtis, and Jim Kanomata had a room in which to display their wares.

Evening entertainment included singing RV songs (written by Ina T. Karish) accompanied by Carol Baxter, Alan Tolle, and Judy Cherry, an introduction to the Mt. Hood area by Jeremy Sells from the Zigzag Ranger District, playing games such as Bingo, LCR, and Jokers and Marbles, and American roots music by the Severin Sisters Band which inspired some exuberant dancing. Lots of fun!

Everyone who came had a good time. Thanks to Alan and Diana Tolle who made the lion's share of the arrangements, so we could all come and enjoy ourselves. Judy Cherry

GMCWS Interim Report		1/1/07 – 5/12/07
Income as of 5/12/07		
Dues rec'd in 2007		\$2235.00
Return – Mariposa Rally		\$288.85
Interest on accts.		\$292.58
Total		\$2816.43
Expenses		
Dues returns		\$75.00
Newsletter 65		\$353.70
Renewal letter and roster		\$1018.81
CA Tax filing		\$10.00
Treas. expenses		\$19.49
Bank expenses		\$44.00
Mt Hood Rally Expenses		\$923.00
Equip. purchases		\$830.58
Misc.		\$81.99
Total		\$3356.57
Account Balances		
	1/1/07	5/12/07
Checking	\$9451.95	\$3497.28
Interest Max	\$4660.05	\$9787.29
CD 11 mo. \$20,000.00		\$20,287.29
Total	\$34,112.00	\$33,571.86

Attendees at Mt. Hood Rally:

Denny and Fran Allen, Cowichan Bay, BC CANADA
 George and Carol Baxter, Vashon, WA
 Charles and Genevieve Baker, Portland, OR
 Bob Blenkinsop, Fresno, CA
 Ken and Judy Booth, Lake Havasu City, AZ
 Chuck and Mary Botts, San Diego, CA
 Larry and Gaynor Calhoun, Osburn, ID
 Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ
 Den and Ann Clark, Bishop, CA
 Ron and Linda Clark and Jack Holmes, North Plains, OR
 Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA
 Michael Cumming, Coquitlam, BC CANADA **1st Timer**
 Bert and Fay Curtis, Kneeland, CA
 DJ and Barbie Eberhart, Sheridan, OR
 Paul and Kendall Eminger, Spokane, WA - **1st Timer**
 Ted and Jackie Freemire, Seattle, WA
 Ernie and Linda Garcia, Ellensburg, WA - **1st Timer**
 John Gates, Enumclaw, WA - **1st Timer**
 Phillip and Sam Gates, Portland, OR **1st Timer**
 Donald and Mary Gibson, Poulso, WA - **1st Timer**
 Jim and Nancy Harding, Damascus, OR
 Hoss and Charlotte Hauge, Garden Grove, CA
 Bill and Betty Hubler, Caldwell, ID
 Paul and Jackie Jones, Port Orchard, WA **1st Timer**
 Jim Kanomata, Belmont, CA
 Toivo and Sandra Lammi, Grayland WA - **1st Timer**
 Fred and Ruth Leitch, LaGrande, OR
 Tom and Brenda Lester, La Jolla, CA
 Cindy Liebeck, Irvine, CA
 Ken and Judy Lierly, Fresno, CA
 Bob and Ruth Martin, Coronado, CA
 Lou and Nonie McGoldrick, Lewiston, ID - **1st Timer**
 Don and Joni McKeta, Sequim, WA - **1st Timer**
 Terry and Gloria Morris, Seattle, WA
 Richard Mumby Jackie Denison, Spokane WA **1st Timer**
 Dick and Isola Olson, Spokane, WA
 Lawrie and Virginia Paradis, Bellingham, WA
 Will and Janis Powers, Goldendale, WA - **1st Timer**
 Rod and Maurrie Price, Vancouver, WA
 Donna Prishmont, Incline Village, NV
 Gene and Carol Ransom, Grants Pass, OR
 Ernie and Anne Seth, Glendale, CA
 Len and Betty Simmons, Rogue River, OR
 Bill and Kib Smith, Long Beach, CA
 Warren and Nora Steinman, Nampa, ID
 John, Darlene, and Linda Sue, Oakland, CA
 Ted and Jane Swanson, Olympia, WA
 Frank and Diane Taber, Port Orchard, WA - **1st Timer**
 Alan and Diana Tolle, Independence, OR
 Harold and Barbara Washmuth, Crescent City, CA

Ken and Jean Wilson, Anacortes, WA
 Les and Bunny Wold, Aloha, OR
 Jerry and Sharon Work, Kerby, OR
 Jack and Helen Wykle, Bullhead City, AZ

The photos in this issue's photo pages were taken by Diana Tolle (DT) and Mike or Judy Cherry (Ch).

Western States Rally Schedule

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

Spring 2008 Tentatively Joint Rally with
 GMC Motorhomes International
 Sonoma County Fairgrounds
 Santa Rosa, CA
 March 30 - April 5, 2008

Fall 2008 Blackwell Island RV Park
 Lake Coeur d'Alene, ID
 Rallymasters: Terry and Gloria Morris
 and the Cascaders
 September 15-19, 2008

New Journey

Western States members who know Frank and Jan McQuilliams of San Diego will want to know that Jan's illness took her from this life in early April. Our sympathies go out to Frank for this loss of a very special lady. Her cheerful attitude and enjoyment of life are still with those who knew her. We will all miss her.

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

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.

0607

1978 Eleganza II 26' 83K miles. Last month of production. Sleeps 6, seats 13. Upholstery, carpeting, headliner replaced. Eight solid walnut overhead cabinets, 3 way refrig., AM/FM/cassette radio. CD, 13" TV, CB, Ham ants., 6KW gen, roof pod, 3 A&E awnings, macerator, 2" hitch, Thorley headers, Digipanel. \$21K/ offer. Reason for selling: too many birthdays. Bill, 760-758-7163 or n6cou@slextreme.com.

1107

1978 Royale. \$26,500. Very clean inside and out. Alcoa wheels, Goodyear all steel tires, 49K actual miles, never been in snow. 6K Onan generator, 2 roof air, pod, dash air, newer interior, many upgrades. Contact Ozzie Porter, Santa Maria, CA 805-934-2267.

1107

1973 Sequoia 26', 455 engine, 3-way Norcold refrig, new 6-way power Ultraleather captains' seats, like new Michelin tires on Alcoa rims, exterior repaint in white with teal green stripes, major running gear upgrades include "Manny" tranny, Bilsteins, radiator, rear pins, brakes, front hubs and bearings. Rear bed blus front fold out, flat screen TV in living area, Color TV in bedroom, interior upgrade of original light wood interior and day-night shades. Excellent driver. \$19,000. OBO. 503-641-9299, Portland, OR, or e-mail: leonleinann@aol.com.

0208

1976 Eleganza II, 66,231 original miles, tires replaced at 64,706 miles. Dual air conditioners, bed in back. Original paint. Original upholstery in excellent condition. Converted fridge (original fridge included). Complete and working in covered storage, low or no rust. \$11,000 Call Kathy Sinkard at 775-782-6156, Reno, NV area.

0208

1978 Royale, Center kitchen, rear bath, china toilet, recent upholstery (beige), leather driver and passenger seats, twin beds (bunk type), 403 with 38,000 miles after reworked, 2,000 miles on transmission with heavy duty torque converter, all steel radials on 16" Alcoa rims, Onan 6 kw generator, 2 roof airs and dash air, awning, pod on top, new shocks front and rear, recent 2-way fridge, Fantastic fan, walnut interior, all manuals and documents. \$22,500. Ray Piltz, Portland, OR, 503-286-5444.

0608

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.

1107

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

1107

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.

1107

Hot Wheels GMC Motorhomes For Sale. All 3 series. Palm Beach orange or green. Used various conditions. Nascar series all 4 models, new, never opened packs. The last series blue (Team Racing), new,

never opened packs. Write or call for details. Vernon Smith, 3811 W. 16th St. Ln, Greeley, CO 80634, 970-330-0334

0608

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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September 2007 Rallymasters Steve and Nancy Ferguson



At Cochise Terrace RV Resort, Benson, AZ



Tech Session Notes from Frank Condos

Fay and Bert Curtis provided a good discussion on surviving on-road disasters (a subject of familiarity to them). Carry the Black List and club rosters and a few of the very hard to find parts--transmission governor gear, rear spindle nut, etc. Many people have probably developed their own list of parts to carry.

I (Frank Condos) led a general discussion based on Myth Busters covering various modifications and improvements. This led to a good exchange of information for the eight first timers and new owners present.

I'll do a summary rundown of some of the other seminars. This is from memory since there were no hand-outs.

Jerry Work repeated his very well presented "You Gotta Live in it Baby" These were living area upgrades in some order of preference based on size, cost, and power consumption. Improvements ranged from a macerator to better lighting. At a later session, Jerry covered photography from beginning through digital cameras.

Dan Winchester, Len Simmons, and Gene Ransom discussed their various improvements including do-it-yourself painting or prep work

A representative from Timken discussed bearing lube and general bearing failure modes. No front wheel specific information was given. Key findings: big box store greases are inferior, and grease color doesn't mean anything. Don't fill cavities completely with grease as heat build up will force it out.

An oil specialist (former Pennzoil research man, now oil distribution co. man) spoke about various oils available to us. He said ZDDP reduction (a zinc compound added mainly for new or newly rebuilt engines for break in purposes) is more of a long term wear problem. (40k-50k miles). He thinks our engines would like the high

mileage oils. He likes 15W40 (like Chevron Delo) because it is more stable than 10W40 which loses its multi-viscosity characteristics rapidly. His testing shows that adding things usually messes up the original additive package. Stay away from friction modifiers and new low viscosity numbers. Synthetics are good all around especially at start-up when most wear occurs, good for high temps. He confirmed ashless A/C oils won't work. He was not pushing any particular brand.

Frank Condos

Note: Technical seminars and other technical articles printed in this newsletter are provided for information only. What you do to your coach and how you do it is your responsibility.

Please send your comments and ideas for the Tech Notes to:

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Bert and Fay Curtis



Jerry and Sharon Work