

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

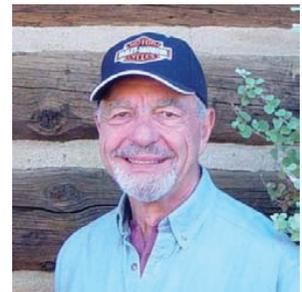
We have just completed another milestone; the fall 2008 Western states Rally in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Congratulations to the rally hosts, Terry and Gloria Morris and Larry and Gaynor Calhoun for another great rally. The support from the Cascaders was outstanding. A major part of this rally's success has to be given to the RV park's managers and extended family. They helped solve every logistical problem we threw at them. Thanks to them we were able to use the facility's large workshop for our technical seminars. Not only was this complete with the familiar smell of petroleum products, the building also served as a hands-on lab for a front bearing repack seminar by D. J. Eberhart. The facility also served as a shop for the unofficial seminar on changing out the roof air conditioner on one of the coaches. Thanks to Steve Ferguson and his crew of tech presenters.

It was heartening to see about 80 coaches from all over the states and provinces that make up GMC Western States. From all reports, including my personal experience, the fact is that people from all walks of life observe and comment about our coaches. We are an area of interest to many.

There are many units on the market for reasons such as death, poor health, and lack of available storage. In my readings and discussions with owners, none are offering to sell because they cannot afford to drive them. Prices have dropped, in my opinion because of the number of units being offered. We are still a much better deal than the one year depreciation on SOB (some other brand) big rigs.

Keep 'em rolling, keep attending events, and keep showing them off.

Frank



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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. Web site: www.gmcws.org, Billy and Debbie Massey

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New Journey

Darlene Sue passed away in early November 2008. We will miss her ready smile and wonderful sense of humor. We remember the fun Darlene and John displayed on the dance floor. They danced with a sense of humor, and we all enjoyed watching them. More recently, Darlene and daughter Linda taught many Western States women the art of tatting. Our thoughts are with John, Linda, and the rest of the family.

A Message from Carol Gray:

Editor's Note: In our last newsletter's New Journeys section, we noted the passing of longtime member Frank Gray this past summer. I recently received this heartfelt note from his wife Carol:

Since June when Frank went into hospital, I have been astounded at the depth of support I've received from GMC Western States and the GMC Cascaders as organizations, and from individual members of the clubs. When Frank died in July, that emotional support strengthened. When I contemplated attending the September rally in Coeur d'Alene, it was as if the cavalry had been deployed. As I struggled to get OleYelr roadworthy, help came from many quarters, from northern Alberta to southern California. It became apparent that many people wanted me to attend the rally, and in convoy with some of my fellow Albertans, I actually made it there.

I gained so very much from so many people at the rally. We shared stories about happier times, laughed and cried together. It was an incredibly healing time for me. It was particularly special to be able to spend time with Margaret Bovee and her family. I wanted to express my thanks to everyone who has helped me to this point on this difficult journey. I am a whole lot stronger for having been at the rally, and for having received so much wonderful support while I was there. Thank you GMC Western States and GMC Cascaders as organizations, and to your individual members. I look forward to seeing you at future rallies, and making new happy memories.

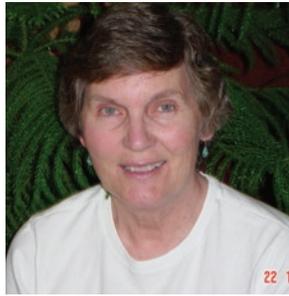
Sincerely,

Carol Gray

A Followup Editor's Note: Margaret Bovee's husband Alan also died in July, 2008. Margaret and Alan have been longtime GMCWS and Cascader members. Bernie Bartko was one of Carol Gray's Albertan escorts to Coeur d'Alene. Bernie lost his wife Kathy in August of 2007, and he says he is a year ahead of Carol in dealing with his loss. Such good friendship is so important. —editor Judy Cherry

GMC Western States Business Meeting

15 September 2008



The meeting was called to order by President Frank Condos, who began by thanking the Morrises, the Calhouns, and the Cascaders for hosting this fall rally. Frank then recognized the First Timers at the rally. GMCWS past Presidents Milt Wade and Alan Tolle were also recognized.

Secretary Judy Cherry reported that our membership currently stands at 331 members. The reading of the minutes of the spring business meeting was waived because they had appeared in the newsletter after the last rally.

Treasurer Mike Cherry gave a report to those attending the rally. As previously noted, the year end financial report will be published on a separate sheet in the first newsletter of 2009, but will not be posted on our Web site. (This is in accordance with practices used by GMC International.)

1st Vice President Freddi Condos reminded members of the rally schedule for 2009: April 22-27, 2009 at Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA with Dave and Donna deGraffenreid as rally hosts; October 16-21, 2009 at Golden Village Palms, Hemet, CA with Pat and Sharon Cerrina as rally hosts. GMC Motorhomes International also has their Fall Convention in the west this year: September 20-25, 2009 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO.

FMCA National Director Kerry Tandy reported that he attended all FMCA meetings and that they were able to balance their budget. He then reported the nominations for two offices for next year: 1st Vice President – Sharon Work, and Treasurer – Dave de Graffenreid. Other officers will stay the same for next year. Frank asked for nominations from the membership and received none. Nominations were closed, and voting was done by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Cherry
Secretary



1st Vice President –
Sharon Work



Treasurer –
Dave de Graffenreid

Western States Rally Schedule

APRIL 22 – APRIL 27, 2009

EMERALD DESERT RV RESORT
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA
HOSTS: DAVE AND DONNA deGRAFFENREID

OCTOBER 16-21, 2009

GOLDEN VILLAGE PALMS, HEMET, CA
HOSTS: PAT AND SHARON CERRINA

September 2008 Roundup at Coeur D'Alene

By Lillian Trubert



I am happy to report that during our GMC Western States Roundup at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, we experienced no rain, hail, snow, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires or terrorists incidents as per usual. The only disaster was a nasty episode concerning the financial climate and stock market behavior of our country and the resulting bail out solutions while in the midst of the presidential campaign, which is better left to a place in history as we elected to party on.

The waterside location was beautiful, the weather was great and the hosts Terry and Gloria Morris and Larry and Gaynor Calhoun created a never-to-be-forgotten week of excellent food, informative seminars and fun crafts. The camaraderie of the GMC community was at its best! And it must be mentioned the Cascaders did an outstanding job as worker bees so the rest of us had a real vacation. That was a real treat.



On the Trolley (Marc Trubert)

Riverstone Properties came through with a trolley for town runs at our disposal, and many of us viewed their new condos which were beautiful and an absolutely no pressure experience. No doubt about it – Coeur D'Alene is a gem of a city.



DJ Eberhart Makes a Point (Marc Trubert)

In addition to the meeting and greeting of old friends, a goodly number of first timers were welcomed by way of Happy Hours and shared experiences. If you come to a Western States Roundup, you will be made to feel welcomed, because we are more than happy to find more GMCers!

We would have loved to have you there to hear Steve Ferguson tell you about "Getting our GMC Under Control", DJ Eberhart explain "Front Wheel Bearing Repack" and "Fuel Injection",

and attend various seminars on additional GMC concerns.

The ladies were more than kept busy making jewelry and learning how to write your own life story with Audree Rowe, decorating wineglasses with Mary Fraisure, learning about health and ecology



A Beautiful GMC (Marc Trubert)

issues with Gloria Morris and playing games while laughing. Don't be shy about joining in – we're looking for more game players; even men are more than welcome too.

A really special event was the side trip made to the Rocking B Ranch for the dinner and show. A bus transported us to Spokane Bridge near Spokane, Washington where a real surprise awaited us. We saw a very funny western shoot out (no one "bit the dust"), ate a real ranch style dinner and were treated to professional class musical entertainment plus we heard the hysterical story of "Cute-afull Binderella with the Suggaly Isters and the Pransom Hince." It seems she "slopped her dripper." You had to be there.

Tickets were purchased for our usual raffle, and prizes were handed out by Larry Calhoun, who did a first class job of making announcements and keeping us informed. Jim Kanomata and others very generously donated these items. We all vie for these goodies.



Happy Hour (Marc Trubert)

In addition there was a special drawing with prizes donated by Riverstone which was very generous of them. The grand prize, a 3 day, 2 night stay at Riverstone Condos, plus dinner, which was worth \$1000 was won by Ted Freemire (and his wife Jackie of course).

I have to give Dave de Graffenreid kudos for pulling off the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" game as \$16 was at stake and if your name was drawn, you had a chance to answer questions about the GMC. Now this all takes place in a room full of people who think they know everything about GMCs. Gary Berry made a brave run at it getting up to \$14, but he was felled by a sneaky question about "bogies." Up stepped Jackie Jones who zoomed to the \$14 mark also and had the sense to quit and walk away with the \$14. She remembered discretion is the better part of valor.

The next Roundup will be in Palm Desert, California on April 22, 2009. The Emerald Desert RV Resort is a really beautiful park. Hope to see you there.

Coeur d'Alene Rally Attendees September 15-20, 2008

Bernie Bartko, Spring Grove, AB Canada
 Gary and Diana Berry, Prosser, WA
 Fin and Mary Beven, Pasadena, CA
 Chuck Blanford and Lynn McGinnity, Post Falls, ID
 Dan and Judi Borlase, Kelowna, BC Canada
 Margaret Bovee and Jean Hoffman,
 Bend and Redmond, OR
 Gary and Rebecca Bovee, Red Bluff, CA
 Terry and Joanne Boyd, Vancouver, WA

Larry and Gaynor Calhoun, Osburn, ID
 Dave and Arlene Cantrell, Rowland Hgts, CA
 Glen and Chris Chase, Swift Current, SK Canada
 Mike and Judy Cherry, Prescott, AZ
 Den and Ann Clark, Bishop, CA
 Ron and Linda Clark, North Plains, OR
 Frank and Freddi Condos, Ahwahnee, CA
 Bob Cook, Redondo Beach, CA
 Jerry and Suzanne Covington, San Dimas, CA

Dave and Donna deGraffenreid, Costa Mesa, CA

Keith and Joyce Ebbert, White Salmon, WA
 DJ and Barbie Eberhart, Sheridan, OR
 Paul and Kendall Eminger, Spokane, WA
 Guest: Mary Jane Rehr

Steve and Nancy Ferguson, Sierra Vista, AZ
 Chuck and Jane Field, Bainbridge Isl., WA
 Jeff and Mary Fraisure, Silverdale, WA
 Ted and Jackie Freemire, Seattle, WA

Ernie and Linda Garcia, Ellensburg, WA
 Chuck and Dorris Garton, Ridgecrest, CA
 Donald and Mary Gibson, Poulsbo, WA
 Carol Gray, Calgary, AB Canada
 John and Vera Gruenwald, Anacortes, WA

Arthur and Pat Hare, Swift Current, SK Canada
 Russ Harms, Medicine Hat, AB Canada
 Joe and Jeanie Hensley, Spokane, WA
 Patrick and Marcine Herron, Liberty Lake, WA
 Ron Holt, Salt Lake City, UT
 Bob and Dorothy Hooton, Downey, CA
 Chuck and Patti Horn, Puyallup, WA
 Bill and Betty Hubler, Caldwell, ID

Dave and Linda Ireland, Williams Lake, BC Canada

Joe and Barbara Johansen, Kent, WA
 Russ and Patti Johnson, Coupeville, WA
 Owen and Shannon Johnson, Billings, MT
 Paul and Jackie Jones, Port Orchard, WA

Jim Kanomata, Fremont, CA
 Chet and Karen Kershaw, Gardiner, OR

Ken and Marlene Leitner, Castlegar, BC Canada
 Fred and Ruth Leitch, LaGrande, OR
 Richard and Jean Lyne, Edmonton, AB Canada

Bob and Ruth Martin, Coronado, CA
 Terry and Gloria Morris, Seattle, WA

Mike Nooney and June Timmons, Cheney, WA

Dick and Isola Olson, Spokane, WA
 Vern and Mary Olsen, Edmonds, WA

Will and Janis Powers, Goldendale, WA

Gene and Carol Ransom, Grants Pass, OR
 Jim and Audree Rowe, San Dimas, CA

Ed and Eileen Staal, Redondo Beach, CA
 Warren and Nora Steinman, Nampa, ID
 Alan and Janet Sims, Edmonton, AB Canada
 Ron and Patti Smith, Benton City, WA
 Dick and Cindy Spooner, Reno, NV

Frank and Diane Taber, Port Orchard, WA
 Kerry and Leanne Tandy, Merkel, TX
 Tom and Margie Thompson, Portland, OR
 Wayne and Sherry Thornhill, Spokane, WA
 Alan and Diana Tolle, Independence, OR
 Marc and Lillian Trubert, Coarsegold, CA

Gordy Lee Van Nest, Cottonwood, AZ
 Allan and Linda Vindeg, Saskatoon, SK Canada

Milt and Carmen Wade, N. Las Vegas, NV
 Ken Walker, Bowen Isl., BC Canada
 Fred and Rose Walsh, Swift Current, SK Canada
 Dan and Carol Winchester, Portland, OR
 Jerry and Sharon Work, Kerby, OR
 Tony Wright and Lynne Wilson, Kirkland, WA
 Jack and Helen Wykle, Bullhead City, AZ



At The Swapmeet (Mike Cherry)



AM Walkers (Marc Trubert)



Eating Again (Dorris Garton)



Rally Hosts Gaynor & Larry Calhoun, Gloria & Terry Morris (Mike Cherry)



Jim Kanomata at Swapmeet (Marc Trubert)



Antique Boat Show (Mike Cherry)



John and Vera Gruenwald (Dorris Garton)



Another Beauty (Marc Trubert)



Gene & Carol Ransom (Dorris Garton)



RV Park Facility (Marc Trubert)

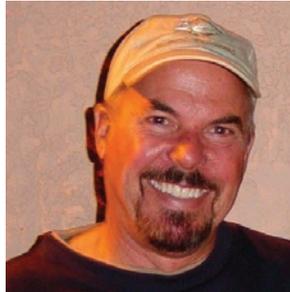


Fred & Ruth Leitch (Dorris Garton)

GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER

WHERE THE HECK AM I??

By Steve Ferguson,
Technical Vice President



How about something a little less technical? This may not be news to some of you, but for a guy like me who has the internal compass of a tumbleweed in a windstorm, this is good stuff.

All interstate highways travel North, South, East, and West. None are designated as caddywumpas (you'll have to look that up). East/West interstates are EVEN numbered, with one or two digits. North/South interstates are ODD numbered with one or two digits also.

The East/West numbering system begins on the East coast, beginning with I-4, in Florida which runs from Tampa to Daytona Beach. I-94 is the highest numbered East/West interstate which starts in Milwaukee and heads west through the northern states until it ends in Billings, Montana.

The North/South numbering system begins with I-5 in California, and ends with I-95 on the east coast. I-5 runs from Tijuana (San Ysidro) all the way through Washington to the Canadian border. I-95 starts in Miami and runs all the way up the east coast to the Maine/New Brunswick border.

Now it gets a little more complicated. Ever wonder what those little green signs are for on the highways? Those are mile markers. If you are traveling on an even numbered interstate, the mile markers begin at the states western border. If you are traveling on an odd numbered interstate, the mile markers begin at the states southern border. As you cross a states border, the mile markers begin all over again. If you're traveling in a state where the interstate begins somewhere within the state, the mile markers begin at the point of origin for the interstate.

Still more complications are in store for you if you are used to the exits being numbered by what mile marker they coincide with. This, unfortunately is not true in all states as some choose to number their exits consecutively. And as Billie Mays would say, "But wait, there's more". Now we come to three digit interstates. These are loops around a city and the mile markers on them are numbered in a clockwise direction that begins with the southern most intersection of the loop.

Information like this can be a real aid to navigation for some of us. Sadly, for me, I have to rely on my GPS system for navigating. As wonderful as this thing is, it sure has taken all the adventure out of our trips. No more discovering new roads, new cuss words, etc. Just the ho-hum, on time arrivals at the planned destination.

Keep the sticky side down!
Steve Ferguson

Coaches for Sale

We welcome your ad. Ads will run for one year unless we are informed otherwise. Please inform us if your coach is sold before the ad runs out. The last four digits at the end of the ad represent the expiration date (month/year).

Contact: **Freddi Condos, 559-683-5185, frettyc@sti.net**

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 being 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. \$15,500. Ray Piltz, Portland, OR, 503-286-5444.

0609

1975 26' Transmode Remodeled by Jim Bounds of Cooperative Motor Works, in Orlando, FL. Modern style interior. Less than 85,000 original miles. Sleeps 4 comfortably. Would make an ultimate tailgate coach as it could seat 11+. Pictures can be seen at <http://gallery.mac.com/freeted/100050>. Coach includes: Full length awnings on both sides, 4 bag air suspension, Alcoa wheels, electronic cruise control w/ resume, leather dash, leather GMC steering wheel, Ramco mirrors, Ragusa entry step, Digi Panel gauges w/alarm, + other aux. gauges, stainless steel brake lines, stainless steel oil cooler lines, aux. oil cooler, aux. cooling fan, vacuum pump, 5000 lb. receiver hitch, Ragusa 3 battery tray up front and stainless steel slide out battery tray in rear, wind wings, lighted entry handle, + more. Must see. Jim Kanomata appraised it at \$52,500. Asking \$35,000. Ted Freemire, Seattle 206-246-6459 or Freeted@gmail.com

1109

1973 GMC Canyonlands 97K miles, tan color, 455 Olds engine, updated with 134 refrigerant. Propane, electric, motor aid water heater. Roof air, awning, rear bed, double passenger seat, new upholstery, eye level oven, stove, furnace. Asking \$10,000. Open to offers. Richard Mumby, 1726 E. Bismark, Spokane, WA 99208, 509-489-6360.

1109