

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

It is a hot summer in Arizona again and we are looking forward to getting into our GMC and heading north for a couple of months – hopefully it is a little cooler there. We plan to go to Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Maine before heading back to the West and our Fall Roundup in Springville, Utah from September 25th through the 30th.

The Fall Roundup will be held at the East Bay RV Park in Springville, Utah and will be hosted by Les and Sharon Watson who are going to be assisted by other members of a local group of fellow GMC owners.



I hope you are checking the web site frequently and getting current information on anything that is happening with the club or GMCs in general. Since the last newsletter we have posted a couple of new articles – one on showing GMCs in a local vintage car show (more below) and another one supporting some of our GMC-related web sites. The web site also has the latest rosters – by name and by state – so new members listings and any updates to existing members are available frequently (more on this below too). Please log in to the web site and check your profile information – you must log in to see the rosters. The profile information on the web site is what we use to produce the printed and online versions of the roster and we would appreciate it if you kept it up to date yourselves. Thanks.

At the Spring 2010 Roundup in King City we announced that the club would pay entrance fees for GMC coaches if members entered them in local car shows. The purpose is to spread the word about the GMC and to introduce it to “car people” who would very likely be prime candidates for Classic GMC Motorhome ownership. On Sunday, May 27th, three of our members – they are also members of the GMC Pacific Cruisers – entered their coaches in the 47th Annual Fallbrook Vintage Car Show and had a blast. There is an article on the web site with their comments and photos. Take a look. Also, keep your eye on the FMCA magazine for another article written by Audree and Jim Rowe about that same car show.

Fin Beven has an idea that I really like - a roster with photos of each of our members. At past rallies Fin has been taking photos of the people who attend and he is working on providing those to me. When I get them I will work on producing a “Photo Roster” that will be available on the web site (to members only of course) and will be downloadable so you can print it if you wish. A second phase of this project will be to expand it to include additional photos of coaches and more. If you have a photo of yourselves that you like you can send it to me via email at Armand@MinnieBiz.com or you can wait to see Fin's photos. Stay tuned. And we hope to see you at the September rally!

GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



GMCWS Technical Article

July 15, 2012

Jim Hupy, GMCWS Tech VP

Well, it is mid July, I wonder what happened to spring. It seems that we just left Casa de Fruta, and I am still trying to make sense from the data that we gained from the on site measurements on ride height and weight distribution. Now it strikes me that I have technical seminars, and presenters to arrange for the fall rally in Utah. I am also trying to get my coach ready for a Trans Canada Rolling Rally from White Rock, BC to the Maritime provinces, and from there South to the Gulf Coast, and then across the Southwestern US to California, and back to Oregon. Should be gone for 6 weeks or so.

I guess that leads us to my subject for this tech article. How to prepare for a long tour in a GMC? Jerry and Sharon Work did a seminar on this very subject at Casa de Fruta, and they covered a good deal of the issues. I am trying to prepare a 30+ year old vehicle to go on a 6000 mile trip. What should be looked at, and what can be ignored? Well, if you are a belt and suspenders kind of person, what spare parts should you carry? Air bag comes to mind. How about a mechanical fuel pump, ignition module, alternator. What about consumables like engine oil, transmission fluid, anti freeze, belts, hoses, spare wheel bearings, A/C refrigerant? Just to name a few. How about tools, just a few basic ones or enough to fix any possible problem that might occur. Plumbing tools, electrical tools, mechanics tools? Hmmm, starting to add up. Some guys only travel with a cell phone, a high limit credit card, and good FMCA towing insurance policy.

What about food, drinking water, clothing enough to last a couple of weeks before laundry. We travel with a dog. How about pet food, medicines, toys, leashes, dog poo sacks. Toiletry items come to mind. Prescription medicines, emergency contact phone numbers? Wow, what happened to throw a few things in the GMC and take off for a while, sounds like a no brainer.

Another way of looking at it is to do a very thorough inspection of your coach. Fix any little thing that isn't quite up to snuff before you start out. Let's see, I put a rebuilt transmission from Manny T. a week before we left for Casa de Fruta, and a rebuilt final drive with 3:70 gears in it. Engine still pumps 160 psi in all 8 holes, holds good oil pressure hot or cold, no vapor lock problems, just had the alternator rebuilt too. New brakes 5000 miles back,

along with hubs, knuckles, wheel bearings, tie rod ends. I will replace the ball joints and control arm bushings before I go, and install the offset upper bushings so I can have maximum caster. I have the reaction arms and sway bars for the rear bogies, along with disc brakes, distribution valve and master cylinder. Guess I better put that in before I go, too. Sound like a lot of work. Not much time. Usual deal for me.

How about comfort and pleasure items like snacks, adult beverages, cameras, binoculars, folding chairs?

Gee, this is taking on all the aspects of a logistic preparation for the invasion of Canada. But you can't take GUNS to Canada. They only let the outlaws have them. Oh well, they are pretty heavy to pack anyway.

My companion, Judy is counting the days between RV parks with showers. Kind of important with two people in the same space for weeks on end. What about towels, wash cloths, toilet paper, holding tank chemicals?

Gee, we will be out of the US, and probably out of cell phone roaming areas as well. Probably ought to see about a short term throw away Canadian cell phone with a computer hot spot so I can communicate with the GMC net and forum. Might need the internet to order parts for any breakdowns along the way. As the air traffic controllers tell the pilots in hijacked aircraft, Y.O.Y.O! You are on your own. Goes without saying that some way to charge up all these electronic devices might be important, too.

How about the appliances in the coach. 3 way refrigerator, furnace, hot water heater, water pump, cook top, auxiliary generator, roof air conditioner, maserator, slinky drain hoses, (are the sewer hookups the same in Canada?) How about stuff like windshield wiper blades, mirrors, back up camera, light bulbs, spare headlamps, Holy smokes, what a list.

I will try to keep a running trip log, and see what we forgot, and what we didn't need to bring. I am looking forward to this trip. Hope it goes off without too much drama, and that Judy and I are still on speaking terms after 6 weeks in the same space.

Jim Hupy GMCWS Tech VP

1st Vice President's Report

Hello to all.....I hope you are making plans to attend the Fall Rally in Utah this September. Gene and I are still up in the air about going as we are in Oregon for the summer and our GMC is sick and in California.

The Watsons have planned lots of great things, including tours, events and something to do with chocolate! Sharon has some great ideas for alternate programs from tech seminars.

I still have programs in the works that you decided on at the Tea at Casa de Fruta. We will be doing those at other rallies – after I coordinate with upcoming rally masters to see what works with their plans.

Hoping to see you in Utah,

Melissa Fisher

Ethanol In Gasoline

Gasoline currently contains 10% ethanol. The EPA has approved the use of 15% and is looking at approving 20%. Ethanol blend fuel provides less horsepower and less mileage.

Be aware of the problems with ethanol blend gasoline. Ethanol has a corrosive effect on some older engines, manufactured prior to 1998, that are susceptible to damage from alcohol. Ethanol's tendency to scour clean older fuel systems can clog small passages, carburetors, fuel pumps and fuel filters. The corrosive effect on older rubber and fiberglass can cause leaks and start a fire.

Ethanol has a 30 degree lower boiling temperature than gasoline. It lowers the boiling temperature in your fuel system so you're more likely to have vapor lock & boiling fuel tanks.

Last summer in Utah at 95F air temperature, both fuel tanks in my GMC were boiling. After pulling off the road and turning off the engine, it took about 10 minutes for the tanks to stop boiling. I have since dropped my fuel tanks and sprayed them with insulation to help protect them from the road heat. Note: Do not remove your fuel filler cap if this happens!! Fuel could blow out at you.

The marine industry recommends boat users not use ethanol enhanced gasoline as it can cause deterioration of seals, rubber hoses and fiberglass tanks (fuel filters can clog with fiberglass debris). The FAA prohibits the use of any amount of ethanol in aviation fuel.

Please update your GMC by replacing old fuel lines with ethanol resistant lines and insulate your fuel tanks. This is a bomb-in-waiting!!

Ken Booth

Sept 25-30, 2012 Beehive State Rally and Registration

We are excited to host this event and hope everyone will have a great time and that there will be at least one activity that will peak the interest of several guests. We hope no one goes home feeling left out or bored. Fall is a wonderful time to be in Utah among the changing colors, crisp evenings and beautiful sunsets. Look for the Tentative Rally Schedule and Registration Form included in this newsletter.

See you all soon,

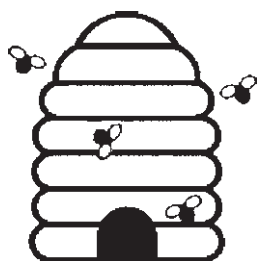
Les and Sharon Watson

QUILT RAFFLE

Thanks to all of you who supplied squares for the Raffle Quilt and Lillian Trubert who put it all together. The raffle took place at the Survivor II Rally and the winner was Adelle Harding. As you've requested, here are pictures of the completed quilt.



Beehive State Rally Tentative Schedule Fall 2012



Sept 25 Tuesday

12pm to 5pm	Check-in
4:00 to 5:00	Executive Board Meeting
5:00 to 6:30	Lemonade Hour BYOL
6:30 to 7:30	Catered Dinner
7:30 to 9:00	Entertainment

Sept 26 Wednesday

7:00 am	Walking w/Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 to 9:00	Flag Ceremony
9:00 to 9:45	Welcome newcomers and vendors
10:00 to 3:00	Genealogy Excursion – Dorothy Hooten
10:00 to 11:00	How to Adjust Steering Box etc. – F. Condos
11:00 to 12:00	My Engine Cooling Saga – A. Minnie
12:00 to 1:00	On your own for lunch
1:00 to 3:00	Traveling to Alaska – L. Watson
3:30 to 5:00	Book Review: (The Undaunted by Gerald Lund) – Lillian Trubert
5:00 to 6:30	Lemonade Hour BYOL
6:30 to 7:30	Luau Dinner
7:30 to 9:00	Entertainment Luau

Sept 27 Thursday

7:00 am	Walking w/Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 am to 8:00 pm	On Your Own -- Check out the Beehive State; go to the Family History Library in SLC or at BYU; attend the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal in SLC
8:00 to 9:00	Ice Cream Social

Sept 28 Friday

7:00 am	Walking w/Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 to 10:00	Chocolate and Caramel Dipping Activity
10:00 to 12:00	Diesel Conversion – B. Hubler
10:00 to 12:00	Culinary Activity – Jan Clark
12 noon to 1:00	On your own for lunch
1:00 to 3:00	Fuel Injection Seminar
3:00 to 4:00	Body Lotion Demos (NuSkin)
4:00 to 5:00	Health and Nutrition by Andrea Stratton, RN
5:00 to 6:30	Lemonade Hour BYOL
6:30 to 7:30	Catered Dinner
7:30 to 9:00	Entertainment: The Fiddler Festival

Sept 29 Saturday

7:00 am	Walking w/Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 to 10:00	General Membership Meeting
10:00 to 12:00	*Technical “Walk Around” & Coach Weighing I
10:00 to 12:00	Quilting with Nancy; crafting with Sandy Clark
12:00 to 1pm	On your own for lunch
1:00 to 5:00	Open House & Coach Weighing II
2:00 to 4:00	Teddy Bear Picnic (Tea) Bring your Teddy Bear and cup. Fashion show, Tea and tea sandwiches, cookies & fruit. Lemonade Hour Provided
5:00 to 6:30	Lemonade Hour Provided
6:30 to 7:30	Catered Dinner
7:30 to 9:00	Entertainment: Beth (Sing-along)

Sept 30 Sunday

7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 to 12 noon	Thank you and Goodbyes

*Technical “Walk Around” is a chance to show off some “under-the-hood” improvements that may not be obvious but make your GMC better – a sort of technical open house.

Coaches & Parts for Sale

Your ads are welcome and will run for one year unless we are informed otherwise. Please inform us if your items are sold before the ad runs out. The last four digits at the end of the ad represent the expiration date (month/year). Contact: Judy Booth, 928 764-3378, hobo@citlink.net

1976 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (78,000)

Excellent original condition with side bath, rear gauchos, which make a double bed, and a side dinette. The custom stainless steel trim (approx. 1/32 in. thick) makes a strikingly beautiful coach. The interior is the original birch wood. The wood and appliances are in excellent condition. Rebuilt transmission, AC thoroughly gone thru and six new Firestone 10 ply tires. Complete maintenance record for last 4-1/2 yrs available. Comes with 2008 heavy duty car dolly. Price \$14,000

Contact: Chuck & Sharon Taylor - 916 331-3320

cdtaylor300@msn.com

Sacramento, CA _____ 0613

1977 GMC ELEGANZA II (26')

LOOK NO FURTHER...Smooth running, low mileage. Professional decorator consulted for interior, exterior, awnings & even outdoor chairs. Wheat beige, Nyombe brown & custom graphic clear coated exterior matches interior of many shades of beige & brown for a bright interior, custom drapes & light carpeting with wood flooring from entry to rear bed. Two small swivel rocking chairs with custom table and light. Leather/electric swivel drivers and co-pilots chairs. New flat screen TV. Engine rebuild monitored by top Olds rebuilder, Mondello's. Alcoa wheels, recent tires, new brakes, rear wheel eyebrow, custom spare tire cover. Air bags covered with plastic sleeves (I invented) to protect from debris, sun & elements. After enjoying for 30 years and working on being 92, it's time to sell.

Price \$25,000...NO MORE...NO LESS...NO TRADES

Contact: Bob Sternfels – 949 497-3534 rwsternfels@cox.net

Exterior & interior pictures available via e-mail _____ 0613

PARTS

Carburetor-removed from 455 to install TBI **\$150.....Airtex E8228** fuel pump-new-used on Howell TBI-lifetime warranty **\$99.....Distributor** (not HEI) w/cap, drive gear, ign. cable & boots. Cap appears new, 1 ign. wire bad **\$45....**
Watts IR-56 brass water pres. regulator **\$50.....Axle boot strapping tool**-KD3191-new **\$14.....Oil pump** for 455, OH by Jasper Engines **\$15.....Hour meter**, mfg. VDO, 12v, new **\$22.....Speed Pro cam** CS-102R, new **\$55**
 Contact: John Glatz 928 468-6212 outdog31@hotmail.com _____ 0613

1975 AVION (26')

455 engine, rear twin beds, hardwood floors and tile counters. Garaged. 2 A/C & many upgrades. Call for more information.

Price: \$12,000 obo.

Contact: Jim Cook – 928 445-0351

Prescott, AZ _____ 0613

1977 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (Under 60K miles)

455 engine, yellow, always garaged.

Price: \$7500

Contact: Ralph Johnson 702 328-5606

Henderson, NV _____ 0613

1977 GMC BIRCHAVEN (23') (Under 3,000 miles)

New 403 engine. All new paint, front-end, Generac generator, converter system and interior. Must see.

Price: \$19,750 obo

Contact: Tom & Pat Hanlon 310 831-8530

Sun City West, AZ _____ 0613

FREE TO GOOD HOME

I recently purchased a '76 Eleganza II with extras. I'm interested in giving away two folding couches that form a "master bed" in the back of the coach. Pristine condition. They're wrapped in plastic and the upholstery & undercarriage frames look new. Also 6' tall 8x8 cushion along with them. Light tan double basket weave pattern. Contact: Jon & Robbie Holmerud – 619 470-8745
 Bonita, CA (San Diego area) _____ 0813

PARTING OUT (26') front-end damaged. Completely restored with new Day & Night shades, cream leather Flexsteel sofa & light oak cabinets. Good mechanical. Contact: Dan & Barbara McCurter – 909 980-4251
 Alta Loma, CA _____ 0613

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

Spring 2013

April 3 – 7, 2013

Lazy Days Rv Resort

Tuson, Az.

Hosts: Armand And Carol Minnie

Fall 2013

Late September, 2013

(Actual Date Pending)

Seven Feathers Rv Resort

Canyonville, Oregon

Hosts: Sharon And Jerry Work

NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION DATES

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ISSUE

2012 4th 2013 1st 2013 2nd 2013 3rd

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Nov. 2nd Mar. 1st May 31st Aug 2nd

INFO TO COORDINATOR

Oct. 12th Feb. 15th May 17th Jul 12th

TO PUBLISHER

Oct. 19th Feb. 22nd May 24th Jul 19th

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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, Armand Minnie

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