

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



Inside

1	President's Message
3	Spring Roundup Info
5	Tech Center
6	Coaches for Sale
7	Officers • Rally Schedule
	Publication Schedule
7	Treasurer's Report

President's Message

Here we are at the beginning of another year and looking forward to two fun rallies. Our Spring rally will be in Hollister, California at the famous Casa de Fruta Orchard Resort with Manny and Deo Trovao and Dave and Donna de Graffenreid as our hosts – we are going to have some great food and lots of fun I am sure. In the Fall we will be traveling to Springville, Utah and the East Bay RV Park with Les and Sharon Watson as our hosts – stay tuned for details.

Membership Update

Our membership continues to decline in number. We are now down to 243 members, a loss of 35 members this year. Most of the losses are due to age and illness causing members to quit using their coaches. We are, of course, still attracting new members but need to do more to encourage new members and maybe to help the retiring members sell their coaches to them. More on that below.



Progress On Our Web Site

GMCWS.org has changed. All of the old information is still available but some pretty drastic changes have been made. Our objectives for the new site are to improve communications and to reduce the amount of administrative work required to maintain our membership information.

Every membership now has a unique *Username* on the web site and, using that *Username*, can access a current copy of the membership roster in the 'members only' section of the site. In addition, members can comment on articles published on the site. Most importantly to us (your highly paid President and Secretary) you can maintain your own membership information without our involvement and save us lots of phone calls and paperwork – we would appreciate the help. We have been including your User Profile data – including your *Username* - as part of our emails. Keep a copy so you can refer to it when logging in. Your *Password* is up to you – if you cannot remember it, enter your *Username* and click on "Forgot password" and a new one will be emailed to you.

For the first time we have the ability to join the club or to renew memberships on the web site completely electronically. During this year's renewal period we had 50 members renew their memberships using PayPal and even had 3 new members join the same way. When you pay using PayPal, their Purchase Protection coverage is included at no extra cost. They offer buyers \$0 Liability for Unauthorized Purchases, refunds for incorrect orders or items that never arrive, and a convenient process for resolving problems. Try it – it is the safest way to pay for things on the internet.

continued next page

President’s Message

continued from page 1

Email communications

Communicating using email and the internet in general is easy and convenient – and it saves money. We now have 107 members who have agreed to receive our newsletters via email only, saving considerable time, effort, and money.

Of our 243 current members, 215 have email addresses – 28 do not. This was the first time that we tried to use email to conduct the annual membership renewal process and we learned that many members (60 – 75 of you) have email addresses but don’t appear to use them. This meant that many of you did not receive the renewal notices causing delays and miscommunications. If you have an email address listed but don’t use it, please let us know and we’ll remove it from our records. We plan to give the email approach another try next year though – change comes slowly sometimes and we have to keep pushing.

Our Club’s Mission And What We Can Do About It

As stated in our bylaws, the mission of GMC Western States is to “promote the preservation of the classic 1973-78 GMC Motorhome”. Rallies and the friendships and camaraderie that they promote have always done a lot to attract people to GMC ownership but we need to do more. We are losing too many members and not gaining enough new members and lots of GMCs are sitting out there unused.

Since membership is declining, so is attendance at rallies. As most of us know, our rallies are lots of fun – we pride ourselves on good food, lots of activities, and the sharing of technical information. We are looking for ideas to make rallies more attractive; for example, at our next rally, we will hopefully be using our newly built vehicle scales so we can know our proper tire inflation pressures and identify potential suspension problems.

We are looking for ideas that will encourage potential new owners of the GMC to buy one and use it. It seems to me that one thing we could do is to help the retiring GMCers sell their GMCs. With so many people no longer using their GMCs we might be able to come up with some ideas that will help pass the GMC on to new families who might even join our club. I have posted an article on the web site under “Club News” entitled “The Club’s Mission: Ideas?” where members (after logging in using their Username and Password) can post ideas and comments.

We hope to see you at Casa de Fruta in April.

Treasurer’s Report 2011



Dave de Graffenreid,
GMCWS Treasurer

Amount Brought Forward (2011)	\$28,778.06
Income (2011)	\$7,042.08
Expenditures (2011)	\$7,803.88
Balance 12-31-2011	\$28,016.25

2011 Incomes came from rally deposit returns, dues and donations. Thank you Lillian Trubert for the Quilt Raffle, Jim Kanomata for the Brake Raffle and Members who made donations.

Thank you Rally Masters and Members for all you have contributed.

2011 Expense went to Rally deposits, Club equipment, Newsletters and Roster.

Donna and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at Casa de Fruta April 24-29,2012

What Do You Weigh and How Tall Are You?

No, we won’t embarrass you with measuring your BMI but you will have a chance to see if your rear is dragging or if you weigh too much. Of course we’re referring to your coach! Thanks to our President’s innovative thinking, the Club has purchased a set of scales to give anyone wishing to, a chance to weigh each set of wheels. Be among the first to use it at our Spring Rally at Casa de Fruta. Jerry Work will have ride height gages to check your coach on arrival. The two measurements will help evaluate handling and steering problems.

Why weigh? Are you carrying too many tools or spare parts? Does the co-pilot want too many comforts of home?

One should set the tire inflation pressure on each axle set, based on the tire manufactures recommendation for the weight. Correct pressure helps ride and handling characteristics by providing the correct tire footprint.

A variation between the front left and right side of more than a couple of hundred pounds can mean that the torsion bar on one side is too tight, even when the ride height is correct. Come find out the truth!

GMCWS 2012 Spring Roundup

Casa de Fruta Wine Festival ♦ Hollister California, April 24th-29th 2012

Casa de Fruta RV Resort is located in the Oak trees and green rolling hills of Hollister, California. Springtime April 24th-29th should be a beautiful time of year to enjoy our GMC Friends.

The rally Hosts Deo & Manny Trovao are well organized and have a large and willing to serve family. They know how to cook; the Meals will be Gourmet and Plentiful. The Co-Hosts Donna & Dave de Graffenreid are busy working on entertainment (not survivor type, as hard as that is for Dave). Our Men and Woman Technical VPs are working on fun and informative seminars.

Dorothy Hooton is presenting a genealogy search starting with your family names and dates of birth you bring and continuing next fall rally in Utah. Lillian Trubert will be hosting the book club, the book is "1000 White Woman" by Jim Fergus. Followed by White Elephant gift exchange We know there will be Great Meals, BBQ Wine Festival, GMC Driving Tips, Book Club, Mad Hatters Tea Party (Hat optional, bring a cup), Western Night, Seminars, Karaoke Night, Open House and Swap Meet. Oh, maybe a few games of Jokers and Marbles or Mexican Train.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up. Come early and stay late if you like. Fill out and mail in your registration form found in the Newsletter or download it from our web site GMCWS.ORG.

See you all there

Hosts Deo & Manny

Co-Hosts Donna & Dave

Wine Festival Tentative Schedule

Tuesday April 24th

12pm to 5	Check-in Welcome GMCERS
12 to 5	Coach Weigh-in before or after you park
2 to 5	Decorate Club House
4 to 5	Executive Board Meeting
5 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Portuguese Pork Tenderloin Dinner
7:30 to 9	GMC History Video Night
7:30 to 9	Ice Cream Social

Wednesday April 25th

7am	Walk with Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Hearty Breakfast
9:00 to 10	Welcome Newcomers and Vendors
10 to 11	Small Mirror Etching by Melissa Fisher
10 to 12	Preparing you and your coach for a long distance adventure by Jerry Work
12pm to 1	Relaxation and Lunch
1 to 4	Additional Coach Weigh-in
1 to 2	GMCWS Web Site New Improvements By Armand Minnie
2 to 3	GMC Belts Systems, Two Engines, Three Belts, Selection, Alignment and Tension by Manny Trovao
3 to 5	GMC Swap Meet
5 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Gilroy Garlic Chicken Dinner
7:30 to 9	GMC Charades
8 to 9	Ice Cream Social

Thursday April 26th

7am	The Freddi Morning Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Hearty Breakfast
9 to 10	Book Club (1000 White Woman by Jim Fergus) by Lillian Trubert
10 to 12	Genealogy Search by Dorothy Hooton
9 to 11	Everything you need to know about aligning your GMC to run straight and true by Jerry Work
11:15-11:45	Wireless Air

Thursday April 26th continued...

12 to 1:30	The Mad Hatters Tea Party (Hats optional, Bring your cup)
12 to 1:30	Relaxation and Lunch
1:30 to 3	Driving Miss Daisy by Fay & Bert Curtis (Hands on Ladies)
1:30 to 3	Coach Weight and Diet Plan by Frank Condos
3 to 5	Woman's Health Seminar by Dorris Garton
3 to 4:30	Fire Suppress System By Jim Bounds
5 to 6:30	Happy Hour (Wine Taste Challenge)
6:30 to 7:30	Portuguese Style Baby Back Ribs Dinner
7:30 to 9	Birds of a Feather, State-of-the-art Topics like Quadra Bags, Wireless Air, Injection Systems, Self Alignment and One Ton Ends by The Pros

Friday April 27th

7am	Freddi Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Hearty Breakfast
9 to 10	General Membership Meeting
10 to 3	Day to enjoy the Park, Friend or The Outlet Center
3 to 5	Open House
5 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Costco Caught Grilled Salmon Dinner
7:30 to 9	Western Night
7:30 to 9	Portuguese Dessert

Saturday April 28th

7am	Walking With Freddi
7:30 to 8:30	Hearty Breakfast
12pm to 3	Hollister Hills Steak BBQ Wine Festival
5 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Santa Cruz Style Prawns and Scallops Dinner
7:30 to 9	Karaoke Night
7:30 to 9	Ice Cream Social

Sunday April 29th

7:30am to 8:30	Manny's Leftover Scramble Breakfast
----------------	-------------------------------------

UTENSILS PROVIDED

**Casa de Fruta
 GMCWS 2012 Spring Roundup
 Wine Festival Registration**

April 24-29 2012, Casa de Fruta, 10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy Hollister Ca, 95023

DIRECTIONS: Interstate 5 To 152 Pacheco Pass Hwy West
 From Hwy 101 To 152 Pacheco Pass Hwy East

RALLY HOSTS:

Deo and Manny Trovao Cell 408-937-1583 E-Mail GMCERS@GMAIL.COM
 Donna and Dave de Graffenreid H 949-642-6827 Cell 949-285-7913
 E-Mail DAVEBAMBOO@AOL.COM (Please call if you are not going to be arriving on schedule)

Send Check/Registration to:

Manny Trovao 11447 Clayton Road San Jose CA. 95127
 (We would like to see your registration sooner than later, but no later than April 9th)
 Early arrivals and late stays will receive the group rate up to two nights adjacent to the rally.
 Call the resort at 800-548-3813 or 408-842-7282 and make a reservation.

Send Lower Half of Registration Form with Check

 Name(s) _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Coach / Lic.# _____ Tow Car License No.# _____

Handicapped Parking: Yes _____ No _____ First Rally: Yes _____ No _____

Vendor Parking: Yes _____ No _____ Vegetarian Meals: His _____ Hers _____

Yes I would like to participate in the Genealogy Seminar: Number Yes _____ Number No _____

Any other Special Needs? _____

Coach with Two Persons	\$357.00	\$ _____
Coach with One Person	\$266.00	\$ _____
Each Additional Guest	\$ 91.00	\$ _____
Pets are free at this park		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:		\$ _____

GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



PROPANE SAFETY

Western States Tech Center

by Jim Hupy, Technical Vice President

I had a Propane gas supplier come to my shop and install some propane heating equipment the other day and it got me to thinking about Propane Safety in our GMCs. I figured that now might be an appropriate time to discuss proper care and feeding of our propane appliances in our coaches.

Let's start with a discussion of Propane. The technical description of propane is Odorized Commercial Propane. The correct chemical family is Paraffinic Hydrocarbon. The chemical formula is C₃H₈.

Some Synonyms are Dimethylmethane, LP-Gas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, (LPG) Propane, Propyl Hydride.

It's ingredient list goes like this:

Propane/74-98-6	87.5-100
Ethane /74-84-0	0-5.0
Propylene /115-07-1	0-10.0
Butanes/ Various (different blends for summer and winter)	0-2.5
Ethyl Mercaptan /75-08-1	16-25 ppm

The principal dangers to a person aside from the flammability is from freezing of tissues from contact with propane in sufficient amounts. It has a flash point of -156 degrees F. It will auto ignite at 842 degrees F. It's ignition temperature range when mixed with air is 920-1120 degrees F. It is easily ignited, It is heavier than air, and tends to collect in low areas when it leaks.

In addition to the above contents, an Odorant is added to aid with the detection of leaks. It has a foul smell which reminds some people of rotten eggs or skunks.

Which brings us to the safety concerns.

What should you do if you smell gas?

1. Extinguish all flames and all smoking materials.
2. DO NOT operate a light switch, telephone, cigarette lighter, gas appliance or thermostat.
Any spark in the area where propane gas is present may ignite it.
3. Get everyone out of the area immediately.
4. Shut off the Gas supply at the tank or cylinder.
5. Notify a trained person, like a Gas company Rep, Fire fighter or other Haz Mat personnel.
6. Have the leak found and repaired
7. Check the system for leaks and once confirmed that there are none, relight appliance.

Where are some special areas to be aware of on our GMCs? First of all, the storage tank has fill valves and supply valves, as well as sending units for the gage. The supply valve is similar to the valves used in high pressure compressed gas cylinders. It has a tapered seat, and a tapered plug that moves back and forth when the handle is loosened or tightened. The shaft that is connected to the valve is threaded and screws into the valve body. In addition to the valve that seals the supply in the tank, there is a secondary valve or seal that tightens against a packing nut when the valve is fully open that prevents propane from leaking around the threads. When in use, the tank valve should always be in the fully opened position.

The tank fill valve has a ball check valve that is sealed by the pressure of the gas in the tank as well as a return spring that keeps the ball on the seat when the tank is not being filled. These ball checks have been known to stick and leak. After your tank has been filled, you should check for leaks by spraying a mixture of dishwashing detergent and water on the valve and look for signs of bubbles. If there is no leak, no bubbles should be present.

Cont.

Western States Tech Center continued...

Other places to check in your GMC is the plumbing that connects the tank to the appliances. You may have a furnace, water heater, range, oven, refrigerator, barbeque, to name a few of the appliances. Any place that a connection is made to the supply line is a possible leak, and should be checked with the soapy water.

Most appliances also have a manual valve that shuts off the supply. Leak check these also, they are known to be sources of leaks. Range burner control valves when they get a bit worn, are also a source. Some common sense should apply when your propane tank is being filled. Stop your motor in the coach and turn off all appliances. Obviously, no smoking within 50 feet of the supply truck.

There are gas sniffer detectors that are available to be installed in your motor home. They should be installed in a low area on the coach. The Royales have them installed near the entrance door, down low near the floor. I have seen them located in similar locations in other models. There are at least two kinds, ones that are powered from the 12 volt system in your coach and others that are battery operated. Most of them have a button that can be pressed that checks to see if they work.

Perhaps you have asked the question, "Should I turn off the Propane tank when the coach is under way?" Most instruction manuals that I have seen DO NOT RECOMMEND operating the coach with the tank valve open. I personally do not operate my coach with it open but I have a heat exchanger in the hot water heater that provides hot water when under way. Some people operate their gas water heaters when under way so that they have hot water when they reach their destination. I figure that with the flexing and the other forces acting on the coach when it is being driven, that it is better to err on the side of safety.

Finally, a large number of GMCs that I have seen have been modified a great deal and that includes in some cases moving the propane tank location. I find it often in coaches that came with the raised floor and dinette on the passenger side that makes into a bed. Owners want to remove the dinette and replace it with chairs. The propane tank normally resides under the dinette in a metal lined compartment that has an access door on the passenger side of the coach. The most often used location that I have encountered is in the rear storage compartment on the passenger side. The propane lines then get run through the rear wheel wells. If your coach has been modified like this, some of the modifications do not offer any protection to the supply line in the vicinity of the tires. If a blowout will tear up the side of your coach it will also tear up your propane supply line. Make very sure that the line is protected by running it through a heavy tube and that it is secured with clamps that protect it from vibration damage. Most propane lines on motor homes are copper tubing. It is subject to work hardening and vibration cracking as it ages. Crawl under there and check it once in a while. Spray a little soapy water on it while you are under there. Another consideration is when the tank is relocated, there is not sufficient venting in the new location to vent any leaks that might occur. The original location has fairly large holes in the bottom of the compartment that allow propane to vent, as well as doors that contain louvers that allow for an air exchange. Remember, Propane is heavier than air and seeks out the lowest point. If the compartment is properly vented, it will not build up to a dangerous level before you can smell it and check if it is leaking.

Be safe out there, use common sense, enjoy your GMC and I hope to see you at a Rally somewhere in the future.

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.

Contact: Judy Booth, 928 764-3378, hobo@citlink.net

1974 GMC GLACIER (26')

(58,300)- Fixer upper with side bath and 455 Olds Engine, original transmission, power steering and adjustable steering wheel. All new wheel bearings, new brakes front & rear. Exterior body in good condition, steel wheels, good bumpers, mechanically sound, needs work on interior and new gas lines.

Asking \$5,000

Contact Lloyd – Lloyd.millie.Johnson@gmail.com

970-222-1967 _____ **0612**

1973 CANYONLANDS (26')

108,216 miles, rebuilt 455 engine and carburetor at 82,770 miles, fantastic fan, roof pod, macerator, hitch, golf cart house batteries and much more. Asking \$8,000

Darrel and Arlis Tetzloff (925)937-2418

Walnut Creek, CA _____ **0312**
(03/12)

1977 GMC ELEGANZA II

Dash wrapped in leather, new instruments, auto window screen closer, Flexsteel furniture. China toilet, new water heater. All new cabinets built by Cinnabar. 36,000 miles on re-built 455 engine. Moto-stat sat dish, with 2 boxes and flat screen TV's, 2 VCR/CD players. Many mechanical upgrades. New frig, stove & microwave. Tire pressure monitoring system, alarm goes off with low tire pressure. Alcoa rims with white walls. Day/Night shades. Mascerator. Asking \$30,000

Contact Bill Deal – 858-386-2885

San Diego, CA _____ **0812**

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

SPRING 2012

APRIL 24 – APRIL 29, 2012

CASA DE FRUTA RV RESORT

HOSTS: MANNY AND DEO TROVAO

DAVE AND DONNA DEGRAFFENREID

FALL 2012

SEPTEMBER 25 – 30, 2012

EAST BAY RV PARK

SPRINGVILLE, UTAH

HOSTS: LES AND SHARON WATSON

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES 2012 GMC WESTERN STATES

PUBLICATION DATES

2nd	3rd	4th
June 1st	Aug. 3rd	Nov. 2th

INFO TO COORDINATOR

May 11th July 13th Oct. 12th

TO PUBLISHER

May 18th July 20th Oct. 19th

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,
Email Judy: hobo@citlink.net

GMC Western States Officers

Armand Minnie, Chapter President
520 744-1775, armand@minniebiz.com

Melissa Fisher, First Vice President
925 447-8079, mr.erfisher@gmail.com

Jim Hupy, Technical Vice President
503 362-1583, jamesh1296@gmail.com

Carol Minnie, Secretary
520 744-1775, carol@minniebiz.com

Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer
949 642-6827, davebamboo@aol.com

Kerry Tandy, FMCA National Director
Cell: 406 360-5187, bewartz@gmail.com

Gene Dotson, FMCA Alt. Nat. Director
828 465-0678, shawnee@charter.net

Judy Booth, Newsletter Coordinator
928 764-3378, hobo@citlink.net

Lill Deal, Newsletter Publisher
858 270-3023, isoutput@pacbell.net

GMC Western States Newsletter
Designed and Printed by Ideal Services, San Diego, CA

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,
email Judy: hobo@citlink.net

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

DISCLAIMER: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS AND ARE PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS. ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED. INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION IS URGED.