

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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President's Letter – August 2013

This year we are planning to spend almost the whole summer at home in Southern Arizona. It's hard to believe but summer weather here can actually be quite pleasant – especially during monsoon season (July and August).

Around the first of September we plan to begin our trip to Coos Bay, Oregon and the Fall 2013 GMCWS rally. After visiting friends and relatives in various places in California, we plan to join a caravan organized by Dave and Donna deGraffenreid that will leave from San Jose, California on September 30th. You are invited to join us and we hope you do. There is information on the web site and elsewhere in this newsletter.

Speaking of the web site, I hope you are checking it frequently and getting current information on things that are happening with the club or GMCs in general. Since the last newsletter we have posted a couple of new articles. There are lots of things that just will not fit into a printed newsletter so the web site is a good alternative. 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 – I try to update it at least monthly if there are any additions.

Please log in to the web site and check your profile information (you must log in to see the rosters and a few other things but not for general club news). 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 (if you have trouble with the site I would like your help – please send me an email or call). The “Photo Roster” continues to be updated but very slowly - please send me a photo of yourselves to include – either email it or send an old-fashioned real photo and I'll scan it. Use my contact information from the newsletter or the web site.

Why is my focus on the web site? Most of our new members for the past two years have come via the web site and I think that the future of our GMC clubs depends on us using it more and better... and it keeps me busy (if you are interested in helping please let me know). In the early days of our clubs, newsletters and rallies were the only practical way of communicating and learning about the GMC. Today, technical information about the GMC is available on the internet and via the GMCnet community. Many



Continued from page 1

GMCers have become good friends even though they have never met. Our club needs to be part of this in order to keep attracting new members.

While I am on the subject of attracting new members: since the Spring 2010 rally the club now pays entrance fees for GMC coaches if members enter 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. This year we had several GMCWS members attend a Pacific Cruisers rally that was part of The American Truck Historical Society Annual Western Region Show held at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, CA. There is an article in the Pacific Cruisers newsletter at www.gmcp.org/archive/newsletter13/June.pdf. Also, one of our members in Utah took their coach to the 2013 Rat Fink Reunion Car Show - there is a short article on our web site about it, please take a look. The coaches at the shows generate a lot of interest and maybe some new GMCers in the future.

CARAVAN TO COOS BAY

We are planning to caravan from San Jose to the Coos Bay Rally. We will be leaving on Monday, Sept 30th and staying in the Redding RV Park (253 miles). We will take Hwy 680 to Hwy 80 to Hwy 505 to I-5. Those of you coming up Hwy 99 or I-5 can meet us near Sacramento. We will be stopping at Willows for lunch. The next day we will head to 7 Feathers RV Park & Casino in Canyonville, Or. (210 miles) We will stop at Polard Flats for Breakfast on the way. The next morning we will drive to Coos Bay (95 miles) for the start of the GMCWS Rally

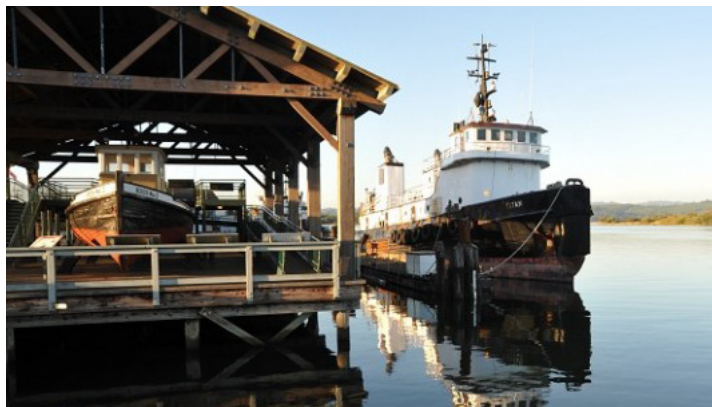
If you would like to join us, we can E-mail or send you our itinerary.

Dave and Donna de Graffenreid

davebamboo@aol.com.....949-642-6827



Preview of Coos Bay Rally Sights



Preview of Coos Bay Rally Sights



SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

One of the interesting events at the Coos Bay Rally will be a trip to Shore Acres State Park. On the way, you'll pass Sunset Beach State Park, Cape Arago Lighthouse State Beach and Simpson reef where seals & sea lions are plentiful and you might spot a whale.

Shore Acres was an estate built in 1906-07 by Louis Simpson for his wife Cassandra. They moved to the mansion which sat on a bluff overlooking the rocky seashore in 1915. The home eventually had a swimming pool, formal gardens, a farm and dairy herd. The house burned in July 1921 following the death of Cassandra in April.

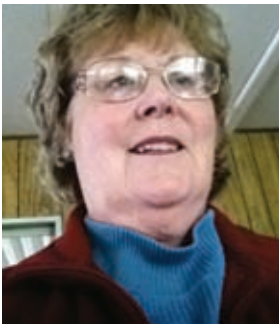
Louis remarried in 1922 to Lela Gardner. They lived in the gardener's cottage until a new mansion was built on the site of the original one in 1928. After the crash of 1929 and depression of the 1930's, financial losses devastated Simpson's real estate holdings and he declared bankruptcy in 1940.

The State of Oregon purchased Shore Acres ocean front estate with its formal gardens and gardener's cottage in 1942 to use as parkland. The house was later determined to be unsuitable for restoration and razed in late 1948. The gardens fell into disarray from 1942-1970 but have now been restored to even grander scale. The gardens Simpson developed and the gardener's cottage remain important features of the park. The formal 5 acre gardens are beautiful. They include a rose-testing plot and a Japanese lily pond.

The Simpson family was important in the development of the Coos Bay area, beginning with Louis's father, Captain Asa Meade Simpson, who founded the town of North Bend after his arrival at Coos Bay in 1855. Captain Simpson started a shipyard in North Bend in the late 1800's. He and his sons were leaders in the shipping and lumber industry. They owned land from Cape Arago to North Bend.

Enjoy your tour and take lots of pictures.





First VP Report

Update For The Coos Bay Rally

Friday morning, the third day of the Rally, begins with the Rally Master's Special Guest, long time GMC owner Dean Hanson. Dean's father was one of the most important early pioneers in the RV manufacturing and sales business. He introduced the use of sheet aluminum to the RV and trailer home manufacturers right after the second world war and at one point was one of Kaiser Aluminum's largest customers. Among other stories, you will learn how Airstream came into being and the genesis of their unique designs. Lots more now familiar names also figure prominently in his family's businesses. In addition to becoming a major supplier to the industry, his father also was a major RV and vehicle dealer. Dean himself went on to a fascinating and fulfilling career which he will also share. His story, the story of the early days of the RV industry and his unique perspective on the GMC lifestyle will make for an unforgettable kickoff for our Getting the Most From The GMC Lifestyle seminar series.

After a short break our imaginations will be put to task in a Water Color Painting class led by Cascader Carol Winchester and Carol Ransom. If you plan to attend, email ms.erfisher@gmail.com or call 925-784-6730 by Sept 5, 2013 so that enough supplies are provided. We will furnish watercolor paper, paints, some brushes and line drawings of the different size coaches with windows placed for each configuration. Please bring a color picture of your own motorhome for inspiration (door side view like the one below) and any watercolor paint brushes you may have, marked with your name.

Are you planning to Change Things Up on the inside of your motorhome? Attend the 1-2pm session and ask the panel of those experienced in this area. This question and answer session will provide helpful hints and handouts of instructions and suppliers.

Lillian Trubert will lead the Book Review of "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie. You may want to use www.half.com to purchase a used paperback edition for \$4.58; download an iTunes e-Book for \$7.99 or Audio book for \$19.95; or check your local library for a free edition. Please attend whether or not you have read the book and bring any books to exchange after the review. In the last newsletter other books were mentioned about the Oregon coast and are worthy of reading.

The Swap Meet follows the Book Review and a table for items of \$1 or less will be available with volunteers to handle monies. Please put your name on items for sale to recover proceeds.

Saturday afternoon Gene Fisher and Gary Bovee will host a Social/Craft Project – very informal. The project will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please save items such as seashells, rocks, small jewelry or trinkets, etc., (either before or after you arrive), that are no more than 5/8 inch in diameter for this memorable keepsake. More information will be available through Gene's blog <http://gmc49ers.blogspot.com>.

Competitive juices will flow when a stimulating game of GMC Password will be conducted by Dave deGraffenreid in the Yurt (day to be decided). Jokers & Marbles, LCR and other games will be played all during the Rally.

The Mill has a wonderful work out room for those who might want to exercise. We are working on having a Swim Exercise Class in the indoor pool that has a wonderful view.

See you all soon.

Melissa Fisher, First Vice President



GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER

YOUR GMC AND THE TOOLS YOU SHOULD CARRY

By Nick Roenick



When you are getting ready to hit the road for the weekend or a long trip, there are some tools you should have onboard. Well, you say, I have the AAA card and my trusty (insert your favorite) credit card, that's all I need.

BUT, you can spend a lot of time waiting for the mobile mechanic or tow truck when instead you could just use some simple tools, make the repair and get back to having fun in your GMC. Not all of us are mechanically inclined, but know enough to be dangerous. Since you own a GMC we need to assume you understand the basics and that's all that is required most of the time. Let's start with the basics:

Tire pressure gauge, which reads to 90 pounds and check for accuracy at least once a year. This will tell you at your next stop to add air and check for a leak if it is seriously low.

Crescent wrench, the universal tool to tighten or loosen things and occasionally use as a hammer for the part that will not cooperate (joke). One 6" and a 12" should cover most uses.

Ball peen hammer, yes the actual hammer.

Pliers assortment, needle nose, water pump and locking pliers. With those you can accomplish many tasks and round off bolt heads.

Screwdrivers, various sizes in both flat blade and Philips. But since you own a GMC you will need the clutch-head and Robertson style since they were used by the factory.

Combination Wrench set, starting with size 1/4 inch to 1 1/4 inch for your coach. Yes we have the need for that size on your GMC.

Socket set, 3/8 inch drive with extensions and a universal joint.

Volt-Ohm meter and test light, with which you can diagnose your electrical systems and determine who does the repair, you or a shop.

Bottle jack and jack hook along with a breaker bar and the correct lug nut socket are required to change a tire. You should have them even when calling AAA to get the tire changed. They might not have the right jacking equipment on their truck.

Flashlight, Hacksaw, small pry bar, duct tape, bailing wire, eye goggles, gloves and a can/tube of hand cleaner for when you are done, should round out the set.

A copy of the owner's manual and/ or Maintenance manual would be an excellent addition.

Of course those GMC members that are more mechanical will want to carry some specialty tools for which they have the knowledge to use. The above list is only a suggestion of the most common tools requires for fixing things on the road.

Most of us carry more tools than we will need, but remember the importance of weight and space requirements in the coach. We have never too much of either. Choose tools that you know to use and are correct for your coach. The spare parts we carry can add to the already large list, but are a subject of a later discussion.

Blacklist and Gary Bovee's GMC Motorhome Information disk, do not leave home without them. They are must haves if you have issues on the road. Our GMC community has a great amount of members who will assist you in your time of need, all is required is a phone call or email. If one person cannot help, they will know someone in the area that can or refer you to a good shop for repairs.

Safety is important and you want to use the right tool for the right job (unlike the above reference to the misuse of the crescent wrench). Tool safety is directly related to your safety and the safety of the components you are working on. Take care of your tools. Never let them rust, corrode or become lost. Replace a broken tool as soon as possible.

At any time if you are working under the coach, you MUST use blocking under the frame to keep you from being injured if the air bags loose air. Chock the wheels to keep the coach from moving while you are working.

Safety check your coach, check your tools, pack in your significant other and get going. There is a rally to attend (GMCWS fall rally in Coos Bay, OR) a new state to see or just hang at the local beach for the day.

See you on the road.....and BE CAREFUL OUT THERE !

GMC 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: Mary Kincaid, 510 886-5157, kinscott@comcast.net

1977 GMC COCA COLA (26') #3 Interior (2000 miles)
Complete 403 engine rebuild w/70,000 mi. warranty.
Complete tranny, final drive & carb rebuild. NEW bearing seals, front disc brakes & rotors, radiator core, engine & tranny lines, belts & hoses, 16.5 Firestone tires (6), exhaust system, hot water tank, ceiling, Norcold fridge & red carpet in cockpit. Dual air, good glass, good upholstery & carpet and some Coca Cola memorabilia. Original blinds cleaned & repaired. Exterior could use some touch up. We have used the coach for 2000 miles & it runs very strong. Receipts available. Call for details.
Price: \$18,000
Contact: Dick & Isola Olsen – 509 464-1434
artsoil18@msn.com Cell – 509 290-0030
Spokane, WA _____ 1113

1973 GMC CANYONLANDS (26') (80,000 miles)
455 engine overhauled at 60,000 miles. Beautiful and in great condition. Alcoa wheels, new tires, repainted, reupholstered, new Guske day/night blinds. Always stored inside. Has unique canopy. All manuals.
Price: \$21,500
Contact: Bert Wanlass – 801 423-1860
bertbarb9@msn.com
Woodland Hills, UT _____ 0614

1976 GMC Palm Beach (26') (48,860+miles)
455 engine rebuilt –machined to high standards, balanced, RV cam, headers, Edelbrock aluminum intake manifold. In continuous use since new. Never stored for extended period of time. Numerous upgrades/replacements. 6 new tires last yr on Alcoa rims, rear disc brake conversion, four bag rear suspension, macerator, repainted in color scheme similar to original. NEW forced-air heater, stove/oven, refrigerator, fresh water & black water tanks, top quality vinyl seating w/Steelcase captain chairs. Full length Zipdee patio & window awnings. Interior is tan with white headliner. Most drapes replaced w/exactly original fabric. 6K Onan just serviced. Coach has more features that I can discuss, if you are interested. My family used the coach for 30 yrs. Reluctantly selling due to health issues. If you are interested in a GMC, this is the one.
Price: \$20,000 obo
Contact: Jerry & Carmen Keck – 858 232-5350
gramapa.01@gmail.com
Temecula, CA _____ 0814

-----PARTS-----

Nice homemade **Front Bearing Puller Kit** \$60 **TURBO CITY CUSTOM TBI INJECTION** for 455ci GMC motorhome. Computer w/several different chips, wiring, adapter plate & of course the throttle body. Complete installation instructions. I'll throw in an HEI injection distributor body for this unit. Cost \$1400....now **best offer over \$399.**
Contact: Ken Booth – 928 764-3378 hobo@citlink.net Lake Havasu City, AZ _____ 1113

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

Fall Rally - 2013

GMC WESTERN STATES,
 GMC CASCADERS , GMC 49ERS
 October 2-7, 2013
 The Mill Casino, Hotel & Rv Park
 Coos Bay, Oregon
 Hosts: Sharon And Jerry Work

Spring Rally – 2014

April 24-29, 2014
 Golden Village Palms Rv Resort
 Hemet, California
 Hosts: Arlene And Dave Cantrell

Fall Rally – 2014: 4 Amigos Rally

September 30 – October 5, 2014
 Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds
 Lodi, California
 Hosts: The 4 Amigos: George Banovich, Dave De Graffenreid, Manny Trovao, Nick Roenick

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES GMC WESTERN STATES

ISSUE	2013 3rd	2013 4th	2014 1st	2014 2nd
PUBLICATION DATES	Aug 2nd	Nov 1st	Feb 28th	May 30st
INFO TO COORDINATOR	Jul 19th	Oct 18th	Feb 14th	May 16th
TO PUBLISHER	Jul 26th	Oct 25th	Feb 21st	May 23th

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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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