

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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Happy New Year to All

May your GMC bring you to new places and new friends. As your newly elected President of GMCWS, I want to extend my thanks to the retiring President Freddi Condos and First Vice President Jodell Banovich for their exemplary service to our organization. We need more great people like them to continue to have a successful chapter. The membership also elected Carol Minnie as our First VP for the next term. She has served in the past as the Secretary for the club. The current Secretary, Donna Ventura, agreed to stay on for another term, as did Treasurer Dave deGraffenreid; both have done a wonderful job in the past. Our webmaster, Armand Minnie, is staying on to maintain our web presence. And to round out our team, Tech Vice President Gary Bovee is continuing the great work of getting your tech information to you. Our Newsletter editor Judy Booth has decided to retire from this position, and we all thank her for the great job she has done getting the GMCWS Newsletter out on time and looking good. Secretary Donna Ventura has taken on this job for now in addition to all the other things she has on her plate. Donna has the unenviable job of getting everyone to pay their dues at the end of each year, building and mailing the printed roster, running reports for the FMCA and recording our meetings. Thank you.

With a heavy heart I have to report that we lost our FMCA Director Dorris Garton last month. She was a super GMCer and was involved in every facet of our club. She will be missed by many. Our heartfelt condolences to her husband, Chuck Garton. The Alternate Director Gene Dotson has also stepped down from his duties due to health issues. With the departure of those GMCers, we need to appoint a new FMCA Director and Alternate FMCA Director. The positions are very important to our club, since we not only rely on the FMCA insurance for our rallies, but our members greatly benefit from their varied programs. The Directors stay in contact with the FMCA and report their news to our members on a regular basis. If you are interested in this position, please contact me. The club needs your help to stay viable.

As we are heading into the New Year, we are looking forward to the SPRING rally in Temecula, CA and FALL rally in Coos Bay, OR. Both locations have been previously used for very successful rallies and they promise to be again. Our rally hosts for Temecula are Joanne and Phil Hernandez. They have lined up a super agenda, with something to appeal to everyone. With lots of great fun (there is a great "Old town" and a golf course), food (and wine tastings) in the area, and friends (bring your own or invite new ones), how can you go wrong? The craft sessions by First VP Carol Minnie and tech sessions by Tech VP Gary Bovee will be worth the price of admission alone. Come and experience the southern California weather and scenery. It will be a blast.

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We need new members. Since most of us have adapted to the new internet communication modes, it has helped to get the word out about our GMC's. There are about 2500 members on the various Facebook pages alone. There is a page by GMCMI (Vintage GMC Motorhomes), GMCWS (GMC Western States), 49ers (GMC 49ers Motorhome Club), Pacific Cruisers (Pacific Cruisers GMC), European (GMC motorhome Europe) and the Classic FB page (Classic GMC Motorhomes) maintained by Billy Massey. Those FB members for the most part are owners of GMCs and participate in the discussions about GMCs. There is also a very active web page (<http://gmc.mybirdfeeder.net/GMCforum/>) with 2284 members and a great photo site (<http://www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/>). Both have been around a long time and are very active. If their members would join their local GMC clubs, they could add a lot of enrichment and expertise to their and the clubs' lives. Invite your FB and web friends to join in the social aspect of a rally and they will appreciate how we celebrate the GMC.

We also need rally locations and rally hosts for the 2017 season. It is never too early to scout locations for a rally. Maybe you have been to a place which can hold 50 to 75 or more coaches and thought that the other members might enjoy the experience. Please let us know. If you want to host a rally and have no location, maybe we can find one suitable for the event. It will benefit the club if we all work together. I am looking forward to meeting as many of our members as possible throughout this year as your President and hope to also meet many new members at rallies. Help to keep this great vehicle on the road and ENJOY the GMC experience.

Nick Roenick
GMCWS President



Let's Have Some Fun!

Hi. I'm the new First Vice President of GMCWS, which means that I am responsible for administering the non-technical programs at the rallies. I follow in the capable footsteps of Jodell Banovich who was so great at this job for the past few years. Jodell will continue to help with the program at our Spring rally, so you know it will be fun!

Speaking of the upcoming rally, if you haven't signed up yet, go to www.gmcws.org and download the tentative agenda and the registration form (or see the details and form elsewhere in this newsletter). This is a rally you won't want to miss. We'll be revisiting the 70's at the fabulous Pechanga RV Resort in Temecula, CA, May 2-6.

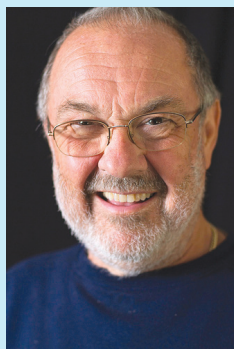
Joanne has a great non-technical program planned for the rally. We'll have some culinary fun with Donna de Graffenreid, learn a couple new crafts, and even play some horseshoes. That's in addition to the activities at the Casino – everything from golf to swimming, gambling and dining. But best of all . . . we have a free afternoon on Wednesday which just might be a great time to take advantage of the fabulous SPA! Check it all out at www.pechangarv.com

Hope to see you/meet you there. And if any of you have a talent or skill you are willing to share at a future rally, or if you have an idea for a seminar, please e-mail me at carol@minniebiz.com We are always looking for ways to make the rallies fun.

Cheers,
Carol Minnie, First Vice President



How do I Quickly Find Information on Our Web Site?



Armand Minnie
GMCWS Web Master

The GMCWS web site has a wealth of information that you will find relevant, interesting and informative. As GMCWS Webmaster, I am always working to make the web site more useful and interesting for you.

Here's a tool you can use to easily find specific information on www.gmcws.org . If you want to quickly go to a specific topic (e.g., "carburetor repair" or "Onan" or "spring rally"), just use the SEARCH tool (look for the red magnifying glass) under the vendor ads at the upper right hand corner of each page.

Go on - give it a try. You don't have to log in unless you want to see the membership rosters, and then all you really need is your email address and the web site will do the rest. In the next issue we'll address how to look up our roster information, and how to update your own information.

If you have ideas or comments about GMCWS.org, please email me at armand@minniebiz.com

W GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



Don't Panic – Be Prepared

Well, it is time to put ink to paper once again and write another Tech VP Article. It's amazing how fast the time flies by before another article is due. I am at home sitting in my man cave and staring out the window. I see dark clouds, rain falling and sun all at the same time while waiting for a lighting bolt to suddenly strike me with some ingenious ideas for this article. You guessed it -- lighting didn't strike, but I have some thoughts I want to share with all of you.

I don't know if you have ever experienced your coach breaking down while on the road, but I can assure you first hand it is not a good feeling. It happened to me in late November heading home from the Bay Area in bumper to bumper traffic. I was happily cruising along when, without notice, the engine sputtered and shut off. Luckily for me there was room to coast to the side of the CA I-5 Freeway and park safely.

At first I'm fighting back feelings of panic. I'm alone in the coach and it's soon going to be dark. Then I said to myself, get a grip and figure it out. You can fix it. Hmm... If not, my wife is my backup plan. She is about two hours behind me in our car heading in my direction. I always carry a spare ignition module and coil with me just in case I need it. In fact, I actually have a spare distributor with me too. I had replaced the mechanical fuel pump and all fuel filters less than three thousand miles ago. So I thought I would just swap out the ignition module and see if I get lucky. Have you ever heard that old saying "Haste Makes Waste"? Well, it is true! I changed the module and the coach started right up. It was an "aha" moment. I thought I had the problem fixed. I jumped in the driver's seat and was back on the road in about 5 minutes. The traffic was so heavy I hardly could find room to safely pull back onto the freeway. Finally I got my chance. I gunned the throttle. Pedal to the metal and off I went -- less than 200 feet later the engine died again. This time I coasted off an exit ramp. Well, I wasn't as lucky as I thought in quickly fixing the problem. I raised the engine hatch and took the air cleaner off; pulled the throttle linkage and saw no gas squirt in the carburetor. That was strange. The gas gauge read between 1/4 and 1/2 full. I have both mechanical and electrical fuel pumps. I disconnected the fuel line at the carburetor and turned on the electrical fuel pump, but no fuel came out of the fuel line. Hmm... I flipped the switch to the other fuel tank. The gauge read empty. I turned the electric pump back on. Bingo, the unexpected happened. Gas started gushing out of the disconnected fuel line. So I reconnected the line and tried starting the engine -- it fired right up. Once again I was back on the road. I stopped at the first gas station that I came to and got fuel. The rest of the drive home was without incident.

Note to self -- check fuel gauges when I get back home.

With my experience I should have known better than to waste time guessing what was causing the engine to just suddenly shut off. An engine has to have air, fuel, and spark to run. I should have quickly done some troubleshooting before jumping to conclusions that swapping out the ignition module would probably fix the problem. Message to self -- thoroughly check things out before jumping to conclusions prematurely!

I was fortunately able to troubleshoot the situation myself and get the coach up and running again without too much of a hassle. However, it reminded me that it can be a very helpless feeling to be broken down beside the road, and how fortunate we are to have the Blacklist to turn to when we need help. I got lucky and didn't need it. You may not be so lucky.

For those who are not familiar with the Blacklist, it is a list of GMC owners/supporters who make themselves available for any assistance they can offer to other GMCers while on the road traveling. Individuals on this list offer their help to GMC owners on a 24-hour basis, rain or shine. Sorry - no help for those in SOB's -- just GMCs.

The GMC Community is very fortunate to have such a tight knit group willing to help each other when the need arises. So for the good of the GMC Community, if you are not on the list, I encourage you to please give it some serious consideration. Thanks to the Blacklist, I have been able to help some stranded GMCers, and made some new friends along the way too. It has been a great experience. Also, be sure to keep a current copy of the Blacklist in your coach. You never know when you just might need it. To sign up for the list, which is not mandatory to anyone, use the handy online form at http://www.bdub.net/Black_List/.

Before I sign off, I want to remind everyone of the upcoming Western States Spring Rally in Temecula, California, being hosted by Phil and Joanne Hernandez. They are planning four days of fun for you at the beautiful Pechanga RV Resort and Casino in the heart of the Temecula Wine Country. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

As always, I have a terrific line-up of Tech Seminars for your enjoyment. To that end, I must say that for the last year and a half I have been contacting Rob Mueller in Australia to see if he would come to a Western States Rally again and give a seminar on "Centering the Steering Box". I am pleased to announce that, not only is he going to do that, but he will also demonstrate on a coach outside if

it is allowed at the RV Park. This will be great opportunity to learn how to check out the steering on your own coach. You won't want to miss this session. From what I have read, the majority of coaches need to have the steering box centered. Also, after this adjustment folks say their coaches handle much better.

The tentative Tech Seminar schedule includes the following:

- Centering the Steering Box Gear – With Outside Demo -- Rob Mueller
- What You Always Wanted to Know about Automotive Chemicals & Solvents -- Mark Elmer
- Our Mods to Our Gutted 23' GMC -- Chuck Botts
- Regular TV Antenna vs In-Motion Satellite Antenna – Jim & Grace Kanomata
- Atomic EFI -- Miguel Mendez
- If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It -- Gene Fisher
- Best Thing I Ever Did to My GMC -- Western States Members
- Ask The Experts – Jim Kanomata, Miguel Mendez, Rob Mueller, and Manny Trovao

Everyone, please make sure your coach is roadworthy so that you can have a trouble-free trip to the Spring Rally. Be safe, Folks.

See you there!

Gary Bovee

GMCWS Technical Vice President



Notes from Your Secretary

Happy 2016, Fellow GMCers! We're all looking forward to another fun year of traveling in our GMCs, seeing new places, making new friends, and enjoying the camaraderie that makes this a great club.

This time of year is a busy time for the GMCWS Secretary. Here's a look at what I've been up to for you.

Membership

Thanks to you our members for a successful 2016 Membership Drive. As of February 1, 2016 we currently have 189 members. Several former members have rejoined the fold – Welcome back! If you haven't paid your dues yet, it's never too late. See our website www.gmcws.org for instructions on how to renew for this year.

FMCA

The FMCA has certified the GMC Western States chapter for 2016, which means that our club and our members are eligible for FMCA benefits, including insurance for our rallies. Check out their website www.fmca.com for a comprehensive list of benefits. Chapter certification is an arduous process: In December of each year the GMCWS Secretary must verify that all of our current members are also current with their FMCA registration and dues. This involves comparing their roster with ours, line by line. In doing so last month, I found that the personal information of many of our members shown in the FMCA database is not up to date. It's not possible for me to correct it for you - I would if I could. So I would strongly suggest that you look at your data online to see if any items need updating. Visit www.fmca.com In the upper right corner click on SIGN IN, put your cursor on My Account, choose View my Member Profile. Then choose Update FMCA Membership Information to view and make changes if necessary. You can also email FMCA directly at membership@fmca.com with the changes you would like made. If you are unable to look at your FMCA data, please give me a call and I can tell you what needs updating and how to get it done. If you are joining FMCA as a new member, go to www.fmca.com and click on the tab JOIN.

Roster - Reformatted

You will see that our printed 2016 Roster – to be out soon - will have a new look inside. The formats of the alphabetical and state rosters have been changed to make them easier to read. The Parts and Supplies vendors section remains the same. The on-line roster has not changed.

See you at the Spring Rally!

Donna Ventura

GMCWS Secretary

GMC...FOR SALE

Your ads are welcome and will run for one year.

Please inform us if your items are sold before the ad runs out. Contact: Donna Ventura, 925 200-6227, donaveee@gmail.com

- Olds 403 Mondello Engine 600 miles
From 1978 GMC Royale, Price is 50% of what I recently paid.
- 403 Engine:..... \$4930.
- Engine Specs available on request.
- Following items for 403 GMC.
- Distributor-curved by D.Patterson \$120
- New carburetor-curved \$400
- New Alternator w/double pulley..... \$65
- New Alternator tension adjuster \$35
- Alternator protection cable \$13
- New Starter..... \$25
- Power steering unit..... \$60
- Thorley Headers \$299
- Total Asking Price \$5947
- Free shipping within USA or pick up at Mondello, Paso Robles with a discount of \$600.
- Contact: Peter D. Huber - 510 569-1118
- a1huber@prodigy.net
- Oakland, CA..... 0816

Pictures from GMC rallies that our members attended. If you would like to submit pictures of your rally for our newsletters, we will post as space is available



Mountainaires Rally



Cascaders Rolling Rally



*Lake Havasu Balloon Rally
49ers and Pacific Cruisers*



*Saguaro Jetsetters at
Bluegrass Rally*



GMCWS SPRING RALLY MAY 2-6, 2016
CELEBRATE THE 70'S AT PECHANGA RV RESORT
45000 PECHANGA PARKWAY, TEMECULA, CA 92592
www.pechangarv.com 1-877-997-8386

Directions – From the intersection of I-15 and Temecula Parkway In Temecula: Drive East approx.. 1 mi. to Pechanga Parkway. Right on Pechanga Parkway. Drive approx.. 2 mi. to Pechanga Casino, go **past** the entrances to the Casino to RV Resort Drive. Right on RV Resort Drive to the entrance to the Resort on the left.

Tentative Rally Schedule

MONDAY, MAY 2nd

- 2:00pm-5:00pm** Check in at the Clubhouse
- 4:00pm** Executive Board Meeting
- 5:00pm** Social Hour at the Clubhouse followed by a Catered Dinner
- 7:30pm** Welcome Meeting–Meet your Officers, Meet All New Members and Guests and then stay to play Jokers and Marbles, Dominos and Other Games

TUESDAY, MAY 3rd

- 7:00am** Like to Walk? Meet in front of the Clubhouse for some stretching exercises and then take a walk around the area with Ms. Fretti
- 8:00-9:30am** Catered Breakfast at the Clubhouse
- 10:00-11:30am** Combined Tech/Non-tech Seminar at the Clubhouse, How to get the most out of your smartphone.
- 1:00-3:30pm** Tech Seminar at the Clubhouse TBA or Competition Horseshoes with Dave de
- 1:00-3:30pm** Non-tech Seminar at Meeting Area #2 Gift bags and Tags or Competition Horseshoes
- 5:00pm** Social Hour at the Clubhouse followed by a Catered Dinner
- 7:30til?** Stick around the Clubhouse to talk GMC and play games or head to the Casino to try your luck. 24/7 free shuttle service back and forth

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th

- 7:00am** Still feel like Walking? Meet in front of the Clubhouse for another round of exercise and a healthy walk to work up your appetite. Ms Fretti will be waiting for you.
- 8:00-9:30am** Catered Breakfast at the Clubhouse
- 10:00-11:30am** Tech Seminar at the Clubhouse TBA
- 10:00-11.30** Non-tech Seminar at Meeting Area #2, Culinary fun with Donna de

(THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING DO WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE. RV RESORT GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO USE THE DRIVING RANGE AND PUTTING GREEN AT THE BEAUTIFUL “JOURNEY COURSE” PROPER GOLFING ATTIRE REQUIRED. TAKE THE FREE SHUTTLE FROM YOUR RV DOORSTEP TO THE GOLF COURSE OR THE CASINO. GAMBLE AWAY OR TAKE OFF FROM THE CASINO ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUS TO EXPLORE OLD TOWN TEMECULA. GO GOLFING, SWIM OR JACUZZI. CHECK YOUR PACKET FOR ALL THE INTERESTING THINGS THERE ARE TO DO IN THIS AREA. A BBQ, TABLES AND BENCHES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PATIO NEXT TO THE CLUBHOUSE AND THE CLUBHOUSE, COMPLETE WITH KITCHEN, IS OPEN FOR ALL OF US TO ENJOY DURING THE DAY AND EVENING)

THURSDAY, MAY 5th

- 7:00am** Turn that alarm off and sleep in ‘til Breakfast!
- 8:00-9:30am** Catered Breakfast at the Clubhouse
- 10:00-10:45** General Membership Meeting
- 11:00-12:00pm** Tech Seminar at the Clubhouse TBA
- 11:00-12:00pm** Non-tech Seminar at Meeting Area #2, get crafty with Jodell.
- 1:00-3:30pm** GMC OPEN HOUSE Show off all the innovations you have created and get ideas for more from all your fellow GMCers
- 5:00pm** Weere Baaaak! Social Hour and Catered Cinco de Mayo Dinner at the Clubhouse. Wear your best 1970’s outfit. Maybe the John Travolta look???
- 7:30til?** To be determined

FRIDAY, MAY 6th

- 8:00-9:30am** Catered Breakfast at the Clubhouse, then time to say goodbye to all our friends for a while
- 12:00PM** Check out time

GMC Rally Schedule - 2016

Events and dates may change.

Please refer to the specific GMC Club's web site for more information.

April 7-10	Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Rally, La Conner, WA Hosts - Dave & Cindy Tracey (Cascaders)
April 8-14	GMCMI Spring Convention, National Peanut Festival Grounds, Dothan, AL Host - Kimberly Weeks (GMCMI)
May 2-6	GMCWS Spring Rally, Pechanga RV Resort, Temecula, CA Hosts - Phil and Joanne Hernandez
June 2-5	Harvey & Jan's Tree Farm, Maple Valley, WA Hosts - Terry & Gloria Morris (Cascaders)
June 3-5	Parrish Ranch RV Park, Berthoud, CO Hosts - Dodrills and Harts (Mountainaires)
June 9-13	Eastsider Get-Together, Wine Country RV Park, Prosser, WA (Cascaders)
June 25	GMCPC Exhibit at Murphy Auto Museum, Oxnard, CA 3 GMCs will be on display. Hosts - Jim & Audree Rowe (Pacific Cruisers)
June 25-July 1	The Great GMC Motorhome Get-Together, Branson KOA & Convention Center, Branson, MO Host - Kimberly Weeks (GMCMI)
July 7-10	Arlington Air Show, Arlington, WA Hosts - Tom & Sally Donovan (Cascaders)
July 17-19	Joint rally – Pacific Cruisers and 49ers, Wine Country RV Resort, Paso Robles, CA Hosts: Bobbie Schultz (Pacific Cruisers) and Suzanne Statler (49ers)
July 22 - 24	Murphy Auto Museum, Oxnard, CA Hosts - Bobbie & Gene Schultz (Pacific Cruisers)
August 5-7	Lazy Acres, Riverside, WY. Hosts – Parmleys (Mountainaires)
August 5-7	Salem Steam Up, Salem, OR Hosts - Judy and Jim Hupy (Cascaders)
Sept 9-11	Shady Cove/Rogue River, OR Hosts - Gene and Joan Reitz (49ers)
Sept 30-Oct 6	GMCMI Fall Convention, Richland County Fairground, Mansfield, OH Host - Kimberly Weeks (GMCMI)
Oct ?	Dude Ranch Rally Host - Helen Huston (Pacific Cruisers)
Oct 10 - 14	GMC Western States 4-Club Fall Rally, Mills Casino, Coos Bay, OR Cascaders, 49ers, Mountainaires and Pacific Cruisers Hosts - Gary and Rebecca Bovee (GMCWS)
Nov 11-13	49ers 40th Anniversary Rally, Petaluma, CA Hosts - Dave and Donna de Graffenreid (49ers)
Dec 1-4	Christmas Rally (Cascaders)

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

SPRING RALLY - 2016

May 2 – 6, 2016

Pechanga Casino & RV Park

Temecula, California

Hosts: Phil & Joanne Hernandez

FALL RALLY – 2016

Oct. 10 – 14 GMC Western States

4-Club Fall Rally, Mills Casino, Coos Bay, OR

Cascaders, 49ers, Mountaineers

and Pacific Cruisers

Hosts - Gary and Rebecca Bovee (GMCWS)

See inside for complete Rally schedule!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES GMC WESTERN STATES

ISSUE	2016 1st	2016 2nd	2016 3rd	2016 4th
PUBLICATION DATES	Feb. 19	June 1	Aug. 19	Nov. 4
INFO TO COORDINATOR	Feb. 5	May 20	Aug. 5	Oct. 21
TO PUBLISHER	Feb. 12	May 27	Aug. 12	Oct. 28

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or call: 925 200-6227

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.

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