

# GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017 Vol. 104



## GMCWS Needs Your Help

The Spring Rally in Pahrump was a success but the attendance was small, which leaves me to believe that there is a waning interest in the club's rally activities from our members and we are not getting

new members to join GMCWS.

This issue was discussed at our recent Executive Board and general membership meetings, without any solutions brought to the table. The existing web pages and Face Book pages make it easy for GMC owners to get information about the coaches and the modifications that can be done, and this may be one reason that members do not come and check out the excellent presentations that our Tech VP George Beckman arranges for us. The presenters put a lot of work in their subjects, and it is most beneficial to ask the presenters about any difficulties or remedies that they found in the install or modification of the subjects. The one-on-one discussions are very interesting and informative, and usually add to the expansion of the subject.

The social aspects of our rallies are often overlooked. We make friends and share our thoughts during our rallies - not just about the GMC coach, but about a myriad of subjects. Our members are diverse and come from a large variety of professional backgrounds, and they all contribute to the knowledge base of our community. A carpenter can help

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with the cabinetry, a plumber with the water system, an engineer can figure out the best probability of success for a new upgrade. If you look at all the things that have improved our coaches since their inception, you will find the hand of many of our members past and present in getting them done. Getting to know these remarkable people is a blessing and a privilege. This happens at a rally.

Our lady members also contribute to the betterment of the coaches. Their input as to the layout, styling and décor is very important. We sometimes think the rally is just for the "guys", but not so — we have activities for the ladies and our First VP Carol Minnie did an excellent job at Pahrump with a great line-up of things to do. They had a separate building for the activities and the RV Park's social director, Scotta, assisted Carol, which made it nice for the ladies to do their thing without the guys interfering.

All these things add up to a great mix of people that share one thing in common: the GMC coach. As we move forward in our endeavor to strengthen and increase our membership, we need to make nonmembers understand the importance of joining our clubs, since it benefits not only the club, but also their social interaction and technical skills. For individuals who are not yet retired and find it difficult to take time off from work to attend a rally, we try to schedule the rally over a long weekend so they can come and visit. We also move the rallies to all parts of our covered territories and encourage the local clubs to join us, since their members live close by.

I want to thank all of you who have attended the rallies in the past and hope you will join us again soon. I encourage you to speak to your GMC motorhome friends who are not yet members of our great club and invite them to join us.

Nick Roenick, GMCWS President

## Meet Sandy Clark, your New Newsletter Editor



I am Sandy Clark and I am excited to be involved in the GMC Western States Newsletter.

Lynn and I have been GMC motorhome owners for over 20 years. We live in Draper, Utah, and belong to the Great Mountain Classics. We are parents of 5 daughters and 1 son. We have been blessed with 19 smart, amazing, beautiful grandchildren, and spend a fair amount of time attending their activities.

I retired five years ago from 28 years of teaching. I enjoy sewing, handwork, reading, gardening, and most of all traveling.

I am looking forward to sharing good times together in Paso Robles this fall.

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## News from Your Secretary



GMCWS would like to warmly welcome the following members who joined our club recently. We look forward to meeting them (if we haven't already) and including them in our festivities and activities. Our new members and their locales are shown below.

Scott and Brenda Cartwright, San Luis Obispo, CA

Patrice Ciccarelli, Huntington Beach, CA

Randy Johnson, St. George, Utah. Randy brought his father,

Joe, with him to the Pahrump rally, where we celebrated his 94th birthday!

Chase Peters, Las Vegas, NV

If I missed anybody, please let me know and I will be sure to include you in the next Newsletter. It was an inadvertent omission, and I hang my head!

### Roster Updates and Corrections

Please add Mark and Annette Elmer to your printed roster – I left them out by mistake – my sincerest apologies to them. They are still on the web roster, however, so you can find their details there.

The printed roster, listing by state, shows Gordy Lee lives in Cottonwood, California. Correction: Gordy Lee lives in Cottonwood, ARIZONA.

For the first time in my tenure as Secretary, we had no returns from the Post Office of rosters that were undeliverable. So I send out a great thanks to everyone for keeping your addresses updated on our website.

See you in Paso Roble

Donna Ventura

GMCWS Secretary



## Spring Rally Report in Pahrump, NV, April 2017

*Rally Hosts: Nick Roenick, Donna Ventura,  
George & Jodell Banovich*

We gathered Thursday, April 20, in the Preferred RV Park in Pahrump, NV. The RV park personnel made the checking in very easy with preassigned spots, and we gathered at the clubhouse for the first Happy Hour, followed by a nice dinner at the Nugget Casino. There we welcomed all guests, new members and fellow GMCers to the rally.

Friday began with a hot buffet breakfast at the clubhouse and then it was off to the tech and craft sessions. The tech sessions were in the clubhouse and covered a large variety of subjects. For more detail, please check out our Tech VP George Beckman's coverage in this issue of the Newsletter and on our web site. The ladies went to the adjacent building, which serves as a craft house for the park and their members. Carol Minnie, our First VP, wrote a great article, also in this Newsletter and on our web site, covering all the crafts which were very interesting and fun to do. The ladies had a special noon time coffee/tea event. Thank you, Carol. After all that hard work, we had Happy Hour and a catered dinner by Dickey's B-B-Q.

Saturday, we had a short day of activities after a hot breakfast at the clubhouse so folks could go out and explore the area. Some came back early in the evening for an impromptu potluck dinner and social time.

On Sunday, we went to the Casino to have a catered breakfast followed by the membership meeting. The coverage is in this edition of the Newsletter. This was followed by more seminars and craft sessions. George Beckman led an Open Forum session which was well attended. Thank you, George. We ended the day with Happy Hour and a great dinner at the Casino.

After the continental breakfast at the clubhouse on Monday morning, it was time to say our good byes until the next rally in Paso Robles in October.

We want to thank all the vendors and seminar presenters for their participation, as well as the Preferred RV Park personnel who made us feel at home, and the great staff, food and venue provided by the Nugget Casino.



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## Non-Tech Rally Report for Pahrump Rally

**April 20-24, 2017**

Well, we definitely had some fun in Pahrump! Our Spring 2017 Rally was great. Many thanks to Nick and Donna and George and Jodell for all their hard work. And thanks to all the volunteers and the wonderful staff at the resort and the casino. Meals to die for! Best pasta alfredo ever, and lots of yummy desserts.

The non-technical programs were very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We had a good time at the Ladies' Garden Party and the fashion show. Ruth Beckman led us in a game of "What's in your purse" and we had quite a few lucky winners.

The appetizers from our "Easy Appetizers" get-together were a hit at happy hour. We had lots of volunteers to help prepare the goodies. Thanks to Donna de Graffenreid for helping with that session.

The "My Favorite Book" discussion seemed to be one of the most popular sessions. I put together a list of all the recommended books and posted it on the website under Rally Reports. The list is also shown on page 6 of this Newsletter.

We also chose a book for the spring rally. Susane Wright has agreed to helm the Book Review session in Paso Robles and has chosen the book "Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara. It was made into a movie called Gettysburg and provides an interesting perspective on the Civil War. Lots of folks also took part in the book exchange. However, the dollar sale hasn't been anything worthwhile for the past several rallies so we won't be doing that next time around.

Our ladies' talents were on full display in the craft sessions. The wreaths and the charming necklaces were all works of art and we're grateful to Scotta Carr and her trusty helpers from the resort who taught us how to create our own personal masterpieces.

The best part of the rally is always the people and this rally was no different. It is always so great to reconnect and enjoy our time together. Although I won't be able to attend the fall rally in Paso Robles, I will look forward to seeing you wonderful folks again in Tucson at the spring rally next year!

Cheers,

Carol Minnie  
First VP



## GMCWS General Membership Meeting Minutes

**Preferred RV Resort, Pahrump, Nevada  
April 30, 2017**

*Note: This is a summary. A detailed report can be found at HYPERLINK "<http://www.gmcws.org>" [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org)*

President Nick Roenick called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Invocation was led by George Beckman, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ralph Mundia.

President Roenick thanked the hosts of this rally, Donna Ventura and George and Jodell Banovich, for all their hard work.

### **President Roenick introduced officers present:**

Carol Minnie, First VP. Carol thanked everyone for helping with the ladies' programs and went over the day's schedule.

George Beckman, Second/Technical VP. George thanked this rally's presenters: Frank Condos, Jim Kanomata, Armand Minnie, Dave de Graffenreid. The presentations were well done and very informative, including those dealing with the interior of our coaches. He already has at least two presenters already lined up for the Fall Rally in Paso Robles, and encouraged members to consider being presenters, even though they may think that their topics(s) may not be interesting.

Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer.

Donna Ventura, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Armand Minnie, Webmaster.

Past President present – Armand Minnie - was acknowledged, as were birthdays for Bobbie Schultz and Ron Johnson (he's 94!).

### **Guests**

Several guests were recognized: Daniel and Marjon Jacobs, from Landgraaf, the Netherlands; Daniel McCarthy, Sparks, NV; Loran and Colleen Watson, Orem, Utah; Barbara Peckles, daughter of Jim and Adelle Decheine; Steve and Nancy Ferguson, Sierra Vista, AZ; and John and Cathy Ruff, Arizona City, AZ.

President Roenick presented the Jacobs with a red GMC light for coming the longest distance. The Jacobs in turn presented the club with a story board/collection of GMC motorhome cartoons and witticisms – very clever and funny.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave de Graffenreid: Our Treasury was on a downward slide, but is now recovering, due in part to reducing publication costs (newsletters and rosters) and collecting almost

\$1000 more in dues. Several members felt that we should spend the funds on our members and club activities; further discussions will be held by the Executive Board. Hoss made a motion to accept the report as presented; motion was seconded by Jim Kanomata; motion passed.

### **Budget Issues**

President Roenick stated the need to dispose of our outdated and non-functional audiovisual equipment. The President will work with Doug Norton to ensure that said equipment is donated or otherwise disposed of.

### **New Name Badges**

President Roenick proposed that we explore new name badges for the club, with interested members footing the cost. A good portion of our members don't have GMCWS name badges except for rally specific badges. The Secretary would like to see a more interesting design than the one that other GMC clubs have. ACTION: President Roenick will do more research.

### **Election of Officers for 2018**

All current officers have agreed to serve for another year. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Therefore, a nominating committee for the Fall election of officers is not necessary.

### **Recruiting New Members**

President Roenick stated there are at least 8 GMC Motorhome Facebook sites, containing lots of technical information. Viewing these pages isn't the same as attending a rally, where there's even more technical information and lots of social interaction. Our members should encourage non-member GMC motorhome owners to attend a rally so they can see how valuable the rallies are, both technically and socially.

### **Newsletters**

Sandy Clark has volunteered to be our next Newsletter Editor – thank you, Sandy! Please send rally photos to Sandy Clark for next newsletter. Some rally photos appear on our Facebook page but aren't sent to the Newsletter Editor. We want to show our members what a good time we have and entice them to come to the next rally.

The possibility was raised of charging members who choose to receive paper copies of the newsletter via U.S. mail. Members who don't come to rallies get their information from the newsletters. If we charge them for the printed newsletters, will it discourage individuals from joining? Discussion: If we have sufficient funds in the Treasury to cover this expense, why make this change? Some members felt that member dues include newsletter and rosters.

*Continued on page 5*

It was also pointed out that some members complain if there is any increase in dues; however, they don't come to the rallies to hear the pertinent discussion. Therefore, to ensure that your voice is heard, come to the rallies.

Hoss Hauge moved that GMCWS charge an extra \$10 per year for members who choose to receive printed copies of our newsletters; Jim Kanomata and Ralph Mundia seconded the motion, and it was passed by members present. The \$10 will be paid at the time of annual dues renewal.

**Future Rallies - Dates**

Fall Rally - October 5-9, 2017, Wine Country RV Park, Paso Robles – a great venue. Hosts will be Ben and Mary Price, with assistance from Dave de Graffenreid. Space is limited to 50 coaches, so be sure to sign up early.

Spring 2018: April 6-12, 2018, at Lazy Days RV Park, Tucson, AZ. This will be a 5-day rally in conjunction with GMCMI. Armand and Carol Minnie will be our rally hosts. Cost should be approx. \$400. Armand is working with Kim Weeks, GMCMI, to have a GMCWS day, with the goal of getting more members from the GMCMI community to join GMCWS, since there will probably be GMCMI members there who don't normally come to our rallies. Proposed activities include helping MI with their daily breakfasts, games hosted by Dave, and GMCWS-sponsored ladies' events and entertainment. In addition, we will invite others to participate in our activities. Kim

has agreed to park us together. Jim Kanomata indicated that he will sponsor a margarita bucket, as well as donate \$1200-\$1500 worth of goods for raffles. He will also give first-timers a gift certificate for \$50. A member asked that Armand check for motel availability in the area. Pacific Cruisers plans to have their official meeting at this rally. Apportionment of the official rally fees being paid to MI hasn't been determined at this time, per Armand.

**Future Rallies - General**

Several members would like to see the rallies be longer than 4 days, to justify the distance and gas expenses. It was suggested that there is nothing precluding members from planning activities either before and/or after the official rally dates. President Roenick indicated that, based on feedback from members, rally fees over \$400 would mean fewer might attend, and with rising costs, it is very difficult to keep rally fees for a 4-day rally under \$400. Dave de Graffenreid says we should nevertheless try to keep it under \$400, hoping for more participants. He suggests extending the rallies to 5 days, as has been done in the past, and have more members working on meals. Also, a heavy menu of hors d'oeuvres will suffice instead of dinner.

**Closing**

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**Technical Rally Report, Pahrump, NV**



Our grown son said "Pahrump" sounds like something an elephant would say in a children's book. It turned out to be much more than that. As my wonderful mother-in-law, God rest her soul, would say, "A good time was had by all!"

I want to thank all who helped with Tech Session Presentations. I learned a great deal and heard others did as well. The best thing about Western

States Tech Sessions is that the sessions are happy sessions. It was rewarding to look at the presenters and attendees smiling and enjoying each other and talking about GMCs.

Life is about decisions and we all make them. The thing about decisions is that they are often a matter of opinion. Opinions are often met with a difference of opinion. I heard a smart man who once said that whenever he begins to formulate an idea or opinion he reminds himself to say, "What if I am wrong?" Sometimes, when you are a bozo (like me), you might also ask,

"Could I, possibly, maybe, this time, be right?"

This rally we had several sessions on interiors. I was concerned that this might be met with disdain by some but apparently not. My motivation for having some "How I Fixed Up the Interior" sessions is partially personal. Ruth is a patient soul who has watched me spend money on the engine, transmission, final drive, brakes, every type pump known to man and a mystery pump or two, gauges that wiggle and flicker and a raft of things that "folks said I should have". Now that I have promised that I have a spare everything except an engine and transmission under the seats of the dinettes, it is her turn. We have the new floor down thanks to our friends the Van Winkles and upholstery is next.

We are already planning for the next rally in Paso Robles in October. We hope to wow attendees with sessions on how they keep our wonderful machines running and how to have fun. I think it would be great to have a session on re-curving doors. I would be glad to offer the door from our coach as the model for hands-on fun. Hint, hint. (There should be perks for being Tech VP.)

George Beckman, Technical VP

## GMCWS Wine Country Fall 2017 Rally

**October 5-9, 2017**

**Wine Country RV Resort**

www.Winecountryrvresort.com

2500 Airport Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Rally Hosts: Ben & Mary Price 909-584-0050

or 562-413-3526

We are excited to be going to one of our favorite new parks. You may remember the Pacific Cruisers and the 49ers had a joint rally at this park last year. We are also excited to have Pacific Cruisers Ben & Mary Price as our Rally Hosts. Guaranteed, they will put on a great rally. This is a new five-star RV Resort with a heated swimming pool and spa, as well as a separate adult spa area near our camp sites and the Wine Loft Club House. The park has a Wine Garden with outdoor movies (maybe everyone at the park will want to watch "Stripes"). Harvey's Corner is an adult playground with a beer and wine bar, and serve a variety of local wines. There is a dog park, billiards room, fitness center, game room and convenience store.

We will all be parking together at the top of the terraced park. In the center is the Wine Loft Club House, shaded patios and BBQ areas. The air conditioned clubhouse has industrial style kitchens. (You know what that means? Home cooked meals with Chefs Ben & Mary.) Ben & Mary are very experienced cooking gourmet meals for charity events.

Thursday night's dinner will be a GMC Poker Run and Roving Hors d'Oeuvres. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres or crockpot delight to share with the group. Friday night Chefs

Ben & Mary are preparing a Ranch-style wood BBQ. Saturday night we will be having Ben & Mary's Santa Maria style Tri Tip BBQ. Sunday night we will enjoy Ben's favorite Roasted Top Sirloin French Quarter Debris Po-Boys. We will have happy hour each night and, of course, lots of ice cream socials. There will be four homemade breakfasts; lunches are on your own.

George Beckman, Technical VP, is putting together new GMC seminars. Carol Minnie and friends are working on activities from cooking classes to crafts and book club. If you have a special talent you would like to share with us, let one of us know and we will fit you into the schedule. For entertainment (Dave promised not to make it a Survivor rally), there will be succulent centerpieces to create, a fun auction, and plenty of time for GMC games. Do you call wine tasting a game?

Unfortunately, space is limited to fifty coaches, so sign up soon. Come a day before and/or stay a day after, at the Club's rate of \$53 per night. Sign up for extra days on the registration form (see page 7). Dave will check availability, let you know, and you can pay for extra days at the rally. The park also has cottages available at this time. More exciting: The park is installing new two-person chalets right up on our terrace. Contact the park for those reservations (Wine Country RV Resort 805-296-5118, Email Winecountry@suncommunities.com)

What to Bring: GMC Motorhome, lunch food, first night hors d'oeuvres for many, swap meet goods, fun and funny auction stuff, bathing suits for pool and spa, and a sense of humor for GMC game nights. And be sure to read *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara for the Book Club.

Join us for a great GMCWS rally!  
Dave de Graffenreid, Rally Assistant

## Book Recommendations

Here is the list of books that were recommended at the "My Favorite Book" session in Pahrump at our Spring rally. We had about 15 participants and lots of variety in the recommendations. It was a great session and very interesting to learn more about each other and the books we like to read.

The Ladies' #1 Detective Agency by Andrew McCall Smith

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of the Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley

Longing for Home by Sarah Eden

Orphan Keeper by Cameron Right

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara (chosen for the Paso Robles book review)

Old School by O'Reilly and Feirstein

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner and Jackson Benson

Youngblood Hawke by Herman Wouk

The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

Highlander series by Karen Marie Moning

Genghis Khan series by Conn Iggulden

Thornbirds by Colleen McCullough

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

We Were the Mulaneys by Joyce Carol Oates

The Train to Crystal City by Jan Jarboe Russell

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Anything by Author Kathleen Woodiwiss

Anything by Author Stuart Woods

O'Henry short stories

You're Never Too Young by Lawrence Welk

A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley (this became the movie "The Lion")

The Pearl Diver by Jeff Talarigo

**GMCWS Wine Country Fall 2017 Rally**  
**October 5-9, 2017**  
**Wine Country RV Resort**  
**www.Winecountryrvresort.com**  
**2500 Airport Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446**

**RALLY HOSTS: Ben & Mary Price 909-584-0050 or 562-413-3526**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Coach License Number \_\_\_\_\_ Tow Car License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for updates: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact – Name/No.: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

Is this your first GMCWS Rally?	Yes _____	No _____
Do you need Handicapped Parking?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you a vendor?	Yes _____	No _____

.....

**Rally Fees include full hook-up spaces (water, 30/50 amp, sewer, TV and WiFi), 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, ice cream socials, seminars.**

Coach with 2 persons	\$ <u>385</u>	\$ _____
Coach with one person	\$ <u>340</u>	\$ _____
Each Guest in Coach	\$ <u>110</u>	\$ _____
Guest Name(s): _____		
Two persons, no coach	\$ <u>155</u>	\$ _____
Cost per single night	\$ <u>100</u>	\$ _____
Non-GMCWS Members add \$10.00	\$ <u>10</u>	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b> .....		\$ _____

**Please Make Check (US Funds) Payable to: Dave de Graffenreid (not GMC Western States)**  
**Mail by September 5, 2017 to: Dave de Graffenreid, 283 Camellia Lane, Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

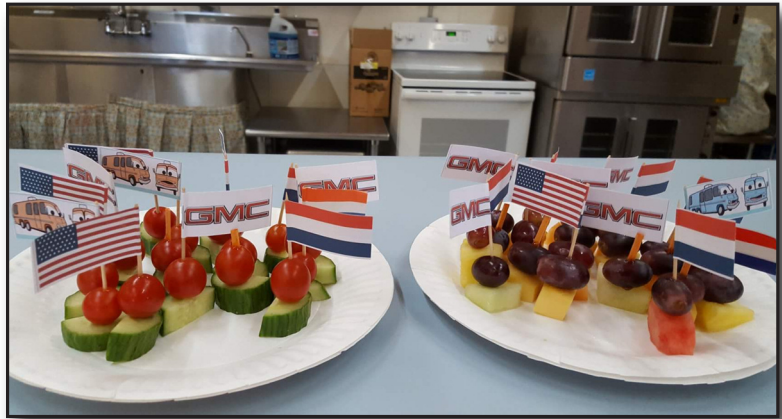
**If you cancel before September 5 you will receive a full refund. For cancellations after September 5, we will try to do partial refunds after all expenses have been paid.**

**\*CIRCLE extra nights you will be attending (pay when you arrive):      Oct. 4      Oct. 9**  
 .....





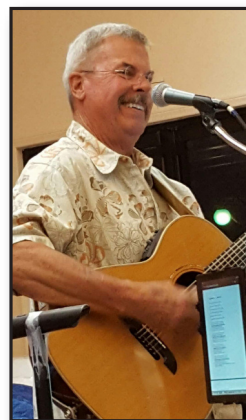
Fun in Pahrump, April 2017











The GMC Western States Inc., a 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's 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 interests of GMC Motorhome owners, their families and friends.

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**FMCA Alternate National Director**  
Vacant

**GMC Western States Newsletter**

Designed by Cathy at Typeworks, Union City, CA • Printed by Golden Oaks Printing, Hayward, CA

To submit an article or item for our Newsletter, email the Newsletter Coordinator,  
Sandy Clark [soclark22@yahoo.com](mailto:soclark22@yahoo.com).

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GMC Western States Newsletter  
1301 Margery Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94578

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## GMC Rally Schedule: June - December 2017

List may not be all-inclusive. Events and dates may change.  
Refer to the specific GMC Club's websites for more information.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| June 8-13     | Rolling Rally in Goldendale, Bicketon, Toppenish areas ( <b>Cascaders</b> )  |
| June 9-11     | Parrish Ranch ( <b>Mountainaires</b> )   |
| June 23-25    | Run Away to Ramona, Ramona Oaks RV Resort, Ramona, CA ( <b>Pacific Cruisers</b> )  |
| July 21-23    | Encampment, Wyoming for Sierra Madre Muzzleloaders Mountain Man Rendezvous and Black Powder Shoot / Living History Days ( <b>Mountainaires</b> ) |
| August 20-21  | 2017 Solar Eclipse Rally in Goldendale, WA ( <b>Cascaders</b> )  |
| August 21     | Total Eclipse of the Sun in Wyoming ( <b>Mountainaires</b> )   |
| August 23-26  | Summertime Moonlight Rally, Elks Lodge, Vista, CA ( <b>Pacific Cruisers</b> )  |
| Sept. 13-17   | Rolling Rally - La Veta, Taos, Chama RV Park ( <b>Mountainaires</b> )  |
| Sept. 17      | Ride the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad ( <b>Mountainaires</b> )  |
| Sept. 21-24   | Harrison Hot Springs Rally in British Columbia ( <b>Cascaders</b> )  |
| October 5-9   | GMC Western States, Paso Robles, CA ( <b>Western States</b> )  |
| November      | 2017 (dates TBD) – Eagle View RV Resort at Ft. McDowell. ( <b>Saguaro Jetsetters</b> )   |
| Sept. 15 -21  | Elkhart Campground, Elkhart, Indiana ( <b>GMCMI</b> )  |
| Dec. 7-10     | Christmas rally at Amado ( <b>Saguaro Jetsetters</b> )   |
| Dec. 30-Jan.1 | New Year's Eve/January 2018 Rally, Casa de Fruta ( <b>GMC 49ers</b> )  |