

# GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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## Greetings to all from the still snow-capped Colorado Rockies!

Our Spring Fling in Hemet was another successful fun filled event. Our Hosts Dave and Arlene Cantrell are commended for agreeing to head up the Rally, for coordinating the activities and for providing an abundance of succulent food.

Seminar presenters are also recognized for their presentations...Dorothy Hooton, Dorris Garton, Arlene Cantrell, Miguel Mendez, Gary Bovee, Ken Booth, Nick Roenick, Norm Shier, Armand Minnie, and Dean Ansley of Sky Med. Dean not only presented his medical evacuation product but also sponsored wine and snacks for our first happy hour. Even more importantly, Sky Med will be donating \$100 to the Club Treasury because one family signed-up for the program.

Special tribute is extended to Bob Hooton for constructing our flag holders; and to Ralph Mundia for leading the Pledge of Allegiance on our opening day. An array of volunteers served dinner to each table. I am continuously overwhelmed at the unwavering support our members provide in the many aspects needed to successfully operate our rallies.

Not only did the attendees arrive in motorhomes but there were several staying in hotels (including the couple with "did I mention it has a 500 Caddy Engine"). The Rally Hosts were constantly recalculating rally fees to accommodate the shorter stays. Of course the premier Golden Palms Resort had four star accommodations and the staff were always on hand to provide assistance. They even set up an umbrella covered area for registering our attendees.

The Club has been contacted by GMC Motorhome International regarding their intent to have one of their 2016 Conventions on the West Coast. We are invited to utilize their Convention as one of our annual rallies. Please provide me with any thoughts you may have regarding this invitation.

WHOOPEE! Several new families have put their \$'s on the table to join our merry group of GMCers. Warmest WELCOME to: Dan Molnes & Bobbie Rogers; Mike & Vanessa Moreno; Bob Hickerson, Donald Guttman, Guy Lopes, Grant & Brianna Schaffer. Our commonality in the GMC and the camaraderie of our members is an enriched selling point for others to join our Club.

Giant T H A N K S to all the walkers that insist on keeping me fit with the early morning fit for life stretching and excursions down the trail. The leadership provided by the Executive Board et al makes a dynamic team...Kudos to: Jodell, Nick, Donna, Davy, Dorris, Gene, Judy, and Armand.

If you experience any problems surfing the GMCWS website, please contact Armand Minnie, Webmaster. Armand is ready, willing and quite efficient in his resolve.

Our Fall Rally with the Four Amigos: Manny, Davy, George and Nick will be another rally you should plan to attend. The Amigos have already lined up a specialty chef, outside entertainment, and a plethora of activities...mark your calendar for: OCTOBER 1-6 at FRENCH CAMP, MANTECA, CA.

I'm almost there...Finally, Much Gratitude to all who attended the Spring Fling, we would not be the vital GMCers without your support at our rallies....You're the Greatest!

...Freddi

## SPRING FLING RALLY

*Jodell Banovich, First VP*



Thanks to the teachers & speakers that we ladies enjoyed at the Spring Fling Rally at Hemet.

We had a great turnout for learning to knit those beautiful scarves. With the help of Arlene Cantrell, Dorothy Hooton, Beth Elmer and me too, I think everyone enjoyed making them. We enjoyed seeing them worn during the Rally.

Dorris Garton gave a great talk about health, diet and all things us seniors should know about vaccines, etc.

Dorothy Hooton taught all of us ladies...and Dave deGraf... how to make lanyards for our name badges. They turned out very pretty.

Looking forward to our Fall Rally in French Camp. See you there.

## FALL RALLY

### "Save The Date"

**This is a 5 night rally starting Oct 1st and out on Oct 6th. French Camp RV Park is located in Manteca, California. We will have full hookups, a large social room and adjacent smaller activity rooms. We are scheduling lots of activities, seminars and games. The "4 Amigos" are planning to wine you and dine you and show you a great time. We are planning a special Saturday night dinner and dancing. Bring an appetizer to share on the first night. We are planning 4 dinners and 5 breakfasts created by Chef Auggie. If you are a golfer, the park has a course available for our use. Did we mention a pool & Jacuzzi? Watch for more information and the Registration Form in the August 1st Newsletter. We hope you will come and join us.**

*The 4 Amigos...Manny, Dave, Nick and George*

## Secretary's Report

### GMC Western States Membership Meeting Minutes Hemet, CA April 27, 2014



President Freddi Condos called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. It was moved and second to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Fall Rally, 2013. The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

Freddi thanked the Rally hosts, Dave and Arlene Cantrell and all the presenters and volunteers for their hard work. Arlene presented gifts to the presenters and the volunteers, without whom these rallies would not be as successful and fun as they are. Dave and Donna de Graffenreid made 25 beautiful centerpieces using a variety of succulents. These were raffled at the end of the Membership Meeting and the proceeds were used for one of this rally's Happy Hours.

Dave de Graffenreid gave the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$25,756. His report will be kept on file.

FMCA:

Dorris Garton, our FMCA representative, informed us that there will be an FMCA meeting in Redmond, Oregon in August. Elections are underway and she urges all FMCA members to vote in this election.

Future rallies:

The Fall 2014 GMCWS Rally will be held at the French Camp RV Resort in Manteca, California from Oct. 1st – 6th. Our hosts will be the 4 Amigos: George Banovich, Dave De Graffenreid, Manny Trovao, and Nick Roenick. Dave gave a description of the park and activities in the area, which includes an 18-hole golf course within the park.

Nominating Committee for Officer elections:

The President announced the Nominating Committee for the officers election for 2014-2015. The Committee members are Armand Minnie, Jack Kincaid, and Gene Fisher. With no additional candidates proposed from the floor, a motion to accept the slate as proposed was made by Terry Morris; Mark Elmer seconded the motion and the Nominating Committee was approved as stated.

Motion was made to close the meeting; motion was seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Donna Ventura, Secretary*





## MAY 2014 SPRING RALLY REPORT



As you faithful newsletter readers know, the 2014 Spring Rally was held at the Golden Village Palm Resort in Hemet, CA. 50 coaches and 9 coachless made the trip including 6 first timers.

The first Day activities began with a presentation by Dean Ansley, representing SKY Med. Sky Med offers several traveler medical evacuation plans that are worth investigating. The Sky Med programs can be found at [skymed.com](http://skymed.com) or by phone 800.475.9633. The Ansleys provided beverages for the evening social hour. The first evening began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ralph Mundia, a member of the "Greatest Generation" followed by an outstanding catered meal. The tables were decorated with pots of cacti provided by Donna and Dave de Graffenreid. The pots were raffled off later on the last night.

Planned activities and seminars began on Friday and continued through Sunday.

The technical sessions began with Miguel Mendez of MGM GMC presenting information on the new MSD Atomic fuel injection system that allows us to replace the old Quadrajets. The Atomic is an easy to install, self learning system that requires no computer skills to get up and running. The kit includes all the pieces except the inexpensive adapter plate needed to adapt to the spread bore 455, 403 manifold. Miguel has installed some 20 of these for satisfied owners. One of these owners, Fin Bevin, provided his coach for a viewing. The Atomic has received CARB approval for use on pre '87 GM cars and trucks (coaches) in California making it smog legal. Be sure to get the CARB sticker affixed on the engine.

Garry Bovee showed his latest development; the electronic ignition system for the Onan generator with a fully illustrated installation presentation. This is another do-it-yourself upgrade. The round table problem, solution discussions were led by Miguel with Jim Kanamoto contributing from his vast store of experience. Much useful information was interchanged, with vapor locking problems generating many helpful suggestions. Installing an auxiliary electric fuel pump near the tanks was one of the favorites. We all learned something. An informal demonstration was conducted by Master Mechanic Bob Lamey and his less than talented aid (me) on how to replace the failed alternator and diode isolator on the Wykle's coach.

Vendors present were Jim K with a sampling of his vast array of parts and accessories and a good supply of current catalogs. Gary Bovee's display included his Onan electronic ignition system, and belt tensioners. George Banovich, the master wood craftsman, displayed an array of clever, useful wood products for use inside and outside of the coach.

The swap meet offered an opportunity to acquire some valuable treasures and the way to get rid of the unwanted.

Thanks to Nick Roenick for organizing the tech sessions.

While the Men flexed their technical muscles, the ladies were busy improving their expertise in the arts and crafts.

Arlene Cantrell led a group in the skill of knitting scarfs. From the examples I saw we have highly skilled knitters. Knitting was not the only skill used in the craft department. Dorthy Hooten led





a session to make beautiful neck lanyards for name tags. The work that I saw from these workshops was outstanding. The only reason I cannot write more is that I wasn't allowed in on the activities.

Dorris Garton again provided the latest on staying healthy. Dorris emphasized hand sanitation and other techniques to minimize exposure to bacteria, the importance of calcium, vitamin D and other supplements to strengthen the immune system. Another suggestion was to subscribe to Consumer Reports health newsletter for current updates on health issues.

Saturday afternoon offered an opportunity for many to attend the nearby world famous Ramona Pageant that is given every year. Dinner was on our own Saturday evening.

Other afternoon and evening activities included Norm Shier providing an illustrated session on Pickle Ball. Pickle Ball, for us ex-jocks, is a slower, smaller development from tennis that is just what this sedentary old writer needs. Outdoor practice games followed.

After dinner the evenings included, games and the highlight group and individual singing and line dancing to Armand Minnie's music machine. That evening showed off the "skills" of our many talented attendees (names omitted to protect the guilty).

Thanks again to the Cantrells for another great rally added to the long list of great WS events.

PS. You will have to wait till next Quarter for progress on the continuing saga of Frank's Folley (with the Caddy 500). Too many Freddi generated activities this month.

*Frank Condos*









# GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER

## THE HEMET RALLY AND CARB.

By Nick Roenick



We had a very successful rally in Hemet, CA this past month. The facilities were great, the staff was wonderful and the GMCers attending were outstanding company. For being in the “desert”, the weather was interesting. We had sun, wind and rain but overall nice mild temps.

The tech presentations were well attended and of great interest to all GMCers. Gary Bovee, of the “Idiots Guide to the GMC” information and CD, presented the upgrade for your Onan generator. He built a kit to improve the spark timing of the Onan with a Pertronic’s module, which sends the signal to the coil with reliability and keeps your old pushrod system as a backup. He described the install in detail and answered many questions on the subject. The install should take an hour or two depending on how fast you can find your tools and the JB weld sets on the flywheel. (You have JB weld in stock? If not you will need to purchase one in addition to the kit). We all have too many tools and can find none when we need them. His kit and the info are available on the web at: [http://gmcidiotsguide.com/joomla/gmc-products/product/27-bovee-s-electronic-ignition-kit/category\\_pathway-25](http://gmcidiotsguide.com/joomla/gmc-products/product/27-bovee-s-electronic-ignition-kit/category_pathway-25). Thank you Gary, for a great presentation and a super upgrade to our Onan generator.

Miguel Mendez (MGMGMC in Montclair, CA) gave a presentation on the MSD Atomic Throttle Body Fuel injection (TBI). His hour-long detailed information on the installation and operation of the MSD unit proved to be of great interest to the GMC community. Most owners have had issues with the carburetor in their coaches and are looking for an alternative or improvement. GMCers who have pre-1976 coaches do not need to smog their units in CA; only on resale will they need to get a smog certificate. Those with 1976 and later models still are required to smog every two years. There has been no movement in our legislature to return to the former “rolling 25 year” model of smog certification, which by now would have exempted all GMCs. Miguel has installed 26 MSD TBIs in various coaches and reports no negative issues and some claim to get better fuel mileage. The important thing to note is that the TBI affords a more controlled and stable engine operation, especially with the

addition of the spark control HEI unit (sold separately). The TBI monitors the exhaust gases with an O2 sensor in the tailpipe and regulates the fuel input, and the HEI changes the advance timing, both of which are controlled by same computer.

The MSD Atomic TBI has recently received an EO (Executive order D-722) from the California Air Resources Board, which makes it legal for all GM passenger car and pickup trucks pre-87 to have this unit and it will pass a smog inspection. The attached web page points to the EO as written by CARB: <http://arb.ca.gov/msprog/aftermkt/devices/eo/D-722.pdf>

But upon further examination it does NOT include our beloved GMC, since the regulation does not specifically name the GMC in the EO. Even the fact that we have a GM-Oldsmobile car engine does not matter. Gary Bovee (thank you for your extra efforts) has contacted the manager of the CARB section responsible for the EO and was told “NO, the RV is not included.”. The MSD TBI would need to be certified by CARB, inside a GMC motorhome and pass, in order to be allowed for a smog exception. Antonio Martino is the contact person and manager for the Aftermarket Parts Section of CARB. His phone number is: (626) 575-6848. His email address is [amartino@arb.ca.gov](mailto:amartino@arb.ca.gov).

Sadly, yes, it is a good improvement for those that can use it, but it will not pass the visual smog inspection in post 1976 coaches.

Following his TBI presentation, Miguel with Chuck Botts at his side, held an hour-long open forum on any subject pertaining to the GMC. He was assisted by Jim Kanomata of Applied GMC and Bob Lamey during the discussions. Their insights are invaluable to our community and they represent the best source of information on the West Coast. We appreciate their involvement and attendance at these rallies.

A second open forum was held on Sunday morning with Ken Booth, Gary Bovee and I. We covered many issues and deferred to the experts as needed.

During the rally we had the usual repairs and installs on the coaches. Some bought items from our vendors to install, while others sought the help from fellow GMCers to do the work. Jim Kanomata, Gary Bovee and George Banovich displayed their wares in the Ballroom for the duration of the rally, and several members sold items from their coaches during the swap meet.

While we had a great time there, we missed several of our regular members who contribute to the tech sessions and give so freely of their time and expertise to our members. Please come to the next rally in Manteca, CA.

So long for now and.....Be careful out there!

# GO TO gmcws.org AND CHECK OUT THE GMCWS WEBSITE.

Having a challenge getting into the Member section? Contact Armand.  
Armand Minnie: 520 744-1775 email: armand@minniebiz.com



## 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: Judy Booth, 928-764-3378, [hobo@citlink.net](mailto:hobo@citlink.net)

**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](mailto:bertbarb9@msn.com)

Woodland Hills, UT \_\_\_\_\_ 0614

**1974 GMC CANYONLANDS (26')**  
Alcoa wheels, side bath, rear bed. Many upgrades including dishwasher, microwave, tile counter tops. Original paint in good condition. Well maintained by knowledgeable GMC member.  
Price: \$7,500  
Contact: Bob Griffith – 209-329-1506  
[familyvaluesgriff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:familyvaluesgriff@sbcglobal.net)

Lodi, CA \_\_\_\_\_ 0315

### PARTS

**Transmissions (2)** One, New Old Stock, still in crate. Second one used, came out of 1976 model. Price: \$900  
Contact: Bob Griffith 209-329-1506 [familyvaluesgriff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:familyvaluesgriff@sbcglobal.net) Lodi, CA \_\_\_\_\_ 0315

## GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

Fall Rally – 2014: *4 Amigos Rally*  
**OCTOBER 1-6, 2014**  
 French Camp Rv Resort, Manteca,  
 California  
 Hosts: Four Amigos  
 DeGraffenreid  
 Banovich  
 Roenick  
 Trovao

## GMC Western States Officers

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GMC Western States Newsletter  
 Designed and Printed by  
 Golden State Graphics, San Marcos, CA

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,  
 email Judy Booth: [hobo@citlink.net](mailto:hobo@citlink.net)  
 or call: 928-764-3378

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](http://www.gmcws.org), Armand Minnie

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## NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES GMC WESTERN STATES

ISSUE	2014 3rd	2014 4th	2015 1st	2015 2nd
PUBLICATION DATES	Aug 1	Oct 31	Feb 20	May 29
INFO TO COORDINATOR	Jul 18	Oct 17	Feb 6	May 15
TO PUBLISHER	Jul 25	Oct 24	Feb 13	May 22

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,  
 Email Judy Booth: [hobo@citlink.net](mailto:hobo@citlink.net)