

# GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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## Here Comes The Pres:

**B**est of everything to all in 2014...joyful GMC trails, safe navigating, and good health!

I am grateful to all for allowing me to be the first woman President of GMCWS, one of the premier Clubs of the GMC community.

Many thanks to our past President, Armand Minnie, for leading us deep into the 21st century of cyber land. Also words of gratitude to Carol Minnie, our past Secretary, for her gracious service. We are a totally volunteer Club which has enabled us to successfully operate for many years (over 25). Thanks also to Dave deGraffenreid our Treasurer for overseeing our bucks, being quite accountable and willing to continue in that capacity. Who maintains our technical perspective? No other than Nick Roenick, Technical Vice President, thanks Nick.

A heart felt welcome to Donna Ventura for taking on the Secretarial duties. Not only is she beautiful, she is a professional that has catapulted into the position fully armed with experience and the flair to make us all look good. Donna is contact to our Webmaster, Armand. They are diligently embarking on several upgrades to our website. Jodell Banovich is our 1st Vice President and is engrossed with assimilating venues for our ladies. Jodell is a smooth, no-nonsense operator. Lillian Trubert has agreed to continue as our Newsletter Rally Reporter. We all know that Lillian has a flair with words. Oh my, what would we do without one of our most dedicated professional that keeps the Newsletter flowing throughout the community...none other than Judy Booth. Our FMCA Director Dorris Garton and Alternate Director Gene Dotson promise to continue attending FMCA and keeping us apprised of any pertinent actions of FMCA.

Thank you to all for your willingness to provide your time and efforts in maintaining our Club and moving us forward.

The Rally Registration and Tentative Schedule of Activities for the 2014 Spring Fling Rally is included herein. In an effort to keep Rally fees reasonable, the Rally will be four nights and five days. However, all are welcome to come early and stay late, as usual. Dave and Arlene Cantrell are planning for a low key, laid back, enjoy your neighbors Rally i.e. increase our camaraderie time, relax, wine and dine....low pressure venues. Golden Village Palms RV Resort is ranked 17 among 100 top RV Resorts in the U.S.....many refer to it as the cruise ship on land. The Caterer is providing quite a selection of delicious food...full breakfast (eggs, bacon, French toast, sausage, ham, biscuits and gravy...) whoa! The dinners also sound scrumptious...BBQ Beef, Meatballs, Wings, Hawaiian Chicken with all the vegetables (and starches)....Chocolate Éclairs, Lemon Meringue Pie. OK...think you get it. Please ensure your place by registering by March 31st. You don't want to miss the F U N! See more information in Donna deGraffenreid's blurb herein.

...*Freddi*

## SPRING FLING - 2014 AT HEMET

Hope you can join us for a really great rally. We will be staying at a luxurious RV Resort. The Golden Village Palms is one of the premier RV Resorts in California. It features 2 Pools, 2 Jacuzzis, Billiard Room, Fitness Center, an indoor Shuffle Board Pavilion, Pickle Ball, Volley Ball, Tennis Courts, Restaurant, in-door meeting rooms and more....The Resort offers full hook-ups to everyone and is pet friendly....The weather should be warm and dry and the nights perfect for star gazing. Dave and Arlene Cantrell are ready to show us a good time with our GMC friends and lots of good food. A Truck and Railroad Museum, the Western Science Center, Diamond Valley Lake, Casinos and wineries are all nearby. Check out their website at [www.goldenvillagepalms.com](http://www.goldenvillagepalms.com) -- You may also want to purchase tickets and join us for The Ramona Pageant, which was penned in 1884. It has been running at the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre since 1923. Of course we'll have G R E A T beverages and the Club will sponsor the first evening Happy Hour (did anyone say the Margarita Bucket). GMC camaraderie is at the top of the list. The tentative schedule of activities is included in this Newsletter and on our website – [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org)..... Hope to see you there!

*Donna deGraffenreid*

*Member*

### GMC Western States Spring Fling Rally 2014 Tentative Schedule

April 24-28, 2014, Hemet, California

#### April 24th – Thursday

01:00	Check In
03:30	Executive Board Meeting
05:00	Social Hour – Beverages Provided
05:55	Pledge of Allegiance R. Mundia, WWII Veteran
06:00	Catered Dinner
07:15	Welcome and Introduction of First Timers
	Continue Relaxing and Socializing

#### April 25th – Friday

08:00 – 09:00	Catered Breakfast
09:00 – 10:00	Stress Management – Denise Holsapple
09:30 – 11:30	MSD Atomic Fuel Injection Miguel Mendez – MGMGMC
10:00 – 11:30	Learn to Knit Scarves – Arlene Cantrell (Supplies available @ \$10 per set)
01:30 – 03:00	Health Issues – Dorris Garton
01:30 – 04:00	Bring Your GMC Challenges Miguel Mendez – MGMGMC
03:15 – 04:45	Let the Games Begin
05:00	Attitude Adjustment Hour – BYOB
06:00	Catered Dinner
07:15 – 08:00	Dean Ansley – Sky Med

#### April 26th – Saturday

08:00 – 09:00	Catered Breakfast
09:30 – 11:30	Gab Fest and Games
10:00 – 11:00	Electronic Ignition for Onan Generator – Gary Bovee
01:15	Bus Pick Up For Ramona Pageant

#### Afternoon and Dinner on Your Own

#### April 27th – Sunday

08:00 – 09:00	Catered Breakfast
10:00 – 12:00	Safety – Darren Meyer, CHP-Public Affairs Officer
01:15 – 02:15	Make Your Own Lanyard – Dorthy Hooton
	GMC Round Table with: Ken Booth/ Frank Condos/Gary Bovee/Gene Fisher
02:30 – 04:00	GMC Open House & Swap Meet
04:15 – 04:30	General Membership Meeting
05:00	Happy Hour – BYOB
06:00	Catered Dinner
07:15	Sing Along With Armand's Music Machine

#### April 28th – Monday

08:00 – 09:00	Catered Breakfast
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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!  
Farewell, Safe and Happy GMC ing!



# GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER

## IT'S RALLY TIME!

By Nick Roenick



Again it is time to prepare for the Spring Rally in Hemet, CA. I just returned from the Pacific Cruisers rally at Quartzsite, AZ, where we had a great time. We enjoyed the RV tent and all the vendors who were scattered about the town. But the best time was around the coaches in the evening. We swapped stories about past events, upgrades and repairs to the coaches, and kept the fire going well into the evening.

Some talk about the “new” gasoline we are forced to buy and the effects thereof were quite interesting and I want to share them. I told of my trip to Coos Bay, OR and my battle with a flooding carburetor. The fuel system (hoses and pump) had been replaced in the past three months. It started soon after I left my home; on the freeway the engine would falter at speed, with black smoke coming from the tail pipe. It acted as if the module in the distributor was failing. I stopped at a parts store and bought a replacement. After it was installed, the engine fired up and ran beautifully. Back on the freeway a few miles later - AGAIN the same issue. At the next parts store another module and a gas filter. Runs good to start, goes bad after a few miles. Now we suspected the carburetor float was failing, since the HEI modules only helped marginally in the performance. So at Coos Bay I rebuilt the carburetor. But I could not get a correct float from any parts store. On the way home, I tried several more stores without luck. The flooding of the carburetor continued. In Ukiah, CA I tried to get a fuel pressure regulator without success. Finally I bought a new Carter 4070 fuel pump and installed it in the parking lot of a Denny's restaurant. The engine roared to life and ran great the rest of the way home.

This was the second electric pump that went bad on this coach. The first one was a new rotary pump installed only two months earlier. The analysis showed some particles were stuck in the pump body on both. On further exploration, the fuel filters showed lots of “rust” flakes in the filter. Since I have replaced the filters on this coach on a regular basis (after every trip) and have burned hundreds of gallons of fuel in the past year, I assumed

this much “rust” was not normal and started to look for other causes. The tanks had been down and rinsed a year ago – the hoses had been replaced – the selector valve had been replaced. I was at a loss. During my research I found that other vintage car enthusiasts had the same issue with electric fuel pumps going bad. And they all found that the particles came from their tanks in the last couple of years, no matter the condition of the tanks. The conclusion is that the “new” fuel will attack the tank metal and loosen any particles (be it rust or corrosion or sealer) from the steel, which then find their way into the pumps.

My fix was to install a high capacity fuel filter in front of the electric pump and a second filter after the pump. This seems to work, as my trip to AZ was without fail. We know that this fuel eats the old rubber hoses from the inside out, making them mush and causing leaks at any weak point. This tank issue only adds to the other bad reaction of this fuel.

In preparation for a drive to a rally, after the coach has sat for some time, it is good practice to replace the fuel filter, check or replace the air filter, change the oil and filter. Any condensation that develops inside the engine will harm the effectiveness of the oil to coat vital engine parts. Inspect the engine compartment for uninvited guests and remove the evidence. Nests have been known to cause fires. Also, every two years the transmission fluid should be replaced, due to the heavy demand of our coaches on the transmission. A lube and inspection of the front end and the bogies are advisable for the upcoming season and to ensure you are safe going down the road.

Let's not forget the Onan. It needs looking after as well, with an oil and filter change. That air filter is exposed to a lot of dust just from driving.

In the cabin, you should rinse and refill the water system and check for leaks. Inspect your lighting systems and outlets. You do not want a “shocking” experience.

After the basics are done, take the coach for a short drive to get it warmed up for the big journey to the next rally. We are looking forward to seeing you in Hemet!

## Secretary's Report

*Donna Ventura, Secretary*



GMC Western States currently has 217 members, down 8 from 2013. During the 2014 Membership Drive, we gained several new members and a number of members from past years have rejoined our club. We're happy to see them again.

Just a reminder about the GMCWS website, [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org). All information on the website is available without logging on as a member EXCEPT the Membership Rosters. To see the Rosters, you will have to use your username and a password. Your username is most likely the initial of your first name, followed by a period, then your last name; e.g., d.ventura. If you forget your password, just enter your username and then click on the words "forgot password?". The system will immediately send you an email message; click on the link it gives you to reset your password. By logging in you will be able to view the club's Membership Rosters. All other information on the website can be viewed without logging in.

## Treasurer's Report For 2013

*Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer*



### 2013 Income

Club Dues.....	\$2,811.57
Rally Deposits Returned.....	1,972.65
Total Income.....	\$4,784.22

### 2013 Expenses

Gifts .....	\$346.61
Rally Deposits to be Returned .....	2,900.00
Car Shows .....	205.00
Presidents Expenses.....	425.85
Rosters .....	983.68
Treasure Expenses.....	80.00
Newsletters .....	2,304.48
Rally Support.....	500.00
Sound Equipment .....	271.51
Total Expense .....	\$8,017.13

### 2013 Report

Beginning Balance .....	\$29,427.91
Incomes .....	+ 4,784.22
Balance .....	34,212.13
Expenses.....	-- 8,017.13
Ending Balance .....	\$26,195.00

## 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

## On The Lighter Side

We're introducing a new section to the Newsletter this edition, "On the Lighter Side". We'd like you to join in by submitting articles of your experiences with your GMC to: Judy Booth hobo@citlink.net or call 928-764-3378

### Resurrecting A '73 GMC

Or:

*"Am I Out Of My Mind?"*

About 5 years ago I decided I wanted a pre '76 GMC that is exempt from California smog tests. This brilliant strategy resulted in my selling a perfectly running, restored '76 GMC in 2008, and buying a '73 GMC, generously referred as a POS by Freddi. I thought she meant a "Previous Owners Sacrifice".

I thought: a little paint, some new furniture and Honda seats and we will be on our way. It had bills showing suspension repair which seemed mechanically sound and a Caddy 500 engine.

Negotiations with the owner started off well when the thing wouldn't start. The ignition switch on the column wouldn't even engage. The batteries were dead as well. Never mind it was smog exempt, it had Alcoa's and a Caddy 500 engine. We closed the deal at my price. I found a shipper on U-ship and had it brought 300 miles to our home. Dragged it up my driveway and heard "are you crazy?" My retort, of course, this will be an easy restoration. Did I mention it has a Caddy 500 engine?

The '73 is a very early production dated March of '73 #158. GM used a subcontractor, Gemmini, to do the interior up-fitting. GM dropped them by '75. The quality was poor and when I looked at it closely the interior was falling apart. Reality set in, this is not going to be a quick job.

The cockpit floor is rotted under both side windows. All the cabinetry needs to be rebuilt. Side windows needed new felt. No way to put lipstick on this Pig. But did I say, it has a Caddy 500?



In 2009 GMCWS Co-hosted a Rally with GMCMI in Pueblo, CO. Having no coach Lady Luck smiled. I found a '76 GMC about 5 miles from our home that was road ready to rock and roll. I made the deal. You know who came home from a trip and found yet another GMC....I might add we had a cold front in our home in the middle of a 90 degree summer. Off to Pueblo and more rallies for the past four years. Life is good even with the biannual smog and no Caddy 500.

Every day I drove up our driveway there sat the Pig, dusty and lonesome. Finally I could stand it no longer. If I was going to complete this task as I envisioned years ago another, our second, '76 GMC had to bite the dust. It sold quickly thanks to Craig's list and with friends on the GMC net that helped by saying the price was too low.

Frank's Folly is now undergoing the restoration it deserves. Regretfully, (for me) we'll be doing the hotel stay thing for the Spring and maybe the Fall Rallies. Nevertheless, I've completed sanding, taping and it's ready for painting, then came the cold weather, rain and snow so I'm almost at a standstill. Think there will be a slew of friends coming up this May to lend a hand to Frank's Folly.



*Stay tuned it will make a rally!*  
*Frank Condos*

# GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

## Spring Rally – 2014

April 24-28, 2014

Golden Village Palms RV Resort

Hemet, California

Hosts: Arlene And Dave Cantrell

## 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

**Freddi Condos, Chapter President**

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**Nick Roenick, Technical Vice President**

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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 2nd            2014 3rd            2014 4th            2015 1st

**PUBLICATION DATES**

May 30th            Aug 1st            Oct 31st            Feb 20th

**INFO TO COORDINATOR**

May 16th            Jul 18th            Oct 17th            Feb 6th

**TO PUBLISHER**

May 23rd            Jul 25th            Oct 24th            Feb 13th

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