

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



Inside

- 1 President's Message
- 2 VP and Secretary's Reports
- 3 Meeting Minutes
- 4-5 Four Amigos Rally Pictures
- 6 Tech Center
- 7 New members
- 8 Rally Schedule

The President Speaks...Again!

Oh my, where do I start? Our Fall Rally in Manteca was another Fun Filled gathering of the GMC community. The Amigos out did themselves. Nick and Davy (our wine connoisseurs and more); Manny (I'll take care of it and he does); George (mover and shaker of whatever needs to be done). Of course our Chefs – Augie/Albertino/Natalie were all on target with delicious breakfast and dinner delights. Of course audio/video was under the direction of Doug Norton with many assistants. Thanks to all for your commitment of consistent hard work for our Club. Our laundry list of volunteers and presenters did an outstanding job in serving and presenting many informative seminars. We also gained 13 New Family Members...Sweet! Welcome to one and all, we are pleased to have you join our Stella Organization. Our membership count is now 241 Family Units. Guess we are doing something Right-On!

More good news, or not, yours truly is at the helm for another year. I am grateful and honored for the opportunity to serve you in my senior years. Also remaining as Officers is Donna Ventura, Secretary..Jodell Banovich, 1st Vice President.. Davy de, Treasurer..Dorris Garton, FMCA Director...Gene Dotson, Alternate FMCA Director. But wait, we have a new kid on the block...Mr. Gary Bovee, Technical Vice President. Thanks to all for signing up for a year as Executive Board Officers with a promise of hard work and good times.

An abundance of Kudos to Nick Roenick, who served as Technical Vice President for a few years. Nick has promised to continue providing assistance where needed, especially if it has to do with "the grape". Again, thanks Nick for your service. Armand Minnie will continue as our webmaster. Armand continues to upgrade our website to make it the best it can be. If there are any revision suggestions, please contact Donna V. for processing.

Another point of interest, George Banovich has agreed to produce our Jokers and Marbles game boards. More to come later on regarding \$'s that will be charged for the game. Ok....Ok, The End!

Freddi Condos

FIRST VP REPORT

Jodell Banovich, First VP



We had a great turn out for the Rally at Manteca. The women were busy making bulletin boards & trivets from wine corks on one day. Another day we made fleece blankets for a couple organizations, Binky Patrol and Jesus, Mary & Joseph. They are located in Santa Cruz. Binky Patrol is an organization that delivers blankets to needy children and teens. Jesus, Mary & Joseph is a home for battered women and their children. The ladies made 31 great colorful blankets.



Michael Connelly's "The Lincoln Lawyer" was the subject of the Book Club review led by Lillian Trubert.

We had a White Elephant Swap that went over really good, some great gifts.

Under the direction of Melissa Fisher, we made little bird houses, which we had done before in Hemet. They liked it so well we did a repeat. Melissa also showed some of the ladies how to make a new style scarf, which were really pretty.



Donna Ventura organized a jewelry exchange. It was fun and everyone liked doing that. We might do it again. The leftover jewelry was donated to Jesus, Mary & Joseph; thought maybe some of the women could use it.

And let's not forget Donna deGraffenreid's Bread Pudding Seminar. We had the Bread Pudding for dessert that night, mmmm good.

The weather was great, a little hot, but everyone survived. Some went hot tubbing and swimming. The Four Amigos did a great job along with the The Four Amigas help!

Join us for the next rally at Emerald Desert Rally, Palm Desert, CA April 12-16.

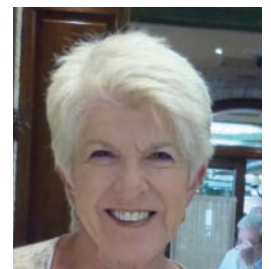
Jodell Banovich

SECRETARY'S REPORT

GMC Western States now has 241 members, up from 217 in March. In addition to several that signed up at the Manteca rally, we have had several former members who have rejoined in the last few months. Welcome, One and All!

Our GMCWS website, www.gmcws.org, will be undergoing some minor modifications by Armand Minnie during the next several months, to hopefully make current information more easily accessible to our members. And remember: All information on the website (except the roster) is available without your having to log on as a member.

If you want to view the Membership Rosters, you will use your username and a password that you set up. 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 have forgotten your password, just enter your username and click on the words "forgot password?" The system will immediately send you an email message with a link on how 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. Give it a try!



Donna Ventura, Secretary

GMC Western States Membership Meeting Minutes

Manteca, Ca

October 5, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. by President, Freddi Condos. It was moved and second to dispense with reading of the minutes of the Spring 2014 Meeting. The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer, Dave de Graffenreid reported a balance of over \$25,000 in our operating account, after Various expenses for production of the Newsletter and future rally advances. The Board authorized supplementing this rally in an effort to keep the registration fee under \$400.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Armand Minnie, Chairman of the Committee announced that the Committee all agreed that the members in good standing listed below are recommended as Officers for 2015:

- President: Freddi Condos
- First VP: Jodell Banovich
- Technical VP: Gary Bovee
- Secretary, Donna Ventura
- Treasurer: Dave deGraffenreid
- FMCA Director: Dorris Garton
- FMCA Alternate Director: Gene Dotson

There were no nominations from the floor. Manny Trovao moved to accept the slate of Officers as nominated. The motion was seconded by Jim Kanomata and overwhelmingly accepted by the members present.

President Condos recognized Nick Roenick as outgoing Technical Vice President and presented him with a gift certificate for his extensive efforts in supporting GMCWS.

RECOGNITIONS:

The President recognized Rally Hosts "the Four Amigos"; Manny Trovao, Nick Roenick; Dave deGraffenreid and George Banovich, for doing a fabulous job in planning and implementing this successful Rally. The first ever hosted by four dynamic guys.

Gene Fisher was recognized for his publicity work promoting the Rally, which resulted in additional signups. Thank you, Gene

Recognition was also extended to Chefs – Augie Bettencourt, his wife Natalie and Albertino – for an excellent job providing delicious food for Rally attendees.

The following individuals were applauded:

Bob and Gloria Caldwell for an Evening of Magic, Armand and Carol Minnie for Karaoke Entertainment, Ruth Martin and Bobbie Schultz for taking over the morning walks

...DeLeons for delightful music

FMCA REPORT:

Dorris Garton reported reinstatement of the FMCA Medical Assistance Program and the Spring Convention will be in March 2015, however the site has not been announced. All were encouraged to visit the FMCA website. In response to a question from the audience, Dorris stated that the Medical Program DOES cover Canadians.

Jerry Work reported that the Michelin Tire Program is continuing and has been expanded. This program could amount to up to \$400-600 savings. Brands covered include Michelin, Uniroyal, and BF Goodrich. However, most Costco tire shops do not mount tires on an RV.

Newly elected FMCA Officers relevant to the Western States are as follows:

International Area: Jerry Ayres and David Kessler

Northwest Area: Kathie Balogh

Western Area: Richard Gibbs

The FMCA will continue their mail forwarding program, for a fee. Dorris reported that the FMCA has done a good job of improving their financial status.

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Condos requested that anyone interested in volunteering as Wagon Master for our Club to please see her. She would like to step down as Wagon Master.

President Condos also recognized the following individuals/groups: Our many vendors – who are an integral part of our GMC family: Manny Trovao, Jim Kanomata, Miguel Mendez, Gary Bovee, George Banovich, Ellen Henke, Burt and Fay Curtis to name a few

New Members that joined at this Rally - WELCOME!

Manuel Berumen & Sylvia Milan

Lynn & Sandy Clark

David & Connie Enos

Rick Flannagan

David Gardner

John & Cathie Heslinga

Roy & Paula Keen

Melinda Lowrey & Garland Rush

Miguel Mendez

Michael Mitchell

Gordon & Lucie Seykora

Norm & Shirley Shier

Randy & Margie Van Winkle

FUTURE RALLIES:

Spring 2015 Rally is scheduled for April 12-16 at the Emerald Desert RV Resort, Hosted by Dave & Donna deGraffenreid. Dave invited suggestions on activities, maybe only one day of "Survivor" game.

Fall 2015 will be held in the Northwest.

Fall 2016 is scheduled for New Mexico, Hosted by John and Nancy Williamson. John requested a response from members present regarding travelling to New Mexico – response was positive.

It was moved and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Ventura, Secretary



THE FOUR AMIGOS RALLY

OCTOBER 1-6, 2014
French Camp Rv Resort,
Manteca, California





W GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER

THE MANTECA RALLY

First off I want to introduce myself. My name is Gary Bovee. I am the new Technical Vice President for Western States. Most of you probably know me as the author of the "Internet Idiot's Guide for GMC MotorHome Information", have listened to one of my seminars or met me at a Western States (WS) Rally Vendor's Booth.

I want to thank Nick Roenick, our outgoing Technical Vice President, for all his efforts during his time as Tech V.P. Thank you, Nick!

I also want to thank the "4 Amigos" for hosting the Manteca Rally - Manny Trovao, Dave DeGraffenreid, George Banovich and Nick Roenick for all they did, especially to Dave and Nick for lining up the fine technical seminars.

So without any further ado, drum roll please, lets get started with an overview of the technical seminar lineup for the Fall 2014 Manteca WS Rally that started on Day 2. Armand Minnie was first with "How to Navigate the GMCWS website, miscellaneous problem solving, and downloading photos and albums. Armand fielded many questions to help us understand how to login and browse the WS website. One of the important points he made was that you cannot change your assigned user name. The website software will not allow it. Thanks, Armand, for all the improvements to the WS website and your informative overview.

Next up was the "GMC Alternative Engine" by Manny Trovao. This seminar really brought exciting news to the GMC Community. Manny is working on an engine conversion using a brand new AM General 6.5 diesel. Yes, you heard right. Brand new -- not a rebuilt. It should have roughly 400 ft-lbs of torque at around 2,200 rpm. It will bolt to a 425 tranny and use either a 2.73 or 3.07 final drive. Estimated mileage is in the 14 miles per gallon range. Stay tuned for more info as this conversion moves forward. Way to go Manny!

If Manny's news wasn't enough to get us excited, the next seminar, "What's Up with Electronic Fuel Injection" by Randy Van Winkle and George Beckman, gave us very detailed information with charts and graphs explaining what they had personally experienced while testing their Howell Fuel Injection Systems for optical mileage. This was a very informative seminar. Special thanks to Randy who came out here all the way from Missouri. George you did a great job too. Thank you.

Day 3 - Armand Minnie gave us a slideshow of step by step instructions on "Window Replacement or Refurbishment" -- how to remove those bad boys, clean them up, get them tinted, replace the window felt, and install new rubber strips around each window glass. Thanks Armand.

Next up was yours truly with "Tips & Tricks to Keep Your Onan Running". My slideshow walked the audience through many things that could be done to improve the Onan's reliability. One thing in particular was how to inexpensively replace the Onan's small internal alternator. Upon request I also presented

my slideshow on how to install "Bovee's Electronic Ignition for the 4 and 6k Onans".

Later in the day Gene Fisher gave a seminar on "New Computing iPod, iPad, iPhone and/or Tablets. As usual, Gene shared with the audience his wealth of knowledge about these devices to bring us up to speed in the ever changing world of electronics. Thank you, Gene.

Day 4 - began with the "Bird's of a Feather, State of the Art Topics By the Pros" -- Jim Kanomata, Jim Hupy, Miguel Mendez, Bill Hubler and me. This is where the audience could ask the panel technical questions. A majority of the time was spent discussing the finer points of fuel injection systems and the use of a three port mechanical fuel pump to return fuel to the fuel tank to help avoid vapor lock. A big "Thank You" to the panel members for your participation.

The next hot topic was "The MSD 2900 Atomic EFI System" by Miguel Mendez. Miguel showed off all the pieces of the System, explaining in detail how it functions and how to install it. Miguel has installed 36 Atomic Systems. He also let the audience know that he installs the System, but does not sell them. Thank you, Miguel, for taking the time from your busy schedule to come and share your experiences with this exciting new product.

Day 5 - "Whether You Are Painting Your GMC Yourself or Having It Done - What You Should Know And I Didn't" by Armand Minnie. Armand's slideshow really detailed the trials and tribulations he went through to paint his coach. He spent roughly 200 - 300 hours preparing and then painting his coach. No small job. The results looked great. Thanks, Armand.

"GMC Interiors" by Jim Bounds. We were once again fortunate to have Jim come all the way out from Florida and share his vast knowledge of redoing the GMC interior. Nice slideshow Jim and thanks again. Looking forward to listening to you share your knowledge at a future rally.

"Check Your Electrical System Through Your Cigarette Lighter Socket" by Gene Fisher. Gene's slideshow informed us in detail how we can test our coach engine and house batteries with an INNOVA 3721 Battery System Monitor available online for less than \$14 at Amazon or Walmart. Thanks once again Gene.

We also had two good seminars about fire. Mike Burtch told us all about "Fire Safety" and our coaches. Jim Bounds finished off with "Fire Safety Systems". Both seminars were very informative and made us more aware of the fire dangers and how to minimize these hazards. Thanks to both Mike and Jim for informing us on these life-saving topics!

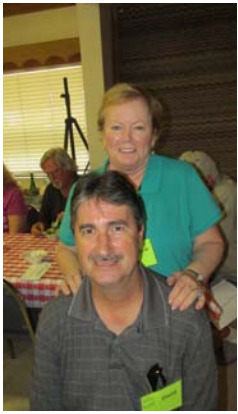
That's a wrap. Check the WS website www.gmcws.org for information on the above presentations.

If you missed this Rally you missed out on seeing your GMC family, great food, and very informative seminars. So stayed tuned. Mark your calendar for the upcoming 2015 Spring Rally in Palm Desert, April 12-16. Don't miss it. More great food, friends and seminars are coming your way. Hope to see you there.

Until next time - safe travels!

Gary Bovee

Please welcome our new members!



David & Connie Enos



Lynn & Sandy Clark



Randy & Margie Van Winkle



David Gardner



Manuel Beruman & Sylvia Milan



Norm & Shirley Shier



Garland Rush & Melinda Lowrey



John Heslinga



Miguel Mendez



Roy & Paula Keen



Gordon & Lucie Seykora



Michael Mitchell

THANK YOU.....

to all the wonderful GMCWS members for your support and contributions during my tenure as the Tech VP of this club. It has been great to meet and discuss the various issues in and about our coaches and to be able to further the continued viability of the GMC coach. Each year we find new solutions to improve the mechanics and electrical parts to make these coaches last another 40 years.

I wish the new Tech VP, Gary Bovee, a great tenure and I'm sure you will give him your support and ideas.

Nick Roenick



Hoss Hauge made and presented four custom belt buckles at the Four Amigos Rally with the following in mind:

Armand Minnie, you have taken the club into the 21st Century.

Manny Trovao with your knowledge, you have put our GMC into the 21st Century.

Jim Kanomata, all the parts you've sold us has kept our GMC going into the 21st Century.

Frank Condos, it is all your fault: 15 years ago you got me into the club.

Thank you, Hoss

GMC WESTERN STATES RALLY SCHEDULE

Spring Rally - 2015

April 12-16, 2015

Emerald Desert Rv Resort
Palm Desert, CA

Hosts:

Dave & Donna De Graffenreid

Fall Rally - 2015

September 17-21, 2015

State Fair Grounds
Pueblo, Colorado

Hosts: Condo's And Trovao's

Fall Rally - 2016

New Mexico - Pending

NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION DATES

GMC WESTERN STATES

ISSUE

2015 1st 2015 2nd 2015 3rd 2015 4th

PUBLICATION DATES

Feb 20 May 29 Aug 14 Oct 30

INFO TO COORDINATOR

Feb 6 May 15 Jul 31 Oct 16

TO PUBLISHER

Feb 13 May 22 Aug 7 Oct 23

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,
Email Judy Booth: hobo@citlink.net

GMC Western States Officers

Freddi Condos, Chapter President
559 683-5185, frettyc@sti.net

Jodell Banovich, First Vice President
925 600-7598, gjbanovich@aol.com

Gary Bovee, Technical Vice President
530 527-3015, gary.bovee@gmcidiotsguide.com

Donna Ventura, Secretary
925 200-6227, donaveee@gmail.com

Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer
949 642-6827, davebamboo@aol.com

Dorris Garton, FMCA National Director
760 375-5568, ceg777@earthlink.net

Gene Dotson, FMCA Alt. Nat. Director
828 465-0678, shawnee@charter.net

Judy Booth, Newsletter Coordinator
928 764-3378, hobo@citlink.net

Golden State Graphics, Newsletter Publisher
760 752-9500, elizabeth@goldenstategraphics.com

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

To submit an article or item for the Newsletter,
email Judy Booth: 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, Armand Minnie

DISCLAIMER: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS AND ARE PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS. ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED. INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION IS URGED.