

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER

Promoting the Preservation of the Classic 1973-1978 GMC Motorhome

2018 Annual Dues Are Due by December 31, 2017

Thanks to all of our members who have already paid their 2018 membership dues. Your continued support and participation at our rallies make it possible for our club to be as successful as it is. The membership at the Spring rally in Pahrump agreed that we will charge an additional \$10 per year to members who wish to receive printed copies of our newsletter, which are sent by US mail. Therefore, the dues renewal form will reflect that change. Members who have already paid for 2018, and perhaps beyond, will be grandfathered in and not subject to the additional \$10 fee.

For those who haven't renewed yet: We will be sending out reminders by November 1. If we don't receive your payment by December 31, 2017 you may not be included in the 2018 Membership Roster.

President's Message...



We had a great rally in Paso Robles this October. The weather was great, the people were wonderful, the food awesome and the wine was the best. What would you expect deep in the heart of the Paso Robles wine country? When you read the other reports on this rally, you will get a more complete picture of the event. During the rally, I spoke with



the Executive Board members about a proposed change of the bylaws to expand the definition of "member" and add "associate members". The Board proposed some wording for the changes and adjourned. At the general membership meeting we announced that we would be discussing the issue following that meeting. Therefore, we opened the next hour to said discussion by all members present. There was a lively debate pro and con. The proposed changes to the bylaws were projected on a screen, and we made changes and corrections as needed to conform to the consensus and the legal minds of the group. After an hour or so we closed the session by reading the process for a bylaw change as follows. GMCWS bylaws Article 10 Section 2...



2. AMENDING PROCEDURE: These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called Chapter business meeting (or by mail in ballot), provided that prior notice of at least thirty (30) days has been given of the proposition(s) to amend and are not in conflict with applicable provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of FMCA. Any member of the Chapter may propose changes in the Bylaws. Approved amendments to these Bylaws become effective immediately upon their adoption, or at such time as specified in the amendments.



2018 Membership Roster - Information Needed

It's that time of year again when we begin producing the 2018 Roster. To help in this endeavor, we would appreciate your reviewing your personal data on our website www.gmcws.org. Log on and then, on the left-hand side, under the red banner titled My Profile Summary, click on "Edit My Profile". If you need changes made and don't want to do them yourself, give us a call at 925-200- 6227 and we will do it for you. Or send an email at secretary@gmcws.org with changes you want made. Remember that if you don't renew for 2018 before the end of 2017, you may not be included in the 2018 Roster.

Thanks for your help in keeping this great organization thriving!

As you see, we could have changed the bylaws in this meeting, but we wanted the input of all our members. Therefore, we have mailed the proposal to all members, to be followed by the mailing of the ballots after 30 days. You will have 10 days to return your ballot to me, at which time I will announce the outcome. Please mail your ballot back quickly, as we are headed for the holiday period and we all get very busy. Your dues for 2018 are also due soon, and we need to collect updated info for the membership roster. Busy, busy



I personally feel that we should let our friends and members who choose to let go of their GMC and opted for another brand, or who lost the "driver" of their GMC and now no longer have the use of the coach, stay in the club to which they have belonged for many years. They have made many beautiful friendships with other members. The other effect is the brain-drain of the expertise by the long-time coach owners. The fact that their circumstance has changed does not make them less valuable to the club and our members .

Please vote promptly when the ballot arrives at your door.

Secretary's Message...
PASO ROBLES RALLY REPORT
October 2017



GMCWS' Fall 2017 Rally was kicked off with a welcome by President Nick Roenick. Nick thanked Dave for unexpectedly having to step up at the last minute to host the rally, and as usual, he did an awesome job. Nick welcomed each GMC clubs' members and reminded attendees that per RV Park rules, dogs must be kept on leash, and a reminder to not bring dogs unless they are friendly to people and other dogs. Hoss Hauge welcomed and parked 34 coaches

attending the rally, including the following newcomers: Mac "Dutch Marc" Druyts of Los Angeles, Richard and Ruth Peairs of Atascadero, David Horowitz of Raymond, CA, and Jinx Deruisa of Watsonville.



GMCWS warmly welcomes...

We would like to warmly welcome the following members who joined our club in 2017. 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. (If I forgot anybody, please let me know. It was an inadvertent omission, and I hang my head!)

- Scott & Brenda Cartwright, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Patrice Ciccarelli, Huntington Beach, CA
- Jinx Deruisa, Watsonville, CA
- Mike Hackett, Sahuarita, AZ
- David Horowitz, Raymond, CA
- Randy and Joe Johnson, St. George, UT
- Marc Pruyts (aka Dutch Marc), Los Angeles, CA
- Dan McCarthy, Sparks, NV
- Terry Pennock, British Columbia, Canada
- Richard and Ruth Peairs, Atascadero, CA
- Jason (Chase) Peters, Las Vegas, NV
- Kenneth Smelser, Portland, OR

First evening's "dinner" consisted of roving hors d'oeuvres, always a favorite. Lots of great appetizers - one didn't need dinner afterwards! A Poker Run organized by Dave resulted in Deo Trovao winning a beautiful succulent centerpiece. Ruth Martin and Bobbie Schultz offered to lead "walkers" in the mornings. On Sunday, George and Ruth Beckman hosted Morning Devotionals in the Clubhouse.



As usual, GMCWS members always provide and enjoy great food at our rallies. Between home-made pizza, bread pudding with bourbon sauce, ice cream, and breakfasts with eggs, bacon, Bill Kittredge's pancakes, or biscuits & gravy, or Manny's linguica breakfast burritos - how can one go hungry?? BBQ dinners were sumptuous - provided by Jesse at MB Farms BBQ - couldn't have been better!



In the absence of Carol Minnie, our 1st Vice President, Ruth Beckman graciously provided great projects for the craftiest of us - braided napkin rings, fabric covered notebooks, and decorating votive candle holders. And due to unforeseen circumstances, Donna deGraffenreid was unable to lead the pizza making efforts, but as usual, everyone chipped in and produced some fantastic and very delicious pizzas. Dave deGraffenreid, landscaper extraordinaire, led a session creating succulent centerpieces for raffle later in the rally. Susane Wright led the book review of The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara. The book won the Pulitzer Prize and was at one time on the New York Times' best seller list. Ted



Newsletter Pictures...



Turner made this into a movie - "Gettysburg" - which can be found on Amazon. This is considered to be one of the finest historical novels ever written. There was apparently more killed at Gettysburg - ~53,000 - than in Vietnam. In keeping with the book's theme - a nation that is divided will fall -Gloria Morris recommended Bill O'Reilly's Killing Lincoln. It was suggested that at the Spring 2018 rally with GMCMI, we invite MI to join us in the review of a book we select. Bobbie Schultz has offered to lead a discussion of The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America by Erik Larson. The 2003 book, presented in a novelistic style, is set in Chicago at the 1893 World's Fair and is based on real characters and events. Leonardo DiCaprio purchased the film rights in 2010. It was also suggested that we do a book exchange.

One of the more memorable events was touring the Estrella Warbirds Museum close by, with its many aviation and automotive displays. Six members were lucky enough to win a raffle to participate in the FA/18 Eagle Flight Simulator - described as an awesome experience by those lucky individuals. Details of the technical sessions are covered by George Beckman elsewhere in this newsletter.



The afternoon Swap Meet was very successful, followed by the very popular auction featuring Bill Kittredge as Auctioneer. Believe me, Bill could sell you the original air bag that came on his coach! Nick and Donna hosted 2 Happy Hours - the first was a Margarita fest, and the second featured wine-tasting with five different wines from Tobin James Winery in Paso Robles. A good time was had by all.

We are looking forward to the Spring 2018 Rally (April 6-12) in Tucson in conjunction with GMCMI. Stay tuned to our website for more information. Armand and Carol Minnie are our rally hosts and already have great plans in store, so you can be sure that it will be a great experience! So get it on your calendar - we will be in touch!



GMCWS General Membership Meeting

Wine Country RV Park & Resort October 8, 2017

President Nick Roenick called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. President Roenick thanked the hosts of this rally, Dave and Donna deGraffenreid, for all their hard work. He introduced officers present:

- George Beckman, Second/Technical VP
- Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer
- Donna Ventura, Secretary
- Sandy Clark, Newsletter Editor

Absent: Carol Minnie, First VP, and Armand Minnie, Webmaster. Current and past GMC Presidents present were acknowledged: Frank and Freddi Condos, GMCWS; Mike Burtch, the incoming 2018 president of the GMC 49ers; President Bobbie Schultz of the Pacific Cruisers. Also acknowledged were Jim, Adele and Barbara deCheine representing the Saguaro Jetsetters, and Terry and Gloria Morris from the Cascaders.

Newcomers

Several newcomers were recognized and welcomed: Richard and Ruth Peiars of Atascadero; Mark Druyts - aka Dutch Marc - from Los Angeles; David Horowitz from Raymond, CA; and Jinx Deruisa from Watsonville, CA.

Spring 2017 Minutes

Freddi Condos made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Spring 2017 Membership Meeting, as shown on the GMCWS website. The motion was seconded by Manny Trovao and accepted by the members present. Treasurer's Report Dave de Graffenreid: Our Treasury has a balance of just over \$22,000. This rally's raffle brought in \$430. Jim Kanomata offered to match those funds, giving kudos to all the club members and vendors he deals with in support of our club's members. It was suggested that we use some of the Treasury's funds attract new members. A motion was made to accept the report as presented; motion was seconded and passed by the attendees.





Election of Officers for 2018

The nominating committee was represented by George Banovich. All current officers have agreed to serve for another year. No additional nominations were made from the floor.

President Roenick again expressed the need for both an FMCA National Director and an Alternate National Director. He stated that because of our bylaws, Sharon Work is no longer able to serve as our FMCA Rep (she and Jerry no longer own a GMC). Nick gave an overview of that position's duties, which is to represent our club at FMCA functions and voting in administrative matters. Example:



Sharon Work brought to our attention the issue of towing our motorhomes, and she kept us updated until it was resolved. Per Jim Kanomata, FMCA membership numbers are also dwindling. Therefore 5th wheelers are proposed to be included in FMCA.



In his opinion there will be repercussions if they decide to expand the definition of "motorhome" in this way. It is seen as a financial advantage for FMCA and, per Carla Bolton, one of the goals is to attract younger/more people to keep their rates down.

Technical Vice President George Beckman talked about the difficulties of getting presenters for rallies' tech sessions. You don't need to do a lot of preparation. Members need to step up and do even short discussions. He finds the reticence of our members to "present" very frustrating.



Motion was made by Jim Kanomata to accept the slate of officers for 2018; motion was seconded by Manny Trovao and passed/ approved by the attendees.

Recruiting New Members

President Roenick stated there are at least 8 GMC Motorhome Facebook sites, with more than 12,000 views. Where are they? The



Facebook pages contain lots of technical information, but viewing these pages isn't the same as attending a rally, where there's even more technical information and lots of social interaction.

Suggestions by members for aiding in recruiting new members:

- Exposure at car shows - These are a very popular attraction
- Add positive comments on Facebook pages about our GMC experiences, including rallies, as opposed to just negative comments about the GMCs' breakdowns and repairs.
- Dutch Marc proposed that we video our technical presentations and put them on the web, for viewing by members only. This may result in increased membership. Dave Horowitz said it can be done inexpensively.
- Dave is also willing to work on creating a Facebook page and offered to work with 2-3 people to get it going.



It was suggested that we represent both social and technical perspectives of our community.

Donna Ventura made a motion to explore the avenues of technology cited above and ask Dave and Dutch to work together to explore proposals above for future discussion. Carla Bolton seconded the motion, passed by attendees.

Feedback, for Future Rallies

President Roenick requested feedback on this rally - what worked and what didn't?

- Freddi thanked Dave and Donna for stepping up at the last minute to be the rally hosts. Social activities were enjoyed and appreciated.
- Swap meet was very informative
- Auction with Auctioneer Dave Kittredge was very entertaining and a boon to our Treasury
- Atmosphere was very welcoming to newcomers and guests
- Everyone pitched in and helped with putting on this rally



New Business

President Roenick informed the meeting attendees that immediately following the membership meeting, he will host a discussion regarding proposed changes to the bylaws; specifically, expanding the definition of "member" and the proposed addition of a new category of "associate member". Everyone was strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

Future Rallies - Dates

Spring 2018 - April 6-12, 2018, at Lazy Days RV Park, Tucson, AZ, in conjunction with GMCMI. Armand and Carol Minnie will be our rally





hosts. 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.

Representatives from several GMC clubs gave information on upcoming rallies. See their websites for more information

GMC 49ers:

- New Year's Eve at Casa de Fruta. Hosted by Manny and Deo Trovao and George and Jodell Banovich.

Pacific Cruisers:

- Christmas Rally, December
- Hot Air Balloon Festival Rally, January, Lake Havasu, AZ

Cascaders - Christmas rally in Westport, WA

Saguaro Jetsetters - monthly rallies, all in Arizona



Closing

Again, many thanks to the rally hosts and seminar presenters. President Roenick also thanked Jesse of MB Farms BBQ for delicious dinners cooked on site.

Motion to adjourn was made by Hoss Hauge and seconded by Jim Kanomata. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



Western States Tech in Paso Robles

Western States GMC owners are Tech Savvy. Oh, we may not be technologically advanced in the proper rebuilding of a Quadrajet carburetor nor do we feel comfortable discussing sprag clutches in a transmission. But the good news is, we are a little like the Borg on Star Trek: The Next Generation; we have a collective mind. We

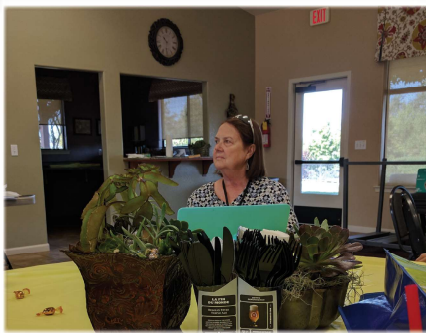
find that the knowledge from each of us, when shared, makes us fairly smart.

Like the Borg stories, we also realize that when it comes to the GMC, “resistance is futile.” When our GMC is running right, we love it. Sitting up front, watching the scenery through the big windows, we feel like Queens and Kings. When it is sitting beside the road, refusing to go, we hate the beast and wonder if we shouldn’t just call Uber and leave it sitting for the next poor soul. Alas, resistance is futile.

In our Paso Robles Tech Sessions, there were some astute things said. One statement that resonated through out the room was when a relatively new owner said, “When I am setting out in my GMC I have anxiety.” Heads bobbed throughout the room. I said, “Duh.” The good news is that some of that anxiety is excitement. It is an adventure and we have a great time. Only one coach, scheduled to come to Paso Robles didn’t make it, and hopefully, it was a simple, if not convenient problem.

Luckily, there are folks brave enough to stand up and tell others “Here is how you can do that.” Are any of us sure.? Well, sorta sure, because we have done it and we made it to the rally. Is it right? Probably not 100% but it is the best we can do. Jim Kanamata gave us some tips on towing. He even told us you could push a GMC with a van if your wife is a brave soul. He and Grace had signals as to whether to stop or keep going, all done with stop lights. (Remember, Grace could see nothing but the GMC!)

Manny dazzled the group with “Sawsall”. His first picture was of him cutting the side of a GMC with a sawsall. We all know Manny has what sometimes seem superman skills. But, with his Manny smile he assured us that for around \$2000+ or so, doing our own work, a slide out can be put in our coach. Amazing. We talked about Electronic Fuel Injection and vapor lock and gas pumps and Fuel Command Centers. Most were hoping that their current setup was going to get them home. And they did!





George Banovich gave an unscheduled lesson in changing a tie-rod end; mainly because one of his broke off in front of the registration area. (Yeah, it broke off.) Examination showed that it had been cracked for years. Hmm. (I am thinking about changing mine. There is no way the naked eye would have seen the crack.) Rick Flanagan gave us an inside look at the engineering of GMC parts— Reaction arms, Quadbags and Seat Belts. His CAD drawings were like watching a movie as he moved, turned and manipulated drawings on the screen.

One of my favorites is the open forum. This is the time when the Western States folks show their love of coaches and willingness to help. In our conversation, we made sure the first time folks understood that it is not all horror stories. With apologies to Robert Frost: These old rigs have miles to go before they sleep, and miles to go before they sleep.





To Submit an article or item for our Newsletter, email the Newsletter Coordinator, Sandy Clark soclark22@yahoo.com

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



GMC Western States Newsletter

1301 Margery Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94578

GMC Western States Officers

Nick Roenick, Chapter President

510-326-5236, pickle4k@gmail.com

Dave de Graffenreid, Treasurer

949-642-6827, gmcdegraff@gmail.com

Carol Minnie, First Vice President

520-744-1775, carol@minniebiz.com

Sandy Clark, Newsletter Editor

801-718-4487, soclark22@yahoo.com

George Beckman, Technical Vice President

559-706-3485, gbeckman@graestone.org

FMCA National Director

Vacant

Donna Ventura, Secretary

925-200-6227, donaveeee@gmail.com

FMCA Alternate National Director

Vacant