



# CLASSIC CHATTER

March 2004



## President's Message



Ann Brieger

Following the installation of officers at the Kerrville Rally in January, some of you heard me say, "This is a very exciting day in my life", and truly it was. In fact it brought back such wonderful memories of my dad and the circumstances surrounding the GMC, which we now are privileged to enjoy.

In 1978 my dad, David Anderson, had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Even though they had recently purchased and taken delivery, at the factory of a beautiful Holiday Rambler trailer, my dad longingly talked about how great the GMC motor home was every time he would see one go by. We were in Las Vegas together at one of the RV parks, where there were two of them parked, and again my dad was extolling the virtues of the GMC. As we left there for San Francisco in our little 18' trailer, and my parents left for Southern California, Al said, "your dad is going to buy a GMC". I was sure that couldn't be true since mother really liked their new trailer.

About a month later, my parents were on their way back to Harlingen and stopped for a visit before heading to the Valley. Our neighbor, who owned a GMC with three others, had announced that day that the motor home was for sale. Well as you might know, he inspected it carefully, and bought it that day. So mother drove the car pulling the trailer and dad drove the motor home. Happiness was his!

To get to the point - he spent long hours each day reading the manuals, fine tuning everything from one end to the other. They were even able to take several long trips from coast to coast and we are convinced that this wonderful machine prolonged his life by at least two years. My dad would have so enjoyed being a member of the GMC Classics and I am sure he would have even made some contributions at the Tech sessions, but he passed away in 1980. Our GMC is like a member of the family and we continue to thank my dad for his foresight and wisdom in providing such a legacy for us.

Please forgive the trip down memory lane, but it seems so timely since I now am privileged to serve as president of this organization that supports, promotes and assists in the preservation of GMC motor homes, which can give joy and pleasure to their owners.

Our hosts at the Kerrville Rally, Ruby and Ken Thoma, Nancy and Harry Fulks and Judy Morgan and Bud Allen, did a marvelous job. We appreciate all of the time and effort it took to make this a great rally, thanks to each of you! One of the highlights was the "Almost Patsy Kline Band", that provided us with great dancing and listening music.

I would like to encourage each of you to join us in **Grove, Oklahoma on April 29<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Rally** hosted by Justin Hill, Lorren and Bess White and Glyn and Melrose Trimble. They have some great plans for us including a tour of Darryl Starbird's National Rod and Custom Car Hall of Fame and a moonlight boat ride. The other plans and schedule are listed on the reservation form in the back of the Chatter. Send your reservations in today and be prepared to enjoy some great Oklahoma hospitality. See you there!

*Ann*



# Winter Rally 2004 — Guadalupe River RV Park — Kerrville, Texas

## Host's

Ruby and Ken Thoma  
Nancy and Harry Fulks  
Judy Morgan and Bud Allen



Ken and LaRosa Rose  
Richard Roucloux and friend  
Julius and Virginia Roucloux  
Ken and Betty Jean Sietsma  
Jo and Pat Summey  
Ken and Ruby Thoma  
Bob and Mary Louise Thompson  
Carolyn Tipton  
Larry and Linda Turner  
Charles and Janice Wersal  
Lorren and Bess White  
David Whittenberg and Beth Yolland  
Dave and Janice Wilson  
Billy and Lillian Wortham  
Lanny and Billie Young



## Attendees

Bud Allen and Judy Morgan  
Wayne and Charlotte Alumbaugh  
*Alfred and Debbie Andrews* **New**  
Linwood and Sue Arthur  
Vic and Gwen Ayres  
Ray and Earlene Baker  
Jerry and Rosa Barnes  
John and Ellen Brecheen  
Darryl and Sylvia Bubar  
Al and Ann Brieger

**New**

Jon, Jan, and Tasha Brieger **Guests**

*Gary and Wilda Cook* **New**  
Jim and Joanne Davis  
Harry and Mattie Driskell  
Gordon and Emmy Dunlap  
Frank and Cathy Emshoff  
Hal Finley  
Harry and Nancy Fulks  
Marvin and Gay Guelker  
James and Redonia Harper  
Justin Hill  
Richard and Jaye Hodges  
Doran Jones  
Tom and Judy Landis  
Mo and Helen Lewis



Ed and Kandy Lilly  
Billy and Debbie Massey  
Byron and Angela Maxwell  
Corky and Vergie McHaney  
L.D. and Johnnie McWilliams  
Frank and Henrietta Mueck  
Willard and Joyce Murdock  
Charlie and Minnie Myers  
C.B. and Kathryn Ohlhausen  
Art and Carroll Owens  
Marvin Peck  
Ed and Ann Reed  
Jerry and Francis Reeves

## Mooney Airplane Company

The hosts arranged for a guided tour of the Mooney Airplane plant. A good size group of GMC'ers enjoyed walking through the plant and seeing how an airplane produced. Many thanks to the hosts for arranging a tour that was both informative and memorable.



## Area Attraction

David Whittenberg, Beth Yolland, and several others visited Stonehenge 2 which is located just west of Kerrville. The dreary weather added authenticity to the visit.



## Other Photos



Tech Session

## Crafts

Craft sessions were led by Carroll Owens, on Friday, and Debbie Massey, on Saturday. These sessions are always popular with the ladies and this rally was no exception.



Good food



Guadalupe River RV Park—Kerrville, Tx

**GMC** *Classics*

# ***TECH EXCHANGE***

*By Fred Hudspeth*

This record of the Tech Exchange is presented as a service to GMC Classics members and guests. Accuracy is not guaranteed. Independent verification is urged.

*Fred Hudspeth, our Tech Session Moderator and Tech Exchange Editor, could not attend due to an illness in his family. He has since reported that the situation has significantly improved. We missed you Fred and we wish all the best for your family.*

**Byron Maxwell returned to the role of Moderator and Editor for this session.**

The meeting opened with a brief follow up discussion regarding Satellite TV. **Byron Maxwell** reported that he used the information received at the Tyler Rally to compare services and select the one he felt best met his needs. The two major service suppliers are Dish TV and Direct TV. As Larry Turner told us, Dish TV requires the user to locate TWO satellites; Direct TV uses only ONE ... unless you subscribe to their most premium services. With the two satellite Dish system, three adjustments are required: vertical, horizontal and rotational. This is reduced to two, vertical and horizontal, with Direct. Byron installed a Winegard rooftop dish where his off the air antenna previously resided. He also installed Winegard's digital elevation sensor and reports that set-up time is rarely more than 2 minutes. He invited anyone who wishes more information to call him.

One member reported that he narrowly escaped being "scammed" for several thousand dollars. He had a coach advertised on the Internet. A buyer from Europe sent him a cashier's check for several thousand dollars more than the advertised price, then contacted him asking that the overpayment be refunded. A check with the bank on which the cashier's check was drawn revealed that the check was BOGUS. Had he not checked with the bank which issued the cashier's check, he would have lost both his coach and several thousand dollars. **IF YOU ARE SELLING SOMETHING AND RECEIVE A CASHIER'S CHECK FROM SOMEONE YOU DO NOT KNOW, ASK YOUR BANK TO CHECK THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CHECK.**

**Jerry Barnes** reported that he recently solved his hot-start problem by installing a relay near his starter, operating the relay with the original equipment wiring and energizing the original equipment start relay with a heavier gauge wire directly from the battery. **Larry Turner** reported that he has a GM provided circuit drawing for this modification. See or call Jerry or Larry for details.

A member asked if anyone had installed one of the new high-torque (and high dollar) starters. It is believed that **Frank Emshoff** uses one with his diesel installation. Frank was not available to confirm this. No one else reported experience with these starters. If you have knowledge of the installation and operation of these new high-torque starters, please plan to share it at a future tech session.

**Marvin Peck** told us of his new screen door. Screen doors have not been available since Alex Birch stopped making them. Ragusa Pattern Shop, Santa Ana, CA, 949.261.5898 now makes one. It costs about \$500.00. Marvin has one on his coach and invited all to come by his coach to view it. He says Ragusa is also looking for a regional sales agent.



**Justin Hill** reported that he had an elusive transmission fluid leak. A shop removed and re-installed the transmission three times before finding the problem. The leak was found to be coming from a hole worn in the cooler line below the manifold as it vibrated against the engine block. It is a good idea to inspect these lines for wear

**Ed Lilly** told the group of a desirable service offered by another GMC club. The club maintains a complete rebuilt engine ready to ship. Should a member experience an engine failure he can call the club and have the replacement shipped on short notice. The group agreed this is a valuable service, but no one volunteered to head the project. If you are interested in heading such a project, make your interest known.

**Charles Wersal** recommended the installation of a tube to carry transmission fluid which might overflow from an overheated transmission to a point below the hot exhaust, reducing the chance of a fire. He says Jim Kanomata; Freemont, CA; 800.752.7502 has the parts and will probably tell you how to install them. The use of silicon hose is urged to insure against the fire hazard that will occur should the hose come into contact with the hot exhaust pipe.

**Doran Jones** reported that he recently found that GM sells a new in-dash heater control that is an almost exact replacement for the original. Only the vacuum valve has to be moved from the old to the new part. Call Doran for part numbers.

**DeWayne Lugafet** told us that he recently solved a long term starting problem when he found and replaced a section of the rubber fuel line that had severely deteriorated and was allowing air to enter ahead of the fuel pump. **Larry Turner** recommended that we use only fuel lines approved by the US Coastguard for Marine service. Marine lines are readily available at Marine Supply stores.

**Bob Thompson**, a professional insurance adjuster for 52 years told the group to be very careful when buying insurance for their GMC. Upon experiencing a total loss, many owners discover that while they thought they were covered for a *stated amount or agreed amount*, they were only covered for *actual cash value (ACV)*. ACV or Blue Book value for our coaches is thought to be about \$13,000.00. Bob says the problem is that many policies have coverage statements such as "*actual cash value not to exceed stated (or agreed) amount.*" He says to beware of verbal statements by sales agents. Verbal statements are overridden by the written policy. Only three or four companies in the world write stated or agreed amount insurance policies. Bob offered to help any member who may have a claim and does not feel he is receiving the appropriate settlement. He says he will always help, but may not always be able to get you what you feel is appropriate. **TO PROTECT YOURSELF, READ YOUR POLICY.**

One member was asked to talk about an accessory product that he makes and sells. He declined, saying that he understood that those who sell accessory products are discouraged from talking about them at tech sessions. The group discussed this at length. It was the consensus of the group that they would like to have presentations from those who make/sell accessories for the GMC. No dissent was indicated. We invite such presentations at future rallies.

The acoustics in the rally hall together with the ladies activities in the other end of the same building made hearing and understanding of our speakers very difficult. The weather did not permit our moving outside and no other buildings were available. We need to continue to be aware of this and try to find solutions for future rallies. If anyone has a suggestion other than find campgrounds with two rooms, please share your ideas.

We look forward to the return of **Fred Hudspeth** to moderate the tech session(s) at the Oklahoma rally and to produce the Tech Exchange information.

*GMC Classics would like to thank Byron Maxwell for doing such a great job with this issue of the Tech Exchange!*



### Red Hat Tea



The Red Hat Tea was again a very entertaining and fun event. The ladies were entertained by Betty Jean and Ken Sietsma singing and playing the dulcimer and guitar. The humorous songs really put a smile on everyone's face! Charlotte Alumbaugh was elected Treasurer. Ann Brieger read the poem "When I am an Old Woman".



You never know what to expect from this group so be sure to attend the next tea in your red and purple attire.



At the April rally, the middle school of Grove Oklahoma will perform a skit and sing a song in the Cherokee language for us. Don't forget to bring your tea cup and a door prize.



The following is a reminder from Emmy:

"Next October will be a biggie in Uvalde, Tx. We are planning a Pajama Breakfast. Start looking for purple pajamas, gown, or robe. Also the most outlandish house shoes you can find or invent. But remember, you must wear a red hat of some kind. Be creative on this also. We will have a catered breakfast and entertainment. More on that in a later newsletter."

*Emmy Dunlap*



Yee haw!



### The "Almost Patsy Cline Band"

Saturday night the Classics were entertained by the Almost Patsy Cline Band.

These photos, by **Beth Yolland**, show what a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Beth for taking all the great photos.



## Thank You!



**Art Owens and Harry Fulks** for always keeping the coffee hot. With the drizzly weather this was no small chore. They also did a great job with Bingo.



**Jaye and Richard Hodges** for providing us with the popcorn machine. The fresh popcorn was a real treat.

GMC Classic's name tag bolo ties and coozies were provided by the hosts: **Ruby and Ken Thoma, Nancy and Harry Fulks, and Judy Morgan and Bud Allen**. Thanks for making this such a wonderful rally.

## News

**Virgie McHaney** reported the FMCA dues were going up to \$35.00 but if you paid for 2 years cost would be \$47.00, three years for \$67.50, or five years for \$100.00. She said refunds would be made if membership was cancelled. More information is available in the January 2004 FMCA magazine or visit [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com).

**L.D. McWilliams** discussed "Classic Caravans" and Mini Rallies. Current caravans planned are June 11-20, Fun Valley, Colorado (**L.D. McWilliams**) and October 3-10, Albuquerque Balloon Fest (**Billy Massey**).

## Upcoming Rallies

**April 29 — May 1, 2004** (See Registration insert)

Cedar Oaks RV Resort  
Grove, Oklahoma

Hosts: Justin Hill, Glyn & Melrose Trimble,  
Lorren & Bess White

**July 15-17, 2004 (Summer Rally)**

Havens Landing RV Resort  
Lake Conroe, TX

[www.havenslanding.com](http://www.havenslanding.com)

Hosts: Harry and Mattie Driskell

**Oct. 28 –30, 2004 (Fall Rally)**

Quail Springs RV Park  
Uvalde, TX

Hosts: Tommie and Ann Walker

**Winter Rally** — Any offers ???

The **Classics Chatter** is a quarterly newsletter for the membership of the GMC Classics Motorhome Club. The club is a chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association and primarily draws its membership from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Its purpose is to promote the preservation of the GMC Motorhome and to bring its owners together for their exclusive enjoyment and common interest.

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