

CLASSIC

GMC Classics

CHATTER

President's Message



Lorren White



Just as in life itself, everything has a beginning and an ending. This message will move me nearer to the ending of my term as your president. Yes, perhaps I will not get the E-mail from precious **Debbie** "Hi Lorren I need your stuff" but, as I look back at the fun of serving, I may miss it. I want to say thanks to my wife **Bess** for her support and attendance at the meetings.

The rallies this year, in my opinion, were some of the best I have attended. For the sake of not leaving anyone out, I say thank you to you the "Hosts" for the hard work and your dedication to the club.

The surveys that were sent out for your suggestions on how to improve the Classics were not that successful. I'm hoping this is telling us the majority of our members are happy with how the club is operating.

If there was a down side to this past year, it was the loss of our Charter Member, **Ken Thoma**, everyone's friend. **Ruby**, you will always be in our minds, our thoughts and our prayers as will all the other members we have lost this year!

The rumor that the GREAT **Emery Stora** and his beautiful wife, **Michelle**, would be attending our last rally came true. What a blessing it was to have you attend. You both bring so much with your comments about GMCMI. We are honored that you are it's leader and also a member of the Classics. Please attend as much as your busy schedule permits.

Yes, if the rallies are better, thanks has to go to **Fred Hudspeth**, who makes our Tech Sessions better each time, to **Emmy Dunlap** who makes the Red Hat Tea "ladies event" so special that it makes **Charles Wersal** search for new ideas to get a free lunch, to **Debbie Massey** for a better Chatter each time it goes to press, to **Billy Massey** who does such an outstanding job keeping us all connected that he receives awards, to **Bill Wortham** who found such outstanding parks for our Rallies that he was promoted to Vice President, and to the rest of the Board that has served you so well.

Yes, the end is near! What a privilege it has been to serve. Of more importance, we look forward to the new slate of officers and to the leadership of the "Popular" **Mattie Driskell**. She will bring much needed change to the office I just filled.

Bess joins me in wishing all of you a very eventful New Year. We will see you in Tyler -- You be there!

Drive safely,
Lorren



2006 Officers

Installation of the elected officers will be at the January rally in Tyler. The elected and appointed officers are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mattie Driskill | President |
| Bill Wortham | Vice President |
| Charlotte Alumbaugh | Secretary |
| Redonia Harper | Treasurer |
| Jim Jackson | Wagonmaster |
| Ed Lilly | Assistant Wagonmaster |
| Corky McHaney | FMCA National Director |
| Gordon Dunlap | FMCA Alt. Nat. Director |
| L.D. McWilliams | Caravan Coordinator |
| Fred Hudspeth | Tech Coordinator |
| Billy Massey | Admin/Webmaster |
| Billie Young | Sunshine Lady |
| Debbie Massey | Chatter Editor |



Welcome Newbies

New Members since the last Newsletter:

Marcel and Ellie Bourgon - El Paso, Tx
Stan and Debora Cunningham - New Braunfels, Tx
Jim and Chris Franklin - Groesbeck, Tx
Ralph Harper - Missouri City, Tx
Leigh Harrison - Woodbridge, VA
Warren and Berrie Mitchell - Fort Worth, Tx
Claud and Lucille Skipper - Oakwood, Tx
Frank Tongkeamha and Mary Bacon - Dallas, Tx
Stephen Wilhite - Round Rock, Tx

Corsicana Rally

Al & Ann Brieger, Fred & Sharon Hudspeth, and L.D. & Johnnie McWilliams did a wonderful job of planning the Corsicana Rally. Thanks for all your hard work. About 130 members and guests attended the rally.

However, we did miss seeing **Art and Carroll Owens!** I think this was the first rally they have ever missed since joining the Classics. We hope they are feeling better!

Ann Brieger found a very nice black covered stainless steel coffee container on the table near the front door. I'm sure the owner would like it back. Contact Ann to reclaim it.

The following report is by **Sharon Hudspeth**:

On Saturday morning a group, led by **Sharon Hudspeth**, gathered for storytelling. I started out by sharing a story and then volunteers told their stories. When one would tell a story it often reminded someone else of a story and they shared it with us. The many stories made us laugh, be reflective, or even say "oh my!" We all agreed we knew each other a little better through our stories.

The Sunday morning church service was inspirational with devotionals presented by **Carolyn Tipton** and **Billie Young**. **Billie** then led us in a hymn and we closed with prayer. The service was a blessing and a good way to close the rally and begin our journey home.

Many thanks to **Sharon** for this report.



Joanne Davis
"Chickenfoot
Champ"

On Friday morning, **Debbie Massey**, led an exercise group in "line dancing" and on Saturday morning, **Virgie McHaney** led a "sit and tone up" group. We had lots of fun! Hope we can continue to have people lead groups in some kind of exercise. Any volunteers?

Red Hat Luncheon

"What a wonderful Red Hat Tea we had in Corsicana. GREAT refreshments by **Sandra Hood** and her committee. **Nancy Fulks** and her helpers for the tea. As usual, **Joyce Murdock** did a superb job on the table decorations. **Billie Young** showed us the super prizes donated by the "Red Hats and More Company". Visit them at: (www.redhatsandmore.com). These prizes will be awarded in Montgomery at GMC International. She and her girls worked hard and we all got a door prize.

We had a hostess at each table and they did a fantastic job of keeping our cups full. **LaRosa Rose** was our hospitality gal and she was very diligent collecting our money. Thanks to all of you that helped make our Tea the very best.

In Tyler, we will be making our final plans for the International Tea in March. We will be having a Chuck wagon luncheon. We have several girls working on different projects and we are going to have FUN, FUN, FUN. Some of our own cowboys and dancing girls (?) will be there

(Continued on next to last page)



Winter Rally

January 19-21, 2006

Whispering Pines RV Resort

5583 FM 16 E
Tyler, Tx
(800)559-3817 or (903)858-2405

Hosts:
L.D. & Johnnie McWilliams
Bill & Lillian Wortham
Charlie & Minnie Myers
Chuck & Kathy Ohlhausen
Ed & Jo Ann Johnson





Fred Hudspeth
Technical Seminar Coordinator

GMC Classics

TechNotes

American RV Park — Corsicana, TX
October 27-30, 2005

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

House Systems Maintenance and Repair

Mr. Doyce Massey, a local Corsicana RV technician, was our guest speaker. He elected to confine his remarks to the house systems as those used in GMC Motorhomes bear some resemblance to those used in conventional motorhomes. He said he was not qualified to address the GMC chassis technology as he had little experience with it.

He began his presentation with an emphasis on the heating system. He cautioned all owners to install insect screens over the air intake and exhaust ports for the furnace—even if you store the motorhome in an enclosed garage. They are available at most RV supply stores. If the furnace does not respond to the thermostat control, it may be that the contacts need cleaning. Clean them by sliding a piece of paper between the closed contacts; do not use a point file. Most of the time, the contacts have a film that has formed from the air inside the motorhome and is easily removed with paper.

Doyce advised that universal replacement electronic control boards, where used, are interchangeable between the furnace, water heater and refrigerator (ignition board only for the latter). Universal replacement boards with a Dinosaur brand name are about \$90 at this website: <http://marksrv.com/dinosaurelec.htm>. Doyce said OEM replacement

boards are made offshore and have a much higher failure rate than the Dinosaur name.

If the refrigerator fails but the sealed system and the heating element (or OEM electric motor) are still functional, you can connect the refrigerator directly to a 120V AC source and run the AC generator. You will have to monitor the temperature manually as the control system is bypassed. But at least you have the use of the refrigerator until you can service it.

Doyce showed the multifunction instrument he uses for checking electrical circuits in motorhomes. It is a Fluke TI -600 and is a “slip on” (vs. a “clamp on”) meter for measuring current, both AC and DC. The advantage of this instrument is that it is not necessary to encircle the conductor. It then can be conveniently used in confined spaces. Doyce said he paid about \$105 for the instrument. I was unable to find the Fluke TI 600 in an Internet search. The closest I could find to the instrument he described is a Fluke Code 333 at a price of \$127.

See it at the following web site:

www.reliableprocurement.com/Merchant2/merchant.mv?screen=PROD&Store_Code=RP&Product_Code=333&Category_Code=F

If tank level sensors are not registering correctly, they can be cleaned with “Oxy Clean”. Fill the tank(s) with water, add the Oxy Clean, and leave for several hundred miles. The movement of the coach will provide adequate agitation for cleaning.

Tech Notes



Tech Session with guest presenter, Doyce Massey

After Doyce had concluded his remarks, some owners remained and viewed a video on the care and maintenance of RV furnaces. It addressed in more detail some of Doyce's tips.

Here are the key points of the video:

1. Remove furnace (leave housing in coach).
2. Dissassemble into main components.
3. Clean orifices (main burner and, if equipped, the pilot); use only paint brush and shop air - i.e., do not put wire through orifices.
4. Clean/test pilot (if equipped) thermocouple. Clean flame probe with steel wool. Test with VOM and propane torch. Heat flame probe with torch for 30 seconds. Connect VOM terminals, "+" to cable jacket and "-" to contact pad at end of cable. Voltage of 25-30MV indicates OK.
5. Clean/check electronic ignition probes. Clean with steel wool. Check/set gaps per mfgr. Specs.

6. Blower: remove lint, dust etc. from blower wheel. Lube motor if it has oil ports.

7. Electronic circuit board: inspect for obvious problems. Clean board contacts with pencil eraser.

8. Combustion chamber: inspect for obvious problems. If there are any holes, the furnace will have to be replaced.

9. Main burner: clean with shop air and by reaming slots in burner (a hacksaw blade can be used on some - thin wire on others).

10. Install new gaskets when reassembling the furnace.

11. Check propane supply pressure. This can be done using a simple water manometer connected to the range top gas supply. With one burner lit, the manometer should read 11" water column. It will rise to about 12" when the burner is shut off. If it rises more than that, the pressure regulator at the propane tank will need to be readjusted. If the pressure cannot be controlled by readjusting the regulator, then replace the regulator.

12. Electrical supply at furnace: be sure polarity is correct.

13. Ducting: disconnect and vacuum where accessible.

14. Thermostat: check for proper operation (i.e., contacts close properly and conduct current). Use VOM to check for voltage on each side of contacts. If low or no voltage, clean contacts by holding contacts closed and pulling paper through them. **Do not sand or file contacts.**

Both Doyce Massey and the producers of the video repeatedly emphasized the importance of cleanliness for the proper and safe operation of the RV furnace.

Tech Notes

Penny and Leon Buenger now own this custom 23' GMC Motorhome:



This coach was formerly owned and customized by **Eileen and Earl Morrison**. Eileen and Earl frequently attended GMC Classics rallies when they owned the coach. Penny and Leon are modifying the coach to fit their travel and living preferences.



Jim and Betty Presley own this 1976 28' "Stretch" Kingsley. They acquired the coach in last December from **Jim and Martha Rogers**, San Antonio. Jim advises that the coach was "stretched" by Ocean Atlantic in Florida in 1989. Jim has documentation showing that in 1990 the cost to duplicate the "stretch" would have been about \$60K.



Beginning with the next rally (**Whispering Pines RV Park near Tyler, TX**), we will expand the **Swap Meet to one hour**. There will be **two tech sessions (up to two hours each)**, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Several owners have requested this and have committed their participation to help make it a success. At one of the sessions at Whispering Pines, **Charles Wersal** will discuss the driver/passenger air conditioning system. He will have a plenum (the assembly under the hood panels) to help explain the system. At the other session, **Bill Bramlett** will lead a discussion on the front wheel bearing assembly and a new interpretation of proper bearing seal knuckle relationships. You will not want to miss Charles' and Bill's comments.



Your club welcomes your comments and suggestions for the Tech Session subjects.

You are especially invited to make a presentation or run a "bull session" on a technical subject of your choice. Advise what you would like to present and when.

Your greater participation is now especially important as we seek to expand the technical program to two sessions at each rally.

If you have questions that you would like to have addressed in this column, please call or email them to me. I will research the answer(s) and publish them here.

Call or email Fred Hudspeth at 903-509-2495 and fbhtxak@sbcglobal.net respectively.



(Red Hat Luncheon cont.)

to serve and entertain us. Red Hatters from all over the U. S. and Canada are looking forward to coming to Texas and we want to entertain them. We need volunteers for every aspect of this tea and want each of you to be involved. We need some men who aren't shy to get involved. You will love it. "



Queen Mother,
Emmy Dunlap



See what fun the Classic Red Hatters have? Hmmm, what were we laughing at?

MEDEX Cards



Gordon Dunlap reminded us to be sure to carry our MEDEX cards with us on every trip. If you are at least **100 MILES** from home, whether it be for business or pleasure, they will take care of all expenses, but you have to notify them immediately! This program helps traveling members to effectively manage the complexities and expenses of out-of-area medical and travel emergencies. FMCA members receive this coverage with no sign-up required. For more info, go to:

www.fmca.com/membership/benefits/full_family/medex.asp

GMC Classics Website

Billy Massey reported that about **500** people visited the GMC Classics website last month. Since it was created in 2000, it has had almost **66,000** visits from people just like you. The site is quite extensive and has something for everyone:

urgent news, upcoming events, newsletters, pictures, classifieds, and links to almost anything you need/want for your GMC. Go check it out!

www.gmcclassics.com

The Classics say, "Thank You **Billy Massey** for all your hard work!"

Stay in Touch!

The Classics have a private place to post email to the rest of the group. It's very informational and sometimes down right fun! You never know what the discussion is going to be about. Sign up for the Classics Email List at:

www.gmcclassics.com/listserv/

SPRING RALLY



We are excited to announce the next Classics rally will be held during the GMCMI Spring Rally in Montgomery (Conroe), Texas. This will be in place of our regular rally usually held in April.

- Dates:** March 5-11, 2006
- Location:** Montgomery, TX
- Site:** Havens Landing RV Resort
- Hosts:** GMC International

All GMC Classic members are invited and you will be receiving a registration form from GMCMI. You are encouraged to come.

This is THE rally to attend!

The Classics will also have a "get together" during this rally. Details will be released at a later date.



"Happy Anniversary"

GMC Classics was founded on March 23, 1986. Our 20th Anniversary is on March 23, 2006. YIPEEEEE!!!!



SUMMER RALLY

Dates: July 20-23, 2006
Location: Shawnee, Ok
Site: Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Facilities
Hosts: Marilyn & Robert Musgrove
 Helen & Monte Jestes
 Sharon & Ron Eimen
 Doree & Ken Broostin
 Bobbie & Bill Bramlett

"Classy Fieds"

For more details on these and other classified items, go to :

www.gmcclassics.com/chatter/4sale.html



Refurbished, upgraded, maintained and driven exclusively by **Ken Thoma**. This GMC is ready to roll! Load it up and drive it anywhere in the country with confidence. Contact **Ruby Thoma** at (830)997-3690 or email her at kenandruby@ctesc.net

1977 Royale - 84,000 miles. Rear dry bath, twin beds, replacement refrigerator. Selling due to my husband's death. \$5,000 Madeline Henley at Pearsall, Texas. Call after 7PM, 830-334-4551

The **Classics Chatter** is published quarterly for the membership of the GMC Classics. 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 interests.

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