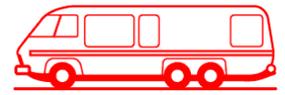


# Classic Chatter



*Mattie Driskell*

## President's Message

The Mini-Rally at the Country Pines RV Park at Marshall was a very fun time and also very relaxing. There were 13 coaches and we had four guests. Many thanks to LD McWilliams for planning this mini rally.

We went on a scenic, narrated tour of Caddo Lake on Thursday afternoon at Uncertain, Texas with Captains Jim and Lexie McMillen. They shared piloting duties on their 1800 era replica paddle-wheel steamboat named Graceful Ghost. Captain McMillen, a U.S. Naval officer during the Vietnam War, is licensed by the Coast Guard as a Master of Steam and Motor Vessels. Captain Lexie McMillen is the only woman in America to hold an Unlimited Inland Master's License and First Class Pilot's License on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers. She has piloted America's major river boats, including the Delta Queen, the Natchez, the Mississippi Queen, and the President. After we got off the tour, we all went to the Big Pine Lodge in Uncertain, Texas. We had a big feast of catfish. Some of us had to bring home doggie bags.

On Friday most of the ladies went shopping and some just stayed at the park. The men had a relax-

ing time without most of us ladies, just doing their own thing and sitting around talking. We went out for a nice dinner and live music at the Licea's Mexican Restaurant Friday night in Jefferson.

On Saturday we got up pretty early and went into Jefferson for a Riverboat Tour on the Big Cypress Bayou. It was a very interesting, fun narration of Jefferson's steamboat history along with info on the flora and wildlife along the bayou. After the Riverboat Tour, some of us stayed in Jefferson to enjoy the town. The National Outlaw Rod Club-Classics Cars, 1972 and under, were there. We heard there were around 250 vehicles. Sure were some beautiful ones. Some of our group took rides in a one horse buggy and some came back to the RV Park and played hand and foot inside the air conditioned building. Several enjoyed being outside under the canopy that Leon & Penny put up. You should have heard some of the tall, tall tales that were being told. Two of our ladies went to Shreveport to win money at a casino and some went shopping at Blackburn's Factory Outlet, Marshall Pottery, toured museums and historic homes. There is a lot of history in Jefferson, so if you have the opportunity to go there, do so. I know you will enjoy your time spent there. A group



went into Marshall to eat at the Golden Corral on Saturday night. A bunch of us just hung around the camp, had snacks, and enjoyed everybody's company.

We had three excellent breakfasts that most everyone pitched in and helped prepare. We had a good clean-up crew also. Our breakfasts consisted of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, biscuits, gravy, O.J. and coffee...what a treat it was.

The ladies craft was directed by Joyce Murdock. She helped me make a swag made out of magnolias and roses from a table arrangement from our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary reception. It really looks beautiful over the fireplace in our home. Thank you again Joyce!

Our July rally will be here before we know it so mark your calendars for July 20 -23 at the Citizen Pottawatomie Nation Tribal Facilities at Shawnee, Oklahoma. You can bet it will be hot, but we have had them at hot places before and have always had an enjoyable rally. I know our hosts have a great rally planned for us. So we will be looking forward to seeing you there.

*We were all saddened about losing one of our Classic members **Ted Ruppel** on May 4, 2006. Ted had not been able to attend any of our rallies, due to his health problems, in a long time. He got to make the Bandera rally in April, 2005. A great friend Leon Buenger drove the GMC there for Ted and Karen. Then in March, Karen drove the GMC to the GMCMI Convention at Montgomery, Texas. Thanks Karen. Everyone was so happy to see him and of course you too. His memorial service was May 13<sup>th</sup> at their home in Pearland, TX. It was a very moving memorial with his daughters, son-in-laws, son and grandson doing the eulogies. The Confederate Air Force flew a missing man formation over the house when the ceremony was over. There were a host of GMC Classics that attended. After the memorial services a great barbecue lunch was served. Ted will be greatly missed.*

**Mattie**

## Next Rally

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

**Reservations due July 5, 2006**

## Fall Rally

**Dates:** October 12-15, 2006  
**Location:** Kerrville, Texas  
**Site:** Buckhorn Lake Resort  
**Hosts:** Virgie & Corky McHaney

More rally info to be released later.

## Club Statistics

The Club currently has 167 member families. 44 of these have joined since Jan 1, 2005. This means one quarter of our membership is relatively new. This is so exciting. We are really growing! We welcome the new blood and their ideas. Hope to get you involved in future rallies. If you haven't been to a rally, please plan on attending one ASAP. You never know what is going to happen and you DON'T want to miss it!

Our members are from:

Arkansas	2	Florida	1
Kentucky	1	Louisiana	6
New Mexico	3	Oklahoma	20
Tennessee	1	Texas	132
Virginia	1		



Fred Hudspeth  
Technical Seminar Coordinator

# GMC Classics Tech Notes

*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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Normally, this column addresses the technical program for the immediate prior Classics rally. The regular 2Q Classics rally was combined with the Spring 2006 GMC Motorhomes International Convention at Havens Landing RV Resort in Montgomery, TX, 5-11 March 2006. Since there was no independent Classics technical program, I will report briefly (with a few relevant pictures taken by Billy Massey), on the GMCMI technical program. This will mainly benefit those Classics members who were not present at the Convention but may also serve as a record for those who did attend. Incidentally, 82 of the approximately 160 total Classics members did attend the Convention - an excellent turnout by any comparison!

About 16 owners made technical presentations spanning more than 15 hours from Monday through Friday.

Byron Maxwell, Larry Turner, Charles Wersal and I, all Classics members, presented seminars.

## Classics Member Presentations:

### Living Area Electrical System

Byron led off the technical program with a description of the electrical system of the motorhome living area. He discussed 12V and 120 power, inverters, converters/battery chargers, batteries and battery selection, use of golf cart batteries vs. marine/

deep cycle batteries. He placed special emphasis on the safety aspects of working with shore power, power from the Onan and 12V power.

### Preventive Maintenance for your GMC

I followed Byron with a Preventive Maintenance seminar. In this session, I covered three broad categories: a. Safety - Inspection and Repairs b. Lubrication and General Maintenance and c. Emission Controls Maintenance. I especially cautioned owners on the importance of inspecting/replacing as necessary front/rear brake hoses, oil cooler hoses, aged tires/air bags and chafed transmission lines.

### Info on Air Conditioner Plenum and Discussion

Charles Wersal was up next with a presentation on the air-conditioning plenum and auxiliary cooling methods. He used an actual plenum to illustrate the air flow paths and some of the design shortfalls of the motorhome dash air-conditioning system. He used a large array of pictures from his own files, Internet and other sources - the latter all properly acknowledged - to further aid understanding.



Charles at work...

## Tech Notes

### GPS in the GMC

Later in the week, Larry Turner described motorhome navigation with laptop-based Global Positioning System software. He described the route planning features, automatic off-course rerouting, finding specific locations such as fuel stops, Wal-Mart's, overnight stops, etc. He demonstrated the voice recognition speech output capabilities of the software; the main advantage of the voice recognition software is that allows hands-free input to the computer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Presentations by other GMCMI members included the following:

### How to use WiFi with your Computer

Tom Phipps described WiFi technology and tips on accessing the Internet wirelessly, both at home and on the road. He noted that RV parks are increasingly making WiFi available to their customers. While some RV park owners initially made it available at additional cost, most who offer it now do so at no additional cost.

### GMC Electrical and Instrumentation

Ken Henderson presented a description of the motorhome's chassis electrical and instrumentation systems. He showed various locations for ammeters for those who want to install them; he strongly urged the use of shunts to avoid bringing heavy current loads into the instrument panel. He also covered, among other topics, the battery isolator and alternatives to it.

### GMC History and Films

Bill Bryant showed VHS tapes, made from 8MM films, of the development and marketing of the motorhome. A clip showing the suspension characteristics of the GMC motorhome vs. conventional motorhomes illustrated the superior handling and ride qualities of the GMC. He also showed, among other

subjects, the assembly-line production of the motorhome.

### Stability of the GMC Motorhome

Jim Kanamata discussed the Stability of the GMC Motorhome. He addressed fundamentals including tire pressure, ride height adjustment, rear suspension arm adjustment, rear wheel alignment, front suspension/steering, front alignment and weight distribution. Jim also shared some tips he has learned about inspecting and repairing various components of the motorhome suspension, wheel/tire assemblies, and steering.

### Radiators

Jim Buchanan and Gene Dotson presented a session on the engine/transmission cooling system with special emphasis on the radiator. They discussed replacements for the OEM radiator, including a new radiator with significantly improved heat transfer characteristics compared to the OEM version. They also discussed the care and maintenance of the cooling system.



Jim and Gene with the new radiator

### Repair and Rebuilding of the Air Compressor

John Clement conducted a "hands-on" seminar on repair and rebuilding of the motorhome air suspen-

## Tech Notes

sion compressor. Owners were invited to bring air compressors that needed service to the session. He demonstrated disassembly, inspection and repair techniques. He had replacement parts for purchase by owners who needed them.



John demonstrating...

### “Where’s Waldo?”

Jim Bounds held a lively session on the merits of our vintage GMC motorhomes vs. their size equivalents in new motorhomes costing more than \$100,000. Many of those have the aerodynamics of bricks and handling characteristics of trucks. Jim gave some interesting cost criteria on repairing/restoring/upgrading GMC motorhomes vs. buying a new “lesser” motorhome. He featured “WALDO”, a customized GMC with the latest in electronic “toys”, that he built for owner Dean Kershaw. WALDO = Wireless Long Range Digital Office.



Jim describing “WALDO”...

### Heads and Upper Engine

Dick Paterson gave a very informative presentation on engine cylinder heads and intake manifolds. He described methods of improving airflow through the intake manifold and cylinder heads for increased torque and power. He noted the importance of matching the intake manifold/cylinder head mating surfaces to take into account any machining of cylinder head surfaces.

### Onan Repair and Maintenance

Duane Simmons conducted a session on the inspection, repair and maintenance of the Onan genset. He described means of determining the cause of start/run problems by use of jumpers at the control panel terminals. He was especially emphatic about NOT using water to clean the genset as that is a major cause of control board failures. He shared “best practices” that he has learned in maintaining his genset and performing service on those owned by others.

### What You Have Always Wanted to Ask About the Rear Bogie System and Suspension

Dale Ropp and Dick Serryn used a full scale rear suspension system to describe the inspection, repair and maintenance of it. They emphasized the importance of insuring that the suspension arm (bogie) pins are properly lubricated. They described tools that are available to help insure that proper lubrication is achieved. They also discussed service to deformed bogies and proper rear suspension system alignment.

### Hubs, Knuckles and Bearings

Dave Lenzi used engineering drawings he made to show the critical dimensions of the hub, knuckle and bearing assemblies. He placed special emphasis on the importance of maintaining the proper relationship of the inside seal to the face of the drive-shaft. The seal must be precisely positioned in the

## Tech Notes

knuckle for proper protection of the bearing assembly from dirt/water entry. He designed and made a tool to properly install the seal in the knuckle. This applies mainly to knuckles that have been machined and do not have the OEM dimensions.

### Throttle Body Injection

Ray Swartzendruber described the throttle body injection system he installed on his motorhome using new and salvaged GM parts. He listed the components that had to be secured, complete with wiring harnesses and materials for the installation. He described the functions of all major inputs to the engine control module and outputs from it. He also discussed system troubleshooting and servicing.

### Ask the Experts

All GMCMI technical programs close with this session. It is designed to allow owners to ask questions on any subject pertaining to the motorhome. The panel for this convention included Bob Drewes, Dave Lenzi and Dick Paterson. It is scheduled for one hour but the panelists stay as long as the audience has questions they want to ask.

\*\*\*\*\*

As you can see from this account, there is a LOT of technical material covered at a GMC Motorhomes International Convention. There are also many opportunities for interaction with the presenters and other owners. And for those who get saturated with the technical program, there is a more general program that runs in parallel with the technical program.

“Hope you can attend the Classics rally at Shawnee, OK, 20-23 July 2006. As noted in my prior column, Robert Musgrove will host the tech sessions at that rally (he and Marilyn are also part of the host team for that rally). Sharon and I will be

away in Alaska as usual for the summer.

Would be glad to see you at the GMC Motorhomes International Fall Convention at Berrien Springs, Michigan, 20-26 September 2006. If you cannot attend that, then hope to see you at the Classics Fall Rally in October.”

*Your club welcomes your comments and suggestions for Tech Exchange subjects. You are also welcome to make a presentation on a technical subject of your choice. Advise what you would like to present and when.*

*Call or email Fred Hudspeth at 903-509-2495 and fbhtxak@aol.com respectively.*

## FMCA Rally

Corky McHaney, our FMCA National Director, invites you to attend the FMCA Six State Rally to be held September 26-29, 2006 in Beaumont, Texas. Several of the Classic members had a great time at the FMCA rally when it was held in Wichita Falls, Texas. More information and the registration form is available in the June 2006 Family Motor Coaching magazine on page 155.

## E-Mail List

The Classic E-mail List is very useful to our membership. Members use it to keep in touch with each other. It's a great way to get the word out to a great many people with just one e-mail. You can respond to the whole group or you can do it just to an individual. All members are encouraged to take advantage of this tool. Sign up to receive these e-mails

[www.gmcclassics.com/listserv/](http://www.gmcclassics.com/listserv/)

## Name Tags

Classics name tags are available for \$10.33 a pair. Contact the Classics Administrator (contact info on back page of Chatter) or you can use the order form at

[www.gmcclassics.com/nametags.html](http://www.gmcclassics.com/nametags.html)

## *Membership Applications*

If you have a member prospect, contact the Classics Administrator or you can print the application found

at [www.gmcclassics.com/application.html](http://www.gmcclassics.com/application.html)

## Roster

The 2006 Roster is ready and will be distributed at the July Rally in Shawnee, Ok. If you are not present at this rally, your copy will be mailed. The most current Roster is always available at

[www.gmcclassics.com/roster.htm](http://www.gmcclassics.com/roster.htm)



Ask Mattie about being "potted".

The following pictures are from the Mini Rally.



## Summer 2006



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.

### **Officers:**

#### **President *Mattie Driskell***

P.O. Box 144, Lovelady, TX 75851  
936-636-7100 E-Mail: hnmrdri@gmail.com

#### **Vice President *Bill Wortham***

8912 Persimmon Rd, Big Sandy, TX 75755-5164  
903-636-9973 E-Mail: billandlil@msn.com

#### **Secretary *Charlotte Alumbaugh***

7000 Glen Hills Rd., Richland Hills, TX 76118  
817-595-9068 E-Mail: cwachar@sbcglobal.net

#### **Treasurer *Redonia Harper***

277 Old Hwy 135, Gladewater, TX 75647  
903-845-5181 E-Mail: james.f.harper@att.net

#### **Wagon Master *Jim Jackson***

#4 Masters Village, Conroe, TX 77304  
936-856-8489 E-Mail: jjsjintexas@yahoo.com

#### **Assistant Wagon Master *Ed Lilly***

14500 Crainwood, San Antonio, TX 78233  
210-656-2594 E-Mail: elilly@satx.rr.com

#### **Technical Seminar Coordinator *Fred Hudspeth***

5919 Quail Creek Dr., Tyler, TX 75703-4532  
903-509-2495 E-Mail: fbhtxak@aol.com

#### **Caravan Coordinator *L.D. McWilliams***

1612 E. Main, Whitehouse TX 75791  
903-871-2648 E-Mail: lmcwilli@cox.net

#### **Administrator/Webmaster *Billy Massey***

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-784-5861 E-Mail: bdub@gmcclassics.com

#### **Sunshine Lady *Billie Young***

1208 CR 132B, Kingsland, TX 78639  
325-388-6502 E-Mail: billiey325@yahoo.com

### **FMCA Representatives:**

#### **National Director *Corky McHaney***

1257 FM 337E, Medina, TX 78055  
830-589-2431 E-Mail: jvmchaney@78055.com

#### **Alternate National Director *Gordon Dunlap***

510 Brookhollow Dr., White Oak, TX 75693  
903-295-6828 E-Mail: emmydunlap@aol.com

### **Publications:**

#### **Newsletter Editor *Debbie Massey***

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-784-5861 E-Mail: editor@gmcclassics.com

**Website: [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com)**

