

Classic Chatter

GMC CLASSICS FALL 2006



President's Message



What a great rally we had at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Campground in Shawnee, OK with 53 coaches there. We survived another hot July rally. Our building was very nice and plenty cool enough, and decorated so beautifully. There were gourds painted by **Doree Broostin** (which were later auctioned off) and sunflowers on all the tables. Our hosts did a fantastic job and the rally was a great success. Many thanks to **Bob and Marilyn Musgrove, Ron and Sharon Eimen, Monte and Helen Jestes, Ken and Doree Broostin, Bill and Bobbie Bramlett, and Bernie and Rene Baldwin.**



Mattie Driskell

There were plenty of games, miniature golf, washer pitching and even had a pet parade early one evening. The ladies craft, "Friendship Tiles", was taught by **Doree Broostin**. Thanks Doree for all your hard work in putting this all together for us. It was GREAT! The guys had good tech sessions. Our entertainment was the Oklahoma Dancers. They were very entertaining and asked some to dance with them.

We were honored with the presents of **Audie and Wanda Lewis** on Saturday. We were happy to see **Justin Hill** at the rally. There were quite a few guests this time and new members also.

We have lost so many members of our GMC Classics recently. **Elgin Dietz** passed away on June 24 after a long illness, **A. J. Marshall** passed away June 30, and **Melrose Trimble** passed away August 7. These folks were a cherished part of us and they will be sorely missed by all.

We need to remember our GMC friends that are in ill health. Send them a "Get Well" or "Thinking of You" card with a short note or maybe an email. I know they would appreciate hearing from you.

I hope you are planning your trip to Kerrville, Texas for our next Classics rally October 12-15 at the Buckhorn Lake Resort, take exit 501 on I-10 West. If you can't make it in October try to make the January 25-28, 2007 rally at Big Chief RV Resort on Lake Buchanan at Burnet, Texas.

See you in Kerrville and please travel safe!

Mattie



The 2007 Nominating Committee was appointed in Shawnee, OK. They are **Emmy Dunlap** (Chairperson), **Marilyn Musgrove**, and **Virgie McHaney**. Nominees will be announced and officers will be elected at the Kerrville Rally in October. The new officers will be sworn in at the January Rally in Burnet, TX.



What Happened at the Shawnee Rally?

A humorous report by Stanley Chickenfoot
aka Georgene Farrill

The Shawnee Rally is a thing of the past and a beautiful memory it is, but for you who missed it, here's an update. Some things just need to be told.

First a hand for the hosts of the rally, they worked hard and it was a big success. That lady, **Marilyn Musgrove**, she worked so hard, but her crew and husband pulled her through it. **Bill & Bobbie Bramlett**, what can I say, Pros all the way. **Sharon Eiman**, she lives with **Ron**, the Irish joke teller. **Doree Broostin**, well talented people just get inspired and create. Ask her husband **Ken** and the people who were lucky enough to get one of her gourd birdhouses she hand painted. A BIG THANK YOU to her for donating these to the Classics to auction off. The earnings were like needed rain in a drought.

At the Awards Banquet, (I like the sound of that) I was front and center. **Al Brieger** did not hesitate to step up and get me and he stood there with pride as other awards were being give out. Second place for chicken-foot went to **Charlotte Alumbaugh**, and that chick had on way too much make-up. Sorry Charlotte I don't mean you, I meant the prize chick you won. Also, I need to talk to all of you about the prizes and gifts. I understand all Thank You's are from the heart, like the flowers to **Bobbie Bramlett, Sharon Eiman, and Marilyn Musgrove** for the successful play Long Branch Saloon at the International in Montgomery, but come on folks **Bob Musgrove** worked hard tooand a box of Kleenex ...The CAR's box was a nice touch though. And then for miniature golf 1st place went to **Ray Doonkeen**. He got a small envelope with something in it. Second place went to **Corky McHaney** and I heard him say, "WOW, this means I got the Hummer." I heard people say he probably cheated... Do you'll see what I am saying. I am top prize...no more Hummers!

Speaking of **Ray Doonkeen** of Ok, he always brings his Mom & Dad to rallies in Texas and is a pretty quiet-guy. But here close to home, his beautiful lady spent the day with him and then another couple came for support. He wins miniature golf and his guest, who has never played washers before, was some real competition and he nearly won. I think he really enjoyed the game. That is another fun thing you all do a at rally...washer pitching. If you have never played do it-do it- do it.-----You do not have to be good-- or even know how. Ask **Margaret Treude**, first time she ever played and she made it to the play offs. She wants her husband, **Norman**, to make them some boards so they can practice at home.....Even though this is a fun game....I must STRESS, these people are serious....I think maybe the reason **Jim Davis** didn't even sign up

this time was because he forgot his tape measure....so **Charles Wersal**, score keeper, had to use a sheet of paper to measure. Sign up to play at Kerrville, you'll be glad you did. Those guys had to play golf again... funny thing though, **Frank Jacob** took his dirty laundry bag instead of his bag with golfing shoes. Was that a new way to play? I heard through the chicken coop that we are going to have a new game in Kerrville called Bolo Ball, it sounds like you'll like it. The Pet Parade----- it was great...if you missed it...you missed a show. Of course I was there in person, there was some other fowl but....they were stuffed.. it was kind of embarrassing. The ones in the bird cage represented the four Lovebirds the **Musgroves** always carry in their coach. I'm glad **Janice Wersal** also carries a bird in her coach. Dogs were the majority though. It was a blast. I The 3 Pomeranians **Clint and Beverly Davis** brought hink they are Opera singers. **Doree's** big Airedale wore sun-glasses and played dead. The **Massey's** Doberman wore himself completely out chasing a flashlight beam on the ground. **Joyce Murdock's** pet, **Charles**, was a real unusual looking critter (check photos online).

The entertainment was different and awesome. We had the Oklahoma Indian Fancy Dancers to perform for us. Not only did we witness superb dancing in colorful costumes, but they also gave us Indian history in explaining each dance and what it represents.

Lorren White brought his Antique Car. He and some members rode around on the camp grounds and even had their picture taken in it. It was at this point they realized they had 3 of this years 4 winners of Chickenfoot on hand, so we called a photo shoot. I am on the old car alone and then, **Lorren White, Joanne Davis and Al Brieger** and I are in the car together. It would have been nice if **Ed Johnson** had been there. I am selling 8X10 glossies for \$7.50 and if he had been there, I think I could have gotten \$10.00.

The reservation we stayed on was really nice. We were camped on The Potawanami Citizen Reservation, with a Casino within walking distance. And for that many days I saw no one slam a door or kick a dog and I saw everyone leaving in their GMC.....No bad losses but a really good time was had by all. It is now a memory and hope all in attendance enjoyed it and for those that couldn't be there, I hope you enjoy this update. I am now getting ready to go to Michigan with **Ann & Al** and I will report in Kerrville all that happens there. You know if you win me you have to take me places and report back. Pictures of me and our time together would be nice. I hope I have pictures of Michigan or just road shots. Till next time.

Stanley



Fred Hudspeth
Technical Seminar Coordinator

GMC Classics TechNotes

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.

Robert Musgrove, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the guest host for the Shawnee tech session and has contributed this account of the tech session. Thanks, Robert, for a job well done.

The 100+ temperatures made all three of these topics very timely!

COOLING SYSTEMS

Emery Stora conducted a presentation on cooling systems. His PowerPoint presentation said much more than can be repeated here. Some of the more important points that he made are:



Radiator – Original is 4 row, 14 fins/inch, 42 tubes. Newer 53 and 59 tube radiators are available. Also, new aluminum radiator is available from Buchanan/Dotson (more expensive and more efficient).

Radiator Cap – Original radiator is designed for a 9# cap. AC Delco type RC32 Part Number 6410619. In an emergency a Stant 7# or 10# cap can be used. DO NOT use a higher pressure cap. Check radiator cap at least every year. Emery checked 11 radiator caps at Shawnee. Nine of them were defective.

Water Pump – Original had a Cast Iron impeller with a diameter of 4-¼ inches. Over the years these

pumps have been replaced with pumps that are equipped with smaller impellers; or pumps that are equipped with smaller, stamped impellers which have no backing plate. Most owners report that pumps with the smaller impellers are adequate. However, at least one owner reported that the fan clutch cycled more often with a water pump installed which was equipped with a smaller, stamped impeller that had no backing plate.

Thermostat – Use a ‘full flow’ 195 degree thermostat (some use 160 degree or 180 degree thermostat in very hot climates). Robertshaw number is 330-195 (Prestone or Mr. Gasket uses the same number).

Hoses – 455 engine and 403 engine use different hoses (see GMCMI Parts Interchange). Do not use ‘corrugated’ hoses. Use ‘molded’ hoses (some have spring inside). Replace every 4 years, regardless of appearance.

Fan Clutch – Should cycle on and off in hot weather. It probably should be replaced if you have never heard it cycle. A good substitute is AC Delco 15-4644.

Coolant – Use a mix of 50% Antifreeze and 50% Water. Change every two years.

Belts – Use 11 MM wide belts and tension so that belt can only be pushed in ½ inch between pulleys. Many belts are only 10MM (too narrow), which results in them riding too low in pulley. Too much tension can ruin bearings. Too little tension will allow slippage.

Tech Notes

ONAN GENERATOR

Ken Broostin conducted a presentation on the Onan generator. Ken's observations and comments are unique because he worked for Onan at the time that representatives of GM approached the Company with requirements for a power generator for a new motor home that they were designing. Of course, the motor home GM was working on was none other than our own GMCs.



Ken told about GM's requirements for a generator in a drawer that could be pulled out for maintenance requirements. In fact, Ken designed the slide mechanism for the power drawer.

The design also had to ensure that the generator compartment was under a slight vacuum when the unit was running to ensure that carbon monoxide could not enter the coach. The height limitations on the generator compartment created a challenge during the design of the intake manifold. The result was an intake manifold that is 'flat' rather than 'arched' as are most intake manifold designs.

Time and environment together represent the ultimate test of design and construction. Most of our GMCs still use the original Onan generators. This is a very good indication that the Onan design team did their job well, over 30 years ago.



DASH AIR CONDITIONING

Emery Stora chaired a round table discussion regarding the dash air conditioning. The conversa-

tion was primarily about the refrigerants that are available for use in these systems.

Our GMC systems were designed to utilize the R-12 refrigerant. The Clean Air Act halted the production of R-12 on January 01, 1996. Any remaining supplies of R-12 are product that has been recovered and reclaimed back to a chemically pure state. Consequently, the availability of R-12 is limited and the cost has increased several times over the original amount.

R-134a is the refrigerant that was developed as the long-term replacement for R-12 in new and retrofit applications. Of course, new systems are designed for R-134a. However, retrofits bring up compatibility issues. R-134a is not compatible with the mineral oil used in R-12 systems; and the higher head pressures may cause the older compressors to fail. Minimal retrofits which only replace the oil and the refrigerant may not give the best cooling performance. A 10-15% decrease in cooling performance is typical. A full retrofit, which replaces major components, can cost hundreds of dollars.

HC-12a is an alternative to R-12 and R-134a. It is an environmentally friendly hydrocarbon refrigerant that does not have compatibility issues with either mineral or synthetic oils. Consequently, it is not necessary to replace major components due to oil contamination. The high side system pressure is considerably lower than that of the other refrigerants, which is easier on the compressor, and on the coach engine. This lower pressure, plus the larger molecular structure of HC-12a can help prevent refrigerant leaks over time.

All refrigerants, with oil added, are flammable. GMC coach owners should do their own research and make decisions that fit each individual situation.



Stanley Chickenfoot

By Georgene Farrill

Read at Shawnee rally by Joyce Murdock

"Hi, I would like to introduce myself. My name is **Stanley Chickenfoot**. I am sure you have heard of the hockey Stanley Cup. I am kind of like that, only not silver, but still very valuable.

The winner of the Chickenfoot Tournament gets to take me home to show me off to friends, do photo shoots, or just to decorate their home. I appeared as the prize in the summer of 2005 at Thackerville by the kindness of **Frances Reeves** and the GMC Classics. The first person to win me was a nice man from Oklahoma, **Lorren White**. Boy was he excited. I could just feel the love, but I could also see the look on the face of **Bess**, his wife. She did not know what to do with me, but seemed happier when told she had to bring me back, in good shape, to the next rally.

At the spring rally 2005 in Corsicana, a nice lady, **Joanne Davis**, won me. She treated me okay but I heard devastating words that she tried to "throw the game" when she remembered I was the prize. It hurt my feelings. I don't know if it was guilt or she learned to love me because she made me a little stand and started putting the winners names on it. I like that!



Joanne Davis, Al Brieger and Lorren White

At the winter rally in Tyler it was all men in the play offs. The lucky man to win me was **Ed Johnson** from Texas. Again it was the female in his family, **Jo Ann**, that was disappointed. Why do I have this effect on women? Is it my looks? Are they just jealous? I don't know, but it was her love for her husband that made her accept me.

Now to digress; it was agreed upon that I would not participate at the GMC International as a terrible loss could happen and I could end up in another club. The Classics would miss me so much. **Ed** took me home and I did get to go to the International Rally where they sat me under a tree so I could see all the happenings. Have you been to an International Rally? It's lots of fun. Some one named **Bruce Farrill** had plumbing problems. The Chicken Gang: **Charlie Myers, James Harper, Jerry Reeves, and Bruce Farrill** set me on this "throne". **Billy Massey** printed a humorous (?) sign and hung it on my throne. I was so humiliated.



While back in Tyler with **Ed**, I had a fight with a rat and lost a few too many tail feathers. **Ed** took me to the hospital and **Francis Reeves** resurrected me. I look a little different now. Some of you may have had cosmetic surgery so you know what I mean. It was terrible.

I went to the Oklahoma rally in Shawnee last summer and man was it HOT! The tournament was a lot of fun. I kind of wanted to go home with that **Lorren** guy again, but I heard them talking about cock fights in Oklahoma and that could be worse than the rat!

There was a gal from New Mexico in the finals. Her name is **Michelle Stora**. I hear it's cooler in New Mexico so I was rooting for her, but alas, it was another man that won me, **Al Brieger** from San Marcos, TX. The good thing is that I hear he and his wife, **Ann**, travel. I love to travel and I hope I can avoid any more encounters with rats.



Charlotte Alumbaugh, Al Brieger, Michelle Stora, and Charles Wersal

I want to say thank you to all the Classic members who have been so kind and I look forward to going home with each and every one of you at least once. But like they say about the lottery... you have to play the game."

Stanley



"Eat more beef!"

Fall 2006



RED HAT LADIES

Get ready for Oktoberfest. We will be celebrating a fun holiday. Be sure to bring your tea cup and a door prize.

Get your bling-bling on and join us for a fun time in Kerrville.

We will be having tea and goodies. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and having a wonderful time.

Emmy

NEXT RALLY

Dates: October 12-15, 2006
Location: Kerrville, Texas
Oktoberfest Theme
Site: Buckhorn Lake Resort
Hosts: Virgie & Corky McHaney
Emmy & Gordon Dunlap
Bob & Janice McKnight
Margaret & Norman Truede
Reservations due October 1, 2006

MINI RALLY

Dates: November 9-11, 2006
Location: Henderson, TX
18th Annual Heritage Syrup Festival
For more info go to www.gmcclassics.com/events.html

Make reservations at Overton City Park in Overton: 903-871-2648 . Contact L.D. McWilliams if you plan on attending.

WINTER RALLY

Dates: January 25-28, 2007
Location: Burnett, Texas
Mardi Gras theme
Site: Buckhorn Lake Resort
Hosts: Youngs, Prices, Harpers,
Barnes', and Lilly's

More rally info to be released later

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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