

Classic Chatter

GMC Classics



President's Message

Bill Wortham

The next GMC Classics rally will be held at Whispering Pines RV Resort and Campground, Tyler, Texas. We look forward to seeing a large crowd of GMCs. The rally location will be more centrally located creating less travel time for people from north Oklahoma and south Texan.

The Texas and Oklahoma lunch bunches have been busy the last couple of months. It's great to see club members enjoying each others company between rallies.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Whispering Pines in April.

Bill Wortham

NEXT RALLY

Dates: April 24-27, 2008
Location: Tyler, Texas
Site: Whispering Pines RV Park



Reservations due April 10, 2008
(Forms in this newsletter)

SUMMER RALLY

Dates: July 17-20, 2008
Location: Waco, Texas
Site: Riverview Campground

FALL RALLY

Dates: October 16-19, 2008
Location: Perrin, TX
Site: Mitchell Resort & RV Park

Welcome to another new year for the GMC CLASSICS. I want to thank the Classic members for giving me your votes of confidence. I will try to do my best in the year to come as I serve as your President. What a tough act to follow **Bob Musgrove**.

The rally at San Antonio was attended by 51 coaches. The hosts of the rally did a super job. Everyone enjoyed good meals and entertainment, including a mariachi band and the dance.

We had several non members looking for information about our club and rebuilding their own motorhomes. I hope they join the GMC Classics and can obtain even more information from our members.

One of the goals for this year is to increase our Classics membership. I want you to use every opportunity you can to recruit new members. Our Club is very special and we need to help it grow!

I would like to thank **Mattie Driskill** for the outstanding job she did installing the new officer for 2008. What a wonderful group of people. This looks to be an outstanding year.

I want to remind all GMC CLASSICS members there will be a defibrillator at every rally. During the day, it will be in the meeting room and at night, the president will keep it at his coach. We had a very informative demonstration at Lake Braunig on how and when to use it. Many thanks to **Willard and Joyce Murdock** for arranging this presentation and for all their hard work and research.

Braunig Lake Rally

By Billie Young

'Kudos to **Rosa Barnes** for our craft session. She really had us "rollin' in the dough" while making tortillas. A few of our ladies found out they've had chefs hiding in their kitchens and Rosa brought them out in the open. Someone said Bill had "good texture." Better watch that guy, Lillian.

Red "Hats off" to **Emmy Dunlap, Carolyn Tipton, Nancy Fulks, Quata Powers** and **Pat Summey** for their hilarious antics. Pat did a great job reading the poem about growing older and moving in with your kids. Never have we seen it enacted and brought to life with such gusto and fervor. To see Carolyn crawling under the table and Emmy on the floor, dishes tossed across the room, and so much more, our "prim & proper ladies" were a sight to behold! All I can say is, if the Lord allowed their husbands to watch from the Balconies of Heaven that day, I'm sure the sound of their laughter echoed throughout. Ladies, your men would be so proud of you, as we all are. Continue to enjoy your journey and be all that God has created "you" to be.



Sunshine Lady still requests you let her know when someone is sick, in the hospital, lost a loved one, or has a need of any kind. She can't send a card if she doesn't know the need. Thank you for your cooperation.

Queen Bee's Bonnet

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, April 26th is the Classic Red Hatters' 10th Birthday so it will be a great celebration at Whispering Pines. Our national Hatquarters has planned a year of celebration: cruises to Mexico and Alaska, a year-long stage play of HATS in Las Vegas, and an International Milestone in Orlando Florida, but it will be hard to beat the party of our Classic Red Hatters. We are having an expanded menu plus Ann Marie Carter, our member in San Angelo, will share some helpful tips. She has done this for some time and has instructed in many venues, including television.

We are encouraged to wear a Red Dress and a Purple Hat to commemorate this event. I also promise to slow down. If anyone has any suggestions for this Tea or future teas, please give me a call.

If you are interested in the national events listed above, call 866-386-2850 or you can to the their website: www.redhatsociety.com

See you in Tyler.

Georgene Farrill



Stanley's Report

By Georgene Farrill

Well I made it to the rally. AGAIN, NO THANKS to you ladies. When **Carolyn Tipton** left Louisiana, she was so excited she forgot to go by **Karon Haynie's** and pick me up. After she gets to Texas, picks up **Emmy Dunlap** and arrives at Braunig Lake, she remembers me. She calls Karon and that poor lady forgot where she had put me. Well Thank goodness for her husband **Barrie**. He knew where I was so he gets me out of my hiding place, dusted my feathers, and took me to FedEx and next day aired me to the rally. Just in time...I missed nothing. Thanks Barrie!

After great Italian food on Thursday night, our 2008 Officers were installed. Congratulations, this is going to be the best year of your life. Speaking of food... many thought the food at this rally was the best we'd ever had!

Friday night was Mexican food and a Mariachis band. The piñatas, mariachis and wonderful flavor of the food

set the atmosphere as very festive. **Billie** and **Lanny Young** really looked the part in a sombrero and serape. We had two special movies. **Jaye** and **Richard Hodges** brought their popcorn machine and we sure did keep them busy. The first movie was *The Long, Long Trailer* and the second feature was *RV* with Robin Williams. We had Blue Bell ice cream at intermission.



Spring 2008

Saturday night was Bar-B-Q Brisket (this is Texas you know). We had a 4 piece band that were expert in several types of music. Lots of people danced.

Saturday was the prettiest day and after the dreary wet feel of the previous days, everyone was out of the coaches walking, talking, and enjoying the sunshine. They looked like a bunch of chickens scurrying about.

The only official game at this rally was the Chicken Foot Tournament. It was played on that beautiful day, so all players were serious about winning me this time. The winner was **Debbie Massey** and she has promised to take me to work and other places. Second place went to **Pat Summey**.

Our biggest excursion into the city was to the SAS shoe factory. You think you are going for shoes but it is a trip back in time. Inside they have beautiful restored antique cars, old motor scooters, an ice cream parlor with 05 cent coffee and popcorn and Penny candy for \$2.00. **Sandra Hood, Sandra Price, Sharon Jacob, Janice Wersal, Billie Young and Jan Wilson** LOADED UP on that "Penny Candy". Their stock prices did go up that day, and everyone was walking around with smiles and happy feet.



We were in San Antonio and the theme was Fiesta. Our hosts came up with the perfect craft. Tortilla making which was taught by **Rosa Barnes**. This was a blast and useful. We lined up on both sides of a very large stainless steel table. Boy she is a real perfectionist when it comes to tortillas. She is NOT gentle when she says, "Your dough is tough"...I know because I had a lot of trouble. Someone (**Penny Buenger**) couldn't get it all mixed together so she just threw the extra flour in the trash but Rosa could tell by the weight something was wrong! You know Rosa also counts to 20 at a different rate than the rest of us do. Most of our dough was nowhere near a circle, but Rosa and her broom handle rolling pen made us look good. **Wayne Alumbaugh** is a bread aficionado, so he wanted

in on this craft. Well then **Linwood Arthur** and our new president **Bill Wortham** also joined in. You could tell Linwood was a real novice in the kitchen, but **Sue** was enjoying the scene. Bill looked like he might be mixing cement, but ladies, all 3 of these guys turned out good tortillas. Maybe Rosa gave them more help. We mixed, we laughed, we sweated, we grilled, and then we shared and ate. It was the perfect craft and so much fun!



We had several new and returning members who were really involved at this rally. A big welcome back to **Jackie and Richard Isenhour, Lyman and Barbara Smith**, first time rally attendees and friends, **Sue**

and **Jim Fouty**, decided this was going to be a great club and they had lots of fun. **James and Cathy Dean** are now driving a S.O.B. He has a garage full of GMC parts and that makes him the guys NBF (text talk for New Best Friend).

Ken Rose and daughter Riva Fikes attended with her husband Lee who sure knows how to enjoy the sunshine and partake of some zzz's. I was watching him for a LONG time and finally became concerned. I had to ask Riva if something was wrong and Riva said, "No, that's just his church pose." This was **Reg and Dot Phillips** second rally they have attended. Welcome back! They state they are thoroughly enjoying the rally and took a standing ovation as they danced out the door Saturday night. I hope each and everyone attends all future rallies and get together in their areas. I am looking forward to April at Whispering Pines in Tyler. I have been told this is a great place and lots of fun. Sure hope that Massey lady doesn't forget to take me along... that Fed Ex trip was NOT FUN! See you in April. OH, remember to watch out for the **Johnsons!**

Stanley Chickenfoot



"Eat more beef!"

Rescue Facts Information Pack

The Rescue Facts Information Pack is a nylon wrap that is secured with Velcro around your seatbelt, safety helmet chinstrap, walker, wheelchair, backpack, handlebars, etc. An embroidered or screen-printed medical symbol alerts EMS and Police there is important health information inside. Medical forms, including the consent to treat form, are included and fold to fit inside the pocket of this nylon wrap. For further information go to <http://www.rescuefacts.com/> These will be available from **Dave and Jan Wilson** at the Whispering Pines rally for \$3.75 - bring your quarters!

CLASSIFIED ADS



1973 23' Project. Rebuilt engine and trans. New gas tanks. Alcoas, 2 new A/C units, fuel injection, aluminum heads and intake, dish antenna, new windshields. The interior needs the lower kitchen cabinet, original propane tank, no generator, no refrigerator, no dinette, headliner in good shape, side panels need replacing. Leon Buenger, Pasadena, TX 713-473-0362 or topper415@sbcglobal.net



1978 Royale - Rear Twins, Side Dry Bath. Many updates. Very good condition. App. 8000 miles on rebuilt engine and trans done June, 2007. New modern windows. \$26,500. Livingston, TX., Larry Stroud, 936-967-3613 or ljta@cebridge.net

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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Motorcoach, the Only Way to Travel

By Sandra McIntosh as printed in the *Cedar Hill Now Magazine*, July 2007.

Frances Richards Reeves grew up in Cedar Hill. She is almost positive that her class was the last group of seniors to graduate from what is now known as Bray Elementary School. So much has changed over the years that when reminiscing, smiles just naturally appear. Laughter becomes the sound of the day. “I graduated in the gym along with the other 16 students in my class,” Frances remembered. “This year well over 700 graduated. Our mascot wasn’t always the Longhorn. In my day, we were known as the “Dogies.”

In 1961, not long after graduation, Frances married Jerry Reeves, the love of her life who just happened to live down the road in DeSoto. They moved to Dallas for their first few years as a couple, making the move back to Cedar Hill in 1968. “We drove down, looked at a lot and picked our house plans in the course of about an hour,” Jerry said. “It was the quickest decision I think we’ve ever made.”

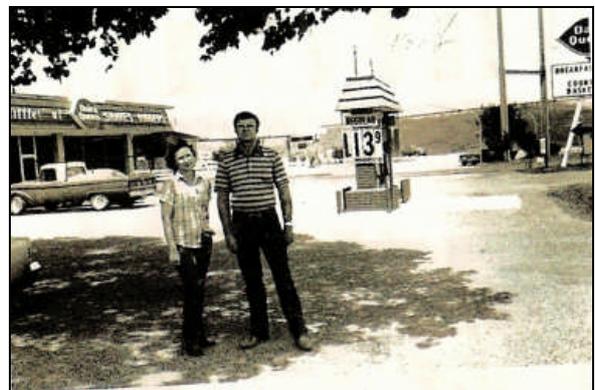
Through the years, the couple stayed quite busy. Frances reared their son, Kirk, while Jerry worked to provide for his family and tinkered with antique cars. Just a couple of months before their 19th wedding anniversary, Frances landed in the hospital for surgery. It was during her hospital stay that she received the anniversary gift, which over the years has kept on giving and giving and giving. “He bought the local Dairy Queen and told me about it while I was still in the hospital,” Frances said. “He told me about it just 20 days before we decided to open it backup to the public. We

opened on December 1, 1980, just a few days before our anniversary on December 9th.”

When purchasing the franchise, Jerry had no intention of keep it in the family. “My plans were to buy it, fix it up and lease it out,” Jerry said. “For some reason, which I can’t seem to remember now, we started running the business.”

Over the years, the DQ has been the place of great meetings. When breakfast was still on the menu, it was the location for early business meetings and more than one cup of coffee. Although many of the “old-timers” have passed on, Frances said a group of widows and a local motorcycle club still make regular weekly visits.

Out of 600 locations, Jerry’s was the only one with gas pumps out front. “We were the only ones to sell gas in the nation,” he said, pointing to an old black and white photograph that proved his words.



In the summer of 1985, the store was vandalized and set on fire. It was considered a total loss. “We thought seriously about not rebuilding,” Jerry said. “But, we rebuilt and reopened to a ton of business, selling out of everything the first day. Twenty-seven years later, it’s still in the family.”

Kirk and his wife, Ellen, co-own and manage the eatery today. Once they took over at the counter, Jerry and Frances were able to hit the road, travel and see what the world outside the

city of Cedar Hill and the state of Texas had to offer. Jerry's passion for antique cars quickly transferred to the love he now has for his motor coach. "He really does love his motor home," Frances said. "If he had to choose between me and the motor home, he'd pick the motor home!"

Jerry proudly gave a history of the couple's motor home. "These motor homes were only built between 1973 and 1978," he said. "GMC was, and still is, the only major automobile manufacturer to ever build a motor home. They were 20-30 years ahead of their times as they came off the line with front wheel drive and all the amenities of home."

He went on to explain that each recreational vehicle looked exactly alike when they came off the assembly line. "The only differences found today are those that have been made by the owners," Jerry said, pointing at the chrome wheels he has on his own rig. "Some people repaint them, add a few more feet to the rear of the vehicle or totally remodel the inside."



Before Jerry and Frances took up this particular mode of travel, they first had to do some homework. After a bit of research and asking all the right questions, they joined the Family Motor Coach Association, GMC International, and finally their local chapter, the GMC Classics. "The benefits we receive as members of these clubs include insurance, road assistance and if I should get sick and can't drive, they also

furnish a driver to get up back to Cedar Hill," Jerry said. "There's also a member roster of those club members who will offer assistance if there's ever a need. We can be broke down and spend the night at a fellow member's home while waiting for a part. It's better than a computerized warning on a vehicle and it's the greatest feeling to know there's help out there."

The GMC Classics encompass a four-state area, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. As active members, Jerry and Frances have missed very few rallies within their district. They have also managed to make a few of the international trips, as well. "It's when the rallies are held in Maine that we don't go, Frances said. "Several members live in and around Cedar Hill. Whenever we can, we try to travel in groups of three or more."

Jerry and Frances just recently returned from a rally in Mathis, Texas. The excitement may begin as soon as they hit the highway, but the fun really gets started when they reach their destination. The women play cards and dominoes, while sharing new arts and crafts ideas. The men usually congregate outside in lawn chairs or play golf, horseshoes or washers. "There is so much more for the women to do these days than in the old days," Jerry said, referring to the style shows for pets and Wal-Mart shopping trips. "Traveling by motor home is the only way to travel".

The club consists of members who are doctors, lawyers, dentists, truck drivers, teachers and business owners during the workweek. By the time the weekend rolls around, they transform into one big, happy motor home family. Jerry would love to see the club gear itself to the baby boomers who may be looking for something fun and unique to do after retirement. "The camaraderie is very special," Jerry said, as Frances agreed. It's something for us old folks to do and we wouldn't mind adding a few younger members to our family."



Bob Musgrove
Technical Seminar Coordinator

GMC Classics

Tech Notes

Braunig Lake RV Resort
January 24-27, 2008

San Antonio, TX

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.

"Many thanks to **Fred Hudspeth** for the dedication and service as the GMC Classics Technical Coordinator over the last five years. During that time, we have benefited greatly from the various presenters and the subjects that they have covered.

As Fred has said in previous Tech Notes, if anyone is interested in doing a presentation please come forward. Also, let me know what subjects you think might be interesting to the group. The willingness to participate is what makes the technical sessions successful. "

A Discussion about GMC Brakes

Richard Hodges gave a great presentation on the different upgrades and modifications that are done by owners in order to restore and/or enhance the brake system on their coaches. Several hands went up when the question was asked, "How many of you have modified your GMC brakes?" As with any work we do, or have someone else do, to our respective coaches, the ultimate decision is up to the individual owner.

Stock Brakes

The original brake configuration, maintained in good condition, is still adequate for our GMC's. The parts are readily identifiable and available; and, there are no liability issues. Because of this, most shops can work on them.

Upgrades/Modifications

Carbon-Metallic Pads/Shoes – Work best when hot.



Richard Hodges

Ceramic Pads – Work well; but are expensive.

Larger Rear Brake Shoes – The stock shoes are 2" wide, although the brake drum is considerably wider. Some owners go to 2 ½ inch or even 3 inch shoes in order to provide more braking area. Modifications may be required.

Sensitized Brake Booster – Rebuilt for use by the handicapped. Makes pushing down easier. Do not try to modify an existing booster! A Sensitized Brake Booster can be purchased from Jim Kanomata (800-752-7502) or Leigh Harrison (703-494-9914).

Hydroboost - Used mostly on diesel engines and racing engines which do not generate the necessary vacuum to operate the standard brake booster. This unit works off of the power steering pump. It provides 1,200 to 2,000 psi as compared to the stock booster 700 to 800 psi. One downside is that failure of the power steering pump would mean steering **and** braking would be greatly diminished.

Electric-Boost - When this unit replaces the standard brake booster, 2,400 to 2,500 psi is available instantly

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when the key is turned on. In the event that the unit fails, 25 brake applications are still available.

Disc Brakes

The subject of DISC brakes comes up often; possibly because the technology is newer and has several advantages over drum type brakes. Richard asked, "Do you really need DISC brakes?" He answered the question with, "Not really." However, he did note a number of reasons that might cause an owner to convert to the six wheel DISC brake system.

DISC brakes experience less fade on steep mountain grades because they do a better job of dissipating heat. This characteristic also makes them less likely to boil brake fluid under difficult conditions such as driving in mountains or the repeated braking that is necessary when driving in stop and go traffic. They also work better when wet. In addition, there is a weight savings of about 56 pounds when the four rear drum brakes are replaced by DISC brakes.

Certain components must be replaced in order to make the DISC brake upgrades work safely and efficiently. Mounting the larger calipers with the 80mm pads on the front brakes requires that the tabs be ground down; and, the placement of a longer brake hose is necessary. For the bogie upgrade, a larger master cylinder is desirable because DISC brake systems require more fluid volume. Brake line connections may need to be modified to accommodate the configuration of the different master cylinder. The lid on the larger master cylinder may conflict with the arm action of the windshield wiper assembly. It is possible that a new mounting bracket may be required; and the length of the pushrod may require modification. The change to DISC brakes is considered to be worthwhile; but it is not a simple 'bolt on' upgrade.

Some owners have elected to only switch to DISC brakes on the front bogie. If the larger calipers with the 80mm pads are installed on the front wheels, the original calipers and pads can be reused at the front bogie position. This configuration still allows the emergency brake to be functional at the rear bogie.

Emergency Brakes

Line-Loc – Solenoid activated arrangement which seals pressure in brake system until solenoid is released. Serves as a parking brake.

Eldorado Calipers – Mechanical parking brake can be connected to these when they are used in upgrading the bogies to DISC brakes.

No Working Emergency Brake – This is not a desirable condition; but, it seems to be the most common situation for our GMC's. There is a much improved upgrade available at appliedgmc.com.

Brake Fluid

The age and type of brake fluid is an important part of keeping our GMC brakes in the best possible condition.

Brake fluid absorbs moisture over time. Consequently, most manufacturers recommend that brake fluid be replaced at least every two years. These are some examples of the brake fluid that we might use in our coaches.

DOT-3 / Boils at 284 Deg. F.

*Ford High Performance DOT-3 #C6AZ-19542-AB / Boils at 550 Deg. F.

*Performance Friction DOT-3 #8134 / Boils at 500 Deg. F.

*Do not mix with standard brake fluid

DOT-4 / Boils at 311 Deg. F.

DOT-5 / Boils at 356 Deg. F.

NOTE: Silicone base. Do not mix with any other brake fluid.

