

Classic Chatter



The Prez Seys

Ed Johnson

How time flies. It was twenty three years ago when a small group of people met in a Toys-R-Us parking lot in San Antonio, Texas. The thing that they had in common was ownership of GMC motor homes. After this initial meeting they went on to establish the GMC Classics, join the FMCA and the GMC International organizations. They conducted their first rally in May of 1986 in Tyler, Texas. It's easy to forget where our roots are and the time and effort that was extended in creating what has become a group of 300 like minded individuals who enjoy the camaraderie, joy and adventure associated with our club. Of the original 50 Charter Members 11 are still with us. A special thanks to those original members and all the others that over the years have contributed to the growth and continued success of the GMC Classics.

2009 is shaping up to be another good year of rallies, lunch bunches, tech sessions and just getting together. In keeping with our traditions I would like to solicit ideas/suggestions that could make our club even better. There has been discussion of special tech oriented mini rallies, swap meets for the women at the main rallies (I understand women can never have too many shoes and purses), etc. Please send your ideas to me at ed-johnson@sbcglobal.net or contact any of the other board members. We will review them at the board meeting in March and present the results at the Rally in Murchison.

Although our club is weathering the current financial storm relatively well, the overall RV community is not as fortunate. As a result we may suffer some fallout from the downturn in RV activity, e.g., service centers and RV parks closing. FMCA is also concerned about dwindling membership and has provided an incentive to each chapter in an attempt to increase membership. We have been given 5 FMCA memberships to use at our discretion to incent new members to

join the FMCA. This would save these new members \$45 for the first year. If you know of any GMC owners that are not members of the Classics this may be an incentive to get them to join.

Again, a special thanks to our **Charter Members**: Tom & Hattie Bell, Jack & Billie Curtis, Paul & Novis Coulon, Bailey & Nina Dunlap, Harry & Nancy Fulks, Marty & Marion Hagerstrand, Justin & Dortha Hill, Buddy & Betty Houch, MO & Helen Lewis, **Corky & Virginia McHaney**, Al & Eileen Mechana, Dick & Betty Newman, **Jim & Peg Ong**, Bill & Deanie Parish, Marvin & Alice Peck, Pete & India Peters, Paul & Dorothy Reasons, Bob & Polly Reichert, Dave & Alene Reynolds, Ray & Virginia Rhodes, **James & Nancy Rountree**, Elmer & Mickey Slauhter, Ken & Ruby Thoma, Andy & Ruth Whitley, and George & Barbara Williams. *(Names in bold are present members.)*

Ed Johnson

NEXT RALLY

Dates: April 30-May 3, 2009
Location: Murchison, TX
Site: Stayway Ranch RV Park

Reservations due April 20, 2009
(Forms in this newsletter)

FUTURE RALLIES

SUMMER RALLY

Dates: July 23-26, 2009
Location: Lake Conroe / Houston North KOA
(Formerly Havens Landing)
Montgomery, TX

FALL RALLY

Dates: October 15-18, 2009
Location: Buckhorn Lake Resort
Kerrville, TX

WINTER RALLY 2010

Dates: January 28-30, 2010
Location: Antique Capital RV Park
Glade water, TX

RAYNE RALLY IN REVIEW

33 Coaches, at least 76 members, and 6 guests attended the Rally. We were very proud and excited to see so many guests attending!

Game Winners:

Chicken Foot hosted by Frances Reeves:

1st **Marvin Guelker** (also won 1st at last rally)
2nd **Carolyn Tipton**
3rd **Betty Davis**
Highest Score **Redonia Harper**

Bolo Ball hosted by Virgie & Corkie McHaney:

1st **Bill & Lillian Wortham**
2nd **John Sharpe & Carolyn Tipton**

Washers hosted by Marvin & Gay Guelker:

1st **Larry Turner & Lee Fike**
2nd **Jim & Norma Grissom**

The Rayne Rally was such a great success. We had a fantastic time! We want to thank the hosts: **Carolyn Tipton, Emmy Dunlap, Nancy Fulks, Bob Tietje, and Ken Rose along with his son-in-law Lee Fike.** They did a wonderful job of organizing this rally. I think they even had a hand in providing the beautiful weather. It was perfect. People spent lots of time outdoors basking in the warm sunshine.

Since the rally was in February, there was a Valentine theme. We voted to crown **Art and Carroll Owens** as Valentine King and Queen. **Ken Rose and Emmy Dunlap** were crowned Prince and Princess.



Art and Carroll Owens

Friday morning **Bob Price** joined the Valentine act when he came in dressed as Cupid? Or was it the “Babe Magnet”. He passed out candy and lots of hugs to the ladies and posed for many a photo. Bob, thanks for making our morning a little more exciting and we’re looking forward to seeing what you have planned for Murchison!



Bob

and Sandra Price

Billy Massey, and evidently several other people, asked **Bob Tietje** what those cones were in the flooded rice fields. Bob said that so many people had asked him he had to bring a “crawfish trap” to the rally just so people could see what was underneath all those cones. He educated quite a few people.

Among many interesting sites to see in the area, the tour of the Tabasco Sauce Factory on Avery Island was a big draw. Many of us enjoyed going. I especially enjoyed trying the samples of Tabasco ice cream which had a mild zing to it. The Tabasco cola had a little more heat to it and was actually pretty good. I wanted to buy some of the cola but none of these items were available. Wonder if we will see them in stores in the future?

The Tech Session was well attended on Friday morning. Everyone is always interested in ways to save money on fuel and this was a high tech session on doing just that. **Ken Rose**, assisted by his son-in-law **Lee Fike**, drew a big crowd and they put all the guys to work.

Billie Young presented **Francis Reeves**, foster mom of Stanley the Chicken, with a book titled “One Fine Chick” in appreciation for her great job of organizing the Chickenfoot tournaments at each rally.

Bob Tietje also gave us lessons on Friday night on how to eat Seafood Gumbo. He told us to put the potato salad, rice, and boiled egg in the gumbo. Some wondered if you also added the peach cobblerNOT.

Redonia Harper led a group of about twenty ladies in making a baby bonnet. They sure laughed and had a great time. Redonia, thanks for the fun craft.

If you are ever in the Rayne area, be sure to check out Chef Roy's Frog City Cafe. If you need directions, just ask **Billie Young**. She went there and ate alligator FIVE TIMES. She even stopped there on the way home from the GMCMI Convention in Dothan, Alabama and ate alligator again! She said she also got some "to go" so she ate it for breakfast and lunch the next day. So the next time you see an alligator running for his life you will know the "Sunshine Lady" is near.

GMC CLASSICS RED HAT LUNCHEON
Rayne, LA, 2-6-09

The East Texas Lunch Bunch Red Hatters, **Sandra Price, Rosa Barnes, Tricia Stroud, Mattie Driskell, Sheri Jackson, and Dala Hopkins**, enjoyed hosting the Louisiana Red Hat Luncheon on Friday at the GMC Classics Rally in Rayne, LA, February 6, 2009.

A festive atmosphere prevailed along with lots of laughter and chatter as attendees enjoyed Muffallettas andwiches from the Cedar Grocery/Deli in Lafayette, mixed fruit trays, chocolate coated marshmallows and pretzels, and local Poche's pralines along with a varied tea selection. Water for tea was poured at each table by one person, each of whom was identified by the placement of a heart on the cheek.

Although every one did not receive a gift, two lucky winners took home beautiful gift baskets—one for Valentine's day, donated by **Frances Reeves**, for which raffle tickets were sold, and one with various useful cheer-giving gifts donated by the East Texas Lunch Bunch ladies. Several other gift bags were awarded to other winners. Proceeds of the basket raffle will help fund future Red Hat Teas.

The usual entertaining antics and plans of our Queen Mom, **Georgene Farrill**, were missed, but she had a good excuse—staying home to take care of Bruce, who was recuperating from surgery in January. We look forward to seeing both of them at our next rally.

Sandra Price

Ladies, Wonderful news. Our Spring Rally will coincide with 1st. Monday in Canton TX. All ladies love a garage sale or flea market. So, to not interfere with our shopping pleasures, we are arranging for cars to get everyone that wants to go to and from Trade Days. We will leave the park Friday at 9:00 am. You will be on your own or in individual groups while there,. This is a huge place with lots to see, choose and do. We will leave Trade Days at 2:00 pm to be back at the RV park by 2:45 pm so we can celebrate our great buys with tea or coffee and a lovely light dessert. I think it would be great if we all wore our casual Purple blouse or shirt and we definitely need our Red hats or caps to shade us from the sun. After missing the Rayne Rally, it will be good to see everyone again. There will be NO GIFT EXCHANGE. See you there!

Georgene

TREASURER'S REPORT
January 25, 2009

Withheld from online newsletter

**SECRETARY'S REPORT
February 2009**

President Bill Wortham called the meeting to order.

Club has gained two new members for a total of 158 members.

Debbie Massey asked members to send interesting articles or stories for the Chatter.

Billie Young, Sunshine Lady, sent 22 cards. She asked that we sign the cards on the front table and email her if we have any news.

Corky and Virgie will be attending FMCA in Perry, Georgia.

John Sharp gave the audit committee report and expressed appreciation to Redonia Harper for her dedication and hard work in her years as Treasurer.

The Executive committee recommended Emmory Dunlap, Nancy Fulks and Carolyn Tipton for Honorary membership. This recommendation was voted on and passed by the Club members who were present.

Recommended reimbursement for one person for investigating a location for a rally. It was recommended \$0.41 per mile. Ed Johnson made the motion and Fred Hudspeth seconded. Members voted and approved.

Discussion on reimbursement for towing the trailer from present rally to the next rally. New officers will make a policy regarding this proposal and present at the next rally.

New officers were installed by Mattie Driskell.

Next rally will be at Staway Ranch Resort in Murchison, TX on April 30th to May 3rd. Dates are the same as First Monday trade days in Canton.

Jim Kanatoma is offering a chance for a pair of headers to each new member who joins GMCMI and also to the member who signed up the new member.

New president, Ed Johnson thanked all past officers for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned.

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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GMC Classics

Tech Notes

Larry Turner
Technical Seminar Coordinator

City of Rayne RV Park
February 5—8, 2009

Rayne LA

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.

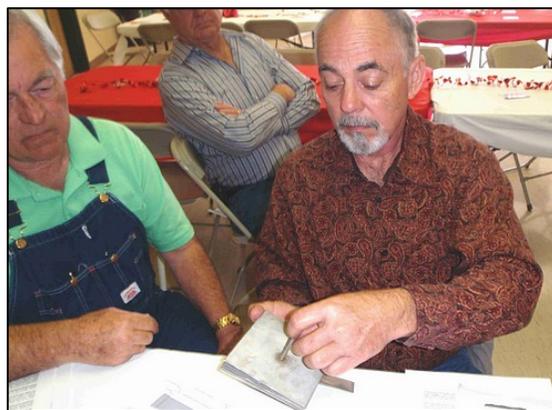
HYDROGEN AS AN ALTERNATE FUEL-Part 2

Ken Rose presented a very informative technical session at the last fall rally on theory and technology of using hydrogen as an alternate fuel for an internal combustion engine. At this session he and his son-in-law provided us with a hands-on workshop on building and testing various styles of hydrogen boosters. After we assembled the hydrogen generator plates we went to his coach to test them and see one of the prototypes he designed and is testing.

Ken divided the group into teams and provided each team with a box of parts. The parts boxes contained stainless steel plates, spacers, bolts, and other stuff as needed. I think he threw in extra stuff to test our mechanical abilities. Everyone had fun assembling the hydrogen generator plates.



What next?



Concentration.

At Ken's coach, Ken provided us with the essentials for using our assembled hydrogen generator plates to actually generate hydrogen. A container was filled with distilled water. In turn each of the plates were immersed in the water with its electrodes connected to the positive and negative posts of a battery. An ammeter was put in line with one post. Distilled water will not conduct electric so an agent must be added for that purpose. Ken used potassium hydroxide (KOH). KOH was added until the ammeter registered about 30 amps. Hydrogen bubbles were seen. Each team's plates worked except **Charlie's**.



Tech Notes

Ken then showed us his test booster installed on his GMC. The complete unit consists of a booster, bubbler, and a control system. His booster is made from 4" PVC pipe with the generator plates constructed of stainless steel tubes inside. A bubbler with a one-way valve collects the hydrogen and routes it to the intake of the carburetor or FI. His control system is a switch on the dash.



Ken's Booster

For more detailed information including photos and drawings please see :

www.free-energy-info.co.uk/Chapter10.pdf

ALTERNATOR

If you want to power the hydrogen booster consider this. I needed more amps for my Airstream and purchased a Powermaster 140 amp alternator from Summit Racing. The tag showed the unit tested 90 amps at idle and 159 amps at highway speed. I called Summit and Powermaster and they have one for our GMC's. Powermaster 47294. \$160 + shipping at Summit and \$175 no shipping cost at Powermaster. No core charge at either. Pay close attention to wire sizes required to handle the extra amps.

ALTERNATOR DID YOU KNOW?

The System Check instruction sheet that came with the Powermaster alternator asks you to apply a moderate load to the charging system (AC or high beams) and bring the engine to 1,500rpm. With a digital voltmeter measure the DC voltage between the alternator case and the battery negative terminal. Readings higher than 0.10VDC indicated a poor ground connection. Too simple.

FAN CLUTCH

All winter I thought that the Airstream's accelerator pedal was hooked directly to the engine temp gauge and I worried what would happen come summer. Well last week it happened on the way to East Texas. We had a generous tailwind, temp about 80, towing the Saturn, 60mph, and temp gauge pegged. I slowed to 55mph and turned the AC off to get the temp down to 250 for the last 2 hours to our destination. I remembered Ken Rose telling me that if the fan doesn't roar when you crest a hill you have fan clutch problems. What to do? I also remembered a book a friend gave me about Chevrolet P-30 chassis. Those of you who have Billy Massey's GMC Manuals may have seen this book (P-30.pdf). On pages 7-14 thru 7-16 is the discussion about the fan clutch and a modification that helped me. Take the coiled spring on the front side of the clutch loose from its notch. Removing the spring completely will allow the clutch to freewheel but just taking it out of the notch will lock the clutch. On the way home we had a generous headwind, temp about 80, 60mph, and the temp gauge never went over 200. It was very noisy and gas mileage probably suffered.