

Classic Chatter

GMC *Classics*



The Prez Says

Ed Johnson

How time flies. We're already in June and are coming up on our third rally of the year. The hosts seem to have the preparation and running of rallies down to a science. The rallies are always great with the perfect mixture of technical, fun, food and entertainment. Thanks to the hosts of the Murchison rally for including wonderful weather during a particularly stormy week. They arranged for the rain to only happen during the night. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next rally in Montgomery and know that it will continue the tradition of excellence.

The new board had its first meeting at Murchison and addressed various items of interest (see Gay's report). The need for members to register on time for the rallies was addressed and a small fee was added to the cost of the rally for late registration. This was done because late, unannounced arrivals cause problems for the hosts in regard to catering, site assignment, etc. So, please support your hosts by getting rally registrations in on time.

If there is one number one thing that this club has it's camaraderie. It is such a pleasure to belong to a group that is so supportive of each other. Besides the lunch bunches, rallies and informal get togethers, the members of this club are also there for those in need of technical and human support. Many are the stories of members traveling distances to assist others that need help. Our Sunshine lady (**Billie Young**) is a wonderful asset to this club and her continuing support and encouragement to members in need is incredible.

It's already time to start thinking about who the officers for the next year will be. A nominating committee, consisting of **Redonia Harper**, **Charles Wersal**, **Virgie McHaney**, and **Sharon Jacob**, is working to come up with recommendations. Please contact these individuals with your suggestions regarding candidates.

It is an honor to serve as your president. Please contact me if you have suggestions or ideas that you feel will enhance belonging to the GMC Classics.

Ed Johnson

NEXT RALLY - theme is *Happy Birthday!*

Dates: July 23-26, 2009
Location: Montgomery, TX
Site: Lake Conroe/Houston North KOA
(formerly Havens Landing)
Make your own reservations
They do have some cabins... call for availability.
800-562-9750

Bring a gift—\$10 limit:
ladies wrapped in pink and guys in blue

You will also need to send Jim Grissom the Registration form to pay for the food and rally fee. The hosts need a head count for the caterers ASAP.

All reservations are due July 10, 2009

FUTURE RALLIES

FALL RALLY 2009

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

WINTER RALLY 2010

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

MURCHISON RALLY IN REVIEW

Game Winners:

Chicken Foot:

1st **Roger Christensen**
2nd **Linda Turner**
3rd **Larry Turner**
Highest Score **Jo Ann Johnson**

Bolo Ball:

1st **Jim Davis & Jerry Reeves**
2nd **Corkie & Virgie McHaney**
3rd **Warren Mitchell & Boyd Mooney**

Washers:

1st **Warren Mitchell & Boyd Mooney**
2nd **Lee Fikes & Bill Wortham**
3rd **Jerry Reeves & Larry Turner**

Stanley's Report

Well, another great rally. I am so glad to be your mascot. I love your resilience. A few people get prizes for games but all of you deserve medals. The hosts **Bill and Lillian Wortham, L.D. and Johnnie McWilliams, and Fred and Sharon Hudspeth** need a big hand and extra Thanks. All good plans can and do go awry sometimes, but they made it work.

First of all, the park did not give us the BIG building that they had told the host we would get, but hey, the host looked over the smaller building and said OK, it's do-able. Poor **Johnnie McWilliams**. She got there with decorations and table cloths to do a totally different set-up well her hair went straight-up....but went back down real quick and **L.D.** said, " I know it's 5 o'clock somewhere". At meal time we were a little close but we like each other. The meals were really, really good and personally, I thought that was the best spaghetti I have ever eaten. They had Wi-Fi but you had to pay for it daily and their yard man said it was kind of haphazard. The cable was really the pits. The Dancing With Stars Finale was on, plus the Mavericks. The coaches that could get Dancing with the Stars were full of fans.

Jerry Reeves, James Harper, Billy Massey, and Bruce Farrill went around with a portable TV, plugging into empty spots trying to get good reception on the cable. What these guys won't do to keep their women happy!



This may not be the best way to start an article but sometimes knowing the bad makes us appreciate the good and the **good was so much better!** The section of the park that we were in was grassy and shady, no cement, and closer to the building. This is good because **Boyd Mooney** needed that shade as he and **James Harper** put in his new windshield.



Too bad this was not a called seminar as the guys that were watching learned a lot. Mostly **DON'T DO THIS AT HOME** without an expert to help. **Larry Turner** happened to see what was going on and he wanted in on the fun... they all broke a sweatmostly from **FEAR!** Boy does this windshield have a story. **Willard and Joyce Murdock** brought it back unboxed in their coach all the way from the Alabama International Rally. Boyd takes it to Weatherford and then brings it to Murchison. Miraculously, it arrived in one perfect piece. Men can be very careful with things they love.

The weather was cool and the rain held off until the supper hour on Saturday night. The games all had large participation and, as always, a great gallery for Bolo and Washers. Chicken Foote had a new prize this time. It was **Jo Ann Johnson**. Why not??? Her hair was Rooster Red. Of course **Ed** said "No way" and I am pretty sure he paid the winner **Roger Christensen** to leave her with him. Winners of the games are listed elsewhere. Bingo was fun and we're so glad to have it back. There were multiple winners on nearly every pot so everyone got in on the action.

Well the poor orphan game Farkle was played two nights in a row. It had two new participants. and one returning. **Billie Young** played two nights and **Mattie Driscoll** and **Georgene Farrill** played the last night. It is a fun game! The crown has been proudly held by **DeWayne Lugefett** for at least three rallies. He **TOOK** it from **Leon Buenger** and has really rubbed it in, but **Billy Massey** surprised them all and took that crown.....but on the 2nd night of playing (not a tournament), **Penny Buenger** managed to win and she has tried so hard to win for so long that Billy took pity and placed the crown on her tear stained face. It was soooo touching. Hope we can get more people interested in playing this game. Give these folks some challenge.

A few people went to Canton, spent a little money, and had a really good time. **Burt and Judy Doucette** are now retired and will be coming to all the rallies and are looking forward to seeing Texas. This was their first chance so they spent

three days in Canton. Burt found a sewing machine for \$10.00. No he does not know how to sew but he was so excited after all he is retired and looking forward to new things.

The entertainment was a music band with patriotic songs. It was the perfect way to end a good meal and relax before the ice cream social. I will repeat my self..... **It Was Another Great Rally** and I am looking forward to July in Montgomery. Remember registration and payment is a little different this time so be sure and read the form...Like my kids say..Mom you hate change, yes I doso I have to pay attention !!!! See you guys in Montgomery.

Stanley Chickenfoot



Red Hat Tea

There will be no Tea in Montgomery but we will get together and discuss the International. Some have already sent updates on what they have started. Our meeting will not be long or time consuming. ALSO I need someone to host the October Rally Red Hat Tea in Kerrville, TX. Please think about it and let me know in Montgomery. *Georgenne*

Sunshine Lady — Billie Young



Since our last Rally, 16 cards have been sent out, with numerous emails, E-cards and phone calls. However, something just occurred to me. "Sunshine" comes in many forms in our GMC Classics Family.

Another part of that 'sunshine' is our ever-increasing group. Since our last Rally, we have been blessed by the addition of: **Buren and Carol Enger** from Newalla, Ok; **Richard and Carol Brown** (and their son) from Lindale, Tx.; **Richard and Carol Wright** from Seguin, Tx.; **Joe Donaldson** from Houston, Tx; **Don Preston** from Glen Arm, Md; **Gene and Joanne Dotson** from Conover, NC; and **Henry and Patricia Wickes** from College Station, Tx. Did you notice all of the new "Carols" and Richards?" We may have to assign numbers or add their last initial when we're together. "Welcome aboard, y'all. We think you'll have fun with this family of GMC owners. We're so glad you're here."

Then there's the 'sunshine' of our ever-increasing Lunch Bunches. Have you ever seen so many people eager to travel a bit just to have lunch with friends? It brings joy to my heart to read all of the lunch bunch reports on the **Classics e-mail list** from the **Tulsa Lunch Bunch** in Oklahoma, and several Texas groups: **Central Texas** - San Antonio area, **North Texas** - DFW area, **Northeast Texas** – Tyler area, and the **East Texas** group around Huntsville. (*Contact the editor if you'd like more information on these groups.*) If there are any more that I didn't mention, please let me know. Let's hear from Louisiana and Arkansas. I know a good place in Rayne, La. for alligator!

Last but not least, there's the 'sunshine' we all feel in our hearts as we gather for the GMC Classics Rallies. The warmth and love we all enjoy from each other helps us make it through the not-so-smooth roads we sometimes face. So really - ALL of you help to spread the 'sunshine' wherever you go. I'm just the one you gave the official title to. Thank you so much for allowing me to share the gift of God's Love with you. I **truly** love and appreciate every one of you, for **you** are some of God's treasures to me! Stay safe and healthy, and we'll see ya' down the road as we "enjoy the journey" together.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Redonia Harper)

April 25, 2009

PREVIOUS BALANCE	11,209.02
DEPOSITS:	
Rayne Rally	\$4,447.00
Misc Deposits (hats)	83.50
Dues	2,195.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$6,725.50
EXPENSES:	
Officer's Gifts	260.02
Trailer Supplies	172.63
Entertainment	200.00
RV Parking	1,830.00
Meals	2,583.36
Red Hat transfer	175.00
Rally Expenses	779.95
Red Hat Dues	39.00
Transfer to new treasurer	5,000.00 **
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,039.96

BALANCE TO DATE: \$6,894.56
With outstanding check,
balance would be (\$11,894.56)
**** As of the above date, the check had not cleared the bank, therefore Redonia was unable to close the acct.**

This was **Redonia Harper's** last report before passing the baton to newly elected Treasurer, **Jim Grissom**.

We want to recognize Redonia for her years of service to the Classics. The treasurer is one of the most important and difficult positions in the club and she filled it with excellence.



Redonia, thank you for your dedication to our organization. Your prompt response to any need or request was greatly appreciated. Many thanks from the Classics!

Secretary Report

Board Meeting Thursday, April 30, 2009

President Ed Johnson called the meeting to order.

Training for the Defibrillator was discussed and also where it will be located at each rally. Willard Murdock will contact the lady who did the previous training for a future session. Also discussed was American Heart Association C.P.R. training. Willard is unable to lead this type of training.

In the past, FMCA required the Classics to have two business meetings per year at a rally. Corky McHaney informed us we now are required to only have one meeting per year.

Towing the Classics trailer from the present rally to the next rally will become the responsibility of the next rally host to either do it themselves or find someone in their area who is able.

2010 nominating committee are Virgie McHaney, Sharon Jacob, Charles Wersal, and Redonia Harper.

Discussion of Billy to open an operating account. Jim Grissom is working to open an account with Bank of America with three signatures: Ed Johnson, Billy Massey and himself since this bank has branches at Lindale, Brownwood, McAllen, Tyler, etc. Motion was made by Jim, seconded by Ed and carried.

Rally attendance fee not being paid in advance was discussed. All agreed to a \$10.00 late fee if not received 10 days prior to the rally.

Fred Hudspeth donated parts with receipts of money to the Classics.

Sunshine lady Billie Young sent 22 cards and numerous e-mail cards.

Classics membership is 148.

Items discussed are to be brought to the business meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Business Meeting Friday May 1, 2009

President Ed Johnson welcomed everyone.

Ed thanked Redonia Harper for her dedication as treasurer. Redonia gave her report and turned all over to Jim Grissom.

Discussion of members who show up at a rally and have not sent reservations will be charged a late fee of \$10.00. DeWayne Lugafet made the motion, it was seconded, and carried. Classics lost 10% membership last year, now have 148 members. We need to get more members. The Classics have been given coupons for 5 new memberships to FMCA and they will be given to new Classics members if needed.

Larry Turner requested technical information be sent to him for the July rally. Corky and Virgie McHaney will attend FMCA in Bolling Green, Ohio in July.

Sunshine lady Billie Young sent 22 cards and numerous emails. She asked to be kept informed so she could mail cards to our members in need of support.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Gay Guelker

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.

2009 Officers:

President Ed Johnson

19658 CR 4108, Lindale, TX 7577

903-882-5864 E-Mail: ed-johnson@sbcglobal.net

Vice President Willard Murdock

1925 Juniper, Midlothian, TX 76065

972-291-4864 E-Mail: willard.joyce@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Gay Guelker

34 Oak St, Buffalo Gap, TX, 79508

25-573-3290 E-Mail: marvingay@taylorl.net

Treasurer Jim Grissom

2723 Rhett Dr., Pharr, TX, 78577

956-994-7 E-Mail: bailey@rgv.rr.com

Wagon Master Frank Jacob

2005 Brenton, Irving, TX 75062

972-257-0605 E-Mail: sharonajacob@aol.com

Assistant Wagon Master Warren Mitchell

5417 Chimney Rock Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76112

817-446-1965 E-Mail: warrensprinkler2@sbcglobal.net

FMCA Representatives:

National Director Corky McHaney

1257 FM 337E, Medina, TX 78055

830-589-2431 E-Mail: jvmchaney@78055.com

Alternate National Director Roger Christensen

10226 Sagedale Dr., Houston, TX, 77089

713-201-3317 E-Mail: rogersrealest@aol.com

Appointed:

Technical Seminar Coordinator Larry Turner

16330 Canyon Shadow, San Antonio, TX, 78232

210-490-1068 E-Mail: llturner2@sbcglobal.net

Administrator/Webmaster Billy Massey

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801

325-784-5861 E-Mail: bdbub@gmcclassics.com

Sunshine Lady Billie Young

1208 CR 132B, Kingsland, TX 78639

325-388-6502 E-Mail: billiey325@yahoo.com

Red Hat Queen Bee Georgene Farrill

7006 Glen Hills Rd., Richland Hills, TX 76118

817-284-9815 E-Mail: farrillink@sbcglobal.net

Publications:

Newsletter Editor Debbie Massey

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801

325-784-5861 E-Mail: editor@gmcclassics.com

Website: www.gmcclassics.com





GMC Classics

Tech Notes

Larry Turner
Technical Seminar Coordinator

Stayway Ranch RV Park **Murchison, TX**
April 30 -May 2, 2009

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.

Charles Wersal did a great job of discussing our heating/air-conditioning distribution system at the spring rally. He brought along an evaporator/heater core housing and a full plenum. I'm sure not many of us have had the guts to take a dash apart to view this plenum. His intent was to show how inefficient our air conditioner system is.



Charles handed out Zay Brand's Automotive Air Conditioning brochure: www.gmcws.org/Tech/air_conditioning/air_conditioning.html

(Please note that in the above link, there are actually no spaces. The apparent space is an underscore.) Zay has presented several seminars at GMC International on this subject and Charles asked that we read this at our leisure and use it as a reference.

In general, our various models of GMCs have three basic air flow systems and all of them have air flow problems, all are subject to air leaks, and all have little or no insulation. The basic housing takes air from inside or outside and routes it through the heater core or the evaporator making several 90 degree changes in direction all the while the air flow is inhibited by flapper doors and vacuum actuators that may or may not work properly. Then the air is routed through an inefficient plenum subject to many air leaks, then through flex hoses to dash vents. Every change in direction or restriction to smooth flow reduces the efficiency of that flow of air. (Where's Fred when I need an explanation of thermal dynamics? Fishing in Alaska!)

Charles talked about recirculation, flow through the evaporator/heater core housing, flow and leaks in the plenum, condenser fans, HC-12A, and alternative designs. I would add insulation.

'76 and Recirculation

A problem area is that early '73 and '76 models do not have a recirculating option. All air for heating and air conditioning comes from outside. You bet that makes a difference. The best an automotive air conditioner can do is to give you a 30 degree drop in temperature. If the outside temp is 100, then the air coming out of the evaporator may only be 70. That sounds OK but consider all of the inefficiencies of our system. Now you

Tech Notes

may only be getting 80 to 85 degree "cool" air out of the dash vent. If you can cut out all outside 100 degree air and recycle the inside air back through the evaporator, in theory, you could get the dash vent air down to freezing. That comes under the category of hopes and wishes. I have read about modifications to the '76 GMC; some complex some simple. One simple mod was to put a 4" flexible hose from the heater outlet module to the AC front cover. It was made from home clothes dryer parts. An article was in GMC Motorhome Marketplace March 2002. Sorry no link. Those other models with recirculation still get 20% outside air. I modified my recirculation vent by removing its vacuum actuator completely, melting its vacuum line closed, permanently keeping the recirculating door open, and packing the area with insulation. This is the door adjacent to the blower motor. Inside I cut the recirculation opening higher (above the engine cover) by about 3/4 inch.

Evaporator/Heater Core Housing

Trying to redesign this housing crammed with an evaporator, heater core, actuators and doors takes a lot of engineering know how and I have read about various attempts. Charles relocated the blower motor to the front of the housing, hoping to get rid of some of the bottlenecks. He said that he was not happy with the results. He did say to make sure to caulk the housing and make sure that there were no air leaks. I haven't done it yet but putting insulation around this housing could help.

Air Flow and Leaks in the Plenum

Bad design. Charles showed us where a lot of leaks could occur due to deteriorating foam insulation. He recommended: pack these areas best as possible, replace all the insulation on the flapper doors to ensure a good seal, make sure that you have vacuum to operate the flapper doors, and check for leaks throughout the system. Install a one-way valve on the vacuum line from the engine manifold. A larger vacuum accumulator will also help.

Condenser Fan

An electric condenser fan is a must. Better yet a stand-alone condenser. I haven't found a good place to put one yet. I found that two 14" fans just fit across the condenser. Mine are Summit Racing FLX-394, 1505cmf,

\$83 each. They are so powerful that I may try disconnecting the fan clutch. Not likely.

HC-12A

Do a Google search on HC-12A. There is a lot of information and warnings about the product. Many people use it (including me) and think it's fantastic.

Alternative Designs

When in doubt, redesign it. I have read about designs from simplistic to super major. One problem we have is not enough air moving out of the dash. I have always thought a simple solution would be a super powerful blower fan. Not available. I tried putting two bilge fans in the ducting of my Airstream. (Lots of noise with minimum effect.) Charles successfully added a second evaporator under one of the seats. The stock compressor will run two evaporators. An electric condenser fan is a really a must now. Some have added that second evaporator under the couch, under the dinette, in the back, etc. **Billy Massey's** "The GMC Motorhome Photo Archive" page has several full dash rebuilds with super modifications to the AC system. Charles talked about one very nice installation by **Emery Stora**. (<http://www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/showgallery.php?cat=3356&ppuser=85>). Emery installed a Danhard wall mount evaporator that looks and works great. He also uses HC-12A.

Miscellaneous Ramblings

I would like to use this space for "Did you know?" Or "How I fixed it." Topics. I know we all have those "bailing wire" stories. Please send your stories to me at llturner2@sbcglobal.net.

Gas Mileage

I recently read about a different way to determine fuel efficiency. That is to express it in gallons per 100 miles. This rating is already common in Europe. We tend to talk about 8 or 10 MPG and do not think there is a lot of difference but consider this. At 10 MPG we burn 10 gallons in 100 miles while at 8 MPG we burn 12.5 gallons. That's 2.5 gallons extra every 100 miles. Scary isn't it?