

Classic Chatter



Rallies



The Prez

Wayne Alumbaugh

NEXT RALLY:

Dates: May 19-22, 2011
Location Hill Country RV Resort
New Braunfels, TX

Please see Registration Form included or on the web: www.gmcclassics.com

SUMMER RALLY 2011

Dates: July 28-31, 2011
Location Choctaw Casino KOA
Durant, OK

FALL RALLY 2011

Dates: Oct 27-30, 2011
Location Gladewater-Antique Capital RV Park
Gladewater, TX

Well I hope and pray all of you are well and ready for a new year and all it brings. Charlotte and I are especially looking forward to our coming rallies and the fun times together as a group. We are also grateful for the hard work of everyone who make these rallies possible.

Our second rally of the year will be May 19th thru 21st at New Braunfels, Tx. Thanks to our Wagon Master (**Chip Chebuhar**) for searching out and actually staying a night at the park. New Braunfels was founded in 1845 by German settlers and has a lot of old world heritage and small town charm. There are great museums and a historic district you won't want to miss, just to name a few attractions. I believe this is the first time we have held a rally in New Braunfels.

Also as a reminder, we are looking forward to our summer rally at Durant, Oklahoma KOA Choctaw RV Park July 28 thru 30th. I would encourage our Oklahoma lunch bunch to come and be a part of this rally.

The October rally will be in Gladewater, Tx at the Gladewater Antique Capital RV Park. This will be the second time there and we suspect it will a good time to see the fall foliage in east Texas.

Thanks for your continued support of the Classics, Charlotte and I look forward to seeing you all at New Braunfels, Tx.

Wayne Alumbaugh

Sunshine Report



Dear GMC Family,

Between Dec 7 and Mar 28 the following "official" contacts have been made:

Cards & Stamps Used: 7
Ecards Sent: 8
Emails Sent: 120
Info Emails Received: 107

Total Official Contacts: 252

It's been a busy quarterly for all of us. Hope this finds everyone feeling much better, getting stronger every day, filled with God's grace and goodness, reaching goals and moving forward. How grateful we are to the

Lord for giving us each other. GMCers are connected at the heart, and how we thank Him for using a Classic to bring us together.

Thank you for keeping me posted when there's a need in our extended GMC Family. It gives me such great joy to be able to serve you in this simple way. I love y'all dearly, and look forward to spending lots of quality years with each one of you. May the Lord bless your socks off, and watch between us when we're absent from one another's presence.

You're always in my heart! Sent with God's Love and mine!

*Billie Young
Sunshine lady*

Good-bye Red Hat.....Hello Classy Ladies

This is to let everyone know of our new status. Officially we are no longer members of the Red Hat Society.

We are still a group of ladies that will get together, share and have a good time at rallies. We feel like this will open more doors of involvement and are really hoping that some of our members who did not participate before will be more open to coming. We want to know your suggestions for things you would like to do.

Jackie Eisenhower was installed as our **Classy Lady**, our new leader, and she has some new and refreshing ideas **but** she will need our help. Nothing is off the table, if there is something you have been wanting to do, try, learn, or discuss, **Let's do it.**

Jackie is excited to be our leader and we are all looking forward to new things.

See you all in May!

Georgene

Stanley's Report

By Georgene Farrill



The winter rally in Spring, Texas that is, was another great rally for the club.

There are always things to remember and take home with you, memories until the next time. There is always the fun, good eats, camaraderie and sometimes scary, sad, and touching. There may also be dramatic things, but we are always very thankful.

I had some major distractions while at the rally, so this report will probably be more jumping around than usual. I missed a lot of the action and wasn't taking any pictures but there are just so many things I want to touch on.

One thing is the pictures. **Billie Young's** daughter, **Stacy Chapman** who came with her mother and is as big a picture taker as me, **plus** she is way better. She got a lot of real good shots. It also put her right in the middle of everything! She now knows why **Billie** and **Lanny** never wanted to miss a rally! We just might get some new members.

For Spring (I love the play on words) we had crummy weather. Cold, Cold ,Cold and Texas wet, so most of the time we were in the club house, it was plenty big enough. There was no walking the streets or setting outside this time. This is a great RV park. I mean, this is Houston... nearly, and it sets right off **I-45** but you would never know it. It was very secluded and quite, even kind of hard to find, but trust your **GPS**. Great place, great people that run it.

The first scare.....**Joyce** and **Willard Murdock** came in on a wing and a prayer. When they exited I-45, **Willard** had no brakes! He was glad it was **Charles** and **Janice Wersal** in front of him and, with **Charles** in front (brakes), they limped it on into the park and naturally fixed them while we were there, even in the cold weather.

A very touching moment was when **Larry Stroud** brought **Trish** to the luncheon. Our club is so full of love and compassion. **Stacy** did get some good pictures of us all together for our last Red Hat Tea. We are now the "**Classy Ladies**".

Bolo and Washers were sparse this time. It was actually **raining** as the **Diehards** played. They would play in the rain and go stand under the club house overhang. We did **Bingo** on Friday night. The best I can remember **Redonia Harper** was the big winner. She won the last game plus one at the beginning. **Wayne** and **Charlotte Alumbaugh** spinned the cage and called the numbers. **Joyce Murdock** set up the games and verified the winners. Thanks for the great night!

I got to go shopping once (I was hanging out at the laundry mat) but boy there was a slew of us. **Mattie Driskell, Dalla Hopkins, Sandra Price, Sherry Mooney, Penny Buenger, Debbie Massey, Billie Young, Stacy Chapman, Linda Turner, Kim Weeks, Georgene Farrill, Redonia Harper, Frances Reeves, Lexie Ellis, Jaye Hodges, Grace Lee, Sarah Christensen, Janice Wersal, Charlotte Alumbaugh.....**can you imagine if this bunch hit your business!!! Sure hope I didn't forget anyone. Some of us had never been to **Charming Charles**, so we converged on it. **Penny Buenger** finally found herself a beautiful black sequined hat. After spending an hour **inside** looking, some of us are waiting outside when she spots it in the window. We thought she had been shot she jumped so high. While at **Sam Moons, Mattie Driskell** and **Dalla Hopkins** found sequined turquoise and yellow cowboy hats....**Hats** are in, not just any old hat but ones with class. Some of the ladies were buying gifts for the "**Birthday Party**".....we always like a theme for our rallies. And then we find out it is **Mattie** and **Harry's 59th** wedding anniversary.....and **Roger** and **Sarah Christianson 51st** anniversary. This is what you call love. Way to go guys. Congratulations and many more.

We had some great gifts. **Wayne Alumbaugh**, our newly installed president, received a pair of **Superman** briefs. He'll need them this year. Every little 7 yr. old boy in Texas would fight him for them !!! **Chuck Ellis** also received a great gift. He said if he had not received it himself he would have had to buy it. All know **Chuck** is a little thin on the top and wears his hair long and pulled back.....well the gift was a sun visor cap that has hair growing at the top. It was the absolutely exact

perfect match to his head ... but it was spiked on top. It was a riot and **Chuck** is a good sport. **Richard Hodges** received a head massager. It got passed around and brains were stimulated!

Jerry and **Rosa Barnes** helped to host this rally....so **Rosa** was able to come on Saturday night and you know how she can liven up a party !!! We celebrated till the wee hours of the night.....night not morning.

This pretty well covers the normal part of this rally, now I'll discuss the **FIRE** and aftermath.....a lot of people are wondering and asking.

Stanley (aka Georgene Farrill)

THE FIRE

Georgene Farrill

To start...we bought this coach in 2004 and in these 6 years we have never had a short, a flicker, no power, or any reason to think that we had a problem.

We arrived on Wednesday afternoon and shared beef stew and cabbage and sausage in the coach with the **Harpers** and **Reeves**. (FYI ...Even the wonderful aroma of leftover boiled cabbage will **not** remove the smell of smoke) The next morning we get up, clean up, straighten up and are at the club house about 8:00 a.m. Having coffee and all excited to start the rally. We had been there about 20 minutes when someone asked if we had brought any hats. Yes we had and **Bruce** left to go get them.

Walking to the coach, he sees the smoke but had no thoughts of a coach fire. When he turns the curve in the road, **Jerry Reeves** starts yelling "Hurry, Hurry your coach is on fire." **Jerry** is frantic and exhausted. He thought I was still on the inside and was beating on the window with a big fire extinguisher. They didn't get the window to break until the cold water hit it. After **Bruce** got there with the key and opened the door, he and **Jerry** were able to put the fire out.

If our door had not been locked the damage would have been minimal and, in the grand scheme of things, it was minimal. We were not in the coach, no one was hurt or possibly killed, no other coaches were involved and again, we get to see the goodness of our people. The overhead cabinets on passenger side were burned, fell onto the beds and burned them. My co-pilot chair was burned, the carpet was burned in places, the wall on that side was burned, the ceiling was destroyed plus all the foam insulation under ceiling was smoked to the frame. When the firemen came in they ruined the cap at front of coach and they use a lot of water....Bruce is still mad about that cap.

All the window tint across from the fire is bubbled and, because of the smoke and heat, all of it will have to be replaced. The air conditioner and air vent covers are melted. **Smoke.....The smoke damage** is everywhere. Unbelievable... **Frances Reeves** had her camera and put some pretty good pictures on the net. What I noticed about the pictures was how many fire extinguisher there were on the scene. We are prepared, but if you can't get to the fire because of locked doors ... well...Some people who had pets with them went to unlock their doors. These are thoughts about this for the future,

It was an electrical fire. At some point in time a 110 wire had been rerouted.. We are bouncing up and down going down the road all the time and things jar loose.....if you know you have done something in your coach, maybe you should check it out.

We start the calls to the insurance company to get the coach home. In the mean time, the park transferred our space rental to a cabin and allowed our coach to stay on site. If you can imagine the debris, the water soaked, the smoke smell, the total mess inside you know how much we appreciate everyone. I just have to mention some of the men: **Boyd Mooney, Jerry Reeves, Billy Massey, Chip Chebuhar, and James Harper.** There were others, but these guys shoveled out and hauled off this mess helping to get it ready to drive home. It was very weird thing to see was a big

sheet of plywood (on a **motorcoach**) covering the window opening so you can go down the road ... remember ... it is raining.

The insurance ... well to get a claims adjuster, they could not get to it until at least the next Tuesday and this was only Thursday. Bruce finally got to try to start the engine.....everything is good, no damage anywhere except inside the coach! I notified the insurance company that we were taking it home and they agreed This was about the 4th time I had talked to the lady who was in charge of our claim. After a bad start, we get to know each other a little better. I did make her understand this was not just a 35 year old motor coach, but was a classic antique!! She said she would research this before we talked again when we got back to Fort Worth. We are with State Farm and in 2007 I called and put a stated value on this 1973 motorcoach. State Farm doesn't do a per say stated value, but my agent had told me to keep all receipts. Bruce had them all...he does nearly all the work on the coach, so something you would take to mechanic and maybe pay \$700 one ticketBruce has individual receipts for \$400, every gasket or what ever was purchased to do the job, no labor charge. He probably overwhelmed them.....but that is OK. They tried to total it but we said no, we want the coach! Bruce knows all the work that has gone into it. We feel like they treated us fair.

The work begins! I know the first 6 weeks were spent on gutting, cleaning and washing with degreaser everything in that place. I know more about a GMC than I ever wanted to know. We had to go all the way to the frame in the front, so not only do we get new carpet and the obvious walls and ceiling, but we have new insulation ... isn't that exciting. The work is staggering, but we like our coach! What the fire and smoke didn't get, the water did. Bruce has been concentrating on getting the motor good and making sure it that when it takes us somewhere it would also bring us home. We had finally reached the point where we were thinking about changing some things and maybe redoing the inside. A I was telling this to my neighbor she looks at the gutted inside and remarked, "You were looking for maybe a new dress or bright shade of lipstick but had to have a whole face lift.!" We have to laugh sometimes!

Bruce has had so many people to offer to help, but there's no room for more than two at a time in there. Most of the time it was our son or me helping Bruce. **Warren Mitchell** and **Jerry Reeves** helped out with windows and walls.

A big **Thank you** to all who offered help, tools, advice, support.....and the trip to **Joe Pool Lake** for our luncheon was awesome and a much needed break. The work has began to speed up as we get closer to the end. And that is scary.....What will we do every day ??? We are looking forward to it!

See you in May.

Georgene

GREEN COUNTRY RV SHOW

Mar 27, 2011

Fantastic! Fabulous! Stupendous!
Whoopie All The Way!

There is no way we can adequately describe the emotions, the fun, the exhilaration of these past three days that the Tulsa GMC Lunch Bunch guys and gals had at the Annual Green Country RV Dealers RV show...

From the very beginning at noon Friday Mar 25, the people came, the people came, and the people came. Six of your Lunch Bunch coaches were invited to participate this year...the **Farris, Broostin, Southmayd, Pense, Eimen and Trimble** coaches were all dressed up, shined up, and primped a tad so as to make a good showing...and **Fred and Peggy Pitezal** came along, minus their coach, just to make sure everything went just right!!

We showed up Thursday p.m. prior to the show, got our modern day wagons all set in a huge oval circle, hooked up the electricity, set out the "beach" chairs, and "lit" the fireplace...oh yeah, we put out the "Guard Dogs", too!! (And, just by chance, we put a few goodies in the fridge for snack time, etc...yeah

Starting at noon Friday, we expected to see a similar crowd as last time...boy, what a shock!! Do believe we had more Friday afternoon than we had all of last show time!! Of course, we had a prime location, too!! When you walked in the door....there we were, pretty as you please...Friday show closed at 9:00 PM, so we were leg weary by bedtime.

Saturday at 10:00 AM, we started again...the crowds kept pouring through, camping out with us, questioning us, gawking a bit, too...Lot's of questions and comments, "Are they starting to make these guys again"... "What do you mean, they are not for sale"... "My Grandfather (Uncle, Cousin, Neighbor) used to have one of these", "Do you really use them"... "Really, how much to you want for this one"... "Where's the engine", and the proverbial one "How many miles per gallon do you get"... Also, "You mean you can still get parts for these old coaches"...

It was not unusual to have 40-50 people in the circle at one time...and so many wonderful comments..."Best Show Here", "Thanks for bringing back so many nice memories", "I remember these when I was a youngster", "These are much nicer than those big monsters", and a favorite one "I didn't know these coaches still existed"... "You are kidding, of course"...

Grabbing a snack and a few goodies now and then, it soon became 9:00 PM and time to check out. Sunday noon rolled around and more of the same, except not quite as crowded. We had one gentleman who spent FOUR hours with us Sunday afternoon... You could see the gleam in his eye the whole time... He read all our literature, perused through three of our scrapbooks (2009, 2010 and 2011)...

Several people remembered us from the last show we participated in and several also remembered us from the Antique and Hot Rod shows we have attended. Some even remembered us from the 2007 Miss Belvedere (OK Centennial) show we were at in 2007.

Anyhoo, it is now closing time and we are already looking forward to the next show, whenever and where ever it may be. We received lots of invitations but a favorite one is the lady inviting us to take a tour of her winery...free samples and also a place to park.

We have pictures from the recent Antique and Hot Rod Show on Mar 15 here in Tulsa and also from the Green Country RV Show just concluded. Wish you could have been here...hopefully these pictures will give you an idea of the fun and pure enjoyment we had showing off our wonderful GMC ladies.

Thanks to each and everyone of you for your splendid support and encouragement you have given us.

Pictures Hot Rod Show:
www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/showgallery.php?cat=5738

Green County, OK RV Show:
www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/showgallery.php?cat=5739

Our Love to Each of You!

Your Tulsa Lunch Bunch

TECH SESSION

Charles Wersal brought pictures to project on the screen showing the steering linkage. He led a session discussing and pointing out the problem points on how to check them for wear or damage.

Everyone took part discussing each problem and asked questions concerning their own experiences. As most do not do their own front end work, he did point out areas they could check themselves and what to expect when they have it done.

All in all it was a good session and was well attended.

I want to thank **Charles Wersal** for doing this Tech Session for us.

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 it's membership from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. It's purpose is to promote the preservation of the GMC Motorhome and to bring it's owners together for their exclusive enjoyment and common interests.

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