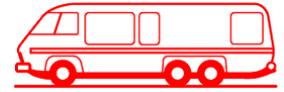


Classic Chatter



The Prez

Fred Hudspeth

I am pleased to serve as your president this year. The elected officers, those in appointed roles and I will strive to merit your confidence. This is the first "Chatter" edition to be published in 2012. As such, this is my first "Prez" column.

Congrats to **Wayne Alumbaugh**, president for 2011, and the entire 2011 leadership team for a job well done. I'm sure all members join me in thanking them for their service.

Members at the Fall '11 rally at Gladewater elected to hold the GMCC spring '12 rally in conjunction with the spring '12 GMC Motorhomes International Convention at Shawnee, OK. GMCC was well represented at the convention with more than half of the total registrations. Special thanks to members of the **Tulsa Lunch Bunch** for their enthusiastic support of GMCC and GMCMI at the convention. The ladies of the TLB, led by **Renee Baldwin** and **Doree Broostin**, hosted "A Chocolate Affair", the flagship event for all ladies attending the convention. By all accounts, it was an unqualified success!

GMCC members met for a potluck dinner (with meat entrée provided by GMCC) and business meeting on Monday night, 26 March '12. There were more than 80 people in attendance. Thanks to Laurie Burton, of the GMC Great Lakers, who serenaded us during the dinner hour with classical guitar music. We were pleased to have Laurie and husband Ken join us. Accolades also to **Sharon Jacob**, **Renee Baldwin** and **Joyce Murdock** for their work in coordinating the dinner meeting. A highlight of the dinner was a celebration with **Gay** and **Marvin Guelker** on the occasion of their 58th wedding anniversary.

The GMCC Executive Committee met at 4:00 PM on Monday, 26 March '12. Several issues were approved for presentation to the members at the dinner/business meeting. Here is a summary:

1. GMCC reserve fund: currently at about \$12.6K, it has built up over time to more than twice that needed to responsibly operate the club. The Executive Committee recommended and members approved waiving future rally fees (historically about \$25/registration) until the reserve fund is reduced to about \$6K.
2. Winter Rally 2013: in response to requests from several members for a coastal location, The Executive Committee recommended and members approved authoring the wagon masters, **Jerry Reeves** and **Boyd Mooney**, to seek such a location for the rally.
3. Equipment Trailer Towing: the expectation that wagon masters will tow the trailer from rally-to-rally has been a long-standing deterrent to recruiting members to serve as wagon masters. As an enticement to getting members to accept wagon master duties, the Executive Committee recommended and members approved an allowance of \$0.25/mile for wagon masters to tow the trailer (or recruit other members to do so).
4. GMCC Dinner Expense at GMCMI Convention: As the number of people attending the dinner/business meeting was substantially larger than anticipated, the entrée cost was accordingly higher. \$100 was initially authorized. The total cost was \$136. The Executive Committee recommended and members approved the supplemental amount.
5. Electric Griddles: members who volunteered at past rallies to prepare pancakes, bacon, sausage, etc. recommended GMCC consider buying electric griddles for this purpose as an alternative to using/borrowing privately owned griddles. The Executive Committee, based on member input, recommended and members approved the purchase of three griddles not to exceed \$100.

As noted elsewhere in the Chatter, the summer rally is being held at the Oak Creek RV Park near Weatherford, TX, 21-24 June '12. Since the timing is earlier in the summer than usual, perhaps the heat will not be as oppressive as at prior years'

summer rallies. Judging from the wagon masters' observations, the website description and reports by friends who have used the park, it should be an excellent place for the rally. Because of the increasing difficulty of recruiting rally hosts, members at the winter GMCC rally (Burleson, TX, 19-22 Jan '12) approved a simplified concept for this rally – that of rally coordinators rather than the conventional host concept. Thanks to **Debbie Massey** and **Penny Buenger** for their willingness to serve as lead-off coordinators. The success of this concept will depend heavily on *all* members supporting the coordinators by being alert to things that need to be done and then being proactive in getting them done. Please plan to attend this rally and help make the new approach a resounding success.

“Looking forward to an enthusiastic turnout at Weatherford!”

Fred Hudspeth

Rallies

NEXT RALLY:

Dates: June 21-24, 2012
Location Oak Creek RV Park
 Weatherford, TX

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

FALL RALLY 2012

Dates: October 25-28, 2012
Location Whispering Pines
 Tyler, TX



Sunshine Report

Dear GMC Family,

Thank you for keeping me updated on our Family's needs and concerns. We've been through a lot together since the last Chatter. All of our lives have been touched in different ways this first quarter of the new year. Yet there is a common thread that knits us together - heart to heart, hand in hand, and that's the genuine love and compassion we have for one another.

What touches you, touches us all. Know that you are deeply loved and cherished!

See ya' in Weatherford!

Here's the official correspondence report between Dec. 13 and May 5.

Stamps & Cards Mailed - 4
 ECards Sent - 25
 Emails Sent - 77
 Info / Response Emails Received - 107
Total - 213



Billie Young
 Sunshine Lady

New Members

Let's welcome the newest member to our GMC Classics family! Hope to meet you soon!

K. H. Zupke
 Richmond, TX

Burleson Rally Game Winners

It was fun to watch everyone get so excited while playing these games. Boy, they can sure get competitive and verbal! Be sure to participate or watch the next series!

Washers:

- 1st Willard Murdock & Wayne Alumbaugh
- 2nd Jerry Reeves & Mattie Driskell
- 3rd Bill Carter & Robert Kaufman

Chickenfoot:

- 1st Joyce Murdock
- 2nd Marvin Guelker
- 3rd Sandra Price
- Boobie Prize Linda Kaufman

Bolo:

- 1st Dot Phillips & Linwood Arthur
- 2nd Gay Guelker & Corky McHaney
- 3rd Roger Christensen & Joyce Murdock

Burleson Review

by Stanley Chickenfoot
(Georgene Farrill)



I have to say it, "Another great rally!" and this one was hosted by fairly new members **Janie** and **Dennis Johnson**. They had some good experienced help **James** and **Redonia Harper**, **Richard** and **Jaye Hodges**, and **Wayne** and **Charlotte Alumbaugh**. They did a fantastic job! The center pieces were just beautiful. Glass stemware with blue and silver accessories on white table coverings. They were very simple and elegant. We have been to Rustic Creek Ranch before and it has very nice accommodations. Some of us were kind of far off, **Leon** and **Penny Buenger**. But they are good sports and said the spot was beginning to grow on them. There space is a LONG way off. The park also has rooms to rent above the building, I mean you can party all night long and then just walk upstairs. We had **Billie Young**, **Georgene Farrill** and **Jim** and **JoAnn Davis** staying in rooms. They even have TV techs that will come to your room and get your TV going for you when you can't figure it out. Ask **Jim Davis**. **Billie** and **Georgene** tried to help out, but really, we are all retired and just don't care. After awhile **Jim** and **JoAnn** said "leave and we will just take a nap". As the ladies are leaving they see the TV geeks coming to wake them up. LOL No rest for the weary.

I have to say that this is a loyal bunch of people to their mascot.....me, **Stanley**. On Wednesday evening most everyone that came early, 45 people, went to **Babes** to eat. This place is well known for down home cooking served home style and their specialty is **chicken** — of all kinds. Everyone was licking their fingers and admiring the stuffed roosters sitting around ... **Even me**. It was a good fun night!

It was good to see **Loren** and **Bess White** from Oklahoma. It has been a long time. Welcome back. We also had new members **Jeff** and **Tamara Rodgers** from Grand Prairie, TX to come on Saturday. They are both still working but they are looking forward to rallies. Everyone tried very hard to just give them the facts, not the horror stories. But you know it really doesn't matter. When you buy a **GMC** you are already in love before you put your money down. Plus they have their own horror story! Be sure and look them up at the next rally.

Thursday was check-in and registration and catching up with old friends. After a full meal of BBQ, we ended the night with Chickenfoot. Guess who won Stanley? Yep, **Joyce Murdock**. Hope she and **Willard** take me to **International** and bring back some good stories. **Chickenfoot** always gets the fun flowing!

Larry Turner did the Tech session on GPS Friday morning. He really knows and understands the subject very well. I thought the history of GPS was very interesting. A lot of ladies also attended. Thanks Larry.

A lot of the ladies got together and went to Fresca's, a Mexican restaurant in old town Burleson. It was really excellent food and some of the ladies had the exotic drinks. I would tell you who they were but, let's just say they were not the drivers. It was a very relaxing, laugh out loud lunch. We looked around and see **C.L.** and **Sandra Hood** and **Jim** and **Sherry Jackson** in a booth near us. I think **C.L.** and **Jim** would have probably liked to act like they didn't know us, but not **Sherry** or **Sandra**, they are just one of the girls.

That night we had installation of officers for 2012. We have a good crew for the year. They take their job seriously and put a lot of time, thought and effort in the improvement of the club.

Then it was onward to Bingo with **Chuck** and **Lexie Ellis**. They do make good, fun callers. All winners of games are listed elsewhere but I have to tell you of one good story. **Addison Higbee**, 13 year old granddaughter of **Boyd** and **Sherry Mooney** won a nice amount on a game. This was exciting. At her school there was a band competition which required an entry fee. She asked her parents if she could use her money to enter. **Yes**, she entered and **won 1st place**.

The **Pancake Breakfast** was delicious thanks to **Dennis** and **Janie Johnson** and **Lexie Ellis**, along with **Frances Reeves** and **Joyce Murdock**.

Saturday was a full day. The men had their Swap Meet and then washers in the afternoon. I want to touch on the **Journaling** class we had with **Penny Buenger**. Some of us have been asking **Penny** to do this for quite some time. She put so much heart and energy into the class. It helps our feeling sometimes to put them in words. I know others enjoyed it as much as I did and hope they are writing down things and events of their ever day life and their past to leave for their children and grandchildren. Thanks Penny!

Stanley Chickenfoot



The Perfect RV Activity

By Debbie Massey

Larry Turner did a Tech Session in Burlason on the GPS. I would like to tell you about my new hobby, which also uses a hand-help GPS or smart phone.

Geocaching could be called the perfect RV activity. It is low cost, can be played practically anywhere you travel with your RV, can be combined with other activities, involves exercise and is fun for young and old alike. Geocaching (pronounced gee-oh-cash-ing) is one of the fastest growing activities in the world. Participants use GPS-enabled devices to navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates in an attempt to find a hidden container at that location known as a geocache. Geocache containers come in various sizes and are filled with "treasure".

What child or child at heart doesn't like finding treasure? Geocaches can be found in most countries throughout the world. I recently found a "trackable item" in a cache that started in 2009 in Europe and has traveled from place to place to a total of 37,800 miles. You never know what you will find.

Cache locations can be quite varied. They may be at your local park, campground, at the end of a long hiking trail, roadside rest area, along a nature trail or in a state park. A typical geocache might be an ammo box or Tupperware container filled with a stash of goodies (aka "swag") such as happy meal toys, tokens, pins and other trinkets. The thrill of geocaching is not so much in what you find inside the cache container, but rather in the search itself and the satisfaction of discovering the hidden "treasure."

Basically it's an excuse to go out for a healthy walk or motorcycle ride and find a hidden cache utilizing Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and a few hints from a website. You also log your finds on this website. It's a grown-up treasure hunt!

Recap:

- Fun
- Exercise
- Fresh Air
- Family Activity
- Discover New Places
- You become part of a global community and can make many new friends

If someone skeptical was to ask me about it and whether I thought they should try it, I would say ... Give it a go – you'll be hooked in no time. I am looking forward to the geocaching adventures I know we are going to have. It's a great hobby and so easy! Just ask Billie Young!

Debbie Massey

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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GMC *Classics*

Tech Notes

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.

Larry Turner took on a subject that had wider appeal than just our usual tech session guys. In fact, a good representation of “Classics Ladies” were in attendance.

GPS is a subject much like a lot of the devices our age group has enjoyed or been subjected to over the course of our lifetimes. You know the last 50 years have brought more technical advances than had occurred in the previous 200 years (my estimate).

GPS is like TV sets or cell phones, too many of us learn to operate them with a lot of initial frustration but never know or take time to find out what makes it work. However, not every one is like that. Ask Larry what time it is and he'll show you how to build a watch.

Seriously, GPS is a real phenomenon, like the space program it was almost too big to imagine. Without exploration to space it would never have happened.

As it's done, presently, 31 satellites traveling at 7000 miles per hour at an altitude of 12,600 miles (not feet), actually operating a series of clocks that measure how long the signal takes to arrive from the satellite to your GPS receiver and back (not unlike radar) telling you where you are within 3 or 4 feet. For engineering/surveying purposes within 1 to 2 cm. It is delivered to all those devices like, smart phones, I-Pads, handheld GPS units, placed in cars, boats, RVs, used for tracking kids, finding stolen cars, syncing high speed data communications, surveying and, most of all, what paid for the development, military intelligence.

As we are learning to use our GPS units, we find it must be able to “see” the satellites, then there is the how and where to mount it and how to program it, such as, typing in your destinations, coordinates, etc.

As we get smarter, we begin to question the accuracy of our maps and learn it and our idiosyncrasies, and as one Classic

member noted, you find it is the only lady in the vehicle you can turn off.

Later, Larry explained how you can, with special software use your computer as a GPS, finding the larger screen much easier to view. He got into “points of interest” including restaurants, parks, fueling locations and of course, Walmart. He gave us advice on how to buy a good GPS, and the software to make your computer become a GPS. He addressed many of the pains we all endure when calculating a desired route and ‘not wanting to go that way’ and how to find that alternate route. There's always the instance where we seem to get too much or not enough information that we have to deal with or ignore.

We learned a good bit about Google Maps and how to use them, concluding with a visit to Larry and Linda's home in San Antonio via Google Maps.

The session was most enlightening. We are lucky to have a guy who, among other duties, was a navigator in the Air Force and knows a thing or two about how to find where you are, under a lot of not so good circumstances, to show us the ropes.

May I add, that just a few years, before Larry was a navigator, we were using equipment to shoot the stars for navigation that didn't look a lot different than Columbus had. (I 'm sure you remember him.)

Becoming really good/handy with your GPS is just like, we found, as we grew into computers, that It won't bite and you won't hurt it. The more you use it the better you get at it and the easier it gets. (sorta like sex, I understand)

Thanks Larry for an excellent presentation!

See you next time...

Bill Carter