

# Classic Chatter



Fred Hudspeth

## The Prez

Thanks to all members and guests who attended the January rally at the LaHacienda RV Resort at Austin, Texas. The attendance *far* surpassed expectations. Because of the park's requirement to "take or pay" for sites blocked for Classics' use, we were very cautious on the number of sites blocked. There were 34 registrations at the October Rally at Whispering Pines RV Resort in Tyler. Anticipating fewer registrations for the late January rally, we blocked 26 sites at the LaHacienda Resort with plans to double-park as necessary. The sites there are 90-100 feet long and are designed to accommodate one large high-line coach but can easily accommodate two GMCs back-to-back. Park management agreed to our request to discount the single site contract cost by 25% for owners who had to double-park. There were probably 15-20 of the 26 sites originally blocked with two GMCs on them. While the parking situation was less than ideal, it did not seem to diminish the esprit-de-corps of the rally. The rally management team (**Anne Marie and Bill Carter, Grace and Bob Lee, and Billie Young**) was most pleased with the rally attendance and seamlessly accommodated the larger than planned turnout.

The April rally will be at the Twin Fountains RV Park in Oklahoma City. This is another premier RV park, based on information from members who have been there and at the park's website:

<http://www.twinfountainsrvpark.com/Site/welcome.html>

**Marilyn and Bob Musgrove, Peggy and Fred Pitezal and Patty and Clark Southmayd** graciously agreed to manage this rally while at Austin. In the last edition of The Chatter, the Winstar RV Resort at Thackerville, OK was listed as the location for the April rally. Upon closer review of the kitchen facilities there, it was decided that the Twin Fountains park would better serve Classics' needs. **Glyn Trimble**, in his March write-up for the Tulsa Lunch Bunch wrote, "**Rumor has it that the Lunch Bunch gals have prepared a nice long list of goodies for us next month at the GMC Classics rally in Oklahoma City...heard that chili and BBQ were both on the menu...maybe a little chicken, too!! Don't know about you, but I'm gonna travel down that Route 66 and get in line early!!**" The rally team further notes "With a theme of 'Get Your Kicks on Route 66!', *we are inviting those who wish to dress as they did in the 50's and 60's, (poodle skirts, bobby socks, leather jackets, etc.)*. The Twin Fountains RV Park is a very nice facility. There are only 40 spaces available because of the number of permanent reservations; so, early reservations are important. Doubling up is not allowed. The racetrack and casino are co-located and are only a couple of miles away. The Cowboy Hall of Fame and other museums are nearby..." The rally team encourages you to register early and would be glad to have a turnout like that at Austin – or more!!

The nominating team for 2012-13, (**Sandra Price, Debbie Massey, and Redonia Harper**) was re-elected to serve for 2013-14. **Jackie Isenhour**, elected as Classic Lady for 2013, advised in early January that she would be unable to continue in that role, citing health reasons. I advised Jackie, on behalf of Classics members, that we most appreciate her service in that role. It was decided not to nominate a replacement. Instead, rally teams will plan future Classic Lady activities as they choose.

As noted in the last edition of The Chatter, **Bill Carter** was seeking his replacement as Technical Coordinator. We are pleased that **Bob Lee** has agreed to succeed him. Our thanks to Bill for a job-well-done.

## **Future Rallies**

**Billy Massey** reported for the 2013 Audit Team of **Charlotte Alumbaugh**, **Billie Young** and himself. He noted that the Classics' financial records are in excellent order.

Wagonmasters **Bob (Sandra) Price** and **Boyd (Sherry) Mooney** solicit members' help in towing/storing the equipment trailer between rallies. They advise some members have been reluctant to tow the trailer, citing concerns about the tongue weight of the loaded trailer and storing it offsite when they can't keep it at home. The tongue weight of the loaded trailer has been determined to be about 300 pounds. That is consistent with the tongue weight required for safely towing trailers, like ours, with a gross weight of about 2000 pounds. From the U-Haul trailer site: "*Tongue Weight: The downward force exerted on the hitch ball by the trailer coupler. In most cases, it is about 10 to 15 percent of the gross trailer weight. To tow safely, the tongue weight must be sufficiently positive when the trailer is empty and/or when fully loaded. Check the height of the tow vehicle's bumper before and after loading. If the loaded trailer doesn't drop the height of the bumper (on a car or SUV) by at least an inch, then reposition your load with more weight in the front of the trailer.*" Ref: <http://www.uhaul.com/Trailers/HitchGlossary/#tongueweight>.

GCMChs with *standard* bumpers (i.e., not extended) and hitches rated for 300 pounds or more tongue weight can safely tow the trailer. Most hitches capable of towing cars can safely tow the trailer. Classics members approved in 2012 a payment of \$0.25/mile for towing the trailer. If you are willing to help but can't store the trailer at home, that can be accommodated on an exception basis. The wagonmasters welcome you to contact them to arrange times for when you could tow the trailer. As always, your executive committee and I work for you, the members of GMC Classics, and always welcome your feedback on any aspect of the club's operations – in person and by email/phone. Our email addresses and phone numbers are in each edition of The Chatter.

"Hope to see you at Oklahoma City. Your attendance would be a good way to show your appreciation to the Oklahoma City rally team for their commitment to making the rally a most enjoyable experience for you." Regards,

Fred



### NEXT RALLY:

*Make your own RV reservations.*

**Dates:** April 18-21, 2013  
**Location** Twin Fountains RV Resort  
 Oklahoma City, OK

**Please see Registration Form included or on the internet: [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com)**

### SUMMER RALLY 2013

**Dates:** June 27-30, 2013  
**Location** Buckhorn Lake RV Resort  
 Kerrville, TX

### FALL RALLY 2013

**Dates:** October 17-20, 2013  
**Location** Mill Creek Ranch Resort  
 Canton, TX



## Sunshine Report

Dear GMC Family,

Hope everyone has been enjoying the changing weather patterns. Many in our family have faced surgeries, sickness, broken bones, healings & victories. We've gained new members, had fun together, shared experiences online and off.

At the last Rally, I mentioned how important it was to sign the cards, even if you didn't know the person. **Bill Bryant** proved that by the touching phone call he made to me regarding the card we sent to them. It meant a lot to Bill, and when he shared it with **Nita**, she smiled and was so pleased. He said he just had to call to say "thanks" to everyone.

Our official correspondence between Dec. 9 and March 2 is as follows:

**Cards mailed, 14**

**ECards sent, 22**

**Info/Response Emails Rec'd. 129**

**Emails Sent, 145**

**TOTAL: 310.**

Thanks again for keeping me informed when our "family" has a need or concern. Y'all stay healthy and travel safely. Hugs to all.



Billie Young - Sunshine Lady  
GMC Classics

## Stanley's Report

Aka Georgene Farrill



**Surprise, Surprise**, Texas and Oklahoma weather co-operated; no snow, sleet, hail or rain. We all enjoyed good travel and a fun rally with some of our favorite people. Thanks to our host, **Bill** and **Ann Marie Carter**, **Grace** and **Bob Lee** and **Billie Young** and their helpers for finding a great RV park, good food and scouting out some unusual activities.

Thursday was spent greeting and enjoying everyone. Some had not been seen in a long time; **Thomas** and **Patricia Jetzer**, **Bud** and **Judy Allen**, **Lore Lee Howell**, **Burt** and **Judy Doucette** and **Earlene Baker**. Members attending for the first time were **Randy** and **Robin Roessler**, **Alan Sanderson** and **Maggie Olian**, **Stacey Chapman**, and **Clark** and **Patty Southmayd**. **Larry** and **Joanna Potts** and **Whitney Nieman** and **Phillip Luna** were among the visitors. Sorry I didn't catch all the names of the visitors!

We spent Thursday night with the exciting, challenging game of Chickenfoot. **Stanley**, the chicken, was not even on the premises. **Dot Phillips** won him at the Gladewater rally in October. Due to family illness, she and **Reggie** were unable to attend, so **Debbie Massey** who won, did not have the honor and fun of carrying sweet **Stanley** home with her.

Friday was breakfast and then the ladies left the men to their Tech session as they **All** (my best count was 36 ladies) loaded up and headed to The Oasis for lunch on beautiful Lake Travis. The lake is the way all tourist, restaurant, fishing brochures always described it. It is still beautiful, but... oh so low. This was a nice excursion and the food was wonderful. This Oasis is about three stories high with verandas looking out over the lake on all three levels and the restaurant serves all levels. The restaurant sits 450 feet above Lake Travis, probably closer to 500 feet today. We were there at

mid-day but **Oasis** is known for beautiful sunsets. We all headed out to the veranda for the best views and even though the sun was high in the sky and shining brightly, it was a little nippy. **Earlene Baker**, (she had come to spend a couple of days with us) finally admitted she was a little cool ....she was shivering...so **Earlene**, **Joyce Murdock**, **Renee Baldwin** and **Georgene Farrill** just picked up their drinks and headed inside. This gave courage to a couple more tables. At this time, only our drinks have been delivered. Those poor servers, they just asked that we please stay together table for table. Problem was it was big table down to small tables. They did a fantastic job of keeping up with us. They probably thought we were OK since **Penny Buenger** was already wearing her "Keep Austin Weird" shirt. I don't think anyone had any mix-ups, but if so, it was our fault. I have to say I had the best chile relleno I have ever had and that is what I always order when I eat Mexican food.

There are many shopping venues surrounding the restaurant and they are also on 3 levels. The architecture of this place is very interesting. Anyway, only the lower level had shops open, I don't know if due to the economy or just the wrong time of the year. I really think in the busy summer months it is a hopping place. Some of us were there later in the day on Saturday and there were a lot of young people beginning to show up. Lots of beautiful jewelry, shirts and other souvenirs and one shop with a lot of contemporary artsy home decorations, original paintings, blown glass, handmade soaps, candles etc. It was a very nice and fun destination.

Now it is time to rush back to the house, really, the name of the RV park is La Hacienda, we thought it was for Bolo, but it had been cancelled and Washers put in its place, WHY... Because nearly **everyone** wanted to go to the beer tasting at The **Solid Rock Brewery** on Saturday.

Good turnout for washers. New members **Allen Sanderson** and **Maggie** seemed to enjoy themselves.. **Stacy Chapman**, **Billie Young's** daughter had come for a visit and she really likes to play, just took her awhile to find the hole plus her partner was not very good, but they did manage to come in third place. **Carroll** and **Gayla Shelley** won first place and **Boyd Mooney** and **Jerry Reeves** won second place. Thanks **Marvin** and **Gaye** for doing a great job of score keeping.

After some good Mexican food, Her Honor, Judge **Mattie Driskell** swore in the new officers for 2013 and then time for Bingo. However, we had great callers and runners, **Joyce Murdock, Richard Hodges, Roger Christianson, and Burt Doucette**. Everyone that won went away happy. So did the rest of us.

While Bingo was going on, across the road in the laundry room that rowdy bunch of Farkle players could make all the noise they wanted. Playing were **Debbie and Billy Massey, Grace Lee, Penney and Leon Buenger, Billie Young, Stacy Chapman** and one of the new guys, **Kay Zupke**.

Saturday morning started with an all you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast, orange juice and coffee. Our servers were unique. **Billie Young** in the appropriate clothing to set the scene, a bakers hat and a snippy little apron greeting everyone with a big smile and GOOD MORNING and occasionally lifting tin foil off the sausage for someone to get their helping. **Penny Buenger** was pouring her heart out making the perfect pancake for each and everyone. The best I could tell, **Penney** was the only one working, because at the end of the line **Debbie Massey** was mostly shooting the breeze (or was that fanning the oil spray away from the table), **oh** some time she would help carry their coffee or juice to table, **but.....** they all had on their sterile plastic gloves. I do believe **Stacey Chapman** was behind the scene in the kitchen doing dishes, making coffee, and mixing up pancake batter. Really, they were all having a blast and in case no one has ever told you, this is the best volunteer gig in the club. It is a time to talk and get to know other people as they come down the line, and no matter what happens, no one will be mean to you, remember, you are giving them food.....Sign Up!

Well I think I'm out of room so I will see you guys at the next rally! Remember, coming to a rally is a BLAST!!!!

## New Members

New members since the last Chatter are:

**Randy and Robin Roessler**  
Goliad, TX  
1978 Birchaven - 23'



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.

### 2013 Officers:

**President Fred Hudspeth**

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Bill Carter  
Technical Seminar Coordinator

**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.*

It's hard to beat having a good or bad personal experience to kick off a Tech Session and **Fred Hudspeth** nailed **Ken Broostin** who had earlier in the Rally told him of his harrowing adventure. Ken stated at the beginning that there were no injuries but his GMC was broadsided "right at the propane tank" and needless to say resulting in a big hassle not to mention, expense to get all, as the commercial says "like it never even happened".

The police on the scene appeared to be more concerned with the sewer tank and gasoline than the propane leaking out however it was a non-event in that regard. The GMC was mobile but the police insisted that it be towed.

The next part of the story was affirming what we all hope for, to "strengthen our faith in mankind." And in his case, the GMC network. They really rose to the occasion in spades. Thankfully **Ken Frey** was amenable and with his and the "network, it all began to take shape (along with about \$19,500 assistance). The motorcoach is back up to "snuff."

As Fred Hudspeth mentioned when introducing Ken and his event, stories like Ken's are not only awe inspiring but truly informative. Ken's closing statement stuck with me. "Check your insurance policy!" These units are old, but none the less they have a lot of value that may not be recognized by

the insurance company unless you've put a dollar value on it from the beginning and it might amount to a lot more than an insult when you get nothing for it. Be certain that you secure "AGREED VALUE" insurance on your GMC. It will probably be a little more expensive and require an appraisal (available from Jim Kanomata, 800-752-7502 or [www.appliedgmc.com](http://www.appliedgmc.com)) but you will then be insured for the full value of your GMC.

"LESSON NOTED."

**Then we got to the "Tech Session."**

As advertised, **John Sharp** was our featured lecturer and, having given these instructionals at several of our's and GMCMI rallies, not to mention various trade shows, we knew we were in the hands of a pro. We were not disappointed and we got "the works" with a plethora of pictures and all.

The step by step project he covered was replacing the upper steering column and steering wheel with a 1990's full size, preferably rear wheel drive, Cadillac steering wheel. The purpose of this is to put turn indicators, headlights, horn, windshield wipers and dimmer switch in a more modern and user friendly mode. Today we would say where they "oughta be." Thirty-five years ago we thought they were where they "oughta be," but that's changed and so have we.

An option he mentioned, but did not do, was that you could select a telescoping column when you

were selecting your steering wheel at the local salvage yard. John said steering wheels from 1980 to 1995 would fit. Even from some GM pick-ups. John acknowledged that Richard Sowers in South Carolina first did this. His excellent presentation is available on the internet at:

[www.gmceast.com/technical/Sowers\\_Steering\\_Column\\_Upgrade\\_Repair.pdf](http://www.gmceast.com/technical/Sowers_Steering_Column_Upgrade_Repair.pdf)

He stressed the importance of going into this with a good plan and the proper tools including a steering wheel puller. Something he mentioned that I would've been the first to not do is to disconnect the battery or you'll be blowing the horn a lot. Also be prepared to find a mix of metric and/or SAE bolts and fittings, as this is the period that we were beginning that transition. John warned of carefully looking forward several steps before executing the next, as circlips, small springs, and even ball bearings not only must be removed, but then put back. It's not fun to see parts left over when the job is done and you wonder where that part went.

The tilt mechanism is pretty straight forward. Just be careful to not drop small parts inside or you'll have to do some major removal or live with a rattle forever.

Several, for lack of a better word, actuators from other vehicles may be required as you may not have them from the donor Cadillac or they may not be compatible, in this case. This is where John's hand-out may be invaluable: [www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/upgrade-upper-steering-column/p47232-presentation.html](http://www.gmcmhphotos.com/photos/upgrade-upper-steering-column/p47232-presentation.html) by *Richard Sowers, annotated 2013 by John Sharp*

The job looks very do-able with normal mechanical skills and the "will to kill a week-end." If you have everything on hand, John indicated it might could be done in 4 hours or so. I'm glad he added or so.

I'm proud of the quality of our Tech Sessions, not because of anything I've done, but recognizing the combined knowledge and willingness of our members to share their experience and time. It's downright phenomenal.

Now for my "Swan Song," as you all know, I've stated we need a new face and pen to move us on. And luckily **Bob Lee** accepted our request to take over, and I thank him. Two years with this gig is about all the fun I can stand. Seriously, it's been great working with Fred and his entire team. Fred is a great asset to this group.

**Anne-Marie** and I plan to stay active in the club, but may miss one occasionally. We've got some world traveling to catch up on and the GMC won't float. Afraid it might turn out to be like that cruise ship in the Gulf.

On another note, many thanks to all the thank you notes, phone calls and emails regarding the La Hacienda, Austin Rally. I feel it really was a successful and fun Rally and I want to thank **Anne-Marie, Bob** and **Grace Lee** and **Billie Young** for their fantastic effort on this event.

"The Best Team Ever"

Adios

Bill Carter