

**CLASSIC CHATTER
GMC CLASSICS
SUMMER 2014**

Letter from the President

Our thanks to **Patsy and Bob Monk, Gayla and Carroll Shelly and Janie and Dennis Johnston** for managing the winter rally at Glen Rose, TX and making it a most enjoyable event.

Members attending the fall '13 rally at Canton elected to hold the GMCC Spring '14 rally in conjunction with the spring '14 GMC Motorhomes International Convention at Montgomery, TX. GMCC was well represented at the convention with more than one third of the total registrations. The Classy Ladies hosted "A Texas Picnic", 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 entrée provided by GMCC) and a brief business meeting on the evening of, 23 March '14 at Montgomery. There were more than 80 people in attendance. A highlight of the evening was a gift of \$1,500.00 to GMCC by **Anne Marie and Bill Carter**. Anne Marie and Bill recently sold their GMC motorhome and are now on to their "list of other things to do and places to go". They made their gift as an expression of thanks for their adventure of many years with the GMC Classics. I'm sure I represent all Classics members in thanking them for the gift and their many contributions as active Classics members. I encouraged them to watch the Classics website for announcements of future rallies and to join us when their schedule permits.

As noted elsewhere in The Chatter, the summer rally is being held 19-22 June '14 at the Choctaw Casino KOA, Durant, OK. (<http://koa.com/campgrounds/durant/>). This is an encore visit to this facility as the 2011 summer rally was held there. **Roger Christensen**, in reporting on that rally in the 2011 fall edition of The Chatter, wrote "this is an amazing KOA Park and a great place to stop". Please note that **Reg (and Dot) Phillips** and **Boyd (and Sherry) Mooney**, wagonmaster and assistant wagonmaster respectively, are coordinating this rally for us. This means, in short, that they will define the tasks to be done and then request volunteers for those tasks. We have used this concept at two previous rallies with great cooperation from members attending those rallies. **Redonia and James Harper** have volunteered their support to the coordinators and are already actively involved. Let's show the Phillips, Mooneys and Harpers our appreciation for their work with a large turnout.

Reg Phillips has secured the Parkview Riverside RV Park, Concan, TX for the fall 2014 rally (<http://www.parkviewriversiderv.com/>). The dates are 9-12 October '14. Reg invites members who would be willing to help manage this rally to contact him at 817-564-3678 or phillipsreg@att.net.

Georgene Farrill, in her role as GMCC vice president (and in my absence) will conduct a business meeting at the Choctaw Rally if there are actions resulting from the ExCom meeting that require member attention. Sharon and I will be away for the summer as usual, beginning early June. There will definitely be a business meeting at the Concan rally in October to elect 2015 officers and address other business as needed, including membership considerations.

We have a continuing challenge to maintain, and preferably grow, GMCC's membership. In connection with that, I wrote the following, in part, to the GMC ClassicsNet on 20 Jan '14: *"While at Glen Rose, a member recommended to me that we devote increased attention to declining membership in GMC Classics and rally attendance/participation. I committed as a minimum to conducting a "brainstorming session" with attendees at a near-future rally to generate workable ideas for a turnaround... As you know, declining membership and attendance/participation is not unique to GMC Classics among GMCMH owner clubs, other automobile/aircraft clubs, civic clubs, etc. Among GMCMH owner clubs, many members have less confidence in their machine's safety and reliability for travel to/from owner events. Many also, due to declining health, have decreasing*

ability to do the maintenance/repairs required for sound safety and reliability. As a result, attendance/participation declines with subsequent non-renewal of memberships. In addition to intensifying efforts to attract replacement members and more, one suggestion is to select rally locations that have convenient onsite cabin accommodations. Members in this category may find the cabin alternative less costly than the fuel for driving their motorhome – even if they elect to not attend/pay for the entire rally. At least one couple did this at Glen Rose. More members doing this would at least partially offset declining rally attendance/participation.

I encourage all members to participate in this effort. The survival of GMC Classics for the long term depends on it!!”

Our congrats to **Billy Massey** on his recent retirement from the 3M Company/Brownwood, TX plant. Billy had more than 25 years service with the company.

As always, your executive committee and I work for you, the members of GMC Classics, and welcome your feedback on any aspect of the club’s operations – in person, by email, or phone. Our email addresses and phone numbers are in each edition of The Chatter.

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable summer and for safe travels. Sharon and I look forward to rejoining you for the Concan rally in October.

Regards,

Fred

TECH SESSION

Bob Lee, Technical Coordinator, gives a brief, but great synopsis of the tech session held at the Glen Rose Rally with an account of Billy Massey’s thrilling trip home on how he and Debbie made it the last 25 miles home after his coach just stopped running. They had a road side conference and planned the last 25 miles to their house.

Billy figures there would be two turns to make to get to their house. Debbie got in the coach, put it in neutral, Billy got in the tracker, which was their tow attached to the coach, put it in gear, and pushed the coach home!!!!.

We can only imagine what strength Debbie has making those two turns without the engine running; as well as the trust that Billy has in her since all he could see is the back end of the coach. Thanks Billy AND Debbie.

The presentation by Larry Turner on the GPS was very interesting and informative. He explained how the GPS could be used in the GMC to a greater extent. He also showed how one could get better reception and service by purchasing a “booster” available at some stores. Had you attended the session you would know what and where to buy it.

Thanks Larry.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GMC CLASSICS MEMBERS

Don and Kathy Wallace
Auburn, In.

Paul and Mardy Array
Canyon Lake, Texas

Brian and Brandi Oakes
Burlson, Texas

Neil Fonville
Allen, Texas

Martin Hintzen
Granbury, Texas

Bud and Lynn DeGroot
Liberty Hill, Texas

Everyone is looking forward to meeting all of you. Hope you will be able to join us at our rally in June.

STANLEY'S REPORT
BY GEORGENE FARRILL

Well, it has been a long time since the January rally. I do have a small Rooster brain, but I remember a great time and so much fun. I may not get all the names at each event. The theme and decorations were unique. We were in Glen Rose, Texas. The dinosaur Capital of Texas, with this background and title how can you go wrong.

The weather was kinda Texas crummy winter, cold, damp and sometimes raining, but this is good. We had a nice large building to hang out in and just be together and play games. For such a small town, there was a lot to do, and our host Carroll and Gayla Shelly, Bob and Pat Monk with Dennis and Janie Johnson assisting them. They found and got us some good deals and great prices. This is the neat thing about our club, the Monks and Shellys are fairly new members, but volunteered to host a rally which can be scary the first time, so the Johnsons, who live in their area stepped forward to help. See you are in good hands if you are a GMC Classics member. I don't usually do this, but I want to give you a little background. Gayla is Pats Aunt and they have a close relationship. Gayla claims Pat is the creative one and both are excellent seamstress. They made a lot of the gifts, one special one, and part of the table decorations. Now Carroll is pretty handy and helped on the decorations, the wood logs for the dinosaurs, and if you ever go into their coach you will see his skills, but what you need to know is he is an identical twin, and if you want some good stories, talk to him, so funny. I just had to tell that Carroll, Gayla and Pat are bluegrass music fans. I'm not sure about Bob. What I do know is he is or was a big camera buff, knows a lot about them. I need to spend some time with him learning more about my camera. The surprise for me was, he is not a Texan, he is from Pennsylvania!!! Just goes to prove good guys come from everywhere.

For the ladies luncheon we went to the Mansion Grill. Great waiter staff, treated us extra special, food was great and we all enjoyed the camaraderie of ladies doing their thing. There were about 30 that went (that's a big ticket, we deserve special). We had drawings for gifts, and one table, let's see, Jaye Hodges, Billie Young Kelly, Linda Turner, Sharon Jacobs, Sherry Mooney and Susan England. The best I can remember, every single one of them won! There were a lot of others also, but we were beginning to think conspiracy, not really. I have decided the reason Susan always wins in a game or drawing, is she is so enthusiastic when she wins. It is fun to watch..... I think I will try that approach. It was a fun time and we got a good group picture on the steps on the Mansion.

Remember this is Dinosaur Capital, they had a great little museum in the middle of the town square, very small and not open every day, so when they checked for a visit, the Mayor had said he would open it up and for us to lock the doors when we left! Is this not cool? We had to change days to go, it was cold, cold, cold, and cold The Mayor was there, a very young guy, and we all had a really good time looking at old newspaper articles, shark teeth, arrowheads and talking with him about the find in the 1930's. He made sure we signed the guest book to show the city people.

The Mayor also convinced the city to purchase the RV Park we were in and was up dating it. It had fallen on hard times and he was making good headway. It is big enough to host fairly good size rally. They had cabins that had been updated. Nice and clean, WIFI was available but, "no TV". Ask Jim and Joanne Davis, this can be a deal buster. You know when you go for your afternoon nap, you need that TV noise (LOL). I told Jim we should have known, the names on the smaller cabins like we had were PAD, CAVE, DEN, we were in the SHANTY for me, the SHACK for Jim and Joanne, made no difference we still had fun.

After the museum, we went for lunch. Remember it was a cold day, so we did not get to do any shopping, but The Green Pickle, had a great hamburgers and fried pickles.

The day was a really cold day, so we stayed pretty close to enclosed building. Charles Wersel brought us a new game BEAN BAG BASEBALL. That was my thought to, we don't need any broken bones, Charles!!!

This game was different, lots of challenges, batting NOT one of them. You have to throw bags into a hole on a board, the holes are designated, home run, out, 1st, 2nd or 3rd. You run the bases, but no stealing, sliding is too hard on the bones. John Sharpe thought about it a couple of times, but the umpire, score keeper, Charles, kept a close eye on him. Another strict rule was you had to make sure to touch base. Ask Frank Jacobs, as he rounded 3rd, he did not touch. WOW, that umpire, scorekeeper stood up and threw him out of the game so fast his head is still spinning. We were told the rules before the game, so Frank left. All the players talked the umpire into letting it pass the first time, but.....we all straightened up and got serious. Team Captains were Boyd Mooney of The Hooters and Jerry Reeves of The Losers. What was Jerry thinking? They lost 12 to 7. For the second game he changed the name to The Winners. It worked, it was 20 to 17 for the last game. Jim Davis was probably best all round hitter, and got on base, but he was always left stranded by his team mates. I think he did make it home once. When Jerry Barnes strolled to the plate, you could hear the fans—Slugger, Slugger, Slugger, but like Babe Ruth, there were more outs than hits, he did get to second once. Carroll Shelly, Dennis Johnson, Bob Lee and Jerry Reeves were probably best hitters for men and Sandra Price and Sharon Jacob for the women playing, when Sharon made a home run with bases loaded, she was smiling big time at home plate. It was a fun game and I think everyone enjoyed it. Thanks to Charles for making the board and bags and bringing the game to us. Dennis Johnson deserves a hand for bending down and picking up bags off the floor, his knees have to be killing him. I think Larry Turner felt his pain and went to his rescue and helped him out.

On Saturday a bunch went to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. We were all in separate cars so I do not know who or how many. I rode with Lora Lee Howell. I am going to say, she is a good driver, she drove her big Winnebago, towing from Austin Area, but she kept me on pins and needles and I do not keep my mouth shut, she was about ready to throw me out, (LOL), but in spit of that we had a good time at the park. Really they have lots of animals, mostly of the deer, antelope kind, but also giraffes, zebras, big horn sheep, Cheetahs, and Rhinos. Speaking of, I was taking pictures with long zoom lenses, they are a good ways from the road in a pen and do not come up to your car. Lora Lee takes off across this pasture of cactus, scrub and rock right to the railing, she said so we can get good close up pictures. There are sign that say STAY ON THE ROAD. Like I said, she is a good driver, but crazy. Also the animals come right up to the car for you to feed them, great if you have kids in the car. Not for me, she is the driver and enjoyed watching me backing over seat getting away from them. There was also a crazy turkey there. We watched it chase a white SUV, pecking at its chrome bumper for quite awhile. When we had to pass, it pecked all down the side of her black SUV. After we left there, several of us followed Frank and Sharon Jacob to their retirement future in Pecan Plantation about 10 or 12 miles away. They took us to the Country Club, private air strip and their place. They have pecan trees in their yard, so some of us picked up pecans. A good day, full of fun and friends.

We also went to Dinosaur World, which is a tourist spot, mostly for kids, dig for fossils etc. but really interesting and gets you to wondering about dinosaurs. It was laid out on about quarter mile circle, nice little walk, with a lot of fiberglass, plastic replicas of all kinds of prehistoric from those time periods. Very well done, with names and explanations. With a group, this can be entertaining and educational. Have you ever thought that maybe dinosaurs had feathers!!! You know the only thing we have to go on are a few bones and tracks....think about it...we could be so far off. This was the same group that went on to Pecan Plantation to see the Jacobs place, plus Mike and Billy Young Kelley. Billie found sunglasses for both her and Mike. After having 2 days of bad, cold weather, we really took advantage of Saturday, busy all day and then all the activities for Saturday night.

Our host found a lot for us to do in a small town, and the meals were excellent. How can you go wrong with Chicken fried steak, BBQ and Lasagna. I have not covered games except for bean bag baseball. We had chicken foot on Thursday night. Sharon Jacob won Stanley and Larry Turner had the honor of highest score to get Charlie. We played Bingo Friday night, Francis Reeves, won the big one on the last game.

We installed the club officers for 2014 and President Fred Hudspeth has a good crew to lead us into the next year. We definitely need new members to keep things going, but it is a struggle not only for our club but all organizations. We will just have to try harder for new members until someone finds the key to get this generation interested in joining things. In the mean time volunteer for positions for 2015.

I think the only prize awarded was Stanley and Charlie, but our host had some great gifts they handed out on drawings. I told you Gayla and Pat were accomplished seamstress. They made up 10 or 11 ladies bags with the GMC logos. The usual part was a lot of men won. Larry Turner, Fred Hudspeth, Bill Carter, James Harper, Bob Lee and Jerry Barnes. I am sure their wives did not have to fight to get them away from the guys. Also winning was Sharon Hudspeth, Gracie Lee, Anne Marie Carter, Susan England, Patricia Schwenk (she and Thomas Jetser own the KOA Campground in Elkhart , Indiana. They have spent a few rallies with us.) Everyone was really impressed with the wonderful bags. The grand prize drawing was a nice size lap quilt in a blue dinosaur print. It was very nice and won by Dot Phillips.

It was another great rally, and I am looking forward to the June rally in Durant at the Choctaw Casino. These are very nice facilities, large and cool. We have been here before for a fun time and I am looking forward to seeing all of you.

Stanley

LORE LEE AND THE DINOSAUR

Bob Monks version of the True Story about Lore Lee and the Dinosaur.

It was during the Winter Rally in Glen Rose that we gathered a group of 23 GMC Classics members to tour Dinosaur World. Earlier that Saturday, we had driven through the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and even though many of us had been there several times before, we were still impressed by the variety and numbers of animals that we saw. It was a beautiful day and all the animals were out grazing, soaking up the sun, or begging by the side of the roadway. We enjoyed that drive and since neither my wife nor I had been to Dinosaur World, it was with some skepticism that we drove there for the afternoon tour. We were surprised by the number of dinosaur replicas (more than 150) and the well-kept grounds. While we were walking along gaping at the incredibly detailed dinosaurs - some towering above us, down to alligator size, we came upon Lore Lee Howell who was also enjoying the tour. She stayed with our small group and we read the signs, took pictures, and at the end of the tour we all walked through the museum. It was there that Jaye Hodges came up to me and asked if I had seen Lore Lee. Seems that she had come with Jaye and they were separated somewhere along the way. I said yes, she was with our group and walking in the museum. Jaye responded, "great, we thought she had gotten lost or was eaten by a dinosaur". At that remark, I responded, "as a matter of fact, take a look at this picture". I showed Jaye the picture you see here on my iPhone. We all had a good laugh!



GMC CLASSIC CARD PLAYERS
PUZZLES

Let us not overlook our GMC Classic members who are always ready for a good card game. They welcome everyone as they arrive. Guess we should call them our greeters as they always have a welcome hello, a smile and ask all to join in the games. The players are Reggie Phillips, Dot Phillips, Georgene Farrill, Janice Wersal, Sharon Jacob, Frank Jacob, Linda Kaufman, Jaye Hodges, and Joyce Murdock. I hope I have not missed anyone.

Also, the host will usually have a puzzle for everyone to enjoy. There are always several members of the Classics trying to get it put together. Wonder what happens if pieces are missing?

FUTURE RALLY

OCTOBER 22 – 26, 2014
Parkview Riverside RV Park
2561 County Road 350
Concan, Texas 78838
877-374-6748

I am still learning a new system on my computer: hopefully I can eventually learn the wonderful publisher that Debbie and Billy gave me. Hope you enjoy this newsletter, it has been interesting gathering all the information.

If you have anything you would like to be published in the chatter, please let me know. My telephone number is 903 738 6047 and email is redonia.h@gmail.com.

Redonia

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2014 OFFICERS

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The Classics Chatter is published quarterly for the membership of the CMC 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.