



Classics Chatter

G M C C L A S S I C S , I N C .

UP COMING RALLIES



October 27 - 30, 2016

Rusk KOA
745 FM 343 East
Rusk, TX 75785
800-562-4143

Hosts:
Richard & Jaye Hodges
Fred & Sharon Hudspeth
Keith & Kim Weeks
Gayla & Carroll Shelley



January 26 - 29, 2017

Coffee Creek RV Resort
13429 S Hwy. 281
Santo, Texas 76472
940-769-2277

Letter from our President



Reggie Phillips

Good morning all you GMC'ers. That's a new word for the dictionary defined as those "wonderfully crazy people driving 30 plus year old motorhomes and running the big rigs off the highway".

The Corsicana Rally is a note in history now and was a great deal of fun. There were 42 folks in attendance. From what the ladies said, their luncheon at the Uniquely Yours Tea Room was a super

Success and the Saturday visit to the Pierce Civil War and Western Art Museum just did not last long enough for us to enjoy its treasures.

Our next Rally will be October 27th thru the 30th at the KOA Campground in Rusk, Texas. I sure want to take the ride on The Texas State Railroad that runs between Rusk and Palestine. The locomotives are diesel and steam powered and the cars look like antiques - should be a lot of fun. Be sure and mark that activity down on your reservation to see if we can get a reduced price.



Be certain to bring your pumpkin carving tools. **NO CHAIN SAWS ALLOWED**, be creative.

Please give our Wagon Master, **Carroll Shelley**, a big pat on the back for finding the RV park at Rusk for this rally - I know he had to scramble to find it because construction of the RV park in Johnston City was not complete.

We have lost one of our members August 8th. **Bob Lee** lost his fight with cancer. Our sympathy and care goes out to **Grace**, keep her in your heart and prayers.

Until we meet at KOA in Rusk, keep the wheels on the road, the wind in your hair and a smile on your face.

PS. It is time to nominate new officers and they will be voted on at Rusk.

Reg

New Members:

Vern Crawford & Lenore Langsdorf
Center Point, Texas
1977 Palm Beach

George & Carol Smith
Kingston, Oklahoma
1977 Glenbrook

GMC Classics now has 110 members.





A **DOUBLE RAINBOW!!!** You know it was a great rally because this is a rare sight to see. I got a picture but not as pretty as the real thing. It was another fun filled rally and a really good turnout for July with so many sick or just not up to traveling. **Joyce and Willard Murdock** did get to come down and spend a few hours with us. **Charlie and Minnie Myers** also came for a couple of days and stayed in a motel.

Our hosts, **Dot and Reg Phillips, Sherry and Boyd Mooney, Burt and Judy Doucette, and Frank and Sharon Jacob** really put a lot of thought into the rally and kept us busy or entertained throughout the whole time!



We had a Wreath making craft class by **Gayla Shelly's** daughter, **Tammy Ratliff**, who came from Terrell, Texas. She brought quite a few supplies for us to work with. Some crafty people came prepared with their own and **Frances Reeves** brought extra and believe it or not, **Georgene Farrill** actually made a good looking wreath with a little help from her friends, **Frances and Redonia**. It was a lot of fun with about 8-9 wreaths being made that day. **Tammy** had a couple of wreaths she gave away as door prizes. One was a beautiful scarecrow door decoration! We couldn't believe it was one of the ones to be given away and everyone was hoping to win! **Judy Doucette** was the lucky winner. **Tammy** also demonstrated how to make the new "bubble wreath". Some of the craft people were glad to see that procedure since it is fairly new from what I

A WORD FROM STANLEY

By Georgene Farrill

understand. That sentence makes me feel like a **Muggle** in a **Harry Potter** book. You know, they are the people who are not **Wizards** or have any magical powers. That's how I feel sometimes. Crafty people are like wizards or magic with what they do with stuff.

I have to bring up **Boyd and Sherry Mooney**. They had been out west in Colorado, Arizona, and in mountain country for about 10 days. They went many miles and had a great time with all the family and their **faithful GMC** returned them home to Texas. **But** it refused to bring them to **Corsicana**. Being hosts, they felt like they had to come! We now have another motel guest. If you don't know, **Boyd** is rebuilding one from the ground up. **Sherry** calls it "her" coach and she says he is taking his sweet time on it. I know she gave him a rough time and she just knew they were staying in **The Bates Hotel** and she was going to die! Kind of makes you feel sorry for **Boyd!!!** 😄

This also makes me think about **Chip and Laura Chebuhar**. They have not been to a rally for awhile, but their schedules worked out and they came to this one. They no longer have a **GMC**, (so sad) but they do have a **BIG SOB (Some Other Brand)** coach that runs perfect all the time, they say. Well, they had mechanical troubles and **Laura says, "Why, Why? Chip** tells her it's because we are going to a **GMC rally** and that's just the way it is. He could know something.

Another unusual thing, **Jim & Penny Johnson** are from the Gladewater, TX area. Well **Jim** has always had long hair. I don't know for how long, but probably since he was much younger when he had dark hair. **He cut it!** He didn't burr it off like **James Harper** did, just much shorter. Looked good but was so different for him and some didn't even recognize him.

We ended Thursday with a good southern meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, okra, sweet tea and desert.

Some stayed for chickenfoot. I am sure the others went to their coach and just **laid up** after that meal. *Yum yum!* We had 3 tables of Chickenfoot players and, as usual, it was loud, boisterous and fun. Card players played afterward and shut the place down around 11:00 p.m. It was a good first day!

Next day, big breakfast and the swap meet. I know there was a lot happening on the porch for the swap meet of tools, parts etc. **Carroll Shelly** brought quite a bit, and someone, I can't remember who, bought a big sack of bungee cords for cheap. They were sure happy. Inside the building, **Judy Doucette** had a large selection of nice jewelry and she sold quite a few pieces.

Dot Phillips, Gayla Shelly and Pat Monk were pretty tied up so they didn't bring any purses or hats this time. These ladies do crochet, knit, sewing and monogramming. Hopefully they will bring some to the October rally. If you are looking for anything special, I think they might be happy to help. Give them a call, they are in the roster.

The Classy Ladies headed to **Uniquely Yours Tea Room**. Corsicana is an old town with some great architecture. The building was an old house rejuvenated for a Tea Room. The dining room was more like a covered veranda with fans. It was a really nice simple menu and absolutely delicious food!!! In the house next door was a Boutique with very fashionable, trendy ladies clothing.



Now time to head back to the park. We have washers and ice cream coming and we need to give out the gifts. WELL, half of our ladies got lost. Truth be known, they thought they could find a place and check it out before coming back and then they couldn't find their way back to the park. We waited patiently for them and had a great time. In our talking we discussed taking pictures and how bad we look some time. We had an impromptu lesson on posture and

stance. **Susan England** told us about one of her bad experiences. She was hilarious as she explained and showed these positions. We were laughing so hard we were in tears. They were good tips, but we need to practice more ... so if you see any weird pictures of the ladies, just laugh! The stragglers finally got there and we continued by giving out door prizes. Then we were getting ready for washer and ice cream before the night's meal of Bar-B-Q. We do eat good at these rallies and probably gain a few pounds also. Later we had **Bingo**. Sure enjoyed the game and the fellowship. Washers are always fun and there was a lot of competition as usual.

We also had new members **Steve and Carol Smith** attending. This was the first time **Steve** had ever been to an **RV** park or camping experience. I know we all enjoyed their company and I think they felt at ease with us. **Carol** enjoyed her excursions into town for lunch and a trip to Russell Stover Candies. She even led the group in "lifting weights with bags of candy". That little tracker was bulging with all the candy and those **five** ladies! **Steve** got to experience a **Tech Session** and **Swap Meet**. The weather was really nice and the rain and rainbows were icing on the cake. **After** the rain you could hear people asking if they had any leaks? New owners can learn early the **joys** of owning a **GMC**.

We started Saturday morning with, you guessed it, **FOOD**. Not just any old breakfast, but **Pancake Breakfast** with all the trimming. **Charles Wersal** is our "pancake man" so we missed **Charles and Janice**, who were not able to attend. You could also order waffles, a specialty of **Craig Bennett**. **Dot and Reg Phillips** headed up the cooks corner with help from **Robert Kaufman, Burt Doucette, and Craig Bennett**.

We went to the **Pearce Civil War and Western Museum**. This was a pleasant surprise. It's a small museum with interesting artifacts, historical documents, personal letters, bronze statues, and western art. Our tour guide was so knowledgeable, friendly, and easy to talk and ask questions. I think there were **21** of us to attend. They also had a tremendous arrowhead and fossil collection that had all

been found right in that area. I did not find that area until we were leaving, I would like to go back and see this huge collection. Now we need to head back to the park for watermelon.

Another interesting afternoon, **Carroll Shelley** is an **identical** twin. **Merrell**, his twin, came to visit. Oh my gosh, this many years later with life experiences etched on our faces and body, they are still **identical**. Side by side you might see a slight difference, but if separated even by 3 ft, you would not know who was who. They tried to fool us by changing hats, some could tell the difference and some couldn't. Also interesting is that what ever one gets, the other one gets. **Carroll** has just had a stent put in and **Merrell** knows his is coming. He is as friendly as **Carroll** and it was nice to visit with him.



Well time to eat AGAIN. This time it is **Italian Combo**, with all the trimmings. It was very good. I know I have discussed meals a lot this time, If you are at home eating the same old things you usually do, plan on attending the rally in October. You will see old and new friends, enjoy playing or watching games, and eat so much good varied food with lots of good company. This is a **win win**.

After the meal, we had our business meeting. **Billy Massey, Sharon Jacob, and Francis Reeves** are the nominating committee for 2017 officers. We need **president, secretary and other officers**. **Carroll Shelley** would love for someone to become new **wagon master**. **Boyd Mooney** has been **assistant** for quite a few years now. These two and their wives have gone above and beyond for the club. Hope we have **volunteers** to take their place so look for a call from the committee. **SAY YES if asked**. **Redonia Harper** gave out the game prizes to the winners. Time for **LRC**.



I think everyone really likes this game! It is just a lot of fun especially with this many players. When the plays are close to you and you are involved in the action. When it is at other end of table, you can enjoy conversation with friends. It went a couple of rounds and then everyone had to **add another dollar**, so it ended up being a very nice pot for the winner **Jerry Reeves**. It was raining dollar bills on his head!!!

Craig Bennett did the Sunday morning service for us. He is very good at telling a story and setting a scene. Thanks Craig. Time to leave till we meet again in October.

Stanley





Radio Replacement

The following is a summary of the history of radios in the GMC Motorhome and current updates and procedures to take when installing a new radio in your coach. General Motors offered 4 types of radios in the motorhome. They were one of the following: AM, AM-FM, AM-8 Track, and/or AM-FM-8 Track tape. If your coach still has the sticker inside the glove compartment door, one can determine how the coach left the factory.

When shopping for a new radio, you will find that new radios are larger than the 1970's style radio installed at the factory. These radios are described as "shafted" radios. The newer radios are known as "DIN" radios.

What is "DIN"? DIN is the "Deutsches Institut für Normung", which is a German standards body. The DIN standard was adopted in 1984 after car stereo manufacturers began to standardize radios around the DIN size of 50mm X 180mm or double DIN of 100mm X 180mm. The DIN size radio converts to 2" X 7 3/32" commonly rounded off to 2" X 7 1/8". Note there is no standard for the depth of these radios. If you decide to update your radio, there are several option choices to make before selecting your new radio. Among the choices are CD players, cassette players, Bluetooth, Pandora, auxiliary input (front, rear, or both), USB input, as well as price and brand preference.



Once you have made your new radio selection, you must next remove the original shafted radio. One of the draw-backs of the shafted radio is that it is installed and removed from the rear of the dash. Step by step instructions for radio removal can be found on page 12.35 of the GMC Motorhome Maintenance Manual X7525B. The new radios require 2 wires for each speaker that go from the radio and do not use chassis ground for one of the wires as the factory radio does. Now would be the time to run the speaker wires. It was pointed out by one member that the new radio uses low resistance speakers so to get better sound. It would be easy to replace the speakers while running the new wiring. Another member stated that new speakers will have larger magnets and may be deeper than original. To install larger magnet speakers, you may have to remove some insulation from behind the speaker and/or build a speaker surround that will move the speaker outward.

The next step will be to open up the dash opening to a width of 7 1/8". The height of the dash opening is 2" so no height adjustment is required. The new radio will come with a DIN sleeve that can be used as a template to mark the dash for cutting. Center the DIN sleeve on the dash over the radio opening and use a marker to mark the cutout area. A suggestion is to put masking tape from inside the dash with sticky side out to catch as many filings as possible while you use a Dremel tool or similar cutter with a cutoff wheel to open the radio slot to the proper width.

You must now open the dash bezel cover to the 7 1/8" width. Once again use the DIN sleeve to mark the cutout area. Once you have the bezel and dash marked and cut, you can slide the DIN sleeve into the dash opening and bend the tabs up, down, left, and right to secure the sleeve in the dash. The radio will come with a wiring plug that must be connected to your speaker wires. You will also need a hot wire for clock memory and a switchable hot wire for power to the radio connected to the plug. The radio can be slid into the DIN sleeve after the wiring plug and antenna are plugged into the back of the radio. Now replace the bezel and back dash covers.



If you selected a double DIN radio, the dash opening must be enlarged to 4" X 7 1/8". This is possible as we had 2 members state they had this size new radio in their coach. Wiring and radio installation will be similar from this point on for either size radio. The last step is to snap the outer radio trim ring in place and turn on the radio. "Happy Tunes!"







Please take the time to share with me any articles of interest and/or things regarding your experience with your GMC so I can add them to the newsletter. I know there are lots of interesting/ funny/ exciting things that have happened, at some time or another. People would enjoy reading about your experiences in our Chatter. It does not have to be just about your GMC. It could be about your travels, a neat place to go, things you saw, fun, camping, shopping, etc. Give it to me at a rally or email it to: debbie@bdub.net

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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.