

GMC

Classics



UP COMING RALLIES

Winter Rally

January 19 - 22, 2017
Coffee Creek RV Resort
13429 S Hwy. 281
Santo, Texas 76472
940-769-2277

Spring Rally

April 27 - 30, 2017
Antler Oaks Lodge
3862 Hwy 16 N
Bandera, Texas
830-796-8111

Summer Rally

July 20 - 23, 2017
Onalaska KOA
15152 US Hwy 190 West
Onalaska, TX 77360
936-646-3824

Letter from our President



Reggie Phillips

2017
Happy new Year

Morning
GMCers,

Boy, it is getting close to Christmas and the end of the year. It has been a real pleasure being your president this year, and I 've gotten to know many of you much better as the year progressed. Working with many of you, that I did not know well, has been a real

treat. To our officers, hosts and many hosts helpers, I want to THANK YOU for making our rallies so enjoyable and just plain fun!

Our next rally, January 19th through the 22nd, will be held at Coffee Creek RV Park in Santo, TX. New officers for next year will be installed at that rally. Our new officers will be: Sharon Jacob, President, Reg Phillips, Vice President, Sydney Robinson, Secretary, Dorothy Phillips, Treasurer, Billy Massey, Wagon Master, Boyd Mooney, Assistant Wagon Master, Carroll Shelley, Tech Coordinator, Virgie McHaney, FMCA Rep., and Alan Sander-son Assistance FMCA Rep.

The owners of the Rusk KOA made a banner for the club to use during the rally and gave it to the club for use at future rallies. They also gave us coffee mugs with a GMC coach imprinted on them which was nice.

We were honored with several guests at the Rusk rally. Among them were Joe Wright and wife Nancy, Sr. Vice President and Rallymaster of FMCA South Central Region and Connie Ferrar, Secretary of the South Central Region. They drove over from Shreveport to present a gift check of \$150.00 and a 30- year certificate for our club's association with FMCA. Joe explained many of the benefits associated with FMCA and suggested that our club participate in a future FMCA rally with a special GMC section.

We look forward to seeing you in Santo and wish each and every one a beautiful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Reg

WEBSITE: WWW.GMCCLASSICS.COM

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.





A WORD FROM STANLEY

By Georgene Farrill

I hope you had an absolutely wonderful Merry Christmas. I know I did. Wishing a very Happy New Year for everyone! I will try to tell you about the **Rusk** rally and the way we all celebrated **Halloween**. We had a good time for sure, and if you missed the rally, shame on you. We had new members, members who haven't been to a rally in a while, friends and family of members and even the owner of the **KOA** campground spent an evening with us. I want to say this park has the best and friendliest personnel and workers of any park! They were right there to help in any way you needed, plus they seemed to enjoy us. It is one of those places you like to recommend to others. Our hosts **Richard & Jaye Hodges, Fred & Sharon Hudspeth, Carroll & Gayla Shelley and Kim & Keith Weeks** had a full schedule of events for us. I know they worked hard so we could all have a good time. A big **thank you** to them and everyone for participating.

Thursday was potluck, you know what that means. Way too much of the best food around. Women are amazing. Potluck night makes for a comfy get back together time after a long separation. **Frances Reeves** brought some hay bales, pumpkins, gourds, spiders, and scarecrows for decorations. **Jerry** set up chairs and started the first **bonfire** in the fire pit, so their area kind of became the **hangout**. Before **Jim and Penny Johnston** left for the rally, **Jim** cut down a small forest so we had plenty of firewood for a nice fire every night. Quite a few decorated their coaches; some were elaborate lots of flashy lights, like **Fred & Dianne Dugger and Penny Johnston**. Actually it took **Fred & Dianne** 2 days to get all theirs hooked up. **Georgene Farrill** sees **Jim Jackson** putting decorations on his coach, gets excited, she thinks "Great, this means Sheri is coming". No she just handed me this sack when I left "Here's your decorations." We miss you **Sheri**. **Gayla Shelly** had a beautiful bubble Halloween wreath with bats on her door. We ended Thursday with **Chickenfoot**. Now **Larry Turner** tells **Linda** "Do not win that rooster" But guess who took **Stanley** home. Being competitive will get you in trouble, right **Larry**? **Scott Nutter & Sydney Robinson** usually bring Sydney's mom, **Linda Robinson**, with them. She likes the games and set a record for **Chickenfoot**. Highest losing score ever, so

she took home **Charlie!** Don't feel sorry for her, she did great in **Bingo**. She is also a good sport! We also set a record of 3 people tied for 2nd place.

Friday started with continental breakfast and donuts. We have plenty of energy so let this day begin. Swap meet, flea market, craft sales, book exchange, and something for everyone. As the men start their Tech Session, the women load up and head to the town of **Rusk**. It is a small Texas town with a neat courthouse and town square. I love the ambiance (you didn't think a rooster would feel this way) of rural America. We were eating at the **Silver Platter**. It was a soup and salad buffet and desserts. What more can you ask for, how about electricity? It was fun as we ate by candlelight at high noon. The buffet was still hot. Remember these women travel by **RV**. This is but a small blip in the road. The staff was nice and felt so bad, I am telling this so all you at home can remember and think about other times when something went wrong and the laughter it brought out in you. Seems like the electric company shut down part of downtown for repair so it was not just the **Silver Platter**. Besides we have places to go, people to see and things to do. We have pumpkin carving, baseball, wine tasting, dinner and bingo.

Before I go further, I want to tell of some of our guest or new people. **Bob & Janice McKnight**, long, long time since they have attended and they did come in their coach but he did not bring his motorcycle. **Charlie & Minnie Myers** came and stayed in a rustic cabin. It was so rustic they only stayed one night but they were there for nearly everything and left Saturday evening. That is what is nice if a rally is close to your area; pick and choose your days. We enjoyed all of these old friends. **Jerry Barnes** came, been quite awhile since we had seen him. **BUT** no **Rosa**, You need to come see us **Rosa!** **Larry & Kris Whistler and Mike & Billie Kelly** left the cold country to come back to Texas and the warmth. She will not like my writing about her, but **Redonia's** sister came with them. You know her as **Sissie**, that is what **Redonia** calls her, and you feel like you already know her when you meet. Lots of fun. I am sure a lot of you read on FaceBook of a girl named **Sarah Vickers** looking for her father's old coach. She found it !!! She and

her husband **Bobby Marinkovich** came in the coach, lot of work going on, I know they were in on the pumpkin carving and other activities, plus her Mom & Dad came and visited. Also with us were **Vern Crawford** and **Lenore Langsdorf**. Interesting couple. He is a professional Santa Clause and she is Mrs. Clause. They travel around doing Christmas in the season. He really looks the part, so for the Halloween costume party he just wore Santa's red everyday clothes. You knew he was Santa!!! I really enjoyed sitting at the table with **Patsy Monk** and her husband **Bob**. She told why her mother named her **Patsy**. I keep saying get out of your comfort zone and sit with different people, I do the same thing, but it is a treat to meet new people. **Brian Oaks** and his family arrived around 6:00 pm Friday night. They have to wait for **Oliver** to get out of school before they can leave to come, so it is nice if a rally is close for young people or those that still work. **Oliver & his little sister Emmy** really enjoyed the Halloween costume party. I do hope I have not missed anyone, but I am only a rooster, speaking of, someone decided I was looking a little rough and sad, true, true, so I was spiffed up really nice. You need to attend a rally and see me. Thanks for the new look!

Like I said, we have lots to do. As soon as we got to the park we see the pumpkin carvers setting up in the rustic cabin area, 3 or 4 picnic tables, plastic covering the tables and big trash cans. Great set up with nice big pumpkins. Some people had knives, or real carving tools. This is a creative bunch. Someone carved a real pretty face with nice long eyelashes drawn on, and **Jim Jackson's** had real scary looking teeth. Ya should have seen **Linda Turner** cleaning hers out as **Penny Johnston** held it upside down for her. She did a very good job putting a spider on the front. Also **Linda** read the instructions; you know how school teachers are! They said you should cut off the bottom of the pumpkin not the top, but no one remembers why. **Fred and Diane Dugger** had a nice setup, she instructed and **Fred** carved, it worked. **Sara Vickers** and **Bobby** sat at the same table together with people gathered around getting to know them. He carved, she talked, I can say this because she said it herself, like **Georgene Farrill**, she admits. Also it looked like he was carving with a deer skinning knife! He did a good job, maybe he gets his deer

every year. **Gayla Shelly and Pat Monk** worked very hard on theirs. They are both the artsy type and they work good together, so another amazing pumpkin.

After The Carvings we headed back for Baseball. We had 20 players, 2 great teams! The score ended up at 24 to 11. We always have fun at this game and it is played inside, cool or hot weather, no rain, but sometimes I think we should play real baseball outside. I can hear you, "we can't run" guess what, most of us can't HIT (throw) either! We had so many Outs, just what we needed to get us primed up for the wine tasting.

This was a very nice affair and was set up excellently by our host. We had four tasting stations, with cheeses to complement the selection of wine offered, and information on each wine's merits. I am going to call our host who poured, a Sommelier, this is a very high standard job in the wine industry, not just a wine waiter or waitress, and they knew their wines and did an outstanding job. They were **Fred Hudspeth**, he had a nice chocolate wine and I drank it for my health! **Richard Hodges, Jaye Hodges, and Sharon Hudspeth** finished the line with selections of dry, sweet, complex, you name it, we had it. Now the question, with this type of wines what food do you serve? How about chicken strips, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and gravy. We had some happy people to play Bingo.

We had a big gathering for the Bingo game and some nice money pots. We played 6 games and for once no one had to share a pot. **Scott Nutter** was the caller, he tried to give us some airline lingo for some of the numbers called, **Sydney** was turning the squirrel cage so she kept him on track, of course sometime he would still go rogue. They were good callers and made some fun laughs, while they were sacrificing for us, **Sydney's** mom **Linda Robinson** won a nice pot. See if you play you could win.

Saturday morn started with continental breakfast plus pancakes and sausage, time to spend with our friends, then on to crafts. **Kim Weeks** brought adult coloring books, someone told her it helps you to sleep relieves stress etc. anyway she has lots of gel pens: iridescent glowing, flat color, metallic and she brought all of them. She also brought different size cards for us to try and see if we might like to color. Actually much more fun than I had thought it would be, of course there were 8 of us, **Pat Monk, Gayla Shelly, Linda Turner, Sherry**

Mooney, Minnie Myers, Georgene Farrill, Debbie Massey, and Penny Johnston. Janice Wersel came over and gave us pointers. This is a time for a good gossip session and some jokes. **Kim** brought a large supply of beads and there was 6 ladies there learning new techniques. They put red and green beads around the handle of silverware for a very festive look. They were **Kim, Billie Kelly, Dianne Dugger, Pat Monk, Gayla Shelly, Patsy Monk, and again Janice Wersel** dropped by to check things out. I am sure there was gossiping and jokes happening at that table. Lot of time on our own today but washers at 3 pm. There was the old time steam train ride from Rush to Palestine. Not enough wanted to go for a tour group but **Scott, Sydney and Linda** did take it. They enjoyed the trip and glad they did it.

On to washers. WOW. We had 16 people playing on 8 teams. We had a great playing area that was shaded and had places for lawn chairs. It was nice and cool and there was big gallery watching the games. Pine needles all over the ground, lets lose our washer in them, it was so bad. **Scott Nutter** became the official grounds keeper, he was busy, you know there could have been a snake under there when you are digging around for a washer, and the stars were not lined up for this tournament. The first person totally out of the running for top 3 was **Boyd Mooney** what, what, what? Don't know what was wrong. The game went on for a long loong time. **Larry Turner** fell asleep in his lawn chair; I have a picture to prove it. We finally get to top three. **Sandra Price and Jerry Reeves** cinched first place, it is between team **Jim Johnston & Franz Resch** against team **Reg Phillips and Jerry Barnes**. The hour is late; players are tired, time to eat. They agreed to toss a coin for 2nd & 3rd place. Everyone played hard and had a good time. It was just not to be this time. That's OK. We have a costume party, BBQ dinner and the game LCR before this day is over.

The costume party was fantastic as they always are. **Sharon Hudspeth and Sandra Price** had the best looking scarecrow costumes I have ever seen. They appeared

to be made out of burlap. **Kim Weeks** was looking good in her poodle skirt; **Frances Reeves** was a "big boobie" old woman running around with an escaped convict in his striped prison garb. He even wore a mask, didn't want us to know it was him!!! **Richard and Jaye Hodges** were Farmers in overalls, but **Richard** had on a cool looking weird hat. **Mike & Billie Kelly** were the "Blues Brothers". They pulled it off too. **Bob & Pat Monk** were really good looking 'cowboy & cowgirl' to from the hat to the boots, **Larry Turner** was a Shakespearean nobleman. **Diane Dugger** was awesome as a witch. As you know **Dianne** is short but then she stooped over to lean on her cane, I think she may really be a witch! **Sherry Mooney** had a cardboard sign saying 'Wide Load' on her back side, wearing jeans, rolled up shirt sporting full arm tattoo and a ball cap saying "Mother Tucker" I think it is her real persona! The real shocker was **Penny Johnston**. She came as a 1930's flapper, the dress, high heels, feather boa, and feathered headband. Yes **Penny**, who is always in jeans. She can walk very well in heels. It's been a long time since **Jim** has seen her like that. It was a fun affair. These were just the over the top ones. So many others had on shirts, hats or something else to be involved in Halloween. After a BBQ dinner, we had a large game of LCR. This game gets really fun right near the end. Who is going to win? We had that excitement twice. The winner was **Sandra Resch** with \$132!

There was a lot of gazing and talking about each others GMC's. The newcomers especially liked getting to see an "open house GMC". There are so many different ideas for these great GMCs. Each is definitely an individual.

We ended the rally Sunday with free pancakes furnished by the KOA and a sweet devotional by **Sandra Price**.

Looking forward to seeing you, (yes I want to see you!) at the next rally.





Neil Flavin
Concord, North Carolina
1977 Eleganza II

Bert Austin and Charlotte Wolf
San Antonio, Texas
1975 Avion

Fred and Diane Dugger
Hutchinson, Kansas
1977 Royale

Brad Webster
Talihina, Oklahoma
1976 Eleganza II

Hostless Rally

Our January Rally will be "hostless". What does that mean? This type of rally is usually a lot less stress for folks. We do have a schedule but people who attend "volunteer" to be in charge of one, or more, things at the rally.



For this next rally, **Sharon Jacob** has arranged for our catering. **Boyd Mooney** has volunteered to get the breakfast pastries each day. **Kim Weeks** has volunteered to do a craft.



We need volunteers to organize the games that are to be played. example: baseball, washers, chickenfoote, LCR, etc. Anybody can get up and get the trash after a meal. Kitchen workers for each night. If you know of a place for the ladies to go or something else for them to do, just say so. Tech Session ideas need to go to **Carroll Shelley**.



WASHERS

- 1st **Sandra Price/Jerry Reeves**
- 2nd **Jim Johnson/Franz Resch**
- 3rd **Reg Phillips/Jerry Barnes**

If you are going to attend, let me know if you could volunteer to be in charge of something.

CHICKENFOOT

- 1st **Larry Turner**
- 2nd **Diane Dugger**
Sharon Jacob
Janice Wersal
- 3rd **Linda Turner**
- Boobie **Linda Robinson**

We have a GMC Classics Club Facebook page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmcclassicsclub/> or just join Facebook and search for GMC Classics Club.



This is a closed group for our members to keep in touch with what is going on. If you are not a member, please go and ask to join us.

BINGO

- \$15 **Debbie Massey**
- \$20 **Debbie Massey**
- \$35 **Penny Johnson**
- \$45 **Linda Robinson**
- \$60 **Jim Jackson**
- \$100 **Redonia Harper**

I am putting the schedule together and would like to hear from you!

Dues Notices

Notices were emailed recently. If you have not sent yours in, please do so right away. Mail your check to:



- LCR**
- \$132 **Sandra Resch**

GMC Classics
7110 Forbess Drive
Brownwood, TX 76801



RV Tankless Water Heaters

When taking a shower at home, we think little about hot water other than to turn on the faucet and add cold water to adjust the temperature. Hot water is similar to the air we breathe in that we think little about it until it is gone. When showering in the RV all is well until the warm water turns tepid and then icy cold. Those days can now be over with the introduction of tankless on demand hot water heaters. They are available from a number of companies and use batteries, 12 volts, and 110 volt power as well as propane, gas, and electric power.

If one searches on Youtube, you will find videos that last from 3 to 45 minutes that explain how they operate, the advantages that each manufacturer prides itself on for their brand, and installation videos for several of the different styles of tankless water heaters. Some of these videos are online sales brochures. You can also find independent reviews and ratings of the various models.

The following is a review by Tankless Water Heaters Hub, tanklesswaterheaterhub.com/ of five of the lesser known brands of water heaters. The list shows name, gallons per minute, fuel, ignition source, weight, and size.



EZ 202



Rheem RTE 9



EZ 101
TOP RATED



Eccotemp L10



Ecosmart POU 3.5

Fuel: propane
Water flow: 3.2 gpm

Fuel: electric
Water flow: 3 gpm

Fuel: propane
Water flow: 1.6 gpm

Fuel: gas
Water flow: 2.65 gpm

Fuel: electric
Water flow: 0.5 gpm

Ignition: 2 "D" Cell Batteries

Ignition: electric

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Ignition: electric

Weight: 15 lbs

Weight: 8 lbs

Weight: 14 lbs

Weight: 27 lbs

Weight: 4.5 lbs

Dimensions: 27.5 x 14.5 x 5.5

Dimensions: 7.2 x 7.2 x 10

Dimensions: 5 x 12 x 17

Dimensions: 6.5 x 13.5 x 28

Dimensions: 11 x 7 x 2.75

The water heater hub people chose the EZ 101 as the best of this group for several reasons. Among them is ease of use and 2 "D" cell batteries used for an ignition source. These batteries last 6 months according to the manufacturer. It is compact in size, weighs only 14 pounds and has a twenty (20) minute timer function. This is handy should one develop a water leak and then the heater ignites and uses your propane up.

Perhaps we have jumped ahead and should take a moment to discuss the principle behind tankless water heaters operation. Here is 7 steps about their operation. There are about 7 steps for their operation.

HOW THEY WORK

Turn on the hotwater tap
 Cold water enters the heater
 A sensor detects water is flowing
 An electronic circuit ignites the burner
 Water circulates through the heat exchanger
 The water is instantly heated to set temperature
 When the tap is turned off, the burner shuts off

There are several advantages to the tankless water heater. Among them are an endless supply of hot water. They are energy efficient as fuel is burned only when the water is turned on. It is said propane usage is only 50% compared to a tank water heater. They are compact in size and are designed to fit in the standard tank water heater compartment opening. No anode rod is needed to prevent oxidation deterioration and they do not have to be winterized or require a bypass kit for winterization. They also are lighter in weight because there is no water stored in a tank. It might be noted here that 6 gallons of water is about 50 pounds plus the weight savings of no tank.

In addition to the five tanks reviewed by Tankless Water Heater Hub, water heaters are made by Atwood, Girard, Precision Temp, and Suburban. The heaters are designed to fit in the standard water heater compartment and when used to retrofit a tank heater, you must purchase a door. The doors do not come standard as the manufacturer makes one unit to fit in either a 6 or 10 gallon tank heater opening. The tankless heaters do come with flanges to fill the void space in size difference between the 6 and 10 gallon opening. The doors vary in price from \$30.00 to \$50.00 depending on size and color (black or white) as well as heater manufacturer.

Most GMCs with non General Motors floor plans use a 6 gallon Atwood or Suburban water heater. These are an easy retrofit for a tankless unit. Should one have a GMC with GM interior and a wet bath with the tank located over the passenger side wheel, well there is now a solution for your coach. If you desire to go tankless or replace your heater, there is now a unit that will replace the water and interior propane heater for your coach without cutting a hole for a door and/or finding a place to put the unit. A German company, TRUMA has been making a combination heater/water heater for 8 years for European and Australian RVs. They have been approved for use in the USA for 2 years and we are rated for coaches that are 24 to 30 feet long. That is us! The unit can be placed up to 6 1/2 feet from a wall and has a flexible intake and exhaust hose to reach an outer wall. The unit is named TRUMA-COMBI. The COMBI operates on both propane and electric. It is not tankless and the tank capacity is only 2.6 gallons but in the boost mode it will heat water to 144 degree F plus. A comfortable shower water temperature is about 105 degrees F so if one is conservative with the water, the 144 degrees F can be diluted with cold water to provide a shower. It takes the COMBI about 20 minutes to heat a cold tank of water. It might be of interest that Winnebago was the first US company to use the TRUMA-COMBI as standard equipment in its small coaches. Airstream also uses it in their Basecamp model trailers. The Winnebago Life website has several owner comments, questions, and discussions about the COMBI unit.

The following is a list of suppliers and/or installers of tankless water heaters. Please note for some of these water heaters, a licensed dealer must install the heater to get the factory warranty.

Amazon.com	
Americanrvcompany.com	626-427-0031
Camping World	855-988-0257
Ebay.com	
PPL	800-755-4775
RVSsupplies.com	
Truma.net	855-558-7862

**Please note the prices stated were accurate at the time of this Tech Session and may have changed.



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

GMC CLASSICS 2016 OFFICERS

ELECTED POSITIONS

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Vice President—Billy Massey
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