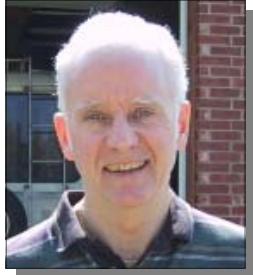




# Classic Chatter



Wayne Alumbaugh

## President's Message

which will be held in Boerne, TX at Alamo Fiesta RV park.

The dates will be July 24<sup>th</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup>. Charlotte and I will be in attendance. I hope that all of you can find the time to attend and be part of this great group of GMCers. Also those of you who have come forward to help host this rally are to be commended. Thanks.

As of this writing, I believe we still need hosts and a rally site for January 2004. If any of you have any ideas for future rally sites or would be interested in helping co-host a future rally please contact our wagon master, **Joe Powers** at: ( [joequata@webtv.net](mailto:joequata@webtv.net) )

or contact me at:

( [cwachar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwachar@sbcglobal.net) ).

I would like to ask each and everyone of you to keep the men and women of our armed services in your prayers. I feel that because of their efforts and perseverance we enjoy the freedom to meet and fellowship with each other. Also there have been some members recently in the hospital and at home with illness, please keep them in your prayers.

I know this is a busy time of year and many of you will be traveling this summer with friends and family. I wish you a safe journey and Charlotte and I look forward to seeing all of you in Boerne.

*Wayne*

I was happy to hear the rally in Mathis, TX was enjoyed by all in attendance. As most of you know, Charlotte and I were unable to attend the rally due to a prior commitment. I would like to say thanks to Ann Brieger for assuming my duties at the rally.

I would also like to thank the hosts for putting on such a great rally. Thanks so much for all you do.

With summer fast approaching it brings with it our summer rally

### **FMCA Rally in Wichita Falls**

Ben Loganbill of FMCA and said he would guarantee the Classics twelve spots at the FMCA rally in Wichita Falls, TX. It is my understanding that these spaces will have water and electricity. We will be put together and it will be first come first served. The dates are **September 29 through October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Ben said we needed to pre register between now and August, but on FMCA web site it speaks of a September 10 deadline. We can register on the web site at [www.FMCA.com](http://www.FMCA.com). We also can call and register ( 800-544-7062).

From the FMCA home page you go to Area Rally which brings up a list to choose from then scroll down to the South Central Area Rally. Coach fees are **\$90.00** pre registered with two people.

**Please notify Wayne and Corky if you intend to go to this rally.**

### **See Inside**

- Spring Rally—Mathis, TX
- Tech Exchange
- Classic News
- Pictures
- Boerne Rally—July



## Spring Rally 2003— "Home on the Range" Wilderness Lakes RV Park ,Mathis, Texas

**Notes from Ann Brieger:**

Adaptations, we have had to make a few --As you know our president, **Wayne Alumbaugh** was unable to be with us, and I was called into service much sooner than I ever expected -- and the chairman of our Red Hat Tea, **Emmy Dunlap**, could not be here because of engine problems, so we are also missing the Dunlaps, and their traveling companions **Virgie and Corky McHaney**, but we all worked together and went with the flow, and hasn't this been a great rally?

I would like to recognize our first timers: **Dave and Jan Wilson** and **Jerry and Rosa Barnes** of Onalaska, Texas. Even though living in this small community these two couples did not know each other until they got their GMCs. Also with us tonight are **Judy and Tom Landis** - they have been to a couple of International meetings, but this is their first Classics Rally. The **Turners** have as their guests, their daughter, son-in-law and their two sons. We are glad that **Jim and Peg Ong** are with us tonight, it's been a long time, welcome everyone.

Remember ladies there will not be a Red Hat Tea at the July rally. Watch your "Chatter" for a future date. Speaking of the "Chatter" , doesn't it look nice? **Debbie Massey** would appreciate your input, if you have any items of interest, her e-mail address and telephone number are in the new Roster.

Thank you **Joanne Davis** for preparing and putting together our new rosters.

I would like to thank those who worked on the Red Hat Tea - the Decorating Committee included **Sue Arthur, Shirley Weaver, Andi O'Grady, Beth Yolland and Joanne Davis**. Door prizes were provided by **Quada Powers** and **Ellen Brecheen**, and I would like to give special thanks to **Phil Atkisson** for contributing the grand prize, a beautiful afghan made by **Dean -- Pauline Wolfe**, won, and I know she will cherish it. I also would like to thank **Jaye Hodges** and **Angela Maxwell** for helping me serve tea and refreshments.

And now, a special thank you goes to our wonderful Rally hosts for all of their work and efforts. the **Brecheens, Ellen and John**; the **Fulks, Nancy and Harry**; the **Tiptons, Carolyn and Pnut**; and the **Owens, Carroll and Art**, hasn't it been a great Rally? The Decorating Committee were **Pat Summey, Nancy Fulks, Ellen Brecheen** and **Mattie Driskell**, who provided all of the boots. Thanks, everything is beautiful!

A special thank you to **Fred Hudspeth** and **Larry Turner** for the fine Tech session. Thank you both, I am sure the men learned a lot! ( Larry did GPS navigation in the motorhome).

Ladies as you know we help our husbands do many things, but it is always nice when our husbands help us - -- just like **Al** helped me by

putting the refreshments on serving trays for the Tea, thank you dear! But I believe that **Art Owens** went above and beyond. **Carroll** peeled and cut up 20 pounds of potatoes for the craft session. Each piece was put on a tooth pick and they were spread out on News papers to dry. Each piece had to be turned three times a day for two or three weeks and that's where Art came in! Thank you Carroll and Art, the necklaces are beautiful. BUT tonight I found out that **Carolyn Tipton** and her mother did the same thing except with 50 pounds of potatoes, thanks to you Carolyn and your mother.

Congratulations to all the winners of our "**Home on the Range**" contest and a big thank you to our judges.

**The winners were:**

**Best Cowpoke** — **Linwood Arthur**

**Best Boots** — **Peg Ong and Ken Thoma**

**Best Hats** — **Jaye Hodges and Jim Ong**

**Best Callers** — **Beth Yolland and Ken Thoma**

**Second Place** — **Mattie and Harry Driskell**

**First Place** — **Peg and Jim Ong**

**Best Coffee Maker**— **Art Owens**

Thanks again,

*Ann Brieger*

**Host's:**

**John & Ellen Brecheen**  
**Harry & Nancy Fulks**  
**Ronald & Carolyn Tipton**  
**Art & Carroll Owens**

**Rally Attendees:**

Linwood & Sue Arthur  
Phillip Atkisson  
\* **Jerry and Rosa Barnes**  
John & Ellen Brecheen  
Al & Ann Brieger  
Jim & Joanne Davis  
Waymon & Jean Davis  
Elgin & Ola Dietz  
Harry & Mattie Driskell  
Harry & Nancy Fulks  
Richard & Jaye Hodges  
Ancil & Mary Hopp  
Fred & Sharon Hudspeth  
Jack & Bette Jackson  
\* **Tom & Judy Landis**  
Ed & Kandy Lilly  
Byron & Angela Maxwell  
Frank & Henrietta Mueck  
Bill & Andi O'Grady  
Jim & Peg Ong  
Art & Carroll Owens  
Franco & Kimberly Piccirilli  
Joe & Quada Powers  
Jim & Betty Presley  
Ken & LaRosa Rose  
Alan & Jois Ross  
Otto & Dora Schuster  
Joe & Pat Summey  
Ken & Ruby Thoma  
Robert Tietje  
P-nut & Carolyn Tipton  
Larry & Linda Turner  
Bill & Shirley Weaver  
David Whitenberg & Beth Yolland  
\* **David & Janice Wilson**  
Arnold & Pauline Wolfe  
Lanny & Billie Young

\* **First Time Attendees**

# GMC Classics Summer Rally Information Form

Alamo Fiesta RV Park - Boerne, Texas - July 24 to 27, 2003

HOSTS - Jim & Betty Presley, Byron & Angela Maxwell,  
Jim & Joanne Davis, Harry & Nancy Fulks

Camping Fees are \$18.50 per day (2 in coach), pay on arrival to RV Park

## Thursday 24th

- AM - All Day Check-in & Registration  
7:30 - 9:00 - Coffee, Juice, Donuts  
PM - 5:30 - Get together for Heavy Hors d'oeuvres. Bring your favorites to share!

## Friday 25th

- AM - 7:30 - 9:00 - Coffee, Orange Juice & Donuts  
10:00 - Tech session  
10:00 - Ladies Crafts  
PM - 5:30 - Dinner - Catered by the Dodging Duck.  
Southwestern Chicken, Rice, Vegetable, Salad & Desert - \$8.00 each  
6:30 til - Games.etc.

## Saturday 26th

- AM - 7:30 - 9:00 - Coffee, Juice & Donuts  
10:00 - Tech Session  
10:00 - Ladies Crafts  
PM 5:30 - Diner, Catered by the Hungry Horse  
Roast Pork, Gravy, Green beans, Potatoes & Desert - \$9.50 each  
6:30 Til - Business Meeting followed by Games, etc.

## Sunday 27th

- AM - 7:30 - 9:00 - Coffee, Juice & Donuts

No RED HAT TEA this time!

**RESERVATIONS DUE BY July 15, 2003**

\*\*\*\*\* KEEP THIS UPPER PORTION OF THE FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS \*\*\*\*\*

CUT ON LINE

## SUMMER Rally Reservation RETURN ONLY THIS PORTION OF FORM TO:

Bob Sullivan - 2011 Town Place - Garland, TX 75041

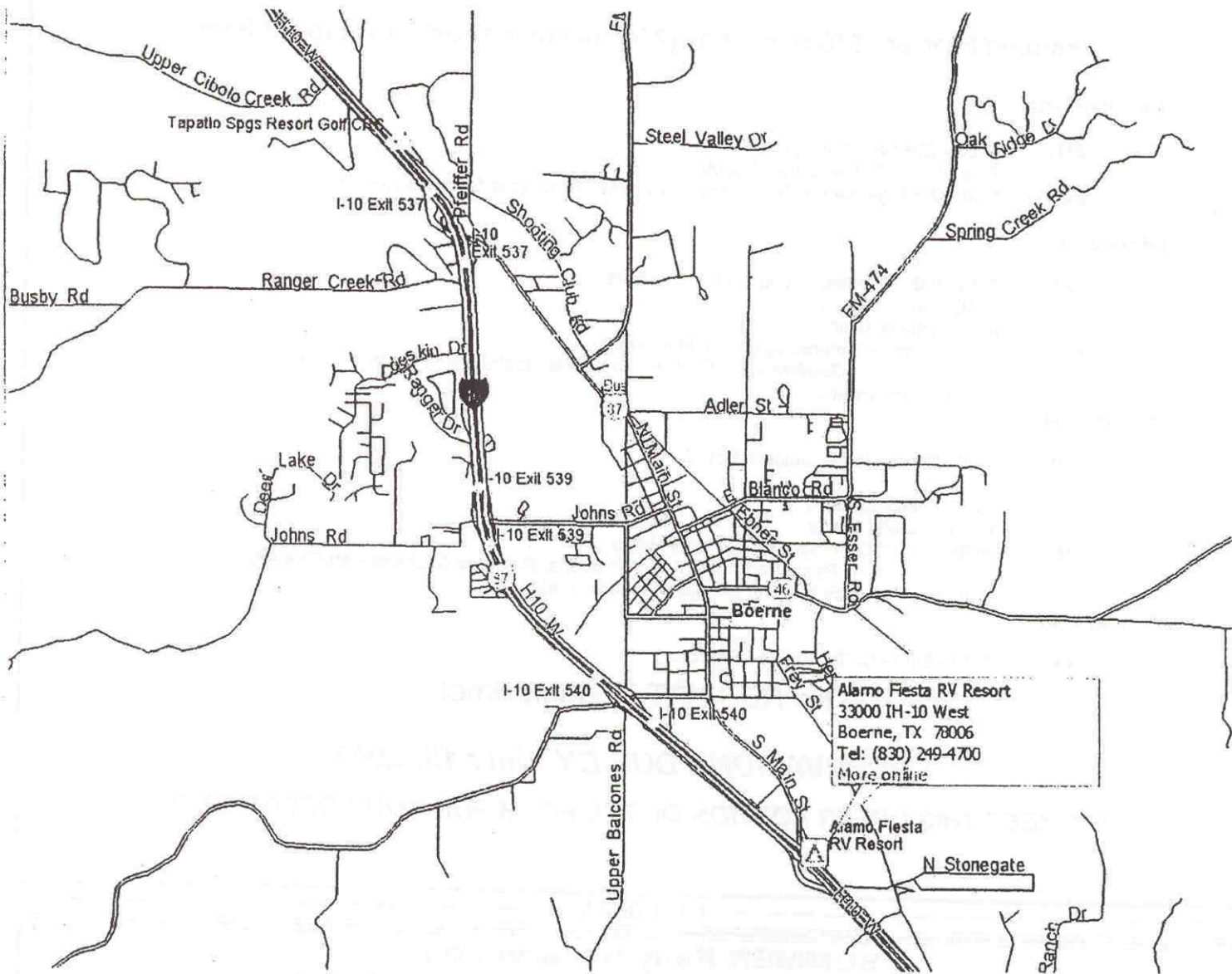
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO GMC CLASSICS

MEMBERS NAMES \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fee per Coach	-----	=	\$ 15.00
Camping Fee - Pay RV Park on Arrival			
Friday PM Dinner	----- \$8.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
Saturday PM - Dinner	----- \$9.50 x _____	=	\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

Please mail your Reservation by July 15, 2003

# To the Classics Summer 2003 Rally in Boerne.TX



**PLEASE!**  
**MAIL YOUR RESERVATION EARLY!!**



*By Fred Hudspeth*

**GMC** *Classics*

# TECH EXCHANGE

**Wilderness Lakes RV Park —Mathis, TX  
April 24-26, 2003**

This record of the Tech Exchange is presented as a service to GMC Classics members and guests. No warranties or technical accuracies are expressed or implied.

## GPS Mapping Systems:

For the first half of the Tech Exchange, Larry Turner described and demonstrated the use of a digital navigation system that he uses for his motorhome trips. The software for the system is Delorme Street Atlas 2003. Larry said he also has MapNGo and noted that while it is less complex than "Street Atlas", he still prefers "Street Atlas". He recorded the trip from his home to Mathis. He played back excerpts of the trip during his presentation to illustrate the features of the system. Among the information available on demand, both visually and audibly, is speed, direction, time, highway number. The information is shown in real time on the display. The information can be obtained by voice commands to the notebook computer. In the interest of traffic safety, this eliminates the need for manipulation of the computer mouse and watching the cursor on the notebook display. The route of travel is always on the display and can zoomed in/out by voice commands. The system advises upcoming changes of direction sufficiently far in advance to allow for lane changes. This is especially beneficial in city traffic situations.

Larry noted that while the technology is fascinating, it is not without its problems. For example, the satellites used must always be visible to the receiver. There will, then, be temporary signal loss caused by tall buildings in urban areas,

tunnels, etc. When starting up a new system, it may be difficult to lock onto the satellites. If, however, the software is provided the approximate coordinates, it will find the satellite of choice in about thirty minutes. After the initial startup, the time for satellite-lock is much quicker.

He advises against using the power management feature of the computer's operating system to avoid unwanted interruption of the navigation system. He further recommends use of an inverter to power the system's electronic equipment; that eliminates the problems often caused by "dirty" power from RV AC generators and many RV parks.

Larry said he wanted a very simple satellite receiver. He uses a Garmin 12 channel unit with an initial cost of about \$250. There are much more sophisticated devices available with many additional features. While the software requires a minimum 266 Mh processor, Larry found that to be inadequate. He uses a notebook computer with a 1.8 Gigahertz (GH) processor, 30 GB hard drive, TV output, graphics accelerator, etc. He recommends loading all software provided by the software manufacturer as invariably there will be "something" the software will need from the original media. The computer should be defragmented about once per week when running the navigation software.

**Here are a few digital pictures from Larry's presentation.**

Illustration using  
Projection TV



## TECH EXCHANGE

by Fred Hudspeth



Larry's Laptop



Garmin Receiver



Badly Deteriorated Pads



Brake Hose Completely Closed



Inverter



Close-up of Pad

### Interactive Discussion

### General Maintenance and Repair

#### Front Brake Problem

Jim Davis and Art Owens reported on a front brake problem they found when helping Joe Powers Diagnose a long-standing problem of poor braking performance on his motorhome. They found that the pads on both front wheels showed no signs of contacting the rotors over a long period of time. Upon further investigation, they found the flexible hoses to be swelled closed so tightly that brake fluid could not be forced through them to the brake calipers. Joe, Art and Jim then proceeded to replace all faulty components. Pictures (below) of the pads and brake hoses illustrate the "as-found" conditions. Note the picture of the hoses completely closed due to chemical interaction of the hose material, brake fluid and water. Owners were encouraged to carefully examine the condition of the hoses, especially if they are more than ten years old.

#### Rear Pin Lube Service

The group discussed the importance of proper lube service on the rear suspension pins. If no grease can be squeezed out of the assembly on the frame end of the pins, grease has probably coagulated in the pin/housing assembly. Some owners have found that plastic straws available from Arby's restaurants are the exact diameter needed to extract the coagulated grease from the bore of the pin. Just remove the grease fitting, insert the straw and gently push it into the grease mass. Several "trips" may be necessary, each time with a new straw, to extract the old grease. Owners who have done this have found that grease can then be readily squeezed from the frame end of the pin assembly. An alternative to the use of "Arby's straws" is a tool designed expressly to lube the pin assemblies; it too requires removal of the grease fitting and inserting a steel tube with a grease fitting into the pin bore. This tool is available from one or more vendors who advertise in GMC motorhome publications. No one could name a specific vendor.

Some owners have observed missing grease seals from each end of the pins. The seals cannot

## ***TECH EXCHANGE***

by Fred Hudspeth

be replaced without disassembly of the bogie. And few owners will go to that extreme just to replace the seals. An alternate to seal replacement is the use of water repellent grease and frequent (as little as 1000 miles) re-greasing of the pins. Tom Landis said one brand of water repellent grease is Lube Plate, available at most automotive supply stores. Synthetic lubes also have excellent water repellent properties. If the seals are broken in just one place and still in the bogie assembly, one owner said he successfully reinstalled the seal and secured it with stainless steel wire. The seal has an external groove that will accept the wire. He found the other seven seals to still be in place. The seals are designed to retain the grease and retard the entry of water and dirt into the pin assembly.

### **Intermittent Engine Starter Motor Operation**

Several owners have recently reported problems with the starter motor, most often when attempting to restart with a hot (but not overheated) engine. It is speculated that the cause of this is worn bushings, brushes and solenoids. Some owners have found that they can rap the starter housing sharply with a two pound or so shop hammer; if the bushings are "jammed", the rap with the hammer will often free the rotor enough to allow it turn and start the engine. Others have found that when the starter cools somewhat, it will operate normally until again heated by engine operation. It is then important to remove and recondition (or replace) the starter at the earliest opportunity.

### **Carbon Build-up on Flame Sensor of Gas-fired Refrigerators**

One owner reported that he was experiencing

a carbon build-up on the flame sensor of the refrigerator burner. When that happens, he cannot re-light the refrigerator until he scrapes the carbon from the sensor. It was suggested that small insects might have built a nest in the air ports of the propane piping. That would cause in an overly rich mixture and resultant carbon build-up.

### **Lower Control Arm Failure**

Owners were reminded to inspect the lower control arms for cracks each time they lube the vehicle. Problems are most common on those vehicles which have had new ball joints installed on them. Often, the studs on new ball joints are larger than the rivets used on the OEM ball joints. When the rivet holes are reamed larger to accommodate the new ball joint studs, on new ball joints are larger than the rivets used on the OEM ball joints. When the rivet holes are reamed larger to accommodate the new ball joint studs, enough material in the control arm is removed to weaken it and cause cracking of the arm. This most often occurs if the ball joint studs work loose resulting in relative movement between the ball joint and the lower control arm. A remedy to this problem is to check the torque on the ball joint nuts each time the vehicle is lubed. Another is to tack-weld the nuts to the ball joint studs after they have been properly torqued.

### **Mechanical Gauges (150PSIG) for Rear Suspension**

For those members who want to monitor air bag pressure, gauges with 0 – 150 range can be found at supply stores for tractor-trailer rigs. One member reported difficulty finding 2 1/16" panel mount gauges with a range of 0 – 150 PSIG.

## TECH EXCHANGE

by Fred Hudspeth

### “Stretch” Project Completed Sue and Linwood Arthur



Core Coach: 1976 26' Transmode



Body-off Frame; 44" stretch. Body is all white with burgundy graphics

(photo was scanned and color is not accurate).

22" added fore and aft of rear wheels.

Project length: 5 years.

All work done by Sue and Linwood Arthur “with a little help from friends...”

### Newly Painted 1978 Royale Jois and Alan Ross



Jois and Alan retained the original color and graphics...

Your club welcomes your comments and suggestions for Tech Exchange subjects. You are also welcome to make a presentation on a technical subject of your choice. Advise what you would like to present and when. Call or email Fred Hudspeth at 903 509 2495 and [fhtxak@aol.com](mailto:fhtxak@aol.com) respectively.

Note: As Fred and Sharon spend summers in Alaska, Fred will not attend the Classics' summer rally at Boerne, TX. He, however, has informally arranged for a few members to take “rough” notes at the Boerne tech exchange and maybe some digital pics and mail them to him. Using the notes and pics, he will compile a Tech Exchange article for the “Chatter”.





Sad to report the passing of **Peg Thomas** after a five year battle with cancer. Peg and **Ed** are long time members of the Classics and she will be sorely missed.

Got a call from Karen and she informs us that **Ted Ruppel** came home after eight weeks in the hospital. His heart surgery went well and is considered a success. Unfortunately he suffered a stroke in the process. He is recovering slowly from the stroke and is able to get around on his own. His speech is affected, such that he can only talk in a whisper. The doctors recommend that he talk as much as possible, so give him a call, card or E-mail.

"My beloved wife, **Dortha**, went to be with the Lord. Thank you all for the prayers and support you've given her, and me. Nothing was more important to Dortha than good friends and family. Thank you" —**Justin Hill**

**Earl Morrison** is recovering from heart surgery.

**Earlene Baker** having gall bladder problems. Hope you are feeling better Earlene!

**Marvin Peck** — How's that ankle injury?

**Jack Jackson** — Hope you are feeling a lot better!



The **GMC Classic's web site** was used 4,880 times during the month of May. That's an average of 157 visitors per day by people all over the World. Be sure to check it out. The address is [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com).

**Alamo Fiesta RV Park** (July's rally site) has wireless internet access. This means you can get on the internet from your RV or anywhere else in the park without a phone line or modem. You can rent a device for your computer for \$1.00 per day while you are there and then pay for the wireless service at \$2.50/day, or \$11.00/week.

### Roster Changes:

**Bill O'Grady** new e-mail: [wogradyrgv.rr.com](mailto:wogradyrgv.rr.com)

New Area Code 325 for: **R. Hodges** and **B. Massey**

Address: Daniel and Sue Franks, 424 LCR 502, Mexia, TX

## NEXT RALLY



**Dates:** July 24-27, 2003  
**Location:** Boerne, TX  
**Site:** Alamo Fiesta RV Park  
**Hosts:** Jim & Betty Presley  
 Byron & Angela Maxwell  
 Jim & Joann Davis  
 Harry & Nancy Fulks

**Reservations are due by July 15, 2003**

See insert for reservation form, map, and schedule.

The **Classics Chatter** is a quarterly newsletter for the membership of the GMC Classics Motorhome Club. 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 interest.

### Officers:

#### **Wayne Alumbaugh, President**

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#### **Gordon Dunlap, Alternate National Director**

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**Website:** [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com)

# For Sale



1978 Royale – 26' Rear Bath, 120k on 403 engine, re-upholstery, mini blinds, microwave, walnut cabinets, small console, roof pod, 2 A/C, Bilstein shocks, 6kw Onan genset. \$10,000 – Harry and Mattie Driskell @ 936-636-7100 or [hnmtdris@txucom.net](mailto:hnmtdris@txucom.net)



1978 Royale – 26' Rear Bath, 115k on 403 engine. Always garaged, original paint, beautiful walnut cabinets, no smoke or pets, HD sway bars front and rear, Bilsteins, Ragusa Tranny pan and temp gauge, Peck 346 final drive, Thorley headers on 3" exhaust system, overhauled Onan. Many more upgrades. Must see to appreciate. \$26,500 Call or write Harry and Mattie Driskell @ 936-636-7100 or [hnmtdris@tuxcom.net](mailto:hnmtdris@tuxcom.net)

The **Tulsa Lunch Bunch** meets the first Friday of each month at the Golden Corral at 71st and Mingo in Tulsa, Oklahoma. All GMC'ers are WELCOME! This month the gathering will be on July 11-12 at the R L Jones Airport Park in Jenks, OK for an overnight picnic and social. For more information go to [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com).



The **North Texas Lunch Bunch** is a group that gets together every month or so in the Dallas / Fort Worth area. Their next gathering will be at the Golden Corral at 3512 S. Cooper in Arlington on Saturday, July 12th at 11:00 AM. See our page at [www.gmcclassics.com](http://www.gmcclassics.com)