



Classic Chatter



The Prez Seys

Bill Wortham

have been driving the same 1977 GMC Kingsley motorhome, which at this time has 450,000 miles and is still going strong. Carroll actually did the driving for Art the first 6 months. Art is at home now recovering from two operations. Carroll hopes they will be ready to drive to the Waco Rally in July. We wish Art a speedy recovery. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Waco, TX. on July 17 through 20th.

Bill Wortham

We had another great time at the Tyler, TX rally. The RV Park served us good food and it was enjoyed by all. I think the cook had some training in Cajun cooking.

The band we had for entertainment was a little different than we were accustomed to hearing. The group was from the Gladewater area they played peppy religious music. Sounded great! The second person we were to have for entertainment on Saturday night wasn't available at the last minute. I can't understand why he thinks being in a movie was more important than performing for the GMC Classics. <grin>

We had one of the best substitutions that money could buy: **Emmy Dunlap, Carolyn Tipton, Nancy Fulks, Jerry Barnes, Willard and Joyce Murdock**, and **Frank and Sharon Jacob** told us of their adventures on their trip to the International GMC rally in California. It was a very entertaining evening.

I would like to recognize two members that have made huge contributions to the GMC rally. These members are **Art and Carroll Owens**. Art has prepared coffee at 6:00 a.m. for as long as I have been in the Classics and I hear he has done it for a very long time before I knew him. He also keeps the trailer organized and stocked. Art not only takes care of the Classics. He performs the same duties at the International Rallies. We always look forward to seeing Art and Carroll at our rallies and if at all possible, they are always there. Thanks for the work and loyalty to the GMC classics! We salute you.

Art and Carroll joined the GMC classics in 1988 at the International Rally in Cherokee, North Carolina. They

NEXT RALLY

Dates: July 17- 20, 2008
Location: Waco, Texas
Site: Riverview Campground



Reservations due July 7, 2008
(Forms in this newsletter)

FALL RALLY

Dates: October 16-19, 2008
Location: Perrin, Texas
Site: Mitchell Resort & RV Park

WINTER RALLY

Dates: January 2009
Location: Louisiana here we come!
Site: More info to be announced later.

Summer 2008



Sunshine Lady

I'd like to thank our wonderful GMC Classics Family for all the prayers, cards and emails regarding Lanny's surgery (that was a huge success!!) Y'all kept the Post Office busy with such a flood of cards. Your expressions of love and caring concern touched us both in a special way. Note: EVERY card Lanny and I received were sent by YOU, our precious GMC family, which speaks volumes about the genuine "realness" in our midst. It's been my joy and delight to serve you as your Sunshine Lady these past few years. I thoroughly love being able to send cards to express our feelings to members. Being on the receiving end has opened my eyes to see just how much one envelope can bring joy, hope and peace to another. Yes, we truly are a "joined at the heart" family - one of which we're very grateful to be a part of. You are in my heart and prayers, and I love all of you dearly!

Billie Young
Enjoying the Journey



Red Hat Report

Ladies, what a wonderful Red Hat luncheon for our 10th Anniversary party. **Redonia Harper** and her helpers **Frances Reeves** and **Lillian Wortham** made unbelievable hearty salads, finger sandwiches, relish trays, punch and even the cake to top it off. It was a beautiful, delicious "Red Hat" cake. A big hand to **Joyce Murdock** for ticket sales and **JoAnn Johnson** who transformed our tables into a lovely dining experience. **Ann Marie Carter** had an informative class on facial structure and make-up. The ladies sure picked up some helpful tips. The huge gift basket was won by **Ruby Toma**. We had quite a few ladies that wore purple hats and red dresses to celebrate the Anniversary. A great time was had by all attendees. Remember, NO Red Hat Tea for July.



Georgene Farrill

P.S. The salads had some ladies discussing recipes, maybe even a cook book. See Stanley's Report.

Tyler Rally Review

106 members and guests attended the rally.

Chicken Foot Winners:

1st **Pat Summey**
2nd **Emmy Dunlap**

3rd **Kylie Kyle**
Boobie Prize **Bobbie Bramlett**

Miniature Golf Winners:

1st **Jan Wilson**
2nd **Mattie Driskell**
3rd **Jim Grissom**

Horseshoe Winners:

1st **Ed Lilly and Barbara Kyle**
2nd **Jan Wilson and Lillian Wortham**
3rd **Rosa Barnes and Kandi Lilly**

Washer Winners:

1st **Mattie Driskell and Bruce Farrill**
2nd **Sherry Mooney and Rosa Barnes**
3rd **Jim Davis and Norman Treude**

Stanley's Report

By Georgene Farrill

GREAT RALLY!!! This is 3rd. time for Classics to have a rally at Whispering Pines Resort. It's, always a comfortable, kickback, and enjoy each other atmosphere.....except for the hosts that lived close. They were on the road back and forth assuring us of a good time. Being nearly a host at this rally, I now realize how much time they put in before and during a rally to ensure a good time is had by all. I want to say to the Whispering Pines hosts, all hosts since 1986, and all future hosts a Big "Thank You". Also to the games judges: **Frances Reeves** for Chicken Foot, (we always call on her) and then **Marvin Guelker** for horseshoes, washers, and miniature golf. He has kind of become the "go to guy" on washer and horseshoes. They are both long and time consuming and a lot of bending over, but he never fails to come thru for us. So "Thank You" to Marvin and Frances. Speaking of horseshoes, now that the ladies know how to play, let's have a more competitive court next time....Please!

Jim and Norma Grissom brought fresh produce from the valley again. This time it was huge Texas Sweet 1015 onions. Everyone was walking around with onion breath. (WOW ... Sure wish I'd had a case of breath mints.) **Bill Wortham** measured one and it was 15 1/2 inches around the circumference! Now that's an onion! .I don't know what grows in the valley in July, but I am looking forward to it. **Charles Wersal** has a great recipe for Onion Dip, which brings up a Recipe Book by GMC cooks. A few members brought up this idea. Some really do like to cook and we know we have some excellent cooks in our club. No special category, just recipes, your family favorite, the hit at every gathering, cooking for two, traveling on the road, special deserts or cookies and of course, .Charles' Onion Dip. If interested, email **Georgene Farrill** at farrillink@sbcglobal.com or better yet, bring your

Summer 2008

ideas to the July rally and we'll have a discussion about it in Waco.

There's always something different at a rally. At Whispering Pines, **Rosa** and **Jerry Barnes** showed up with their tiny little silver trailer. It was so cute but they could both sleep in it! As usual, Rosa was cooking a full meal. It was also very festive at night with her lighted tree. On Friday night we were entertained by Downings Plus, a four piece gospel band. They were really, really good. I thoroughly enjoyed them. On Saturday night our members that went to International in California entertained us with stories of their trip. Not only was it entertaining but informative on do's and don't in certain parts of the country. One group consisted of 4 coaches...3 men and 6 women. Now you can tell by that statement this was a wild and funny good time. **Janice** and **Charles Wersal**, **Joyce** and **Willard Murdock**, **Sharon** and **Frank Jacob**, **Carolyn Tipton**, **Nancy Fulks**, and **Emmy Dunlap**. Two male members, **John Sharp** and **Jerry Barnes** were registered as man and wife...to save a dollar. Ask them for details...I'm too chicken.

It was good to see **Bill** and **Bobbie Bramlett** and, even though we all hated to lose them to Colorado, everyone has to admit Rocky Mountain High agrees with them. The real golfers played a couple of days. The only consistent in that game was **Frank Jacob**. He kept losing. All together, the games were fun and good times with some great and unusual prizes. A few members went to the Air Museum and said it was very interesting and they wished more had gone. I think we just didn't get the word out in time for more participation. Rallies are wonderful, relaxing, and a good time with friends. This one is over, but Waco is just around the corner. Hope to see everyone there. Waco is a turn of the century town that sits on the Brazos with a lot of museums, historic homes and old cemeteries. I have been told it has one of the most interesting libraries ever and is a must to see. See you there!



Stanley Chickenfoot "Eat more beef!"

GREMLIN BELL

James and **Redonia Harper** provided "Gremlin Bells" for the attendees of the rally. Many thanks to James and Redonia for this good luck charm. There is a very interesting story that goes along with the bells:

When your GMC has problems that were not there the last time you used it, you may have GREMLINS. They play everywhere in the coach and look for things to tear up or make them quit working.



Have you ever experienced strange and unexplained difficulties?

You need a "Gremlin Bell". You attach the bell to your coach. When they find the bell, they get trapped in the hollow of the bell and can't get out.

As you drive, the bell will start ringing. Their hearing is super sensitive and the constant ringing drives them insane. They lose their grip and fall to the road. It is said that when they hit the road, they cause a pothole. Gremlins can't bounce, so they cannot reattach to the GMC.

It is said if someone gives you the bell, the power is doubled.





Bobbie Bramlett demonstrating the "booby prize".

CLASSIFIED ADS



1977 White 23' Birchaven with a completely rebuilt engine. New torque converter, rebuilt transmission Disc brakes with hydra-boost master cylinder, Alcoa aluminum wheels, Michlen tires, Aluminum bumper storage boxes front and rear, white FRP (fiberglass reinforced plastic) walls & head liner. Up graded dash panel, electronic cruise control, and Ramco outside mirrors. \$10,000.00 O.B.O. Doran V. Jones 713-248-4179, dvj1933@yahoo.com



1976 Eleganza II, 80K miles, engine rebuilt at 65K. Garaged. No pets. No smoking. 7 Alcoa rims. Onan with 300 hours. \$40K invested - asking \$25,000. Located in East Texas, 903-871-2648, lmcwilli@yahoo.com



1978 Royale - Rear Twins, Side Dry Bath. Many updates. Very good condition. App. 8000 miles on rebuilt engine and transmission, done June of 2007. New modern windows. Asking \$26500. Located Livingston, Tx. Contact Larry Stroud, 936-967-3613 or cell 936-329-1746 or ljta@cebridge.net

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.

2008 Officers:

President Bill Wortham

3000 George Richey Rd, Gladewater, TX 75647
903-736-9154 E-Mail: worthambillyray@yahoo.com

Vice President Ed Johnson

19658 CR4108, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-5864 E-Mail: ed-johnson@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Norma Grissom

3507 W Alberta Rd., Edinburg, TX 78539
956-994-1127 E-Mail: bailey@rgv.rr.comt

Treasurer Redonia Harper

277 Old Hwy 135, Gladewater, TX 75647
903-845-5181 E-Mail: james.f.harper@att.net

Wagon Master Bruce Farrill

7006 Glen Hills Rd., Richland Hills, TX 76118
817-284-9815 E-Mail: farrillink@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Wagon Master Frank Jacob

2005 Brenton, Irving, TX 75062
972-257-0605 E-Mail: sharonajacob@aol.com

Appointed:

Technical Seminar Coordinator Bob Musgrove

4716 W 89th St, Tulsa, OK 74132-3426
918-446-5591 E-Mail: musgrove3@cox.net

Administrator/Webmaster Billy Massey

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801
325-784-5861 E-Mail: bdub@gmcclassics.com

Sunshine Lady Billie Young

1208 CR 132B, Kingsland, TX 78639
325-388-6502 E-Mail: billiey325@yahoo.com

Red Hat Queen Bee Georgene Farrill

7006 Glen Hills Rd., Richland Hills, TX 76118
817-284-9815 E-Mail: farrillink@sbcglobal.net

FMCA Representatives:

National Director Corky McHaney

1257 FM 337E, Medina, TX 78055
830-589-2431 E-Mail: jvmchaney@78055.com

Alternate National Director Emmy Dunlap

510 Brookhollow Dr., White Oak, TX 75693
903-295-6828 E-Mail: emmydunlap@aol.com

Publications:

Newsletter Editor Debbie Massey

7110 Forbess Dr, Brownwood, TX 76801
325-784-5861 E-Mail: editor@gmcclassics.com

Website: www.gmcclassics.com





Bob Musgrove
Technical Seminar Coordinator

GMC Classics

Tech Notes

Whispering Pines RV Park
April 24-27, 2008

Tyler, TX

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.

USE OF ETHANOL-BLENDED GASOLINE (E-10) IN OLDER VEHICLES

James Harper gave an informative presentation on this subject at the Tyler Rally. Owners of GMC motor homes are aware that the gasoline available today is very different from the 1970-era gasoline on which our coaches were designed to operate. Some owners have experienced first hand the negative effect that Ethanol-blended gasoline may have on the components that make up the original fuel systems, and thus, on engine performance.



Ethanol is grain alcohol which, in the United States, is primarily derived from corn. When denatured for use as a motor fuel, ethanol is mixed with regular gasoline in various quantities. Ethanol-blended gasoline is commonly referred to by the letter "E", meaning ethanol, followed by a number that denotes the percentage of fuel by volume that is ethanol. E-85 is an ethanol/gasoline blend at 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. Only those vehicles that are designated as FLEX-FUEL vehicles are designed to operate on the E-85 blend.

The E-10 blend, 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline, was the subject of James Harper's presentation because this is the blend that is prevalent in the national distribution system of this country. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to complete a cross-country trip in the GMC coach without purchasing gasoline which is blended with ethanol.

Some problems that may be encountered when using the E-10 blend in older vehicles -

Deterioration or swelling and hardening of rubber components - Fuel hoses, carburetor seals and gaskets, and fuel pump seals may be hardened, dissolved, or distorted by contact with ethanol, causing fuel leaks.

Galvanic Corrosion - Corrosion caused by contact between two dissimilar metals when the metals are in contact with an electrolyte, like ethanol.

Solvent effect of ethanol - May dissolve and/or loosen the residual materials that coat the inside of fuel tanks causing fuel filters and lines to clog. Also, fuel tanks that have been refurbished and lined with material that is not compatible with an Ethanol-blend gasoline will be negatively affected.

General Corrosion, Pitting and Rust on Metal parts - Fuel pumps, carburetor floats, steel lines, etc.

Fuel Phase Separation - Ethanol attracts and absorbs water. If significant amounts of water are present in a fuel tank with gasoline that contains ethanol, the water will be drawn into the fuel until the saturation point is reached for the three-component mixture of water + gasoline + ethanol. Beyond this level of water, phase separation could cause most of the ethanol and water to separate from the bulk fuel and drop to the bottom of the tank, leaving gasoline with a significantly reduced level of ethanol in the upper phase. This presence of excess water and the phase separation may result in the engine hesitating and running roughly; or the engine could be rendered inoperable.

Lower gas mileage - Ethanol has a BTU value that is approximately 30 percent less than gasoline. The result is that E-10 gasoline should yield slightly lower mileage, a decrease of approximately 3 percent.

Maintenance and upgrades to make the GMC coaches more compatible with the E-10 gasoline blend -

Replace rubber based fuel hoses with high quality hoses that are compatible with ethanol. When doing maintenance on carburetors and fuel pumps, or when replacing these components, make sure that replacement seals and gaskets are ethanol compatible.

Tech Notes

Install filter in fuel line between the selector valve and the fuel pump. Place filter where it is readily accessible so that it can be monitored and replaced as necessary.

Install a petcock in the drain at the bottom of each fuel tank. This will allow water to be drained off in the event that it accumulates and settles to the bottom of the fuel tanks due to fuel phase separation. With Ethanol-enhanced gasoline, once phase separation occurs, additives and water separators can't help. The only remedy is to remove the water/ethanol/gasoline from the fuel tanks.

How to prevent phase separation is subject to some debate.

For most of us, draining fuel tanks completely when the motor home is not in use is not a practical option. The most obvious solution is for owners to drive the GMC motor home at least enough to keep the current fuel from going stale. Depending on the source of information, the time frame could be as little as 90 days; or as much as one year. Buying fuel from facilities that move a high volume of product will diminish the chances of introducing old gasoline into our fuel systems. Under no circumstance should fuel tanks be left at half full or less for extended periods of time. A better alternative would be to top the tanks off to 95%, to allow for expansion. Adding a stabilizer will still extend the life of the fuel. However, the stabilizer will not prevent fuel phase separation.

The content of this article is provided for informational purposes only. As indicated above, differences of opinion exist on the subject of Ethanol-blended gasoline and how it relates to older vehicles. Each owner must make his/her own decisions as to the maintenance and upkeep of their respective coach.

THE TRANSITION FROM ANALOG TV TO DIGITAL HDTV –

GMC Classics member, **Bill Carter**, has been in the Television Broadcasting business since the early days of television. He gave a very timely talk on the upcoming transition from analog TV to digital HDTV at the Tyler Rally. The discussion was well-timed because the change will take place within less than a year.



Note: Most television sets, analog or digital, that are connected to cable, satellite, or telephone company services over fiber-optics should continue to function as they do now.

The federal government set February 17, 2009 as the date when all full-power television broadcast signals must be sent in the digital format. At midnight on that date, most consumers with older, analog television sets will lose their free, over-the-air programming unless they have purchased and installed a TV converter box which will change the new digital signal back to the analog format.

The TV Converter Box Coupon Program was created by Congress to benefit households that wish to continue using the analog TV sets. U. S. households are allowed to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. Consumers may get coupons by going online at www.dtv2009.gov, by calling 1-888-388-2009, or by mailing an application to PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000.

The Winegard batwing antenna and the related pre-amplifier are mounted on many RV's. The Winegard Company's Customer Service department (800-288-8094) verified that both of these components are "Digital Ready". This means that those RV owners who have television sets that are equipped with digital tuners will continue receiving service, with no action required. Also, for those who do have the older television sets in the RV, the Winegard Digital to Analog Converter Box, RC-DT09, qualifies for the above referenced Coupon Program.

The best way to determine whether your television set has a built-in digital tuner is to consult your owner's manual or look closely at your set. Look for an input connection that is labeled "digital input" or "ATSC" (Advanced Television Systems Committee, which is the DTV format).

Sets purchased before 1998 probably are not equipped with a digital tuner. A few big-screen, projection televisions produced between 1998 and 2004 had a built-in digital tuner. Those sets purchased since 2004 are much more likely to be equipped with a built-in digital tuner. However, do not assume that this is a certainty. Even some of the newer sets are just display monitors that lack the circuitry necessary to pick up digital broadcasts. Some of these sets have been advertised as "HD-ready" or "HDTV monitor" sets. They can display digital and high-definition signals, but they need these signals provided in the proper format, such as from a converter, or from a cable TV connection. All television sets that are manufactured beginning March 1, 2007 must include digital tuners. However, be aware that retailers may continue to sell analog-only devices until existing inventory is gone.