



# GMC Western States

Newsletter Number 61 – February 20, 2006

## President's Message from Alan Tolle



As I sit down to write, I have just finished running the numbers for our GMC motorhome for the year 2005. Diana and I drove it 14,264 miles last year on trips which included nine GMC Rallies (International, Western States, Pacific Cruisers, and Cascaders.) Of course, not all of those miles went toward rallies --the GMC was also our beach house at Ventura, our fishing cabin in the Sierras, our hunting camps at Blythe and Maricopa, and our motel when we visit the kids. During all those miles this year the only thing which gave up on the road was an alternator belt. Interesting that I first chased the potential problem of low charging voltage to the alternator, then the isolator, then finally the belt. Moral to story -- look for the easy things first.

In those fourteen thousand miles of travel we slept in the GMC no less than 85 nights -- that is nearly three months! Good thing we had earlier put the effort into making the unit as livable as possible with refinished interior, new appliances, etc. Except for the Rallies, all was dry camping, including some nights in rest stops and Wal-Mart parking lots. For a few of those nights we were even parked at home. When the kids and grand

kids descend on us at Christmas, Easter, and summer vacation we give them the house and retire to the comfort (and quiet) of the GMC.

I do calculate mileage on an annual basis and can report that last year we averaged 9.9 mpg. Our driving was a real mix - sometimes towing the Sidekick, sometimes not. Lots of mountainous terrain, plenty of bad roads, and quite a variety of gasoline in the eleven western states. Our Royale is the 78 model with the 403 engine and a 3.55 final drive, so over the long haul I guess 10 mpg is a good number to use.

We never calculate how much it cost us to travel. We figure we are just spending some of our kids inheritance and there will be plenty left for them anyway. I do keep track of expenses, and this year the big one was refinishing the exterior of the coach. It cost all of \$1,300.00 including labor and materials. Diana and I spent 11 days of preparation in disassembly, repair, sanding, and masking. Then a professional in an environmentally controlled booth laid on the white base coat, after which we brought it home and finished it up. Lots of work but well worth it. Other expenses this year were for new front wheel bearings and brake pads, new air bags, rebuilding the air suspension system from the pump out, installing a macerator system, and last but not least installing a new china commode.

One more interesting point, and one which I have heard from many other GMC owners. In the three years which we have now owned the coach we have invested just about the same amount in renovation as the unit cost us to purchase. However, the unit is as "new" as we can get it, and to replace it with a 2006 model of the same size from the local RV dealer would require four times the investment and be half the quality. Which is why, when all is said and done, GMC owners are great believers in so called "cult cars." One has to go back 30 years to get quality! On the other hand most RV owners in the camp grounds who don't

know history can't believe me when I report that our GMC parked next to them is 28 years old.

Slightly off the GMC subject, when I was a youth the statement was "Go west, young man!" the idea being opportunity was in the west. Fifty years later the statement is "Go north, old man!" in search of solitude and a more leisurely pace of life. So for the last several months Diana and I have been cruising the GMC up and down highway 99 and I-5 between Fresno, CA and Independence, OR, first to find and purchase the property and now to move a fifty year accumulation of my stuff (junk Diana calls most of it.) Our new home is in the subdivision adjacent to the Independence Airport; is the second house east from the runway, and the address is 783 Piper Street, Independence, OR, 97351.

As a result of the move we have missed the fall rallies in both the south and north, but we should be settled in by the end of February, so we will see you all at Casa de Fruta in April. Until then keep the dirty side down and take it easy on the corners."

Yours for happy and safe motoring, Alan Tolle

**Treasurer's Report – Mike Cherry**



**GMCWS Final Report-2005  
1/1/05 – 12/31/05**

**Income**

*Membership Dues	\$8,075.00
Gold Canyon Advance Return	\$4,865.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,940.01</b>

**Expenditures**

Newsletters	\$2,103.83
Roster Print, Dist.	\$734.66
Bank Charge	\$4.04
Board Expenses:	\$727.56
Capital Exp Video Proj	\$1501.72
Rally Expenses Outside of Rally	
Gold Canyon Misc	\$866.40
Estes Park Misc	\$1,238.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,176.76</b>

**Bank Accounts**

Checking Account Bal. 1-1-05	\$10,905.69
2005 Year Income	\$12,940.01
2005 Year Expenses	\$7,176.76
Moved to Int. Acct.	\$8,000.00
Balance 12/31/05	\$8,668.94

**Interest Account Bal.**

1/1/05	\$17,992.84
2005 Interest	\$244.35
Moved from Cking Acct	\$8,000.00
Balance 12/31/05	\$26,237.19

**Balance (Both Accts.) \$34,906.13**

Notes:-Estes Park Rally not Finalized  
\* Membership dues include \$3850 of 2006 dues, received in 2005

**Western States Rally Schedule  
From Wagonmaster Sharon Cerrina**



Spring 2006 Wine Festival Rally  
Casa de Fruta Orchard RV Park  
On Hwy 152 near Hollister, CA  
April 25-30, 2006  
Rallymasters: Manny and Deo Trovao  
**See specific information about this rally  
in this newsletter.**

Fall 2006 Mariposa Fairgrounds  
Near Mariposa, CA  
October 8 - 13, 2006  
Rallymasters: Freddi and Frank Condos

Spring 2007 To Be Arranged

Fall 2007 Cochise Terrace RV Resort  
Near Benson, AZ  
September 4 - 8, 2007  
Rallymasters: Steve and Nancy Ferguson

**From Our Tech VP, Bert Curtis  
Tentative topics for Tech Seminars at  
Casa de Fruta Rally:**

- \*Lubricants and Greases
- \*Keeping in Touch While Traveling - blogs, web pages, etc
- \*Renew and Reseal Your Windows - a you can do it hands-on seminar
- \*Ground up Renewing Your Coach, Inside and Out
- \*Inverters, Convertors and Combiners - what do you need?
- \*Using an Oxygen Senser to Tune Your Carburetor
- \*Front Wheel Bearing Greasing and Steering Column Shaft Greasing and Boot Replacement - two more you can do it seminars

\*Ask the Experts - your chance to get answers to your baffling, bewildering, or otherwise perplexing questions

More may follow - keep checking the website at [www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org).

**CALLING ALL GMC OWNERS....**

HELP! HELP!: WE NEED YOUR INPUT REGARDING WHAT TECHNICAL SUBJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE COVERED AT THE FALL 2006 RALLY IN MARIPOSA. THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS TAKING SHAPE....SO IF YOU HAVE A TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE ADDRESSED ABOUT GMC MAINTENANCE, ETC. LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

FRANK CAN BE REACHED AT [FCONDOS@STL.NET](mailto:FCONDOS@STL.NET) AND FREDDI AT [FRETTYC@STL.NET](mailto:FRETTYC@STL.NET).

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE SO THAT WE CAN GET CRACKING.

FRANK AND FREDDI CONDOS

**Coaches For Sale**

We welcome your ad. Each ad will be run for one year unless you tell us to continue. **Please tell us when your coach has been sold** or if you want to stop the ad before it runs out. The last four digits are the month and year of the expiration date.  
Contact: **928-445-7875** or [jmcherry@cablone.net](mailto:jmcherry@cablone.net)

**1974 Painted Desert 26'** 78,000, 4K on rebuilt 455, transmission, brakes, bias ply, door and window moulding. All air bags, lines, compressor new. Ext. sun visor, extra passenger air conditioner. Ext. paint 2 yrs old. Interior mostly original, like new. Microwave. Now asking \$15,500 OBO. Richard Klix, Phoenix, AZ, 623-584-2874, [jrklix@aol.com](mailto:jrklix@aol.com)

**1977 Eleganza II 26'**. Good mech. condition. 8K on rebuilt 403 engine and transmission and a new 3.42 final drive. Thorley headers, new mufflers, and 3" exhaust. Fairly new gas-elect. refrigerator/freezer. Stereo, tape deck, 8 changer CD player, speakers, and CB radio. Fairly new macerator and no-odor toilet. GMC manuals and parts catalog. Configured to sleep 3 with dinette and 2 swivel chairs. Original furniture available to sleep 6. Asking \$17,500. OBO. Gale Gregg, Sacramento, CA 916-391-1120

1205

**1976 Eleganza 28'**. 13,500 miles on rebuilt 455 fuel injected engine, modified transmission for hill climbing; stretched 2' to accommodate twin beds in rear. 6 wheel disc brakes, 4 bag suspension, macerator with timer, custom instrument panel, enlarged overhead cabinets in rear, dual air conditioners, convection oven, drawers under couch. \$25,000. Picture at [www.obetz.com](http://www.obetz.com). Tow vehicle also for sale: 1997 Geo Tracker, 105K miles, automatic transmission with driveshaft mod. for towing. Works great. Stowmaster tow bar and trailer hitch. \$3,500. Contact at [motorhome@obetz.com](mailto:motorhome@obetz.com) or 760-789-5711 for Michael O'Betz in Ramona, CA or 909-294-1092 for Dennis O'Betz in Temecula, CA.

1205

**1977 GMC Royale 26'** Original yellow color, garaged all but last two years, then under a cloth cover. Finish redone on walnut cabinets. New microwave/convection oven, new cook top, new refrigerator. Rebuilt transmission, 87K total miles on coach, tires new in Nov 2003. Rear suspension modified with new levelers. 6KW generator with 350 hours, runs well, also has new house battery charger. Asking \$15,000. Fruita, CO Phone: 970-858-6886 Cell: 970-250-8180

0206

**1974 GMC 26'** 455 cid. Wet side bath, convection/microwave, 3 way Dometic refrig., Alcoa wheels, Onan generator, inverter, macerator, hitch. Newly replaced items: Flexsteel seats, sofa, side chairs, upper/lower ball joints and control arm bushings, brakes and wheel bearings, transmission, Michelin tires, mufflers, batteries, 2 roof a/cs, AM/FM XM ready radio w/ CD. Asking \$16,000 OBO. Mike Sheffield, Henderson, NV 89015, 702-564-5910. E-mail: [Gsheffi749@aol.com](mailto:Gsheffi749@aol.com).

0206

**1976 Eleganza 26'**. Excellent condition. Loaded. Insured for \$25,000. Asking \$20,000. Make offer. LA area. 626-355-7753.

0506

**1976 Glenbrook 26'**. 455 eng. Rear bed plus two front sideby. 3-way refrig, dual air, like new tires on Alcoa rims. New front seats rest-tilt. Hall TV for 2 way viewing. Lots of storage in and out. Reduced price \$20,000. Will accept best offer. Jacky Clutter 951-244-8340.

0506

**1973 Sahara 26'**. 12,000 miles on rebuilt 455 engine, 3,000 miles on rebuilt transmission and transfer case. All running gear completely checked over. Bilstein shock absorbers, rear hitch. All new upholstery with oak wood finish, new microwave, Kenwood stereo with tape deck and six speakers plus woofer, new TV with VCR and new carpet. GMC manuals and parts catalog. New two tone paint, new radial tires and Alcoa wheels, flares, sun visor, new flow master exhaust, new carburetor plus HEI. Invested 35,000, asking \$22,000 OBO. Cruz Charles in West Sacramento, Calif. 916-372-0507

1106

### Parts for Sale

**For Sale:** GMC transmission parts, reinforced A-arms, and other parts too. Call to find out! BeBe Pettit, Prescott, AZ, 928-445-9432.

0206

**5 Original hubcaps for 1973 GMC motorhome.** \$125 OBO. Call Jerry at 805-434-1213.

0506

**For Sale:** Fiberglass wheel well flares like Buskirk model, set of 4 \$500. Dark color cabinet LH side \$75. Chrome spare tire cover \$25. Safety-Plus steering shock \$50. Front driving mirrors set \$25. Jacky Clutter 951-244-8340

0506

**425 GMC Motorhome Transmission**, fresh, recently rebuilt with correct clutches, kits, bushings, seals, gaskets, bearings, and 1975 case This unit was completely torn down and all parts were inspected. Contact "The Transmission Shop," BeBe Pettit in Prescott, AZ (928)445-9432 for price and questions.

0606

The GMC Western States Inc, chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association, is comprised of GMC Motorhome owners from all fifty states and the three southwestern provinces of Canada. The Chapter purpose is to promote the preservation of the GMC Motorhome with a technical program of professional seminars and published information and to further the mutual association, membership, enjoyment and common interest of GMC Motorhome owners, their families and friends. Website: "[www.gmcws.org](http://www.gmcws.org)", **Billy and Debbie Massey**

#### Alan Tolle Chapter President

783 Piper St., Independence, OR 97351  
559-447-1112, [alantolle@earthlink.net](mailto:alantolle@earthlink.net)

#### Dorris Garton, First Vice President

604 Las Posas St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
760-375-5568, [dorris777@earthlink.net](mailto:dorris777@earthlink.net)

#### Bert Curtis, Technical Vice President

5990 Greenwood Heights, Kneeland, CA 95549  
707-443-8523, [curtisunlimited@aol.com](mailto:curtisunlimited@aol.com)

#### Frank Condos, Secretary

42744 Windy Gap Drive, Ahwahnee, CA 93601  
559-683-5185, [fcondos@sti.net](mailto:fcondos@sti.net)

#### Mike Cherry, Treasurer

2212 Tonto Ridge Rd. Prescott, AZ 86305  
928-445-7875, [jmcherry@cablone.net](mailto:jmcherry@cablone.net)

#### Kerry Tandy, FMCA National Director

P.O. Box 660, Merkel, TX  
325-928-4306, [bewartz@bewartz.net](mailto:bewartz@bewartz.net)

#### Gene Dotson, FMCA Alt. Nat. Director

730 10<sup>th</sup> St. Drive NW, Conover, NC 28613  
828-465-0678, [shawnee@charter.net](mailto:shawnee@charter.net)

#### Sharon Cerrina, Wagonmaster

500 S. Colfax St., La Habra, CA 90631  
562-694-6800, [magiccatz2@earthlink.net](mailto:magiccatz2@earthlink.net)

#### Judy and Mike Cherry, Editors/ Publishers

2212 Tonto Ridge Rd. Prescott, AZ 86305  
928-445-7875, [jmcherry@cablone.net](mailto:jmcherry@cablone.net)