

GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

Hello fellow GMCers. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in such a responsible position in such a wonderful and historic club. My wife Carol and I have been members of the GMC Western States Club for only a short time – 2 years – but we have really enjoyed our times at the rallies and appreciate the friendships we have made and the information and help we have received since then. When the nominating committee asked me to consider running for the position I was surprised but immediately thought that it would be a good way to contribute to the support of the club. Volunteering, after all, is the reason the club operates so well.

We have owned our coach, a '76 Eleganza II, for 4 years and the Las Vegas rally was our twentieth trip. We have taken trips with our GMC that have crossed into 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Those trips have already totaled more than 40,000 miles with the longest trip being 7,400 miles this summer from August 1st to September 23rd. We love our GMC – we call her “Barbie” after the Barbiemobile. We have, of course, put a lot of time and money into the coach both mechanically and aesthetically – from a rebuilt engine and transmission to a complete remodel of our living areas – and we love spending time in it. We especially love traveling to GMCWS rallies.

Regarding plans for the future, I would like to make more use of our web site for communication among the members. I realize that some of you don't use computers and improving the web site will not help you. So, whatever we do with it will not require you to change; it will, hopefully, only add things for those of us who do use the internet. My wife, Carol, will also be participating by giving non-technical seminars that will help continue to make the rallies interesting for the women.

Mark your calendars for the Spring 2011 rally in King City, California. Jo Anne and Phil Hernandez will be hosting that rally and the theme will be “John Steinbeck Country” since Steinbeck was born in Salinas – about 45 miles away – and wrote about the Salinas Valley where King City is located. There are several wineries in the area, the Steinbeck Center in Salinas, and Carmel and Monterey are a scenic 2 hour drive away. Carol and I spent more than 16 years living in the Salinas-Monterey area before we moved to Marana (just NW of Tucson), Arizona in 2005. If we can answer any questions don't hesitate to ask.

I look forward to getting to know more of you and to making 2011 a fun and productive year.

— Armand





Secretary's Report

by Judy Cherry

The GMC Western States Membership meeting was called to order by President - Frank Condos at 7:08 pm on October 21st, 2010.

Secretary Judy Cherry reported we now have 304 members. Renewal letters for 2011 will be going out to members in the next few weeks.

Treasurer Dave deGraffenreid reported on our finances, and his report was approved.

Wagonmaster Freddi Condos noted upcoming rallies as follows:

April 27th – May 1st, 2011 at San Lorenzo Park in King City, CA., Rally Hosts: Phil and Joanne Hernandez.

October 1st – 5th, 2011 at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, Ca., Rally Hosts: Dave and Donna deGraffenreid.

Les and Sharon Watson have agreed to host a rally in 2012. More information will follow later.

President - Frank Condos expressed thanks to Jim Kanomata for donating the two GMC brake assist systems with installation for two lucky winners, one for GMC Eastern States and one for GMC Western States. He also asked GMC Western States members to consider whether we should conduct other club money makers on a regular basis, such as bingo games, 50/50 raffles, and other projects. This item will be discussed in the future.

Election of Officers:

Nominating Committee Chairman - Bill Hubler nominated Armand Minnie for President and Jim Hupy for Technical Vice President. All other officers have agreed to serve again for 2011. A motion was made and passed to close nominations. A motion was made to accept the new slate of officers and elect them by acclamation. The motion passed.

Officers for 2011 are:

President - Armand Minnie
 NonTechnical Vice President - Lillian Trubert
 Technical Vice President - Jim Hupy
 Secretary - Judy Cherry
 Treasurer - Dave deGraffenreid
 FMCA National Director - Kerry Tandy
 FMCA Alternate National Director - Gene Dotson

President - Frank Condos also thanked Doug Norton for agreeing to be Equipment Manager, Sharon Smith for agreeing to represent Colorado as State Representative, and Damon Freeman for agreeing to represent Oregon as State Representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Cherry, Secretary



Treasurer's Report

by Dave de Graffenreid

As your Treasurer I am happy to report that the Club received money, spent money and has money. In this economy it is good to know that we didn't loose any money. We've had some great rallies and are looking forward to many more in the future.

Upon receipt of the Fall Rally income/expenditures and income from the brake system raffle, an actual balance will be provided in the February 2011 Newsletter.



Summary:

Technical Seminars, Fall Rally @ The Oasis!

by Frank Condos, Retired President

The October Rally presented a mix of new and updated Technical Seminars.

The feature was a fortuitous return of **Mr. Oldsmobile, Joe Mondello**. Fortuitous because Joe was in Las Vegas from his home in Tennessee to visit relatives only to find that GMC Western States Rally also was there. Invited by Jim Kanomata, Joe gave all an update on his latest engine building approach. Joe has added a vibration table to relieve any built up stress in the block before machining, resulting in a much more stable block. He also uses Cryogenic (extreme cold) treating to increase strength. Joe presented the steps his shop goes through for an engine rebuild. He has a revised engine tech manual available to those present and from his Tennessee office 888-666-3355. He spoke of the variation in engine parts quality on today's market and his selection for the best. Finally Joe hinted at a new all aluminum 455 block that is under development....Stay tuned

Jerry and Sharon Work presented an overview of their cross country trip this summer traveling mostly on secondary roads, not on interstates; a chance to see real America. They spoke of the improvements they have made to their coach, performance, and the few problems encountered. Some of these improvements can be viewed on their website, The Dovetail Joint

Jim Stark, owner of Blackstone Labs gave us an overview of the use of engine oil analysis. Jim has significant oil analysis history for the Olds engines and therefore can look at an analysis of oil and note if it is outside the norm. Examples were excessive iron indicating ring wear, anti freeze traces and other elements. Jim's bottom line analysis; oil is oil, the brands make very little difference. Synthetics are better at the extremes of cold or hot. He has not seen a significant change in zinc and phosphorous over 20+ years.

Oil sample kits can be obtained from Blackstone at www.blackstone-labs.com/ or 260/744-2380 (8-5 EST)

D. J. Eberhart covered the changes he has developed for the electrical connector on the current GM vacuum pump kit that he sells. The kit provides vacuum to the brake booster if the engine should stall.

Gary Worobec reprised his presentation on alternative DC power sources. The emphasis was on solar voltaic but included a glimpse at fuel cell technology that is under development and may be affordable.

Steve Ferguson covered his informative front suspension presentation and I gave a repeat of **How to Love the Rochester**.

Chuck Botts updated the tire summary including the importance of setting the tire pressure to correspond to the weight as shown in the tire guide. Chuck deftly avoided the all steel/rag wall question.

Finally, we were treated to an opportunity to drive **Rick Flanagan's** coach equipped with the newly developed brake reaction arm supplied by **Jim Kanomata**. One of the testers had a "g" meter and reported a decelerations of 0.55g...enough to put us through the windshield if we were not belted in.

All in all, quite an informative Tech Program put together by our Technical Vice President - Steve Ferguson.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board and membership for your support during my tenure in office. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Secretary, Technical Vice President and finally President. I'm retired from the Board, however, still here to assist the Club wherever needed.

Frank (still trying to keep up with Freddi)



GMC Western States Fall Rally Report Las Vegas, Nevada – October 17-22, 2010

by Lillian Trubert, 1st Vice President and Rally Reporter

“What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas?” Not in this case! We had too much fun and good times not to let everyone know we let the “Good times roll.” Most of us behaved ourselves, but those Saloon Girls were back. I wondering how many more might answer the call to be one of Jerry Works voluptuous BOOM BOOM Saloon Girls in future rallies (run when Freddi calls)!



The Oasis RV Resort was a great place to stay as it is very upscale and attractive. There we were sitting high and dry except for when the thunder and lightning was taking turns with the rain. Heck, Las Vegas was even more exciting than usual. We had sun and balmy breezes too. Every day was filled with changing weather. We weathered it all and always managed to find the dining room, the vendors and our meeting rooms. Some lucky people even won a few bucks or spent a few to see the shows. I'm sure Cher would have paid a visit if she knew we were in town. Let's remember that for next time.

The women's seminars covered:

- organic facials by Sharon Cerrina, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude;
- sharing handy hints while living in our GMCs;
- reading of a book (The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry);
- afternoon chick flick (“The Prize Winner from Defiance, Ohio”);

As a grand finale we covered cucumbers, cinnamon, honey and other home cures. Needless to say we missed input from Dorris Garton, in this department, who was waylaid in Moab, Utah with Chuck and their GMC without a functioning engine. You know how delightful those junkyard stays can be.

Of course we had time to shop the vendors, shop Las Vegas, visit the open coaches, check out the Las Vegas restaurants, visit friends, play games and make new friends.

A good thing Freddi was there to lead the “Fitness Times” morning stretching/walking each day as the food was delicious and nicely provided by Oasis finely dressed catering staff of Diana Martinez. Our GMC Western States ladies did a great job decorating the tables with cute little scarecrows. Thanks to all and especially to Mike and Judy Cherry who were our dedicated Rally Hosts. Mike and Judy have hosted many rallies and have the calm and expertise to handle a diversity of situation that may occur at a rally. All are requested to be positive in supporting the efforts of our volunteer Rally Hosts, and others who work diligently to make our Rallies special.

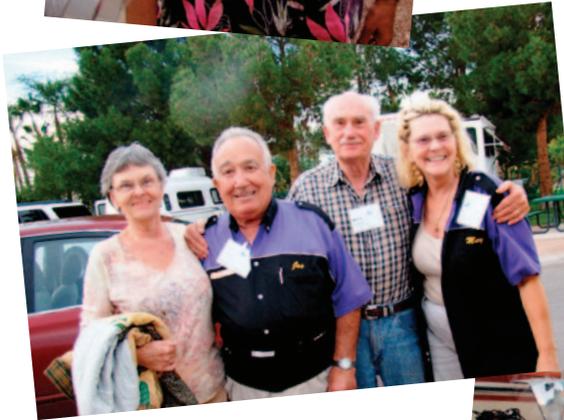
We had a great time, and even the business meeting was entertaining. The evenings were really fun complete with music by Steve Ferguson and the Starks (the multi-talented people from Stark Labs.) Quite a group gathered for singing along with Steve Ferguson on Guitar and Grace Kanomata on the Ukulele....we all made beautiful music, with a little more practice, we may want to cut a record, you think!

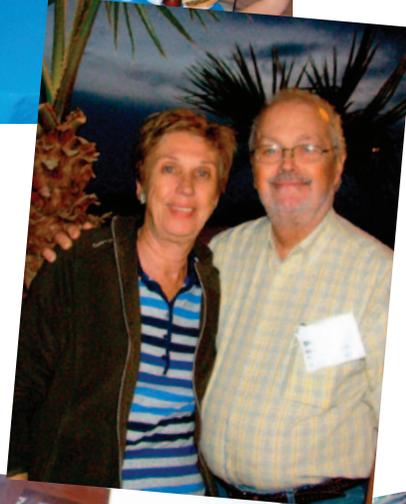


Special thanks to Jim Kanomata for his donating, for raffling, a brake reaction arm system worth \$5000 plus \$600 for the installation, or credit if the winner installed it himself. Two systems were provided and Jim is donating funds

(from the proceeds) to GMC Eastern States and GMC Western States. The winners of the two systems were Les Leach, GMCWS and George Zhookoff, GMC Eastern States. WOW! What a good GMC friend we have in Jim and Grace.

See you in King City in the Spring, 2011. I would like to remind the ladies we will be discussing the book Travels with Charlie by John Steinbeck, so read away. Also, please bring your favorite recipe for cooking while in your GMC as we will be making a cook book and also bring a digital camera if you have one as we will be learning more about them and their wonders, thanks to our new recruit Carol Minnie.



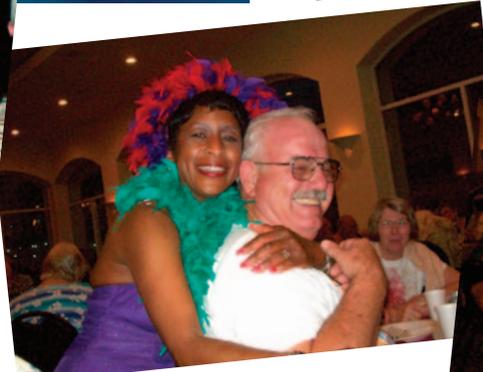


Marcel our Photographer from New Caledonia and wife Edith





Jerry & His Boom Boom Girls!



Thank You to Everyone Who Attended the Oasis Rally

We have volunteered to Host rallies in 1997, 2002, 2007, and now 2010. We were pleased to be given the opportunity to Host the rally at the Oasis, another chance for GMCers to come together and share our common interest, the GMC.

Being flexible and displaying a sense of humor will guarantee that you will generally have a good time. President Lincoln's realistic approach to pleasing people is relevant here. All the people all the time just doesn't happen. We do appreciate your attending and trust you had a good time. We certainly did our best to make this venue memorable.

Mike and Judy Cherry
Rally Hosts

ATTENDEES:

Chuck Aulgur	Damon Freeman	Alan & Janet Sims
Steve & Gail Ault	Betty Gaw & Marilyn Maxwell	Narod & Jessie Skiles
Bernie Bartko & Carol Gray	Hoss & Charlotte Hauge	Bill & Kib Smith
Ken & Judy Booth	Phil & Joanne Hernandez	Richard & Sharon Smith
Chuck & Mary Botts	Ron & Joan Holt	Jerry & Phoebe Snyder
Dave & Arlene Cantrell	Bob & Dorthy Hooton	Ed & Eileen Staal
Pat & Sharon Cerrina	Bill & Betty Hubler	Jim & Kathy Stark
Mike & Judy Cherry, RALLY HOSTS	Tim & Cass Jones	Warren Steinman
George & Diane Ciz	Paul & Jackie Jones	Robert Sternfels
Den & Ann Clark	Jim & Grace Kanomata	Carl & Kathy Stouffer
Duane & Janet Clark	Harold & Bettie Kennedy	Marc & Lillian Trubert
Ron & Linda Clark	Les & Lois Leach	Al & Nan Vinzant
Frank & Freddi Condos	Bob & Ruth Martin	Les & Sharon Watson
Bob Cook	Rick & Cheryl Mayberry	Dave & Leone Wood
Jim Decheine	Bob & Joan McKechnie	Jerry & Sharon Work
Dave & Donna deGraffenreid	Marcel & Edith Menard, Noumea New Caledonia	Gary & Joanne Worobec
DJ & Barbie Eberhart	Armand & Carol Minnie	Jack & Helen Wykle
Steve & Nancy Ferguson	Doug & Irene Norton	Kirk & Eloise Yeager
Rick Flanagan	BeBe Pettit	

Thank You from Steve and Gail Ault

GMCWS, thank you for allowing us to join you at the Las Vegas Rally. The opening program by Jerry and Sharon Work was an upbeat seminar and it's great to see the positive side of GMC ownership. Promoting the use of your GMC as a reliable travel vehicle (not a money pit) was one of the MOST positive things we've seen among the GMC community since our first exposure in 1988. The technical seminars on oil and tires made some interesting points and neither negative toward the GMC Motorhome. Hurrah! – we should not frighten owners but continue to be positive as these seminars promoted.

GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



Camshafts – What They Do & What They Don't Do!

by Jim Hupy, Technical Vice President

A camshaft is a metal shaft with bumps on it that, when turned at half crank speed, opens the intake and exhaust valves in the cylinder heads. This allows air/fuel to enter the engine cylinders and spent exhaust gasses to exit. Camshafts, timing chains, cam and crank sprockets, valve lifters, pushrods, rocker arms, valves, valve springs, retainers & washers all are supposed to work in concert to time these events properly.

There are many different configurations of the above mentioned parts, but we will limit this article to two basic types of cam/lifter combinations. They are flat tappet and roller tappet. With cast iron flame hardened camshafts like our GMCs have, cam ramp profiles are determined by what works the best with hydraulic tappets to allow a long service life, not what does the best job of filling the cylinders with the ideal amount of fuel/air mixture. Throw in the reduced amounts of zinc and phosphorus in today's lubrications and you have a problem with longevity with flat tappets & cams. This is the primary reason that most of the world's auto manufacturers have gone to the other type of cams, roller tappet.

Roller tappets are constructed with a hardened roller built into the surface that contacts the cam lobes. This eliminates the sliding friction between the two surfaces, and as an added benefit, allows the camshaft lobe profiles to be designed with a more favorable profile or opening ramp that optimizes the flow rates of fuel/air

and exhaust gasses. It has a secondary benefit of a longer service life in the absence of the wear additives, zinc & phosphorous, which according to the regulatory agencies, have a negative effect on the life of catalytic converters and oxygen sensors, which soon will have to last for a much longer time than the ones in current use.

We, GMC owners and users, are not limited by what is cheap and will marginally last longer than the guarantee period. We can purchase a superior product than what is fitted into our engines from the factory. We have been using true roller cam chains and sprockets for years. They stay in time far longer and have a much greater service life than the original factory parts do. The trick is in the choice of profiles and compatibility of the after market parts with what else we choose to use with them like pushrods, rocker arms, valves and springs and retainers. It is, after all, a system not unlike a chain with multiple links. If one link is weaker than the rest, that is what fails first.

The purpose of this article is to lay the groundwork for future technical articles that will deal with specific camshaft profiles and how they affect the torque output and horsepower of our Oldsmobile & Cadillac engines. I will write the articles in much the same way as this one is, on purpose not too technical. So that all may understand them. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

SAVE THE DATE:

Oct 1 – 5, 2011 for the Fall GMC Western States Rally - to be Hosted by Dave & Donna de Graffenreid at Emerald Desert RV Park in Palm Desert, Ca. Due to a rally cancellation, we were forced (go ahead and twist our arms) to Host a Survivor II sequel. We got the park and the date, so all we need is Y O U! Look forward to great food, fun, games and new challenges. The weather should be beautiful at that time of year. Be on the look-out for an old container to pot your very own succulent display.

Dave & Donna

Coaches for Sale

We welcome your ad. Ads will run for one year unless we are informed otherwise. Please inform us if your coach is sold before the ad runs out. The last four digits at the end of the ad represent the expiration date (month/year).

Contact: **Freddi Condos, 559-683-5185, frettyc@sti.net**

1974 GLACIER (23') Custom exterior restoration, side bath, chrome, and two-tone blue and silver paint. Mostly original interior, new carpet & linoleum; 7,600 miles on rebuilt 3.42 final drive; 17,600 on rebuilt 455 core motor; 106,000 total miles.

Full maintenance log on-line www.gallery.me.com/evedavidson

Reduced to \$15,500 OBO. Contact Akiko McKay 800-300-4819 Port Hadlock, Wa., xentgukk@gmail.com _____ **0111**

1978 PALM BEACH (26') 68,896 miles, new headliner, toilet, converter, furnace. Asking: \$13,900 OBO. Contact Dan (715) 402-0112, dbyson@msn.com _____ **0611**

1999 FORD ESCORT WAGON SE 5 speed manual with less than 82,000 miles and 26,200 miles on tires. Tow bar is a



Road Master Falcon 5250. Also included is Brake buddy tow vehicle brake system with a wireless alert. Asking \$3600 - for all Contact Walter Rugh (818) 865-2988 (home) or

(503) 807-9115 (cell) (Former GMC Owner) _____ **0811**

1975 GMC (26') Restored with NEW: dash, recaro driver/passenger seats, chrome bumpers, windshield, Cinnabar steering box and linkage, Alcoa wheels with Michelin tires, brakes front and rear, radiator, 801 motor (marine engine w/steel crank shaft and heavy duty drive shaft i.e. 500 hp, 3,000 miles since restoration, maserator, headers and flow master exhaust and much more. Asking \$28,000 - Contact Jeff Keil – 805-423-5037 _____ **1111**

1976 GLENBROOK (26') (20,000 miles) Overhauled engine (steel crank), Thorley heads/exhaust system; Tranny 3 years old with 3.42 final drive; new converter; new batteries; recored radiator, new front end (steering gear including new steering box, bushings, etc.); new fantastic fan, new fixtures in bath; six wheel disc bakes w/sensitize break booster and s/s tubing; seven Alcoa wheels and fairly new tires. Air conditioner converted to R134-A ; paint and interior redone 10 years ago; corian counters & tabletops and much, much more. Asking \$8,000 - Contact: Carol & Glenn Heinbockel – (928)649-0427(Home) – (602) 373-9694 (Cell) – Cheinbockel@q.com (Cottonwood, AZ) _____ **1111**

1977 PALM BEACH (26') With 455 engine and 355 final drive, center bath, parked outdoors for ten tears. Fuel line disconnected from tank, can get gas into tank. Asking \$3,000. (extra parts available for additional charge). Contact: Jim & Katherine Tagawa (520) 297-4529, kktagawa@comcast.net (Tucson, AZ) __ **1111**

GMC PARTS:

TZE torsion bar tool \$70

TZE front bearing service kit in case \$290

2-Rear air bags \$525

Tranny OH 1988, never used plus used final drive \$490

Carb from 455 engine with manual \$190

Used macerator \$99

VDO hourmeter, new \$22

Will provide photos and excess parts list by email upon request.

John Glatz – outdog31@hotmail.com _____ **1111**

Western States Rally Schedule

APRIL 27 – MAY 1, 2011
 SAN LORENZO RV RESORT
 KING CITY, CALIFORNIA
 HOSTS: PHIL AND JO ANNE HERNANDEZ

OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 5, 2011
 EMERALD DESERT RV RESORT
 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA
 HOSTS: DAVE AND DONNA DE GRAFFENREID

SPRING 2012
 CALIFORNIA COAST
 HOSTS: DE GRAFFENREID AND TROVAO

Fall 2012
 UTAH
 HOSTS: LES AND SHARON WATSON

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GMC Western States Newsletter
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If you would like to submit an article or item,
 email Freddi: frettyc@sti.net

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. Web site: www.gmcws.org, Billy and Debbie Massey

DISCLAIMER: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS AND ARE PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS. ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED. INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION IS URGED.

2011 Newsletter Publication Date Schedule

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
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To Publisher:	Feb 11 th	May 16 th	July 22 th	Oct 21 st