

# GMC WESTERN STATES NEWSLETTER



## Inside

- 1 President's Message
- 2 GMCWS Tech Center
- 3 GMC Survivor II Promo
- 4 Tentative Schedule of Events
- 5 Women Seminars
- 6 Revisions to Bylaws
- 7 Coaches for Sale
- 8 Officers + Rally Schedule  
Publication Schedule

## President's Message

Summer is going by a little slowly for us here in Southern Arizona. It has been over 100 degrees and most days got as high as 117 during latter June. Besides my 'normal' activities (woodworking and GMC stuff) I have been busy working on our Bylaws, Karaoke software, and our Web Site. We are trying to finish up our Arizona obligations and get to a cooler place as soon as we can.

Dave and Donna de Graffenreid and Pat and Sharon Cerrina have also been very busy planning our Fall "Survivor II" Rally at the Emerald Desert Resort in Palm Desert. That Rally will be October 1-5 and, as usual, is sure to be tons of fun. Dave has promised that he won't work us too hard.

Some updates: The revised Bylaws were submitted to FMCA and were approved by them. As I have written before, FMCA required us to make some mandatory revisions that do not require our vote. Moreover no meetings were needed. However, our Board was provided an opportunity to review the revisions. We will provide copies to anyone who wants one (email or call me) or you can wait until they are available on the web site - I am hoping that will be soon, maybe by the time you are reading this.

On the subject of rally entertainment, we have purchased a software package that will play and display Karaoke music and lyrics from a laptop computer. We plan to plug a laptop into our projector and sound system at the Fall rally and have a Karaoke sing-along party on one of the nights. The good thing is we will be able to have a request list and play music you want to hear and sing. I don't know how large our song selection will be but we will try to have what you like and we can add to our collection if there is enough interest. I hope so.

The web site additions I have been talking about in prior Newsletters and at rallies are well under way. Probably, by the time you read this message you will have gotten one or more email messages from me telling you about the new web site features and how to log in for the "members only" content. If you don't have an email address or we don't have it you will not receive the messages and you won't be able to sign in and use the members-only content. If you want a user ID on the system you will have to have an email address. I am planning to use the web site and emails for communications with members so we don't have to wait for Newsletters to tell you what is happening - rally planning, Rally Reports, club policy decisions and questions, etc. For the members who don't use computers at all - they will continue to get paper periodically.

I hope you all have a great summer and we'd love to see you at Emerald Desert in October. - Armand



# GMC WESTERN STATES TECH CENTER



## SAFETY

by Jim Hupy, Technical Vice President

In the last Newsletter I concluded a series of three articles on camshafts. This time I am going to take a stab in a different direction and talk about safety. Both when working in and under the GMC Motorhome, and when we are using it, as well as driving it.

Frequently we walk by a hazard until we become overly familiar with it, sometimes taking it for granted. This happens in many occupations, I personally experienced it in many years of working inside a maximum security prison. 98 percent routine boredom and 2 percent life threatening activities. Complacency has it's drawbacks.

How many times have we placed our GMC's up on stands or merely jacked them up and crawled under them without placing the stands under the frame at a cross member intersection? Have you ever done this? Don't ever do it again. It only takes once to kill you. The same thing applies to many other activities that we do with our coaches. I once heard of the 2 second engine removal. Using a overhead support like pictured in the Service Manual and a cable come along attached to the engine. When the last bell housing bolt was removed, and the engine pried forward to clear the alignment dowels, the cable snapped and the engine fell to the ground unsupported. I shudder to think what the result would have been if someone were underneath guiding the engine.

Another example is working on our coach when mentally distracted or impaired. 105 degrees in the shade, and no shade, with sweaty greasy hands, is a formula for problems. Same can be said for when we are angry about something, or in a big hurry, or judgment impaired by alcohol or even prescription medication. How many times have we measured the complexity of a task by the number of beers that it takes to complete. Oil change = a 6 pack, Clutch fan = a ½ rack, you get the idea. Leave an oil pan drain plug loose or a fan blade bolt when we are impaired, and the results are not pretty.

On the rare occasions when we get to use our coaches, safety can be important also. Boondocking and running the generator. Ever thought about how hot the exhaust from your Onan is? Pine needles and tinder dry stuff where the exhaust exits can be a real fire hazard. Same for simple activities like boning out chickens for cooking, or cleaning fish. One slip of the knife miles from anywhere can be a serious problem if we are unprepared. Do you know where your first aid kit is located in your coach? Do you even have one? If you do, do you know what to do in a panic situation?

How about fire safety, this means prevention, not fighting the fire once it has started. I have seen at least two GMC's burned to the lugnuts by fires that could have been prevented or mitigated by the right kind of fire suppression equipment. Aircraft, boats, race cars and many other transportation equipment have on board self deploying fire suppression. It is available for our GMC Motorhomes as well. I know of four GMC Cascaders that have had fires in the last few years. In two cases, the coach was a total loss, one burned a hole in the floor from a hole in the exhaust system, and the one in my shop presently had a dead short from the positive battery post to ground, which resulted in burning up the headlight wiring harness and could easily have burned the entire coach. As I said, complacency has it's drawbacks.

Safety is more an awareness or attitude than a tangible thing that you can hold in your hand, but that does not make it any less real or dangerous when ignored. When you look at a rattlesnake in the real world, it is immediately apparent that you are looking at an immediate danger. Something about those things that just screams "Look Out". Same can be said for driving hazards. Driving along in our Motorhome, gazing out at that beautiful scenery through those panoramic windows, and look up to see something in out path that requires immediate evasive action, tends to grab our attention. Ho Hum one second, deer in the headlights the next. Driving along on Interstate 5 between

Cont'

*Tech Center continued...*

Olympia and Tacoma, traffic is heavy but moves right along, and then some inattentive driver wanders over their lines and BAM, nothing but brake lights as far as the eye can see. One very good advantage that we have with our tall vehicles is our high seating position that allows us to look down the road a greater distance. Don't negate that advantage by following a semi truck that you can not see around. Remember, you are driving a 12,500 pound vehicle, and if you are towing, it is much more than that. Give yourself at least 1 and ½ GMC lengths for every 10 miles per hour of speed. At 60 mph that is 338 feet or about the length of a football field. How many of us drive with less following distance than that?

Got an annoying rattle or squeak somewhere behind you in the coach and trying to see what it is in the rearview mirror? Not good! Did you do your morning walk around inspection before

you started out? Check those headlights, brake lights, clearance lights, turn signals, horn, clean the windshield? Check the oil and transmission fluid? When is the last time that you checked the cold resting air pressure in your tires, including your spare? How about ride height? Think about safety, it just might keep you behind the wheel of that Motorhome instead of the Dr's office. If my recent personal experience with hospitals is any example, you need to stay out of those places if at all possible. They are a bigger hazard to your health than driving your Motor home. Stay safe out there, remember that the only thing in life that is really important, you probably learned in Kindergarten. Take time to enjoy and appreciate friends and family. Live this day to the fullest measure. Tomorrow is a promise to no one.

## "GMCWS SURVIVORS II"

**Four Teams-One Location**

**Emerald Desert**

**Palm Desert, CA. October 1-5, 2011**

We are very excited for the opportunity to Host the GMC Western States Fall Rally. Emerald Desert is our favorite park to Host rallies. It has a beautiful green park like camping area with patios and full hookups. We will all be parking together. This time Pat & Sharon Cerrina are joining us as Co-Hosts.

We have great plans to make good use of the remodeled air conditioned club house as well as the kitchen and stage. The park provides golf, putting, tennis, swimming, spa and a gym. We have a theme and it will be lots of fun. We will enjoy meals, seminars and activities. There will be games, gifts, prizes and lots more.

The first day we will be making Succulent center pieces. Soil and home grown plants will be provided. Bring your container (similar to the ones before, garage sale specials) and build your own center piece planter. Wednesday is Hawaiian Luau night, dust off your Mumu's and Hawaiian shirts (Dave's has no dust) and wear them to dinner and the awards ceremony. Ladies book exchange was great fun so bring a favorite book for another book exchange. Lunch and relaxation break 12pm to 1:30 every day, on your own for lunch.

Vendors sign up soon for front row parking and be a part of our official Vendor introduction ceremony.

Don't forget to save the dates on your calendar...

October 1-5, 2011...

See Ya There!

**Dave and Donna**

# WESTERN STATES FALL RALLY “GMC SURVIVORS II”

Emerald Desert RV Resort  
76000 Frank Sinatra Drive,  
Palm Desert, Ca. 92211  
Oct.1st Thru 5th 2011

## Tentative Schedule of Events

### Saturday Oct. 1

12pm to 5pm	Check in
2:00 to 5:00	Rally Host Succulent Seminar “Creating Center Pieces” and decorating the clubhouse
5:30 to 6:30	Rally Hosts Happy Hour (Margarita Bucket)
6:30 to 7:30	Catered Chicken and Ribs Dinner
7:30 to 8:00	Meet your Tribe, select your Tribe leader
8:00 to 9:00	Tribe leaders Ice Cream Social

### Sunday Oct. 2

7am	Freddi’s Morning Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Pancake Breakfast
9:00 to 10:30	Leis - Donna de Graffenreid
10:40 to 12:00	Humorous video “Just for Fun” - Jeanne Robertson
12:00 to 1:30	Lunch and relaxing time
1:30 to 4:00	Swap Meet, Open House
4:15 to 5:00	Business Meeting
5:30 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Tri-Tip Dinner & Desert
7:30 to 9:30	Survivor Games & Challenges

### Monday Oct. 3

7am	Freddi’s Morning Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Hash & Eggs Breakfast
9:00 to 12:00	Book Club (Water for Elephants) - Lillian Trubert. Bring your \$1 Mini Swap Meet items.
12:00 to 1:30	Break time
1:30 to 4:30	Games & Challenges
5:30 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Pizza Dinner & Desert
7:30 to 9:30	GMC Talent Night

### Tuesday Oct. 4

7am	Freddi’s Morning Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast Burritos
9:00 to 10:25	Movie – “My One and Only”
10:30 to 12:00	“You” and Hypertension - Dorris Garton
12:00 to 1:30	Relaxation
1:30 to 4:30	Survivor Games & Challenges
5:30 to 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 to 7:30	Burger Night & Desert
7:30 to 9:30	Karaoke Night

### Wednesday Oct. 5

7am	Freddi’s Morning Walk
7:30 to 8:30	Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast
9:00 to 12:00	Beaded Name Tag Lanyards/ Necklace - Dorothy Hooton
12 to 1:30	Use your imagination
1:30 to 4:00	Survivor Games & Challenges
4:30 to 6:00	Pool Party & Happy Hour (Mai-Tai Bucket)
6:00 to 9:00	Catered Hawaiian Luau Dinner followed by Survivor Award Night!!

### Thursday Oct. 6

7:30 to 8:30	Rally Hosts Coffee and Continental Breakfast
GOOD BYE....till next time at Casa De Fruita	

NOTE: There will be Seminars for the men Sunday-Wednesday, between 9-12:00, however, our Technical Vice President has not finalized the list of Presenters.



## Women's Seminars at Emerald Desert

By: Lillian Trubert – First Vice President and Rally Reporter

Just when you think it's safe to come out from under your bed, the de Graffenreid's have managed to create another "Survivors" Rally. The first one went down in the history books as a fantastic success. Those of us who survived had the time of our lives. This one should be filmed by Department of Defense for anti-terrorist training for seniors and shown to the entire nation as a moral booster. And we didn't lose a single combatant! It's sort of hard to get very seriously competitive in such a beautiful oasis, but we can't let our Tribes down. Control your giggling!

Did you read the part about the "succulent center pieces?" Ha! These "secret weapons" are a part of the plan. Make sure you bring a sturdy container. And you'll need that "Hawaiian shirt" for enemy infiltration covert operations. What book review? More like we'll be decoding missives using the intricate "book decoding method of cracking coded information. See p.17 for decoding what that really means. Oh yes, the book being used will be Water for Elephants. Weapons will no doubt be supplied by "the vendors."

All women (and men who are "conscientious objectors or who want to stay cool) should report to the seminars sometime between 9:00 and 12:00 on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: Sunday you will also have a chance to make leis for our "Hawaiian Luau Night" on Wednesday, and also view a humorous video "Just for Fun". Since that dollar Mini Swap Meet was a roaring success, we will repeat it when we get together to discuss our books on Monday. Remember to read Water for Elephants! Feel free to come even if you haven't read the book. We will include an "everyone read" activity that will enable you to contribute to the

discussion at any rate. On Tuesday Dorris will discuss "You" and Hypertension and this means we will all have a great time and learn a lot. She is a treasure to the Club and funny to boot. I am sure she will answer any questions about "battlefield injuries" too. Wednesday will find us being creative (or not) with Dorothy Hooton showing us how to make a beaded beautiful but sturdy necklace to display our badges in a place that will enable us to wear low cut tee shirts.

This Fall we will once again be made aware of the wonderful talent and life experience of our diverse GMC Western States and Provinces people. I wish I could bottle the uplifting feelings and extra pounds I take home with me after our rallies. I am counting on seeing you there, because the more the merrier or at least the sillier. I like silly. But the shopping in this winter wonderland is not silly. It is world class. See you on El Paseo or at the mall.

## Revisions to GMCWS Bylaws:

FMCA has mandated some revisions to our Bylaws, the revisions include the following:

### Article II - 2. AREA

Added last sentence.....This Chapter is authorized to function in the International Area.

### Article III - MEMBERS

Added language...

#### 2. Definitions:

The term "family unit" is defined as a person his or her spouse, or partner, dependents of each, regardless of age: non dependent grandchildren and great-grand children age 18 and under.

The term "membership", is defined as either a family unit or an individual or individuals owning a qualifying motor coach who share a membership number.

The term "member" is defined as each adult who, jointly or individually, constitutes a membership. The voting rights of each member are defined in the description of each category.

A member must own a qualifying motor coach (motor home) or at least 1/3 interest in a qualifying motor coach (motor home) in order to vote or hold office in this Chapter.

The term "qualifying motor coach" is defined as a self propelled, completely self contained vehicle that contains all the conveniences of a home, including cooking, sleeping, and permanent sanitary facilities, and in which the driver's area is directly accessible in a walking position from the living quarters. The terms motor coach and motor home may be used interchangeable.

### Article IV -CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

#### 4. Chapter Meetings....B. Business Meetings

FMCA is now mandating one business meeting, not two

Deleted phrase...must be 14 days apart.

New language....

Every Chapter fiscal year the Chapter must hold at least one FMCA mandated business meeting at which a quorum is present. Said meeting must be duly announced in advance to the membership.

### 5. Maintaining Affiliation

Deleted phrase...a copy of current Bylaws if any were revised within the year, a list of it's membership, a list of incumbent officers.

New language...

The Chapter Secretary shall furnish to the National office of FMCA, no later than the last week in December, assurance that one business meeting was held.

### Article VI - OFFICERS

#### 1. Duties of Officers

Deleted...National FMCA Bylaws(FMCA Bylaws, Article XVI) and applicable Chapter Bylaws.

New language...

The duties of elected officers shall be as defined in the FMCA Member and Volunteer Handbook, and applicable Chapter Policies.

#### 2. Presidential Succession

Deleted...as specified in FMCA Bylaws, Article XVI, Section 8

New language.....

Upon a vacancy or the President's inability to preside, the Vice President performs all duties of the President. The 1st Vice President succeeds the President, then the 2nd V.P.

### Article VII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### 1. Definitions

Added...The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter between it's business meetings. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter, and none of it's acts shall be in conflict with the Chapter of FMCA.

### Article VIII - COMMITTEES

#### 2. Duties of the Chairman

Deleted ...of the Chairman

### Article X - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Added new section....

3. Distribution: Copies of changes, additions, amendments, or revisions to these Bylaws shall be forwarded to the National Office and to the National Area Vice President.

## 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](mailto:frettyc@sti.net)

**1974 GLACIER (26')** (58,300)- Fixer upper with side bath and 455 Olds Engine, original transmission, power steering and adjustable steering wheel. All new wheel bearings, new brakes front & rear. Exterior body in good condition, steel wheels, good bumpers, mechanically sound, needs work on interior and new gas lines. Asking \$5,000

Contact Lloyd – [Lloyd.millie.Johnson@gmail.com](mailto:Lloyd.millie.Johnson@gmail.com)

970-222-1967 \_\_\_\_\_ **0612**

**1973 CANYONLANDS (26')** 108,216 miles, rebuilt 455 engine and carburetor at 82,770 miles, fantastic fan, roof pod, macerator, hitch, golf cart house batteries and much more. Asking \$8,000

Darrel and Arlis Tetzloff (925)937-2418

Walnut Creek, CA \_\_\_\_\_ **0312**

### GMC PARTS:

TZE torsion bar tool \$70 Carb from 455 engine with manual \$190

Hayden fan clutch, new, \$50

Macerator, Jabsco #18590-0010, used, \$90

MSD engine knock alert, #8964, new \$199

WEMAC display, tank level, etc., easily adapter to GMC \$45

Distributor, standard, for 455 dist. Cap, drive gear, wires

#1112198, \$45

For TBI, Airtex E8228 fuel pump, new, Carquest lifetime

Warranty, \$99

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

John Glatz – [outdog31@hotmail.com](mailto:outdog31@hotmail.com)

928-468-6212 \_\_\_\_\_ **1111**

**1974 PAINTED DESERT**, with mileage near 171,000. Has strong rebuilt engine in good condition. Has 16" steel chrome wheels, good tires and is ready for the road, all bearings, fuel lines, brakes, alignment front and rear road ready. Side bath with full bed in back. Interior in good condition with new gas/electric domestic refrigerator, new counter top, Maxx air ventilators. Exterior was completely refurbished in 1998, steel grill installed. Installed Rosta World Cruise 2 in 1999 this is all electronic. Has VIP\*TOW electric brake equipment from coach to car. \$12,000

Contact Lloyd Johnson [Lloyd.millie.Johnson@gmail.com](mailto:Lloyd.millie.Johnson@gmail.com) or by phone (970) 222-1967. Will also sell car (1995 Saturn SL2) with tow bar and brakes for additional money. \_\_\_\_\_ **0612**

### 1977 GMC ELEGANZA II

Dash wrapped in leather, new instruments, auto window screen closer, Flexsteel furniture. China toilet, new water heater. All new cabinets built by Cinnabar. 36,000 miles on re-built 455 engine. Moto-stat sat dish, with 2 boxes and flat screen TV's, 2 VCR/CD players. Many mechanical upgrades. New frig, stove & microwave. Tire pressure monitoring system, alarm goes off with low tire pressure. Alcoa rims with white walls. Day/Night shades. Macerator. Asking \$30,000

Contact Bill Deal – 619-417-8525

San Diego, CA \_\_\_\_\_ **0812**

## Western States Rally Schedule

### OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 5, 2011

EMERALD DESERT RV RESORT  
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA  
HOSTS: DAVE AND DONNA DE GRAFFENREID  
PAT AND SHARON CERRINA

### SPRING 2012

APRIL 24 – APRIL 28, 2012  
CASA DE FRUTA RV RESORT  
HOSTS: MANNY AND DEO TROVAO  
DAVE AND DONNA DEGRAFFENREID

### Fall 2012

SEPTEMBER 25 – 30, 2012  
EAST BAY RV PARK  
SPRINGVILLE, UTAH  
HOSTS: LES AND SHARON WATSON

## GMC Western States Officers

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

## 2011 Newsletter Publication Date Schedule

<b>4th</b>	
<b>Publication</b>	
<b>Dates:</b>	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Info to</b>	
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>To</b>	
<b>Publisher:</b>	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>

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](http://www.gmcws.org), Billy and Debbie Massey

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