



The **GMC Pacific Cruisers Chapter** of the Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (FMCA), is a group of GMC motorhome owners from Southern California since 1976. Visit our website: www.gmcpc.org



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FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

Jan | Feb | Mar 2009

Already in 2009 we have enjoyed a couple of wonderful rallies. Which brings me to the question—what is a GMC Pacific Cruiser Rally? It is an opportunity to take your coach out, possibly to a new and interesting place you have always wanted to visit. It is an opportunity to eat some fantastic food. It is an opportunity to share discussions and ideas about our GMC Motor Homes. And most important it is the opportunity to come together with old GMC friends and to make new ones. Now picture an opportunity to attend your dream rally at the place of your choice with the activities you think will be fun, with plenty of good food and beverages, and surrounded by some wonderful GMCers.

This dream rally of yours will happen when you step up to the plate and volunteer to put on a rally. It's not hard. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. There are guidelines and more importantly, lots of experienced former Rally Host to help with the planning and willing volunteers to help with the work. I'm not saying putting on a rally is easy, but I will tell you it is very rewarding when you see your dream rally happen. It can't be said enough—rallies are the lifeblood of our Club. Some of the other GMC Clubs are only able to put on a couple of rallies a year, but over the proud history of GMC Pacific Cruisers we have put on a schedule of 10 events a year including our participation at GMC Western States events. We can only continue this with your help. STEP up to the plate and let us know your ideas. We'll help you turn them into a great rally.

— Sharon



Inside:

Tamale Festival Rally | Quarzite Rally | Business Meeting Minutes | New Crew • Red Hat Society • Newsletter • Loving Memory

2-4

5-7

8

9

Shade Tree Mechanic | For Sale Corner | Rally Schedule 2009 • Spotlight on New Members

10

11

12

TAMALE FESTIVAL RALLY

DEC. 5-7, 2008

Reported by : **Audree Rowe**

The Friday weather forecast was for a beautiful weekend and that proved to be true as we headed out toward Indio on the 10 Freeway. What we were surprised by was the amount of new development along much of the route where there was only desert and blowing dust the last time we traveled that way. Our exit, on Jefferson Street, was probably typical of what is going on out there; lots of new shopping centers, lots of new homes, condos and golf courses. Our last driving instruction was to cross Hwy 111 and turn into the Indian Wells RV park across from Costco. It can't get anymore convenient than that.

Once inside the park, our Rally Hosts, Pat and Sharon Cerrina and their able assistants, Judy and Ken Booth, met us. We got parked and they gave us the schedule for our weekend. The park, itself, was very interesting. It is one that has permanent residents, snow birds, and transients like us. Our line-up of beautiful classic coaches attracted lots of attention and nearly everyone who went by wanted to stop for a few minutes and "talk GMC." Jesse and Narod Skiles arrived as usual towing a hot rod, but this time it was a gleaming "new" 1948 Jeepster with a rag top. Remember them? It was and still is a sporty vehicle—just perfect for a ride around the ranch. Jesse learned to drive in her Dad's '48 Willy truck with a stick shift and she looked great behind the wheel of this one.

We had two no-shows. The Cantrells had a mechanical problem and decided not to attempt the trip. But on a more serious note, Joe Rubio and Bernice Brady drove their coach to the home of friends in Indio, planning on spending a few days with them before the rally. Unfortunately, Joe developed some serious symptoms and had to spend time at Eisenhower Medical Center instead of with us. The good news is that at last word, Joe was stabilized and at home.

The rally officially began with our usual happy hour followed by a wonderful Mexican dinner on the patio under the stars. There was bingo and shuffleboard in the Clubhouse for anyone who wanted to participate but most chose to just enjoy the evening with fellow Pacific Cruisers. Each morning our Rally Hosts fed us a delightful breakfast in the grassy area outside their coach, and after breakfast on Saturday people headed for the various activities in the area. For those without cars, rides to the Tamale Festival were available by calling 1-800-PatCerrina. We took advantage of that and arrived at the Festival just in time to enjoy the Parade. This one featured the usual floats, horses, marching bands and drill teams strutting their stuff, as well as an added attraction of a group of kids on BMX type bicycles performing incredible tricks. But the highlight for me was a parade of Mexican jumping cars; those low-riders

with hydraulic systems that raise and lower and appear to be jumping down the road. If that wasn't enough, there was a full-sized motor home doing the same thing. Meanwhile, back at the RV park, the clubhouse offered coffee and donuts and music in the morning, a burger lunch, and an evening dance with a live band. That night was "dinner on your own" but people brought out goodies to share during happy hour. That combined with the tamales we had eaten earlier was enough for us.

Sunday offered local swaps meets and other stuff to do, but we opted to return to the Tamale Festival. We took time to enjoy the crowd and the music and, of course, the tamales. I recall that over the course of our visits we tasted "regular" beef, chicken or pork tamales as well as cheese and green chili, each made from the vendor's family recipe. There were also tamales from Ecuador and Guatemala wrapped in banana leaves instead of cornhusks. We enjoyed one from El Salvador that was stuffed with a delicious assortment of vegetables. Of course we had to taste some "sweet" ones including strawberry, pineapple, green corn, and apple/caramel. Don't be alarmed. We bought our share but some were generous samples being hawked by the vendors.

All the tamales didn't discourage anyone from turning up with a good appetite for happy hour complete with wine, nibbles and a wonderful pizza feast on the clubhouse patio. (Goodbye diet plans). Hoss Hauge, sporting a full beard he grew on his recent trip to the cold country in North Dakota, wore an adorable Santa hat complete with twinkling lights. The evening was so mild with a sky full of stars that people lingered late to talk. I heard later that one table (men only) entertained each other by telling tall tales of the exploits of their youth. Whatever the subject matter, we seem to always be able to enjoy some great laughs and each other's company.

Monday morning breakfast was short and sweet with people making plans to meet at the next GMC Pacific Cruisers Rally in Quartzsite. Another wonderful rally! Our amazing first couple, President Sharon and First Gentleman, Patrick, planned and pulled off this rally between dates in their busy schedule. They were "all packed" at home and leaving for a cruise the very next day. Again, thanks to them and all the rest of our great group who use their creativity and energy for all of us. GMC Pacific Cruisers Rule!

RALLY HOSTS:
Pat and Sharon Cerrina
Ken and Judy Booth



Attendees:
 Loren and Virginia Bates
 Chuck Botts
 (bacheloring, in Mary's
 absence)
 Bob Cook
 Suzanne and Jerry
 Covington
 Chuck and Dorris Garton
 Betty Gaw and Marilyn
 Maxwell
 Hoss and Charlotte Hauge

Phil and Joanne Hernandez
 Al and Barbara Hobson
 Bob and Dorthy Hooton
 Bob and Karen Lamey
 Jim and Alice-Faye Peugh
 Jon and Carol Pickard
 Jim and Audree Rowe
 Norm and Shirley Shier
 Narod and Jesse Skiles
 Ed and Eileen Staal
 Robert Valpey
 Augie and Ruth Wilhelm



QUARTZITE RALLY

JANUARY 14-21, 2009

Reported by : **Marilyn Roland**

The weather was perfect this year. No wind, just sunshine and beautiful Arizona sunrises and sunsets. This was our first year with full hookups.

The shopping was plentiful and several members purchased the new LED lights replacing our old inefficient bulbs. There's always GMC parts exchanges and new ideas that if you're not at a rally you can't participate.

Thanks to all that provided delicious food items, especially Bob and Karen Lamey for the fantastic food made from scratch almost daily. Karen did the prep work and made sure Bob was on the job daily. They even cooked for others that provided the basic ingredients. Hats off to Chuck and Dorris Garton for coordinating and keeping this Rally going year after year.

Our Superman Hoss Hauge was Mr. Wonderful. Hoss kept the fire blazing and even purchased equipment for cutting/splitting large wood boulders into manageable piece for burning in our fire pit. He was always on the move doing something.

A sampling of support for this Rally is as follows (names have been changed for privacy of comments ...S M I L E!:

"Wonderful, I love it!....Chuckles"

"My water keeps going off...Michael"

"It's GREAT, fantastic, added electric, sewer++..James"

"Very friendly and hospitable..Kirk and Eloise"

"Tremendous surprise, food glorious..Samuel"

"me siento muy contenta de ser miembro de GMC Pacific Cruisers. Todos son personas muy amables y Calurosas...Lucia"

"You know what, I love it...Weinner Mom"

"Most fun I've had in a week with my _____ on...
Young Blood"

"I like this rally a whole lot, met a lot of nice and kind People, love to do it again...Bear"

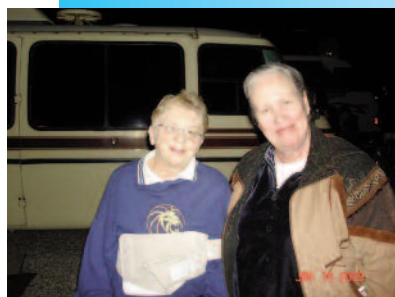
"We miss you guys at BLM...Ralph"

RALLY HOSTS:

Chuck and Dorris Garton
Marilyn Roland

Attendees:

Pat and Sharon Cerrina
Frank and Freddi Condos
Bob Cook
Steve and Nancy Ferguson
The Fishers
Betty Gaw and Marilyn Maxwell
Jerry and Suzanne Covington
Hoss Hauge
Jack and Mary Kincaid
Bob and Karen Lamey
Robert and Barbara Nuttmann
Jon and Carol Pickard
Will Powers
John and Cathy Ruff
Norm and Shirley Shier
Dayton and Pamela Taylor
Robert Valpey
Jack and Helen Wykle
Kirk and Eloise Yeager









MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

October 4, 2008 Meeting Started at 9:20am

Board members present: Sharon Cerrina President, Suzanne Covington Treasurer, Alice-Faye Peugh Secretary, Absent Board Members: Vice President-JoAnne Hernandez

Thanked the hosts: Mary and Chuck Botts for a GREAT Rally!

Reading and Approval of the Minutes: Secretary Alice-Faye Peugh read the minutes from June 21, 2008 (M: Jim Peugh, 2nd : Lee Nelsen, Carried)

Nominating Committee: Jim Rowe explained that Fin Beven had accepted Vice President Rally Master and has decided not to take this position. Motion to accept the 2008-2009 board as Sharon Cerrina as President, Alice-Faye Peugh as Secretary, Suzanne Covington as Treasurer, and JoAnne Hernandez as Vice President. (M: Lee Nelsen, 2nd: Jim Peugh, Carried)

Treasurers Report by Suzanne Covington

- Balance \$3,861 and making interest (M Lee Nelsen, 2nd Chuck Botts / Carried)
- New Badge Vendor: if you are in need of a replacement badge please see Suzanne Covington.

FMCA National and Alternate Director Chuck Garton – reported that:

- In the new FMCA magazine there is an article with pictures, about the GMCs, where they are now after 30 years...written by Audree Rowe.
- FMCA considered raising dues from \$35 to \$49 a year, it was not passed this year. They managed to balance their budget w/o increase to dues.
- Some GMC clubs have discussed pulling out of FMCA, no decision at this time.
- The advantage of belonging to FMCA is the insurance coverage for the club.
- Fleetwood has de-listed their stock.

Vice Presidents Report by Sharon Cerrina

New Members-none

Rally Report

Upcoming rallies:

Dates are subject to change please verify on the Web Site:

November, 2008: Columbia (Oct. 30-Nov. 2) Columbia, State Park, CA. The 49er Ranch just this side of Sonora off

Hwy 49. Hosts: Fin and Mary Beven

December 5 -7, 2008: Tamale Festival, Indio, CA (Dec. 5-7, 2008) Indian Wells RV Park, Indio, CA. Hosted by Pat and Sharon Cerrina .

January 16-23, 2009: Quartzite, AZ - "World's Largest Swap Meet" - Dry camping on BLM land, near all the action. Hosts: Chuck and Dorris Garton

March 3-5, 2009, Santa Paula, CA - Far West Resort Hosts: Lillian & Marc Trubert and Fred & Cynthia Davis

April 22-27 Western States, Emerald Dessert: Hosts: Donna and Dave DeGraffenreid

****CPR** class will be offered for \$50.00 per person

June/July Date to be Determined, No Rally Rally, Table Mountain, Wrightwood, CA, Hosts: Jim and Alice-Faye Peugh

October 16-20, 2009 Western States, Hemet, CA, Golden Village Palms RV Park Hosts: Pat and Sharon Cerrina

November 2009. Benson, AZ. Will join Saguaro Jet Setters for Thanksgiving Feast, Hosts: Steve and Nancy Ferguson

Old Business:

Defibrillator - Motion was made for No Defibrillator at this time. (M: Dorris Garton / 2nd: Lee Nelsen/ Carried)

New Business:

- **Nominating Committee-** Asking for volunteers for the nominating committee for the next election year 2009-2010: Lee Nelsen, Audree Rowe, Donna DeGraffenreid (M: Jim Peugh / 2nd: Dorthy Hooton Carried)
- **Communication of Newsletter-** we will do a 1 Time mailing of the November or December Newsletter to inform all members of the upcoming rallies. Also we need to include when we will be having the business meetings so if a member has a concern they know when to bring it to the board's attention.
- **Awarded Plaque** to the Past President: Lee Nelsen

Meeting Adjourn 9:52am (M: Jim Peugh 2nd: Lee Nelsen / Carried))

Minutes taken by Alice-Faye Peugh-Secretary

OUR MEMBERSHIP COUNT IS 125

NEW CREW ON THE RISE



Welcome to our enthusiastic brand new Newsletter Editor/Coordinator..JON AND CAROL PICKARD. Believe it or not, Jon and Carol were my first choice, after Audree Rowe declined (too busy), and Jon and Carol kindly said yes.

Jon hails from Washington State and Carol is a native of California. They live in Rubidoux, Ca (near

Riverside). The Pickard's are happily driving their 1978 Royale (rear lounge), their second GMC Classic Coach. Phil

and Wendy Singleton of Roseburg, Oregon owned the first Pickard coach. Jon and Carol enjoy skiing in Mammoth, traveling in Baja, sailing and sporting their GMC. Carol does stained glass masterpieces and cooks. Most of us know that Jon is a train buff and he also likes fireworks.

Heart felt thanks to Jon and Carol for allowing me to do my swan song, beginning with this Newsletter. It's been fun, however, even I know my limits. I will be Newsletter Editor/Coordinator for GMC Western States. Thanks to all for always being so prompt in providing materials for the GMC Pacific Cruisers Newsletter. I know you will continue this practice with Jon and Carol.

See you down the road!
Freddi C



RED HAT SOCIETY

PACIFIC PEARLS MAKE HISTORY AT LEGENDS

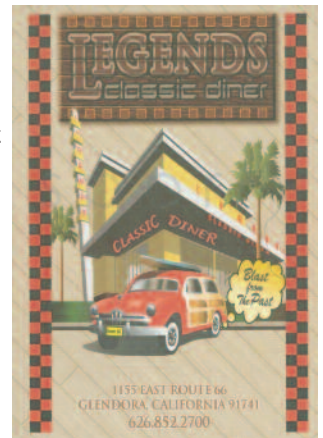
Queen Sharon Cerrina and members of the GMC Pacific Pearls Red Hat Society group had a great luncheon get-together on February 11, 2009 at Legends in Glendora.

Legends restaurant is located on Old Route 66 and is totally decorated in '50s nostalgia memorabilia. To liven things up, Queen Sharon, Beverly Lopez, Suzanne Covington, Audree Rowe, and Hostess Dorthy Hooton dressed in '50s red hat style. Many of the ladies brought items for a "Buy, Sell, or Trade" and everyone took a '50s Trivia Quiz.



(Do YOU remember the sponsor of the popular radio show "Your Hit Parade"?) It was an afternoon of great '50s music on the jukebox, good food, fun, and prizes. All the color and laughter attracted lots of attention and our own "Coca Cola Yes Girl", Norma Sullivan was asked to autograph her famous picture by some of her fans. (Norma posed for the picture below that was later used in the Coca Cola ad). The Pacific Pearls red hat group is open to any GMC Pacific Cruiser

women, and friends are welcome to join in. Place and date for the next event has not been announced yet, but it will be at a Mexican restaurant, so start planning what you will wear to be a Pacific Pearls "Mexican Red Hatter" in keeping with the theme. For more information, contact Queen Sharon Cerrina.

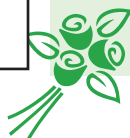


NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE FOR 2009

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Publication Dates | June 26 | Aug. 28 | Dec. 5 |
| Info to Coordinator | June 5 | Aug. 7 | Nov. 6 |
| To Publisher | June 12 | Aug. 15 | Nov. 13 |

In Loving Memory

Lee Walling wife of former GMC Pacific Cruiser President, Rod Walling. We are saddened to report that Lee died on January 21, 2009, after being struck by an automobile while crossing the street. Many will remember Lee for her sparkling personality and wholehearted participation in club events. Also for the beautiful colors and special hand knits she always made and wore. She even dawned a lovely vest for our Newsletter Coordinator. A memorial service for Lee is being planned, however, there are no details at this time. Our warm thoughts and prayers are extended to Rod. Lee will certainly be missed.





LOOKING AT THE PAST FOR A BETTER FUTURE

By **Marc Trubert**

Former Newsletter Editor of Western States, 1997-2003

The article presented below is from "GMC Western States Tech Center # 26" originally published in September 15, 1999. Here we are almost 10 years later and this subject is still very much relevant for newcomers and old-timers alike.

More than ever before, our beloved GMCs need constant attention. They all are at least 36 years old and still running, a tribute to the GM design engineers of the late 60's. They did the best they could with what they had at the time, within the budget they had and within the time that was allocated to them to create an outstanding machine that is still very much alive today. Over the years all club members have felt these machines are worth taking care of and also many of us have felt

that they are worth improving upon to increase our enjoyment while using them. GMC Western States Club has in its archives, a wealth of technical articles written by a large number of dedicated members that describe how to maintain and improve our coach and solve problems when they occur or avoid them. The article below is only a small sample of what is available.

Chuck Garton was GMC Western States Technical Vice-President from 1997 to 1999. He is still active in the Club. Among other things he is known for having equipped his coach with an abundance of gauges and warning lights that make him constantly aware of the status of his coach while driving.

INNER CV JOINT BOLTS

By **Chuck Garton**

I have read in various GMC publications about coaches losing all six inner CV joint bolts and being stranded along the roadside waiting for service.

I bought a 67 Toronado new and have lived with these bolts for over thirty years. The maintenance manual states that these bolts be replaced whenever removed and never be reused. After reading this, whenever I was at an Oldsmobile or Cadillac dealer, I would check at the parts counter and find out that these bolts were never stocked.

Now, I keep a new set on hand, and when I use them I order a new set from Cinnabar. I also keep a set of used ones in the motor home in case I lose some while traveling. However this is treating a symptom and not curing the real problem.

When I purchased my 1974 Sequoia 26' in November of 1977, I had no experience in maintaining a motor home. One day in 1979, I was under the coach doing something, when I noticed that all six bolts on the passenger side CV joint were loose about one turn. The book said the torque was 65 foot pounds, so I torqued them to specifications.

After a 500 mile trip, I was again under the coach and the same six bolts were loose about one turn. This time I installed new bolts and lock washers and torque them to specification. My next trip was also 500 miles and after that trip the six bolts were again loose.

Being real sharp and on top of things, it only took 2,000 to 3,000 miles (tightening the bolts every 500 miles) and a passenger side front wheel bearing failure to figure out the real problem!

After the bearing replacement, and going by the maintenance schedule of replacing the front wheel bearings every 25,000 miles, I have never had one inner CV joint bolt come loose.

Editor's Note: This is a reminder that the front bearings MUST be serviced every 25,000 miles.

FOR SALE CORNER

1978 26' Royale

Center kitchen model. Brand new paint and windshields, 7 Alcoa wheels, good Bridgestone tires. GMC truck engine 403, (not 455 car engine). Top brand synthetic lubricants since 1985 in engine, transmission, chassis grease. New Bendix Hydroboost (replaced vacuum boost). New front calipers/carbon metallic pads. New rear brake shoes, cylinder kits. Custom built couch and rear bed. Full kitchen with, microwave, stove with oven, Newtone). Appraised in 2003 at \$27,500. Asking \$22,500. CONTACT: ED BURNER (714) 871-2095 (Southern California).

_____(0309)



A REAL SOLID GMC NEEDS A NEW OWNER. 1975 Eleganza

Updates include: Professionally: rebuilt 455..headers 3" stainless exhaust...clear coat beige and black paint....new one piece side windows (a great improvement)....tires, brakes, trans, bearings, interior, 2 top air conditioners, macerator, dash, new gas and electric large size refrigerator. I'M READY TO DEAL! Please call me for other details – Asking \$15,000 – Willing to negotiate the price. Motor home is parked at El Toro Marine Base in Irvine, CA. Bob Sternfels (949) 497-3534 (Laguna Beach, California).

_____(0209)

1973 BIRCHAVEN, 23 FOOT

Total miles 98,000. Rear bath, 455 TBI engine, 400 miles Jasper Oh. Numerous upgrades, Alcoa wheels, 6 wheel disc brakes, recent refrigerator and upholstery, microwave, frt suspension rebuilt, new paint, tranny OH and final drive upgrade. Satellite antenna, 4 KW generator with overhead exhaust, custom motorbike carrier and rear bumper storage. Coach is housed in garage. Photos can be provided by emailing outdog31@hotmail.com - Asking \$23,500

John Glatz (928) 468-6212

_____(0210)

1976 (Former Glenbrook Interior) 26 FOOT

Flex steel captain chairs and sofa, lightweight oak interior, and cabinetry, all redone. Approximately 60k on high performance engine and transmission rebuilt with 3.5 power drive. This is a coach with up-to-date improvements and current maintenance. Alcoa, current tires, custom paint and front fiberglass. Available with EFI or correct carburetor, your choice. Have another coach I want to rebuild. Asking \$7,000 – Frank Condos (559) 683 -5185 – Ahwahnee, CA

_____(0210)

1973 26 FOOT Canyon Lands

108,216 miles, rebuilt 455 engine and carburetor at 82,770 miles. Beige Flex Steel leather pilot, co-pilot seats, sleeper sofa and chairs. Micro/convection oven, 3-way refrigerator. Fantastic fan, roof pod. A & E awnings both sides. Macerator, hitch, golf cart house batteries. Manuals and records, very clean. Selling due to health problems. Asking \$12,000–Darrel or Arlis Tetzloff (925) 937-2418 – Walnut Creek, CA

_____(0310)



PACIFIC CRUISERS
CLUB

2008 RALLY SCHEDULE

MARCH 3-5, 2009

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS

FAR WEST RESORT – SANTA PAULA, CA

HOSTS: FRED AND CYNTHIA DAVIS, MARC AND LILLIAN TRUBERT

APRIL 22-27, 2009

GMC WESTERN STATES

EMERALD DESERT RESORT – PALM DESERT, CA

HOSTS: DAVE AND DONNA DEGRAFFENREID

NOVEMBER, 2009

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS JOINING SAGUARO JET SETTERS FOR THANKSGIVING FEAST –
BENSON, AZ

HOST: STEVE AND NANCY FERGUSON

PLEASE SEE ANY OFFICER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A RALLY IN 2009

GMC
PACIFIC CRUISERS
CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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If you would like to
submit an article or item,
email
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INDEPENDENT
VERIFICATION IS URGED

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! - To our new members and we hope to see you at upcoming rallies.

Please welcome new GMC Pacific Cruisers **Steve and Mary Lee Smith**. The Smith's own a 1978 Royale with 45,000 miles on it. They are both retired. Steve retired as an Electrical Engineer and Mary Lee as a Registered Nurse. They have three children and two grandsons. The Smith's love to travel, especially with their Golden Retriever Buddy (they will be warmly welcomed by the rest of our pet people). We look forward to seeing the Smith's at our upcoming rallies.



G M C



P A C I F I C



C R U I S E R S



C L U B