



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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June | July | Aug

FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

We are coming to the end of another GMC Pacific Cruisers season. Our last rally will be in Lone Pine at the beautiful Boulder Creek Resort and hosted by Dave and Arlene Cantrell and Ray and Ellen Gandola. The Club had a great time there two years ago and this promises to be a repeat. The flyer is included with this newsletter and is available on the website, GMCPC.org also.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Club President this year. May you have a wonderful summer with low gas prices and great GMC travels. We will see you in the fall. Check the rally schedule for upcoming events.



At the Western States Rally in King City one of our endeavors was to read "Travels with Charley" and then have a book discussion as a group. I read the book as we traveled to the rally and I realized that even though it was written in 1962 it still rings true today. Steinbeck was traveling America from the East to the West with his faithful standard poodle Charley as a companion. Just as he wrote then we are a people that love to explore and travel our beautiful country, often with our faithful dogs and cats as companions. We gather our favorite clothes, food and sports equipment, stow them away in our GMCs and off we go. Another adventure has started. On our travels we may be looking for the perfect area to live in, perhaps start a little business or maybe it is just that we want to be somewhere else than "here". The wanderlust is inside of us. Many of us don't have to look too far back at our ancestry to find our people who have come over from the Old Country. They would settle in for a while to get their bearings and then were off again to all points of America in search of better farmlands, wide open spaces or a city that welcomed them.

When the Club travels to our rallies we see new places and new faces along the way and it broadens our knowledge. We arrive at our destination and there are old friends to greet and new ones to meet. Members tell us of their adventures and about their dreams. The road calls out to all of us. Life is an adventure and adventures are more fun in a GMC.

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I would like to close with another story about how Phil and I live in De Luz. Several years ago a friend gave me a birthday present of a flock on English Tumbler pigeons. We loved to see them fly up at about 5pm in a huge circle and then swoop down to earth to roost for the night. Then one day a homing pigeon with a band on its leg came in to roost. It was content for a few days but then in the evening it began to take our flock up into the sky in wider, wider and then wider circles. One day it took them up into a huge circle and off into the big sky. The wanderlust was in that pigeon, it got its bearings and it took our entire flock off to a new adventure. Godspeed to them and to all of us.

See you down the road.

Joanne

Treasurer's Report

GMC Pacific Cruisers Rally
Sky Valley Resort – Desert Hot Springs, CA
2-24-2011 – 2-27-2011
Hosted by Norm & Shirley Shier



The meeting was called to order by President Joanne Hernandez on February 25th at 9:14 A.M.

Board Members Present: Joanne Hernandez; Ed & Eileen Staal and Fred Davis

Minutes were read by Secretary Eileen Staal & approved as read.

Treasurers Report was given by Fred Davis with a beginning balance on January 11, 2011 of \$2,912.02. Income \$60.00 - Expenses \$49.97 Balance - \$2,922.05

This report generated much discussion of the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter. A motion by Phil Hernandez and seconded by Jim Rowe was made to raise the dues from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per year. This was voted on and was approved unanimously. This will help with some of the expenses of running the Club. Most of the members will need to receive the Newsletter by e.mail. A fee of \$10.00 per year should be charged members who want to receive the newsletter by regular mail.

The list of upcoming rallies was read by Vice President Ed Staal.

Western States - April 26, 2011 – May 1, 2011 - King City, CA

Lone Pine, CA – June 10 – June 12, 2011

Western States – October 1, 2011 – October 5, 2011 – Emerald Desert, CA

Joanne Hernandez gave a summary of what would happen at the Western States Rally. Good food, good seminars; wildflowers and good conversation. Arlene Cantrell gave information on the upcoming Lone Pine Rally. Gourmet food,, beautiful location and lots of things to do. Dave de Graffenreid stated that Emerald Desert would be more mellow.

Ralph Mundia reported that if we get 10 new members, that FMC A will donate some nice gifts to enhance our Rallies.

The nominating committee this year is Ralph Mundia, Annie Mundia and Sharon Cerrina. Joanne Hernandez asked Members to contact this committee if they wanted to be considered for next years Board.

Dave de Graffenreid reported that Dwayne Simmons is improving. He is working on the generator board with the help of his wife Billie. Bernice Brady reported that Jean Reeves was not doing well. Prayers; Cards and phone calls would be appreciated

Motion to raise dues for New Members from \$25.00 to \$35.00 was made by Chuck Botts and seconded by Dave deGraffenreid. This was voted on and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Eileen Staal, Secretary

TEMECULA BLUEGRASS RALLY

MARCH 18-20, 2011

Written by Annie Mundia

26 Coaches signed up. Over the weekend we got four new members! Don and Eve Desborough, of Fallbrook, Ca, had just bought a coach in Temecula and were excited to see us here. They visited for a few hours and met many of the members and joined the Club. Marion Porter, who sold them her motor home, had told them that the benefits of joining the GMC Pacific Cruisers were something they should really do. Thanks Marion for bringing us such nice new members.

Alan and Janet Sims, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada are already member of the Cascaders and we have visited with them at many Western States. They visited the rally held last month at Desert Hot Springs and signed up for the Temecula Bluegrass Rally. While there they also decided to join the GMC Pacific Cruisers. They spend three or four months as Snowbirds in Southern California and hope to attend many of our rallies. They will also be a great addition to the Club.

We would all like to welcome them to the Club.

Friday night we had an Italian pizza feast after a great happy hour with Fin Bevan's margaritas and Saturday morning Joanne served a wonderful breakfast-especially the real down home biscuits from scratch and home made jelly. Also we had fruit, juices, yogurt and assorted breakfast cakes. After breakfast the ladies and some men strolled across the street to Ritzy Rags for shopping. It rained a little bit but we wished it away and it went away. Wishes do come true. We all put our chairs in a circle and had a gabfest. Margaritas were served (thanks to Roy and Karin Goshen) and we even became even more talkative. Later we had a delicious Mexican dinner.

After dinner we went to The Bluegrass Concert. The music was great, especially the ending when all of the entertainers got on the stage together. We didn't get back to

our coaches til 10:30 to a beautiful full moon.

Sunday dawned with no rain. We all had another wonderful Joanne breakfast. Some coaches left and some stayed on.

Kudos to Joanne and Phil Hernandez for an outstanding rally.







BYE BYE BUZZ BOX

By **Jim Rowe**

In keeping with the old adage, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” I have had my coach for more than twenty years and I still had the original buzz box converter in it. The nickname, “buzz box”, comes from the sound it makes when plugged in—although mine did not make a peep prior to failing. Mine also had the twelve volt fuses as an integral part of the buzz box. It has always seemed to operate OK. Then one night the overhead lights on one side of the coach began to flicker and then went out. I opened the buzz box to look at the fuses and found that they were OK. The problem was that the fuse clip anchor point had broken loose and would make and then break contact. “It is very hard to read with the lights going on and off”, said Audree. That was my hint to make a permanent fix of the matter. When we got home, I put in a call to Duane Simmons, our club’s electrical guru, and asked for a recommendation. I did not want to do a lot of research on my own and come up with a poor choice. Duane recommended the WFCO ultra III WF 9800 series 45 amp converter. This unit has a three stage battery service capability; absorption mode, bulk mode and float mode. Duane not only knew what was needed, he knew where to get one. He ordered it for me and I received it three days later. Thanks Duane.

The new converter is half the size and half the weight. The old converter was a whopping 23 pounds and the sleek new one is about 11 pounds. The WFCO comes with a separate twelve fuse panel, my original only had five fuses, so it is possible to mount the panel away from the converter if desired. It also had something my old one did not have and that was a pigtail. My old one was hard wired. This meant that I would have to provide a receptacle. Due to the under the sink location and the 12 gage solid copper wire, this was the most difficult part of the installation. That stuff is not easy to work with in that location.

The converter was placed in position and then a lot of thought went into the placement of the fuse panel. I decided to fabricate a support for the fuse panel over the converter; one that would leave a lot of air space for cooling. I bent up a piece of aluminum sheet that would be anchored to the back vertical wall and the floor. To protect the wiring from the sharp edges of the sheet metal, I put black automotive sheet metal edging material on the fuse panel lid. I installed 10-24 threaded inserts on top of the bridge and mounted the fuse panel.

I then rerouted my wiring to run in a direction that would allow me to wire into the fuse panel very easily. Here is the good part. I managed to keep all the smoke in, and my lights work better than ever. And Audree likes the fact that I even gained some storage space in the kitchen.

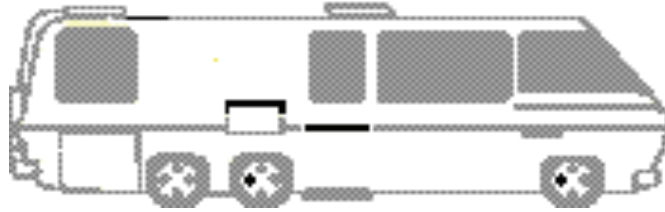


My original buzz box installation



The new WFCO fuse panel





. GREETINGS GMCer
THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN

The GMC Pacific Cruisers Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (FMCA), is a group of GMC Motorhome Owners from Southern California. The Chapter purpose is to further the mutual association, membership, enjoyment and common interest of GMC Motorhome owners, their families and friends and to enjoy a mutual affiliation and common membership with members of the FMCA.

The Chapter meets at Rallies several times each year. Although a large amount of Rally time is spent in social fellowship, members are eager to share and learn more about their "out of production" "Classic" GMC Coaches; how things work; where to get parts; who can fix it; etc. Maintenance and service tips and remodeling ideas are usually shared throughout each rally on an individual basis. Group discussions on coach systems and maintenance procedures are often held during rallies.

The Chapter was first affiliated with FMCA on May 1, 1976. In 1978, the Chapter was associated with a national GMC Motorhome Association, then re-charted as an FMCA Chapter in April, 1982.

FMCA INFO

The Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) has issued over 400,000 memberships to families and individuals who find the Association to be a valuable source of information about all facets of motor coach ownership and travel. FMCA's National Office in Cincinnati, Ohio conducts the business affairs of the association; establishes liaison with the motor coach industry; helps members organize geographic and special interest chapters (almost 300 throughout the United States and Canada); assists in correcting adverse legislation and provides many other worthwhile member services. Included in the \$50.00 Application Fee is \$10.00 Initiation; \$35.00 for One Years Dues and \$5.00 for a One-Year Subscription to "Family Motor Coaching Magazine. FMCA MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN A CHAPTER.

GMCPACIFIC CRUISERS MEMBERSHIP FEE is 35.00 which includes \$15.00 for One Years' Membership Dues and \$10.00 for Member Name Badges. The Chapter Fiscal Year begins on the first of October. Applications received after July 1st will have membership through the following fiscal year.

Check our web site: GMCPC.ORG

SEND APPLICATION WITH 35.00 CHECK PAYABLE TO: GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS
MAIL TO FRED DAVIS 975 W TELEGRAPH RD #F-130 SANTA PAULA CA 93060

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Application date: _____

FMCA Member # _____ “Required” or circle: “Applied for”

Last Name: _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Spouse : _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address: _____

License _____ Year _____ Model _____

Month/Year GMC Purchased _____ Total Miles on Coach _____

Name Badges will include first names as listed above unless nickname or other preferences are indicated here:

Husband _____ Spouse _____

Badge Fastener Type Pin _____ Clip _____

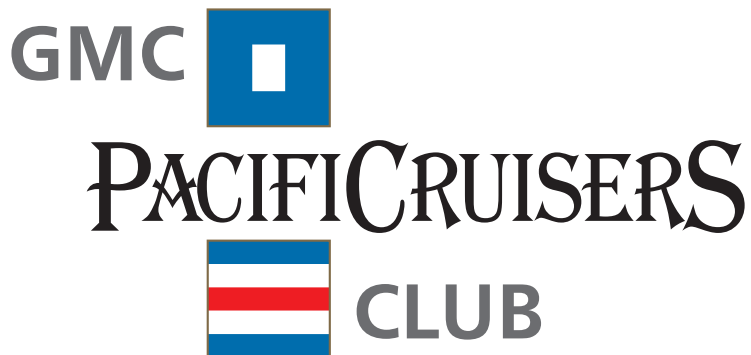
If an emergency were to occur at a rally, state whom you want contacted:

Name _____ Phone _____

The GMC Pacific Cruisers Newsletter includes a “Spotlight on New Members” for the purpose of acquainting the Membership with you. Please provide any information you would like to share such as employment; service clubs; hobbies; special interests; unusual travel experiences; etc.

Occupation: Husband _____ Spouse _____

Other Information _____



2011 RALLY SCHEDULE

JUNE 10,11, 2011

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS

BOULDER CREEK RV RESORT, LONE PINE

HOSTS: DAVE AND ARLENE CANTRELL AND
RAY AND ELLEN GANDOLA

FALL 2011

EMERALD DESERT RV RESORT

PALM DESERT, CALIF

OCTOBER 1-5

HOST: DAVE AND DONNA DEGRAFFENREID
AND

CO-HOST: PAT AND SHARON CERRINA

PLEASE SEE ANY OFFICER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A RALLY IN 2011

GMC
PACIFICCRUISERS
CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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P A C I F I C



C R U I S E R S



C L U B