



MOTORHOME CLUB NEWSLETTER

Written by **Audree Rowe**

The weatherman predicted rain on Friday and he wasn't wrong. But when did a little rain get in the way of Pacific Cruiser fun? As we turned into the back entrance of the Bernardo Winery we saw coaches already parked on a lovely grassy area with a vineyard on one side and a little village of wooden buildings on the other. And waving us in with big smiles on their faces in spite of the rain were Bobbie Schultz and Joanne Hernandez. We got parked and found out the Friday Farmer's Market was going on in spite of the rain so we went over to see what they had. I sampled and bought some unusual squash, some sweet ripe persimmons and some sapotes. In case you didn't know, sapotes are round green fruit about the size of a medium apple and their soft flesh is so sweet it tastes like custard with maybe a hint of banana or peach. Yum. But the best thing was the tamale vendor who had about 18 different kinds of fillings; meat, vegetarian and vegan, frozen or ready to eat. We got some and went back to the coach to eat them while they were hot.

Then it was time for the technical seminar on fasteners given by Jim Rowe or for the Dicken's English High Tea—a special event for the ladies. We ladies had been invited to dress up in keeping with the tea's theme and everyone wore their finery. Bobbie, Eileen Staal, Joanne Hernandez and I came as Victorian Ladies and laughed about the struggle to be ladylike in long dresses, gloves and hats. The tea was set up in the historic winery Barrel Room. Candles were burning and the table was set with beautiful white tablecloths and napkins and elegant holiday floral arrangements with Dicken's motifs made by Lillian Trubert. Our book discussion was set to be Dicken's holiday classic, "A Christmas Carol" and at each place was a beautifully printed synopsis of the story to refresh our memories. As our "mistress of the tea", Lillian, started off by telling us how she had made the centerpieces, each container covered with an elegant cloth covering embroidered with a different character from the story. Then it was time to enjoy our tea; plates of fruit, platters of assorted tea sandwiches, glasses of lovely Bernardo Winery Beaujolais, three kinds of melt in your mouth little scones and several pots of tea. When we had eaten, Lillian led our discussion, talking about life in Dicken's time and comparing it to life today, especially with regards to women's roles. All too soon it was time for a last cup of tea and a drawing to see which six lucky ladies got a centerpiece to take home.

Included in our packet were tickets for wine tastings in the Bernardo Winery Tasting Room and everyone gathered there to taste, toast, and browse in the gift shop. What better way to pass a rainy afternoon? Time flew by and it was time for





dinner. We were again set up in the Barrel Room and enjoyed a really special meal catered from the on-site Merlot Café. Our dinner included everything from beautiful appetizer trays to dessert; again accompanied by some nice Bernardo wines. Joanne welcomed everyone and introduced some first-timers, Lynda Harris and Ron Roman. Our rallymasters, Bobbie and Gene, gave us more information about our Saturday tour and cautioned us not to be late because we were going to be covering a lot of ground.

The weatherman predicted blue skies and sunshine for Saturday and again he was right. When we walked outside, our bus and uniformed driver was already waiting for us—not just any bus, but a sleek model with the blacked out windows that VIPs travel around in. Wow! Inside the bus, the seating was black leather couches that wrapped around the inside; broken up only by the three bars fitted out with crystal glasses in case we got thirsty en-route. What a great arrangement. We could all see each other and talk easily as we looked out and watched the world roll by. Bobbie and Gene took turns narrating and pointing out places of interest as we passed. Our first stop was Kit Carson Park in Escondido. As you might remember, Kit Carson was the scout who guided Capt. John Fremont and the U.S. army on their explorations through the West. The land we were traveling through had been part of large land grants from the Mexican government. The Californios who owned those immense ranches did not want to become part of the United States and the bloody battle of San Pasqual was fought in the area during the U.S.-Mexican War. Obviously, “we” won. Also in Kit Carson Park is the world renowned Queen Calafia’s Magical Circle, a circular sculpture garden created by artist Niki de Saint Phalle. We walked a short trail to the garden entrance but when our guide arrived we were told that the garden and the battlefield area would be closed because of the rain the day before. So all we could do was listen to the story, peek in through the fence, and resolve to come back another day.

Back in the bus, people began opening the “munch kits” Bobbie passed around. These delightful bags were full of all kinds of eats and treats to keep us from starvation while we made our way to our next stop, the Stone Brewing Company, the largest craft brewery in California. When the doors opened at the brewery, we were taken behind the scenes and given a private tour of this ultra modern brewing plant. Stone uses only natural ingredients and natural brewing methods unlike the big commercial breweries. Next into the tasting room where we were led through a series of four “tastes” starting with the mildest and going on to some interesting and potent brews. The Stone beers have wonderful names like “Ruinination” and “Levitation”. I bought some “Arrogant Bastard” as a gift for my grandson. But the brewery and

BERNARDO WINERY RALLY

tasting room is not all there is at Stone. They have added an amazing Bistro café with soaring ceilings and walls of glass that look into the brewery on one side, and out to the Zen Gardens on the other. We took time to walk through the garden, enjoying the plantings, the ponds and streams and the rock formations. Again, we made a mental note that this is a place we have to come back to.

Next the bus took us around through some of the surrounding country with Gene narrating and telling us about landmarks, development, and changes. We made a stop at Cal State San Marcos to admire some of the "significant" architecture found on campus and to see the "Drunken Clock" and hear it chime.

Then another brewery, The Lost Abbey in Vista, located in a warehouse district. Outside in the parking lot was a pizza stand set up with a real wood fired pizza oven just like you see in Italy. It all smelled divine and when we stopped for a sniff, our first timer Lynda, was told she had just won a free pizza which she was kind enough to share with us. To get into this tasting room, you had to show ID. That's right. They actually carded us. Inside was a total party scene but our guides cleared a spot for us at the bar and we started our tastings. Lost Abbey beers are all brewed in the Belgian tradition begun by Monks. Their brews are named things like Avant Garde, Devotion, Inferno, and Judgement Day and it was fun to taste all of those and more. Who knew there was a "beer scene?" Who knew there were different brewing methods? Who knew beer had "notes of cherry or citrus?" Who knew beer was aged? What an interesting day.

Back at our campground, we had time for a rest, or time for shopping in the special shops on the grounds of the winery, or for a few stalwart souls, time to visit the tasting room again. Our dinner was beautifully set up in the patio, again catered by Café Merlot and including everything from appetizer to dessert again accompanied by Bernardo wines. I commented on the delicious vegetables on my plate and I was told that they and all the fresh herbs used for the dinner were picked about an hour before cooking from the garden grown at the winery. After dinner, we had a short business meeting conducted by President Joanne who introduced special guests, Roger and Sharon Garst. Roger is FMCA Vice-President for the Western Region. Roger presented The Pacific Cruisers with a beautiful certificate signifying 35 years of membership in FMCA. We are one of the oldest and most active clubs under their umbrella. Along with the certificate was a check to be added to our treasury. The evening was lovely and people lingered over wine and dessert before heading back to their coaches.

Sunday was brisk and bright. Some were planning on staying at the winery for the Sunday afternoon jazz concert, but with rain forecast, most said goodbye and headed for home as did we. What a wonderful week-end.

See you all in Quartzsite.

Bernardo Winery Attendees

**Loren and Virginia Bates
Suzanne Covington and Randy
Bills**

**Chuck and Dorris Garton
Lynda Harris and Ron Roman
Phil and Joanne Hernandez**

Al and Barbara Hobson

Bob and Karen Lamey

Bob and Ruth Martin

Len and Pat Novak

Jim and Audree Rowe

**Gene and Bobbie Schultz – Rally
Hosts**

Ed and Eileen Staal

Marc and Lillian Trubert

Dave and Leone Wood

**Special Guests: Roger and Sharon
Garst-FMCA Vice President,
Western Region**



WATER HEATERS IN GMC INTERIOR COACHES

By Chuck Garton

The first design water heaters (type 1) were used from 1973 to sometime in 1976. They were aluminum and installed in an insulated steel box (Figures 1&2). The drain valve was located just above the heating element (Figure 2). The problem with this set up was hard water would eat the Aluminum tank (Figure 3). Jim DeMaere makes a stainless steel type 1 replacement that eliminates this problem.

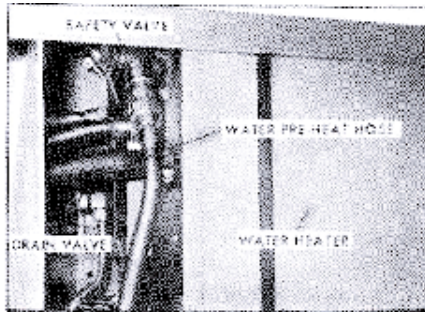
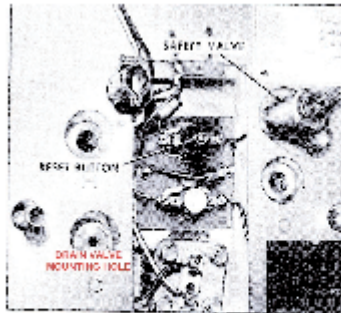


Figure 1

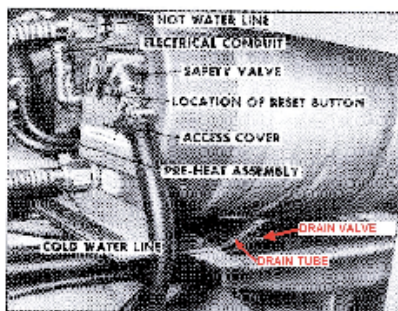


Type 1

Figure 2



Figure 3



Type 2

Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



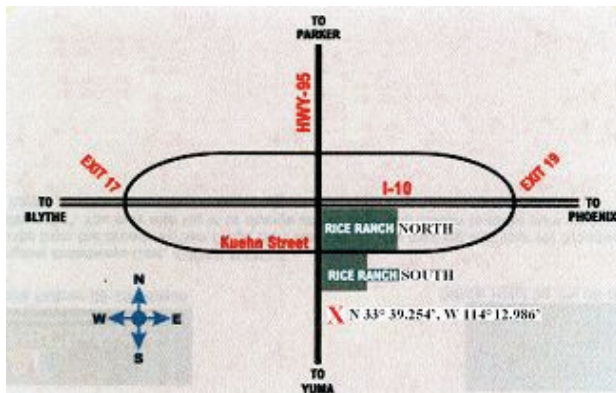
Figure 7

Type 2 water heaters were made of steel and insulated (no box) (Figure 4). Jim DeMaere also makes a stainless steel type 2 replacement.

Winter is approaching, and those of us that live where freezing is a problem need to drain the water heater. A close look at Figure 4 reveals a drain valve that is hard to access. The valve screws into the bottom of the water heater, has a ten turn small handle and a right angle output which connects to a tube going through the fender well. It is very difficult to open this valve as it usually requires a pair of pliers. Debris collect in the bottom of a water heater and the right angle valve aggravates this.

My solution was to raise the water heater up two inches using four two inch pipe nipples and longer bolts (Figures 5&6). Then I was able to install a 1/4 turn ball valve (Figure 7) and eliminate the right angle. There was enough slack in the water lines to raise the water heater without modifying the water lines.

Draining the water heater is now easy: open a hot water faucet and the ball valve. Debris still collects in the bottom. Every 2 years, I have to back flush by opening the ball valve and blowing 50PSI air in the outside drain tube. Now I am in the habit of draining the water heater after every trip.



QUARTZSITE, AZ. 85346 January 25 - February 1, 2012

N 33° 39.254', W 114° 12.986'

Directions: From the West: Interstate 10 east to Exit 19, Quartzsite Arizona, turn right at first street Riggins Avenue proceed to Kuehn St. right turn. Proceed almost to Traffic signal and turn left into Rice Ranch South. From Highway 95: turn east onto Kuehn Street and turn right into Rice Ranch. Check in and join us. We reserved 20 Full Hookup Sites.

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS RALLY

Wed. January 25 (or the day you arrive) – Check-In.... **Happy Hour 4:00 PM**

Thurs. January 26 thru Tue. January 31 - Shop, Sit, Chat. **HAPPY HOUR 4:00 PM daily**

Wed. February 1 – Check Out; Back to reality.

No Meetings; just come; have fun, shop, chat, relax, play games, etc. On your own for food; however there is a lot of sharing at the evening meal. **Bring your Dutch oven, grill or other camp cooking item, and share in the fun of cooking for the group.** If anyone wants to prepare food for the group, just let us know so we can coordinate. **Bring Firewood if you have it.**

The Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama is a variety of vendors displayed on 2.2 miles of frontage. It and the R.V. show will be open through **January 29, 2012**. There are walk-up places to eat. We have lucked out with good weather, but, it can be windy, cold, and/or rainy. So come prepared. Comfortable shoes for walking are a must. Sacrificial clothing should be employed around the campfires.

Join us for any of the days listed. One, two or all eight days; **the price is the same; \$220.00 per coach (Full Hookups)**. Dry camping is available at both Rice Ranch and BLM for a fee.

Rally Hosts: Chuck & Dorris Garton

**Registration – Must be received by January 17, 2012. Cancellations may not receive a Refund. Send Registration to: Chuck Garton, 604 N Las Posas Street
Ridgecrest, Ca. 93555**

Home: (760) 375-5568; Cells: Chuck: (760) 271-0205; Dorris: (760) 271-0206

*****Cut off and mail with check*****

Name(s) _____

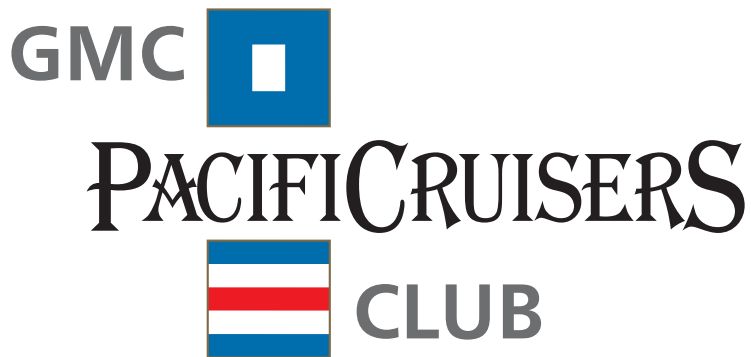
Address _____

City _____ State _____ / Zip _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Coach License # _____ Tow Vehicle License # _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED\$ _____ email address _____



2012 RALLY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 25 TO FEB 1, 2012

QUARTZITE, AZ
HOSTED BY CHUCK AND DORRIS GARTON

MARCH 17-19, 2012

TEMECULA BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, TEMECULA, CA
HOSTED BY JIM AND AUDREE ROWE AND
SUZANNE COVINGTON

APRIL 24-28, 2012

WESTERN STATES
CASA DE FRUITA, CA
HOSTED BY MANNY AND DEO TRAVAO
AND CO HOST DAVE AND DONNA DEGRAFFENREID

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

GMC
PACIFIC CRUISERS
CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DESIGNED AND
PRINTED BY
IDEAL SERVICES,
San Diego, CA.

If you would like to
submit an article or item,
email

Sharon Cerrina
sharoncerrina@gmail.com

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

