



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



MOTORHOME CLUB NEWSLETTER

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April | May | June

FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

"Time flies when you are having fun", that's an old phrase but one that is so true. The past two years have just flown by and it is hard to believe that my time as your President is soon coming to an end. It has been challenging at times and a piece of cake at other times. Thanks to having such a wonderful Board and so many terrific members my job has been fairly easy.

We have lost a few good friends as members over the past two years and they will certainly be missed. The good news is that we have continuing interest from people who have bought a GMC and have joined the Pacific Cruisers. New members, new fresh ideas and the Club is remaining strong.



This has been a busy spring. Audree, Jim, Suzanne and Randy did a spectacular job at the Temecula Bluegrass Rally in March. Read the rally report in this issue. In April we headed off to another fun-filled Western States Rally hosted by Manny, Deo, Dave and Donna. We were treated to wonderful seminars and activities.

On May 27th, Phil and I, Jim and Audree Rowe and Ed and Eileen Staal will be exhibiting our motor coaches at our local Fallbrook Vintage Car Show. The show is limited to 300 vehicles and they must be at least 25 years old. It has been suggested several times that this may be a good way to let folks see up close how beautiful our "classic coaches" are. We are not in a category that will be judged but will be able to have handouts and pictures about the GMC history and the clubs that are available to join. If any of you are interested in coming to the show it will be held at Potter Junior High School, 1743 Reche Road, Fallbrook from 9am to 3pm. Admission is free, there are food booths and outstanding vintage cars. There is always a big crowd and you can talk to people about how great these coaches are.

On June 1st and 2nd we will be heading off to our last rally of the season at Flying Flags in Buellton. A registration flyer is included in this newsletter. Come on down and welcome your new Board. Ralph Mundia is our incoming President, Lillian

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FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

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Trubert, Vice President, Fin Bevan, Treasurer and Judy Booth is our new Secretary. As a special treat Ralph and Annie have agreed to be the "Super Chefs" and prepare their famous Tri-tip Dinner on Saturday night.

I'd like to end my last President's column with one last look at our life here in De Luz. Phil's tomatoes and corn are growing great. Orioles, hawks and owls have nested. My rose garden looks so colorful and healthy (the weeds look darn healthy too). Our neighbor has just put in his new crop of gourds, he plants about 50 acres of them and sells them all over the world. Just this morning, another neighbor came by to ask if we had seen his new goat. Apparently it had made its escape by jumping a small fence, climbing a tree to jump over a taller fence. We are on the lookout for it as it still has a lot of weeds to eat for his owner. Not your ordinary neighborhood is it?? We do love living here. The only other thing we enjoy as much is spending time on the road in our GMC with our fellow Pacific Cruisers.

So long for now. See you down the road.

Joanne

MINUTES OF GMCPC MEETING 3-17-2012

GMC Pacific Cruisers Rally

March 16 – 18, 2012

Blue Grass Festival-Temecula, CA

Hosted by: Suzanne Covington & Randy Bills

Audree & Jim Rowe

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Hernandez, President on March 17th at 5:30 P.M.. This was a Informal Business Meeting in order to conduct the election of Officers for the fiscal year, October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. Joanne gave thanks and compliments to our Rally Masters for the incredible Rally in spite of all of the rain.

Board Members present: Joanne Hernandez, President, Ed Staal, Vice President, Fred Davis, Treasurer and Eileen Staal, Secretary.

Reading of Minutes: Dispensed with as it was included in recent newsletter.

Treasurers Report: Fred Davis stated that we have a current balance of \$3,727.01.

Nominating Committee consisted of Freddi Condos, Bob Hooten and Arlene Cantrell. Slate of Officers nominated are the following:

- Ralph Mundia-President
- Lillian Trubert-Vice President
- Fin Beven-Treasurer
- Judy Booth

Nominations from the floor – None

Ed Staal moved to accept the nominations and was seconded by Dave Wood.

Dave Cantrell made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Vote was unanimous to elect nominated officers.

Len Novak moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ken Booth.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Eileen Staal, Secretary

Reported By: Audree Rowe

Rain, rain go away.....The weatherman was forecasting a major, long lasting, rain storm for the week-end of our Blue Grass Festival Rally in Temecula, but he had been wrong so many times lately that we hoped this would be another case of everything being blown out of proportion by the TV news. Alas, not this time. On Thursday rallymasters, Jim Rowe and Suzanne Covington, accompanied by Randy Bills took their coaches down to Temecula to meet Phil Hernandez and get the camping site set up and to be on hand to park and greet the early arrivals.

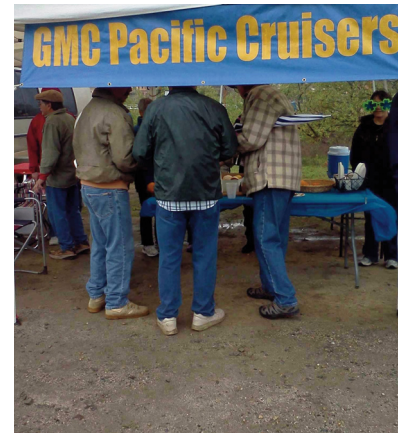
Early Friday morning, it was drizzling in San Dimas when I started down to Temecula in my car, but it cleared as I got closer, and I was optimistic that the storm would not impact us down south. By the time I got to Temecula, our lot was nearly full and by Happy Hour everyone was in or accounted for. The temperature was dropping as our usual circle of chairs formed, but the flowing wine and the campfire kept the chill off. Our pizza feast; giant pizzas of all varieties, hot wings, bread sticks and sauce, and salads were delivered and consumed at an early dinner so we could all get down to the theater for the start of the concert at 7 p.m.

The Blue Grass bands were a real treat. The MC gave us some background on these musicians and we found out we were going to be entertained by some groups who were not only favorites we had heard in previous years, but who were some of the big names and grammy winners in the Blue Grass world. They did not disappoint.

I awoke the next morning to the sound of dripping rain. Suzanne and Randy drove to the bakery and picked up our order of fresh out of the oven miniature pan dulces, and I had baskets of fresh fruit to accompany them. It's raining. What about breakfast? I proposed that we make up some plates and deliver them to each coach, like room service. The girls told me that if people were not coming out of their coaches it was because they were still in bed and "might not want to be disturbed (or interrupted) by anyone." Really?? I hope the girls were right. So we set out everything and pretty soon people drifted out with their cups of coffee to stand under the shelter and enjoy the sweets and the campfire. Talk was about going into town for the Farmer's Market or to the covered areas where music was going to be played. Several people with cars offered rides, but most intrepid GMCers opened their umbrellas and walked. Rain was coming down pretty steadily when we visited the Farmer's Market, but vendors were doing business under their awnings and Jim was able to buy some jars of the pickled garlic he loves.

Rain continued to fall into the afternoon and the headquarters area under our EZ Ups began to fill up with water. We were scheduled to have a business meeting, happy hour, and a Mexican buffet for dinner, but how could we gather outside with all the water and no shelter? We kicked ideas around. Maybe we could serve dinner out of our coach and people could make plates and take them back to their own coach or to some "host" coaches. But that wouldn't allow people to mingle and laugh and

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talk the way we always do, and what about seconds? Pacific Cruisers love to eat. We called Rosa's and asked if we could have the buffet at the restaurant. The answer was, "No." What with the Festival and St. Patrick's Day, they were all booked up. Now what?

Then Suzanne and Randy got the idea that one of the hotels might have a room or a suite we could rent and use so we could have a dry dinner. Jim and I loved the idea and the girls got on their phones and started calling every hotel for miles around. And they got lucky. One of the hotels, the historic Palomar, in Old Town Temecula, said

they had "a room" behind the hotel that we could use from 4 to 7 p.m. They would let us bring in our own food and wine, but told us we would have to be completely out by 7 o'clock because they had a band coming in at that time to set up for another party. It sounded OK but there was a charge of \$100. per hour for the use of the room. Three hundred dollars was a lot to commit to, so we telephoned our President, Joanne Hernandez, who happened to be in her coach for a meeting with the other board members. They talked it over and gave us the go-ahead. Suzanne and Randy contacted all the people with cars and lined up rides for everyone, then wrote out and delivered flyers detailing the change of plans and asking everyone to donate \$10, if they could, to help defray the unexpected rally cost. Thank goodness for cell phones.

We drove over to the hotel at 3:30 with all of the paper goods and chafing dishes we had gotten from Rosa's and some cleaning supplies in case we had to clean tables and chairs before we used them. We had no idea what the room was like except they said it could accommodate 50 people. What a surprise! The room was their wine bar "Viva Vino" that usually opened for tastings at 5:30 p.m. but would remain closed for our private party. It had everything—a music and sound system, tables for 4 or stools at the long bar and plenty of space for our own wine bar and buffet dinner. It was even decorated for St. Patrick's day. The hotel personnel helped us set up, even offering us carafes to use if we wanted to "decant" our boxes of wine. By the time everyone started arriving, we were ready to party.

Joanne conducted our business meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the new slate of officers offered by the nominating committee for the 2012-2013 year. They were elected unanimously. Your new board will be: Ralph Mundia, president, Lillian Trubert, vice-president, Fin Beven, treasurer, and Judy Booth, secretary. Congratulations to them and to all of us for securing such a great board.

After the meeting it was time for happy hour and nibbles while Suzanne and Randy went to pick up our dinner. Rosa's restaurant is always great but they outdid themselves this time and everything was soooo good and so plentiful. As dinner was winding down, Jim took the microphone and welcomed everyone to a warm, dry, venue and gave some detail about how we came to be there. As Jim said, "It took work to make it happen, but Pacific Cruisers don't quit." Amen to that. Then he entertained the crowd with some jokes; OK maybe a few groaners, but still pretty funny nevertheless. Next on the agenda, was a surprise birthday cake for our St. Patrick's Day baby, Pat Novak. Nice surprise for all of us and a great dessert. This was followed by a raffle for gifts and for the rest of the wine. Nobody had raffle tickets, but the rallymasters had assigned each coach a number based on the order in which

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they registered and these were the numbers that were drawn. The highlight of the raffle was when the hotel personnel jumped in and donated a \$35.00 bottle of wine from their collection. It was won by Joanne and Phil Hernandez. All too soon it was time to leave yet another GREAT Pacific Cruiser party.

We had rain and hail during the night, and in the morning we found that our headquarters area had turned into a lake. But things were moved and dried off and breakfast was served; platters of ham and cheese, rolls, spreads, hard boiled eggs, and mini yogurts and lots of fresh fruits. The sky looked like it might be clearing, but after breakfast, we were ready to head for home. Lots of volunteers turned out to help us pack up, but Danny McCurter and Bob Lamey get the award for creativity. The tops of the EZ Up canopies that had been sheltering us were filled with gallons of water. Clearly any attempt to start taking them down would result in a drenching waterfall. Then Danny came up with the idea and Bob had the lung capacity to start it going and they siphoned out the water. That's Pacific Cruiser ingenuity!

I hope someone steps up to be rallymaster for a repeat of the Blue Grass Festival rally for 2013. In other years, the weather was always lovely, but in any case, we know that Pacific Cruisers don't let a little weather get in the way of a good time.

ATTENDEES:

Loren and Virginia Bates
Fin Beven and Deborah Norum
Ken and Judy Booth
Chuck and Mary Botts
Bill Boyer and Vickie Hampshire
Dave and Arlene Cantrell
Suzanne Covington and Randy Bills
Fred and Cynthia Davis
Ray and Ellen Gandola
Chuck and Dorris Garton
Roy, Karen and Erik Gosen
Hoss and Charlotte Hauge
Phil and Joanne Hernandez
Al and Barbara Hobson
Charley and Patricia Kanenbley
Bob and Karen Lamey
Bob and Ruth Martin
Danny and Barbara McCurter
Ralph and Annie Mundia
Len and Pat Novak
Ron Roman and Linda Harris
Jim and Audree Rowe
Gene and Bobbie Schultz
Sandra Shull
Ed and Eileen Staal





TIME IS TICKING AWAY

By **Phil Hernandez**

We all know that Firestone has stopped manufacturing airbags for our GMCs. There are other systems out there that will replace our airbags but they are very costly. One day we will all have to pay the piper. In the meantime here are some less costly solutions.

About ten years ago I installed 8" aluminum frying pans purchased from a local retail store on the forward and back part of the cone. I installed them to protect my airbags from road debris and to extend the life of my airbags. Today, I inspected the air bags and they still look to be in great condition. For a very small cost you can extend the life of the airbags. See picture below.

A similar article was published in our Club newsletter dated Oct., Nov. 2009 written by Bob Sternfels on this subject. The problems are elements from the road, debris, attacking the outer layer of the airbags and debris sticking to the aluminum cones. In time, your airbags will break down. After five years of road experience Sternfels inspected the airbag, which was installed new, and it looked as new as the day it was installed.

In order to save or extend the life of our airbags and make them last a few years longer we will have to step up to the plate and make changes. One important suggestion would be to remove your airbags and clean the debris from the cones with a wire brush and 320 wet and dry sandpaper to achieve a polished finish. This should be done every three to five years depending on the use of your motor home.

Ragusa sells aluminum gravel deflectors to help protect your airbags. Bob Sternfels sells protective sleeves for the airbags. I have my "aluminum frying pan protective shields". The choice is yours. For more information contact:

Ragusa's gravel deflectors at 949-261-5898

Sternfel's protective sleeves at 949-497-3534

Hernandez' frying pan protective shields at 760-723-4575



FOR SALE CORNER

1975 ELGANZA II SIDE BATH

35,000 Miles On 455-Cd Winterfeldt Engine, New Rebuilt Transmission, Starter, Ignition Parts. Digipanel, Mercerator With Hose, California Coach With Original Cabinets, Recent Ceiling, Upholstery And Carpeting In Neutral Color, Dometic Three-Way Refrigerator. Rear Bed With Mattress. Ample Tread On Tires. Also Available Three Way Dinette Table And Settee That Makes Into Bed In Back Compartment. Maintained By Bob Lamey.

A Bargain At \$7,500 Obo.

If You Have Any Questions, Please Contact Me At 661 270-9649 Or E Mail At tillman@as.net.

1974 GMC 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 and 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
970-222-1967

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)9372418
Walnut Creek, Ca.

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- 858-3862885
San Diego, Ca.

BACK TO FLYING FLAGS

Flying Flags RV Resort, 180 Avenue of the Flags, Buellton, CA 93427

June 1 -2 - 3

This will be the last scheduled rally for the Pacific Cruisers this fiscal year. Your hosts are your officers, Joanne Hernandez, President; Ed Staal, Vice President; Fred Davis, Treasurer; Eileen Staal, Secretary. This will be strictly a social event, just a get together of old and new friends. There will be a short business meeting Saturday to welcome our incoming Board of Officers

Friday:

12:00 to 5:00 PM check in

5:00 PM Happy hour – 6:00 PM Italian Dinner

Saturday:

8:00 AM Danish Breakfast. A brief meeting after breakfast to introduce the Officers.

You are on your own today;

Golf at the municipal course or at Alisal Golf Resort.

Visit the Chumash Indian Casino in Solvang, a shuttle bus available.

Visit the Solvang Danish Village.

Los Olivas and the Santa Ynez Valley for wine tasting.

Public transportation hourly outside the entrance to the park.

Saturday Evening:

5:00 PM Happy Hour– 6:00 PM Tri tip BBQ prepared by our incoming President, Ralph Mundia

Sunday:

8:00 AM Continental breakfast, say our goodbys and safe travelling.

Directions: Northbound on 101 Hwy to Santa Rosa Rd off ramp, turn left onto Santa Rosa Rd, cross over 101 Hwy, turn right on Avenue of the Flags and proceed ¼ mile to the entrance to the park.

Southbound on Hwy 101 in Buellton, take the off ramp to Hwy 246, turn right on 246 and then left on Avenue of the Flags to the park entrance.

Reservations should be mailed to Ed & Eileen Staal, 2211 Earle Ct., Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Telephone 310 374 7678.

NAMES _____ TELE. _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST. _____ ZIP _____

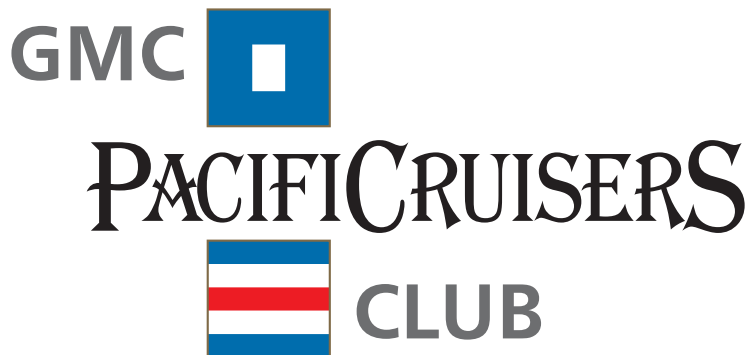
COACH LIC. _____ TOW CAR LIC _____

HANDICAP PARKING _____ FIRST RALLY _____

COACH W/2 PERSONS \$195.00 _____

COACH W/1 PERSON 160.00 _____

ADDED GUEST 35.00 _____



2012 RALLY SCHEDULE

JUNE 1-3, 2012

BACK TO FLYING FLAGS
 BUELLTON, CA
 HOSTED BY PRES. JOANNE HERNANDEZ, VICE PRES.
 ED STAAL
 SEC. EILEEN STAAL AND TRES. FRED DAVIS

FALL 2012

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

PLEASE SEE ANY OFFICER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A RALLY IN 2012

GMC
PACIFICRUISERS
 CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DESIGNED AND
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If you would like to
 submit an article or item,
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sharoncerrina@gmail.com

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