

THE GMC

DIXIELANDER

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2002

A NOTE FROM JR:

Hi Guys,

Well, the 2002 rally season is off to a great start. So far the Dixielanders were well represented at the Sunshine Statesmen's 25th birthday rally, the GMCMI spring convention, and of course our own Bean Station work rally.

Bean Station this year was a little cool and a little damp. But that in no way reflected the attitude of the Dixielanders, the group was warm and sunny. The hospitality of Marty and AL was reflected in the gratitude of some 59 coaches and 61 families that were represented. The work rally was described as "the best yet". From the air suspension seminar to the constant line of coaches over the pit, it was a time of helping one another, sharing information, and having fun while keeping our coaches in top shape. Ray Bingham did a great job of keeping the pit and shop area organized and running smoothly.

By no means, was this rally only for the men. The ladies were busy with their craft projects, bridge games, dominoes, board games and whatever else they do that makes them roar with laughter. The ladies performed their share of work. Under the supervision of Marty and Trula, some of the ladies helped to prepare and distribute breakfast, lunch and dinner for the whole group on Friday and Saturday and breakfast again on Sunday. All the ladies graciously did their share by helping wash, dry and put away. This was really appreciated.

Now that all the Snow Birds have returned home and everyone is anxious to get out with their friends, I'm looking forward to a really great season and a big turnout at the Gadsden, AL rally in June.

To those of you who couldn't make Bean Station, sorry. To those who want to come to Gadsden, welcome.

Take care, travel safely.....JR

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TREASURERS REPORT:

By Chuck Chambers

May 1, 2002

Bal Brought Forward: \$4962.13

Income: 1702.00

Balance: \$6664.13

Expenditures: 531.47

Ending Balance: \$6132.66

Members with paid-up dues for 2003:

Birchfield(\$5)	Jenkins	Rose	Young
Blackburn	Kaegi	Sirum, A.	
Breland	Laird	Stephenson(\$5)	
Dunn	Linn	Stiteler	
Folkmann	O'Rourke	Tase	
Galovic	Ratchford	Wessels	
Grove	Rayburn	Whitton	
Harrison	Richardson	Wirth	

2004:

Linn Ratchford(\$2)

JACKETS

Dixielander jackets are in short supply. They have discontinued the current style jackets and will not be available after the current supply runs out. Still available are small, medium, large and extra large. The price is still \$73.56, made out to "House of Embroidery" plus a separate check made out to Allene Burdette to cover postage, for \$5.00. Send your size and the two checks to: Allene Burdette, 3003 Barcelona Way, Conyers, GA 30012

BEAN STATION RALLY:

As usual, the Bean Station rally was a woppin success. We are duly indebted to Marty and Al Samsel, and Trula and Ray Bingham, and to the early arrivals who helped with the mowing, setting up, cleaning tables and chairs and the installers of the temporary electrical hook-ups.

The parking committee, JR Slaten and Ray Whelan, all the dishwashers and kitchen helpers (a few good men also), the cookout crew, and those who stayed over to help with the dismantling and clean-up of the pit, showers and rec. barn, were greatly appreciated by Al and Marty.

ATTENDEES:

Guests:

Skip and Hellen Skipper, FMCA Eastern VP
Steve Rasmussen, Midwest Clasics from Minnesota

Members (58):

Flic and Judy Acosta, Ray and Judy Alden , Lew and Rosemary Ayres, Pete and Phyllis Barrett, Mary Bezy, Eugene and Gay Basnight, Ray and Trula Bingham, Burt Black, Bill and Bobbie Bramlett, Jim and Peggy Buchanan, Joe and Allene Burdette, Chuck and Sue Chambers, Ron and Betty Davis, Terry and Maryann Denham, Gene and Joan Dotson, Norman and Carol Eby, Isaac and Jeanette

Grove, Jr., Ed and Pat Harris, Richard and Susan Harwell, Herb and Joanie Haught, Ken and Elaine Henderson, Jerry and Audrey Holloway, Bill and Pat Hutchinson, Robert and Dianne Hudson, Frank and Jeanne Jenkins, Don and Jo Kastner, Ed and Marty Laird, Hal and Jane Lively, Allen and Pat Martin, Jim and Lou McDowell, Robert and Peggy Ann Moore, Skip and Barbara Newhouse, Don and Gail Ogden, Ken and Alma O'Rourke, Paul and Korky Rice, Curby and Mary Robertson, Ken and LaRosa Rose, Al and Marty Samsel, Bob and Marty Sanders, Alex and Ramona Sirum, Henry and Margie Sirum, JR and Jeanne Slaten, Ed and Carol Smith, Dan and Ellen Springer, Eric and Joanna Tanner, Ron and Suzie Tase, Bill and Joanne Telgen, Harry and Linda Terrill, Joe and Bonnie Terry, Jim and Marion Thurman, Charles and Nell Toole, Roscoe and Shirley Trivett, Bill and Barbara Wessels, Ray and Rose Whelan, Ed and Hattie Whitson, Eddie and Shirley Williams, Larry and Carolyn Wills, Don and Barb Wirth.

JACKPOT WINNERS FOR THE 128TH KENTUCKY DERBY:

Rose Whelan Alan Martin Don Wirth
Peggy Moore Carol Eby Pat Hutchinson
Carolyn Wills Ken O'Rourke

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MEDEX

A medical program provided by your membership in FMCA. If you are a member of FMCA, you are automatically covered for a travel program that provides travel assistance, emergency evacuation and repatriation(the body or remains), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, while traveling in the United States, Canada and Mexico in your Motorhome.

It covers:

1. Emergency air and ground evacuation (no \$ limit).
2. Repatriation of remains (no \$ limit).

3. Return home of unattended grandchildren and dependent children (no \$ limit).
4. Motorhome and automobile return home (no \$ limit).
5. Family member visit transportation (for member traveling alone-if member is hospitalized for seven days or more (\$1000 limit).
6. Transportation home after initial evacuation (no \$ limit).

NOTE: MEDEX must approve in advance.

MEDEX PLUS PROGRAM Call for emergency only **800-527-0218**

Group No: 7030 Group Name: Family Motor Coach Association, For information and a wallet card, call 800-543-3622, (FMCA Member Benefits)

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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

JR Slaten	President
Bill Hutchinson	First Vice President
Lew Ayres	Second Vice President
Korky Rice	Secretary
Chuck Chambers	Treasurer
Allen Martin	FMCA National Director
Don Leslie	Alt. FMCA National Director
Betty Davis	Executive Committee
Ray Bingham	Executive Committee
Caroline Wills	Executive Committee
Flic Acosta	Nominating Committee
Pat Harris	Nominating Committee
Herb Haught	Nominating Committee
Gene Dotson	Audit Committee
Marie Hudson	Audit Committee
JoAnn Fain	Photographer
Ken O'Rourke	Newsletter Editor

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TECH INFO

The 403cu in vs. the 455 cu in:

403:

200 HP @3600, 330 ft. lbs.@ 2400

Bore = 4.351, Stroke = 3.385

Compression Ratio 7.9 to 1, can use 87 Octane if it doesn't knock or higher if it does.

455:

212 HP @ 3400, 344 ft. lbs. @ 2400

Bore = 4.126, Stroke = 4.250

Compression Ratio 8.5 to 1. Can use 87 Octane fuel as long as it doesn't knock. Contrary to belief, the bore on the 455 is smaller but the stroke is longer. The block deck on the 455 is about 1" higher than the 403.

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FOR SALE

Please let me know what you would like listed in the next DIXIELANDER.

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If you have an idea for a good place to host a rally, please let JR know. Also, if you would like to participate in the fun of holding office or providing some service to the *DIXIELANDERS*, please let someone know. We need a Webmaster for a *DIXIELANDER* website. How-about-it you 'puter-heads?

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The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

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FALL RALLY

Eufala, Alabama

October 17 - 19, 2002

Our site for the Fall rally is Lakepoint State Park, Alabama, one of the nicest campgrounds in the country. We anticipate warm, not hot, dry weather with the leaves barely beginning to turn. Thursday night we'll have Happy Hour and a Soup Supper.

Friday will begin with a pancake breakfast. Eufaula, AL, 7 miles south, is famous for its antebellum homes; we expect to have tours arranged for those interested. Others can GMC, fish, golf, walk, boat, relax, etc. Lunch on your own. Happy Hour will be followed by a catered BBQ dinner.

Saturday will begin with bacon, eggs, and ham and be followed by the business meeting. We'll have an open technical bull session. Those who don't want to attend can take another tour or engage in other individual activities. There are many good places in Eufala where you might enjoy lunch. After lunch we will have the Swap Meet, so bring all your GMC goodies and we will have a big sale. For supper the Lakepoint Lodge, located in the park, will prepare a special buffet for us: Fish or chicken, vegetables, salad bar, dessert, and beverage for \$8.50. In the evening we're planning a campfire sing-a-long. We hope to have other entertainment but details are not yet available.

Sunday morning we'll bid each other adieu over whatever's left for breakfast!

The park is so popular with the "snowbirds" who start to arrive in October that our treasury had to make paid reservations to hold sites for us. We have 50 sites reserved. Because of that situation, it is unusually important for everyone to return their registrations ASAP! If we need more sites, we MAY be able to get them if we know SOON enough. If we don't need all we have reserved, they WILL be released on 1 October to recover our deposit. Send your registration NOW. If you want

to arrive before Thursday 17 October, it's doubly important to register early. You need to send one night's camping fee with your registration for the reservation; it is refundable ONLY if you notify the hosts by 1 October 2002.

Please make provisions for one dessert and one Happy Hour dish for each couple; we'll assign delivery times after we have the registration head count.

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SUMMER RALLY ***Gadsden, Alabama*** June 20 - 23, 2002

It's right around the corner, If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, do it right away. Even better yet give Carol Smith a call at Area Code 706 367-5357 and send in your reservation form right away. Blank form is at end of newsletter.

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If you would like to include something to the next *DIXIELANDER* issue (all suggestions welcome), please call or send it by snailmail or e-mail to:

Ken O'Rourke
519 Huntington Rd.
Greenville, SC 29615
Phone: (864) 297-1893
E-mail: electmosq@aol.com

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He drew a circle that shut me out, but I had the wit and will to win so I drew a circle to include him in.

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THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Wise Tales & Facts

By: Frank & Neni Jenkins

Let us tell you how we turned disaster into believing in others:

We were headed to Bean Station, Tennessee to the annual work Rally at Marty & Al Samsel's. It was smooth sailing until we reached exit 199 in Nashville, Tennessee. Suddenly, we lost our hubs and knuckles and were stranded at Sam's Parking Lot. Little did we know we forgot our membership roster so we had to start digging and searching the motor home for clues to find a number of a member to call for help. Luckily we found the business card of Korky Rice and immediately called. It didn't take long and word was out to the group that we were stranded, and needed parts and help. We were told they would get the parts together and ship them the next morning to Harry & Linda Terrill daughters address at Nashville. We spent the night in the parking lot and were relieved to know we had parts on the way. We were waiting patiently for a UPS truck when all of a sudden a white Jeep comes up and much to our surprise Jeanne and J.R. Slaten were in it with parts and helping hands. We couldn't believe our eyes. Needless to say we were back on the road again in 1 hour 15 minutes. Jeanne and J.R. followed us all the way to Bean Station to make sure we were safe and didn't have further problems. These wonderful people drove 250 miles to rescue us and drove 250 miles back to make sure we were safe and at Bean Station. We parked and then repaired other problems we had and another hub and knuckle needed repair and we received more help from Harry Terrill, Ray Bingham, Bill Telgen and other members of the rally. We did make the rally, we did have a wonderful time, and we did learn how important it is to have faith. We never lost control and our spirits were never dampened. Realizing how important friends are, we wanted to let everyone know how appreciative we are and thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. (Editor's comment: And that's **OUR** President and his technical

director, JR and Jeanne themselves).

Frank & Neni Jenkins

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MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:

By Korky Rice

The meeting was called to order by President J.R. Slaten at 9:00 AM. The minutes from the October 2001 meeting were read & approved with one correction. Jim & Jane Watson will also be co-hosting the October 2002 rally. Treasurer Chuck Chambers reported a balance of \$6,132.66 plus a \$00.00 refundable deposit to the campground for the October rally. President Slaten introduced Jim & Lou McDowell, founders of the GMC Dixielanders . Jim commented on the growth from the original 13 coaches to the now over 160 coaches in the club. President Slaten introduced new members, Norman & Carol Eby, Don & Jo Kastner, Jerry & Audrey Holloway, Curby & Mary Robertson & Eric & Joanna Tanner. President Slaten introduced the members of the Executive Board & asked that they stand so that the new members would recognize them. Past President Allen Martin thanked the club for giving him the opportunity to serve as President in 2001. President Slaten spoke briefly on the loss of Newsletter editor & 1st Vice President Lanier Foote in March of 2002. He will be greatly missed! The nominating committee introduced Bill Hutchison as their recommendation to fill the office of 1st Vice President. Nominations for the 2003 officers were as follows. President, Bill Hutchison, 1st Vice President Lew Ayers, Secretary Jo Telgen, Treasurer Chuck Chambers, Executive Committee Larry Wills, Harry Terrill & Betty Davis, Nominating Committee Joanie Haught, Ken O'Rourke & Judy Acosta. President Slaten reported on the October 2001 rally & thanked the Harwells & Hudsons for the time & effort they invested in making it the success it was. He also reminded

members that Allene Burdette is still taking orders for the club jackets. He will be in charge of hats & flags & Chuck Chambers will be ordering badges. Joe Terry reported on the March International rally in Mobile. There was a good many Dixielanders in attendance. Joe reported that he had been in contact with Ralph Luby in an effort to get more club involvement in the International Rallies. The Fall International rally will be held in Nashville in September & the Dixielanders have volunteered to be responsible for hosting one of the evening meals. The International Club will fund the dinner but the two clubs will be responsible for cooking & serving a hamburger & hotdog dinner. He asked for volunteers to help with this. Marty Samsel announced plans for a Variety Show Type entertainment after dinner. She asked for volunteers to participate. President Slaten asked for a volunteer to do the newsletter. Marty Samsel said she would do it if no one else volunteered. President Slaten also announced the creation of a Sunshine position. Korky Rice has agreed to do this & asked that members keep her informed of any illnesses or special needs that needed to be recognized. She also asked that members furnish their e-mail addresses so that word of these needs could be sent to club members. Ed Smith gave information on the summer rally to be held in Gadsden, Al. June 20 - 22. Registration Forms were sent in the last newsletter. Ken Henderson reported on the plans for the October Rally in Eufala, AL. There are 50 sites reserved in the club name but he suggested that individual reservations be made through the campground early so that everyone could be in the same area, 2003 Rallies were announced. Spring: Bean Station, TN., Marty & Al Samsel, Ray & Trula Bingham, Jeanne & J.R. Rally, hosts. Due to the limited facilities & popularity of this rally it was decided to limit reservations to the first 50 received. J.R. & Bill Hutchison asked for volunteers to host a Summer Rally. Fall: Beach Bend Park, Bowling Green, Ky. Jeanne & J.R. Slaten hosting. Interest in a 4th annual rally was expressed to the executive committee by a number of members. President Slaten asked for an opinion by the membership & it was moved by

Richard Harwell & 2nd by Ray Whelan that a possible joint rally with the Sunshine Statesman be considered. The motion passed. Due to the amount of money in the club treasurer suggestions were invited for various ways to best use the funds. Flic Acosta suggested paying for the first 50 reservations at the Eufala rally, Susan Harwell suggested entertainment be provided at more rallies, Larry Wills suggested a photo album (roster) be created for members. Hal Lively suggested umbrellas be purchased for all members. It was decided to take all the suggestions under advisement to be discussed further at the Summer rally. Bob Sanders thanked the people who did the seminars at this rally. President Slaten introduced Skip Skipper, FMCA Vice President for our area. V.P. Skipper complimented the club for its dedication to the GMC's & the effort to keep them running. He spoke briefly on the services rendered by the FMCA organization to the over 123,000 members. He also left brochures explaining some of these benefits. There are now 426 chapters in FMCA. He recommended that members get the new FMCA Atlas which lists the locations of all the Flying W's, Cracker Barrels & Wall Marts as well as the regular maps & other information. Skip invited all of our members to the FMCA rally in Perry, Ga. & to the GEAR rally in Asheville, N.C. He also mentioned the new generation of Rv'ers & stressed the need to recognize these younger members. President Slaten with the aid of members, who drew the names, presented the FMCA gifts to the following people: Larry Wills, Ken Henderson, Roscoe Trivitt, Ray Bingham, Al Samsel, Ron Tase, Don Wirth, Allen Martin, Jim Thurman, Bobbie Bramlett, Charlie Toole

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

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We wish to thank Lanier Foote for all his efforts in publishing the previous *DIXIELANDER* newsletters. He has been giving me guidance from above and without it I couldn't have put this together. We will miss him.

Ken O'Rourke, Editor-in-Training