

THE GMC

DIXIELANDER

NEWSLETTER

May 2004

A NOTE FROM THE PRES:

The Dixielanders are unbelievably lucky to have great members like the Samsels. The rally we just had at their Bean Station resort was, as always, the highlight of our year! Having access to a facility like that; and, to the talented and generous members who pitch in and help each other with repairs and improvements, makes other groups envy us. One sour note: A newcomer whom I've known for a long time commented, "I don't recall a single member introducing themselves to me." I'm sure all of you share my disappointment at that. I hope I never hear it again! As I mentioned at the business meeting, it takes the efforts of a lot of volunteers to keep our club functioning as it does. I hope we'll all make the effort to occasionally thank those folks; our appreciation is their only tangible reward. One of the membership's directives at the meeting was that we will waive rally and camping fees for rally hosts. In retrospect, it seems we were a little hasty: What good is it to waive camping fees for the most generous hosts - those holding rallies at their own places? And is it really reasonable to waive the most expensive rally fees - those for "all inclusive" locations, like Lazy Days, where the host has little to do? The Executive Committee will consider those questions at its next meeting and may request adjustments to the policy. Interviews with several "old timers" about the club's equipment reveal that we do know where most of it is; the inventory will soon be complete so we can notify everyone what's available and how to arrange to use it. Y'all please be aggressive in obtaining information about non-Dixielander GMC owners and passing it to John Nichols. If you can persuade them to join without

John's intervention, so much the better, but do contact him to get the handouts he'll be preparing. Elaine and I are looking forward to seeing all of you at Maggie Valley. And we hope you'll join the convoy to Elkhart for the GMC East rally too.

Ken Henderson

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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Ken Henderson	President
Ken O'Rourke	Vice President
Joanne Telgen	Secretary
Chuck Chambers	Treasurer
Don Leslie	FMCA National Director
Alan Martin	Alt. FMCA National Dir
John Nichols	Executive Committee
Harry Terrell	Larry
Wills	
Lew Ayres	Nominating Committee
Pat Hutchinson	Suzie
Tase	
Gene Dotson	Audit Committee
Marie Hudson	
JR Slaten	GMCM Eastern Rep.
Alex Sirum	GMCM Southeast Rep
JoAnn Fain	Photographer
Judy Acosta	Sunshine Lady
John Nichols	Membership Chairman

John Richardson Equipment Manager
 Allene Burdette Storekeeper
 Sandee Walloch Newsletter Editor

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New Members:

George & Mary Lou Brown
 1165 Ridge Road
 York Springs, PA 17372
 717-528-8324
 FMCA# 243896
 e-mail: bud.lou@pa.net

Tom & Betty Fort
 1193 Dogwood Lane
 Chester, SC 29706
 803-581-8269
 FMCA# 345501
 e-mail: tomfort@infoave.net

Robert & Marjorie Morgan
 107 Harpeth Hills Drive
 Franklin, TN 37069
 615-794-6871
 FMCA# 221793

Reinstated Members:

Dick & Butch McNeil
 Lynn & Cynthia Olson

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GMC Rallies for 2004 - 5

GMCGL May 7 - 9, Fremont, IN
 Sun States May 14 - 16, Jacksonville, FL
 GMC TWC May 14 - 16, Buena Vista, VA
 6 Wheelers May 16 - 18, Holiday Acers CG
 Cascaders June 4 - 6, Waldport, OR, KOA
 Cascaders June 7 - August 5, Alaska, Caravan
 Prince George and back.
 6 Wheelers June 19 - 21, Monroe WI
Dixielanders June 17 - 20, Maggie Valley, NC
 GMCES June 21 - 26, Elkhart, IN
 GMCGL June 25 - 27, Sandusky, MI
 GMCTWC June 25 - 27, Bedford, PA
 Cascaders July 7 - 11, Arlington, WA,
 Arlington Air Show.
 6 Wheelers July 11 - 13, Savannah, IL

GMC Alumni July 22 - 24, 2004 Jamestown Beach
 Campsites, Williamsburg, VA
 GMCTWC July 23 25, TBA
 GMCGL July 23 - 25, Manitowoc, WI
 Cascaders August 6 - 9, Spokane, WA, TBA.
 FMCA August 16-19, Redmond OR, Intl
 Convention
 GMCGL August 20 - 22, Ewart, MI
 6 Wheelers August 22 - 24, Effingham, IL
 GMCTWC August 27 - 29, TBA
 SunStates September 10 -12, Homosassa, FL
 Springs, FL
 GMCGL September 17 - 19, Dearborn, MI
 6 Wheelers September 19 - 21, Rockton, IL
 6 Wheelers September 24 - 26, Thompson, IL
 GMCTWC September 24 - 26, TBA
 GMCMI October 3 - 9, Marion, NC
Dixielanders October 21-24, Montgomery, AL
 GMCWS October 5 - 10, Albuquerque, NM
 FMCA(GEAR) October 7-10, Harrington, DE
 6 Wheelers October 10 - 12, Spoon River,
 GMCGL October 15 - 17, Plain City, OH
 SunState October 15 - 17, Salt Springs,FL
 GMCTWC October 22 - 24, Smith Point KOA
 GMC Alumni October 27 - 31, 2004 Renfro Valley,
 KY (Music City)
 SunStates November 12 - 14, Ft. Pierce, FL
 GMCWS December 3 - 5, Oregon Area, TBA
 SunStates December 10 - 12, Kissimmee, FL

2005

Joint SS &
Dixielanders Jan 13 - 16, 2005 Rally Park (Lazy
 Days), Seffner, FL
 GMC Alumni January 19 - 23, 2005 The Great
 Outdoors Golf & RV Resort,
 Titusville, FL, Host: Ron and Suzi Tase
 SunStates February 9 - 13, Brooksville, FL
 SunStates March 10 - 13, Ocala, FL
 FMCA March 21-24, Perry, GA
 International Convention
 SunStates April 8 - 10, Daytona North, FL
 GMC Alumni April 13 - 17, 2005 Cherry Blossom
 CC, Washington DC, Host: Needed
Dixielanders May 5-8, Bean Station, TN

SunStates May 20 - 22, Panacea, FL
FMCA August 15-19, Minot, ND
FMCA(GEAR)October 6-9, Harrington,DE

May 1, 2004
Bean Station, TN

Save this schedule for future reference. Only national and eastern area rally schedules will be printed in the next newsletter.

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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

DUES ARE ALWAYS DUE ON JANUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DELINQUENT ON MARCH 1ST AT WHICH TIME THE MEMBER WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ACTIVE ROSTER. REINSTATED MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE \$10 YEARLY DUES PLUS A \$10 INITIATION FEE.

Please send all changes of address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. to:
Chuck Chambers
2379 High Falls Road
Jackson, GA 30233
770-504-0779
cbchamb@bellsouth.net

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And the 2004 Kentucky Derby Winners Are.....

Little Pots--

- Pot #1 Susan Harwell
- Pot #2 Al Samsel
- Pot #3 Shirley Williams
- Pot #4 Gene Cupples
- Pot #7 Marty Laird
- Pot #8 Trula Bingham
- Pot #9 Rose Whelan
- Pot #10 Ron Davis

BIG POTS--

- POT#5 LINDA TERRILL
- POT#6 TED STINNETT

The rest of us are not losers--we are just non-winners!

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Dixielanders Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by president, Ken Henderson. We were asked to say the Pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Tampa rally were read by the secretary and approved as read.

Chuck Chambers, treasurer, reported a balance of \$7276.86. The books were audited for the year by Marie Hudson and Gene Dotson and found to be in order.

Bobby Moore suggested that when the new roster is printed it could be in larger print. Most everybody would benefit from this!!!

Pat Hutchinson reported for the nominating committee the following slate of officers for 2005:

President-Ken O`Rourke
Vice president---John Nichols
Secretary---Flic Acosta
Treasurer---Chuck Chambers
FMCA national director---Don Leslie
FMCA alternate director-Allen Martin
Executive comm.-Alma O`Rourke
Larry Wills
Harry Terrill
Nominating comm.---Marie Hudson
Carolyn Wills
Don Walloch

Jim McDowell, Dixielander founding father, gave a short report on beginning of Dixielander group.

Ken O`Rourke reported on upcoming rallies for 2004:
June 17-20, Stone Bridge Campground and RV park in Maggie Valley, N.C.
Oct. 14-17 with Jim and Jane Watson in Montgomery, Ala.(Editor's Note: The dates were later changed to Oct. 21-24.)

John Nichols will head up a program to be in touch with prospective Dixielander members. There will be a formal information package, including information about GMC resources available, some GMC educational material,etc. Expect him to contact you if you live near a prospect.

The FMCA lawyers ruling re: latest medical privacy law was discussed. As of now if we have illnesses or other pertinent information that we want passed along, we will call Judy Acosta, "Sunshine lady".

John Richardson, equipment manager, needs to know where equipment, such as PA system and vehicle

maintenance equipment is located. There is some "stuff" at Bean Station that needs a home.

Allene Burdette will be storekeeper for Dixielander hats and flags and will order jackets as requested by members.

Volunteers to host rallies in 2005 were recruited. We will have Jan. 13-16 rally at Lazy Days in Tampa. And another Bean Station rally will take place May 5-8, 2005. A tentative plan will be in the works for a rally at Perry, Ga, hosted by the Chambers and Holloways, in the Fall, 2005.

It was suggested by Bob Berry that the camping fee and rally fee be waived for the hosts (2 families) for each rally. After discussion, Ray Bingham made a motion, seconded by Jerry Holloway, to use treasury money for these 2 host families. Voted on and passed unanimously.

In the making will be a guideline book for "hosting a rally". This will help new hosts in planning and carrying out duties.

A vote of thanks was given to Bobby and Peggy Ann Moore and Jeanne and J.R. Slaten for another fabulous rally here at Bean Station. And a standing ovation to the Samsels for allowing us to use their facilities!!! Marty says we are all welcome to stop and stay at Bean Station on our travels to and fro.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Joanne Telgen

Recording secretary

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Author---Author

Amidst all of the varied talents and backgrounds hiding quietly in our Dixielander family lies a published author. Don Norris and his wife Rose Mary reside quietly in Eastern North Carolina and have been Dixielanders for several years. Don has just recently published a book titled "Who Killed Tutankhamen?". For those not familiar with the subject, Tutankhamen was one of ancient Egypt's kings. He ascended the throne at age 9 and died at age 19 under mysterious circumstances. His reign is recognized as one of cultural rejuvenation and a period of enlightenment. The author was born

and raised on a tobacco farm in North Carolina and became fascinated at an early age with all things Egyptian which resulted in his becoming an amateur Egyptologist at age 13. The calling was to become a lifelong obsession spanning some 60 odd years during which he carved out a career covering 26 years of Naval service. His thoughts, however, never strayed too far from his continuing fascination with Tutankhamen. Over the years, Don developed a theory regarding the death of Tutankhamen and diligently pursued leads until finally arriving at his own conclusions which he then proceeded to catalog until finally publishing those findings with the proof in the book noted above. Anyone wishing to contact him will find his E-Mail address in our membership roster.

Flic Acosta

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A NOTE FROM ELAINE:

One of the things I enjoy most at our rallies is discussing with friends the books we've recently read. I wonder if there's interest in formalizing that by having a "book club" meeting at our rallies. Perhaps each of us could bring two or three books we've enjoyed and give the group a brief review of each. Then we could swap books. For example, both Ken and I enjoyed "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson. It's an hilarious account of his attempt, along with an obese friend, to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Think about the concept, then bring your ideas and books to Maggie Valley. Elaine Henderson.

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From the Sunshine Lady:

Many of our members know by now that our sunshine announcements are currently in a state of flux. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on to all the members the situation as we now see it. We recently received a copy of a letter regarding a meeting of the FMCA governing board during

which attorneys for FMCA expressed concern regarding the revelation of health information of members of chapters. They state...."that FMCA has a legal and ethical responsibility to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of protected health information (PHI) of its members. PHI is further defined as information transmitted or maintained in any form or medium--electronic, paper, or oral--that identifies an individual and relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual". The letter goes on to state that "In plain English, this means that you can include the name of anyone giving you permission to do so in your newsletter, but no diagnosis, health issue, or health-related items can be stated about that person." Needless to say, we have always maintained an approach of sensitivity regarding news of the health of our members. Most of our reports regarding members have come from the members themselves or their spouses who have wished to have their many friends keep them in their thoughts and prayers during trying times. We have always diligently shied away from any speculations...leaving that to the individuals themselves to pass on as they saw fit. Pursuant to the guidelines above, our policy for sunshine announcements will be, pending clearer resolution, that we will seek guidance from the affected members as to any circulation of information and, as in the past, refrain from any speculation.

Judy and Flic Acosta

(Editor's Note: Sunshine news is only sent by E-mail.)

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MOTOR HOME EVACUATION PLAN

ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND There are six basics you should stock in your motor home: Water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and

bedding, tools and emergency supplies and special needs items. Keep the items you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container such as a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag.

- **Water**

Store at least one gallon of water per day per person for drinking, food preparation and sanitation. Store water in your storage tank and additional in plastic storage containers. A good goal is three days supply for each person in your household.

- **Food**

Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select food items that are compact and lightweight and do not require refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Such as:

- * Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- * Canned juices, milk, soup.
- * Staples, sugar, salt, pepper.
- * High energy foods, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix.
- * Vitamins.
- * Comfort/Stress foods, cookies, cereals, instant coffee. tea bags.

- **First Aid Kit**

Assemble a first aid kit for the motor home and possibly a small one for each person. Contact your local Red Cross for a list of items and a basic first aid manual.

- **Tools and Supplies**

A standard tool kit that will allow you to do basic mechanical and electrical functions on the motorhome as necessary (You most likely already have this on hand).

- * Emergency preparedness manual.
- * Battery operated radio and extra batteries.
- * Flashlight and extra batteries.
- * Cash.
- * Non-electric can opener.
- * Fire extinguisher, ABC type.
- * Compass.

- * Matches in waterproof container or hand held fire lighter.
- * Aluminum foil.
- * Plastic storage containers, Zip-lock type.
- * Signal flares.
- * Paper and pencil or pen.
- * Needles and thread.
- * Whistle.
- * Plastic sheeting.
- * Maps.

- Sanitation Supplies

- * Bucket
- * Soap liquid detergent
- * Personal hygiene items
- * Plastic garbage bags and ties.
- * Disinfectant, and house chlorine bleach.

- Clothing and bedding

- * At least, one complete change of clothing.
- * Sturdy shoes or boots.
- * Rain Gear for each person.
- * Thermal underwear (for winter).
- * Blankets or sleeping bags.
- * Sunglasses.

- Special Items

Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.

- * Entertainment, games and books
- * Important family documents, keep these records in a waterproof, portable container.
 - + Will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds.
 - + Passports, social security cards, immunization records.
 - + Bank account numbers and info.
 - + Credit card account numbers and companies.
 - + Inventory of valuables and household goods.
 - + Important telephone numbers.
 - + Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).

Create a family disaster plan

- * Contact your local emergency

management or civil defense office and your American Red Cross chapter for the following information:

- + Find out which disasters are most likely to happen in your area.
- + Ask how you would be warned.
- + Find out how to prepare.
- * Meet with your family
 - + Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
 - + Agree on how to prepare and respond.
 - + Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate.
 - + Practice what you have discussed. (VERY IMPORTANT)
 - + Discuss and plan how to stay in contact if separated.
 - + Pick meeting places, near home and outside your neighborhood.
 - + Choose an out-of-state relative or friend as a "check-in contact" for everyone to call in case of separation.

- In preparation

1. Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone.
2. Show responsible family members how to and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at main switches.
3. Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, test monthly and change batteries two times per year.
4. Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.
5. Learn first aid and CPR. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information and training.
6. Meet with your neighbors and plan how you all can work together in case of a disaster.
7. Last, but not least, keep your motor home in good running condition and always keep full gas and propane tanks and have an adequate supply of P/S, brake and transmission fluid, and engine oil.

NOTE: This is a little overkill but choose what is

important to you. Adapted from information provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FEMA, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, D.C. 20024

K. O'Rourke 10/7/01

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Bylaw Correction:

The Bylaws just issued with the last Newsletter was missing a sentence under Article III, #6. The last sentence was inadvertently omitted. Please add the following sentence:

Voting rights and dues will be the same as for Family Associate Members.

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How to Identify a Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now Doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke asking three simple questions:

- 1. ask the individual to smile.**
- 2. ask him or her to raise both arms.**
- 3. ask the person to speak a simple sentence.**

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent

brain damage.

Thanks to Allen Martin

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Car Jacking Scheme

Be aware of new car-jacking scheme. Imagine: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. Then you lock all your doors, start the engine and shift into REVERSE. Habit! You look into the rear-view window to back out of your parking space and you notice a piece of paper, some sort of advertisement stuck to your right rear window. So, you shift into PARK, unlock your doors and jump out of your vehicle to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view...Then when you reach the back of your car, that is when the car-jackers jump out of no where ... jump into your car and take off -- your engine was running, your purse is in the car, and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car. Bye-bye car and purse, you haven't a chance of stopping them. Scream all you want but by that time it's gone.

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From the Editor.....

Thanks to Ken O'Rourke for helping me get out this newsletter. I can only hope to do as good a job as he and past editors have done. This is really a fun and exciting thing to do--once the nightmares go away! To help write, organize and edit the newsletter couldn't be possible without your articles. If every member would like to send me just one little "blip" of news or perhaps an idea you might have, that would be 150 articles for each newsletter!! I'll try to put as many as I can in print. The list of topics for articles is endless and could include:

- * Tips on maintaining your motor home
- * What have you done to the ol' coach
- * New ideas for the newsletter format
- * Your favorite web site and why
- * A travel recipe
- * Tell us what you're doing or where you've been
- * A favorite poem

Please call or mail items to: Sandee Walloch
120 McBride Trail
Fayetteville, GA 30215-2623

770-460-5044
e-mail:
dwalloch@peoplepc.com

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WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

WANTED--Whole dinette set for a 26 ft. 1973 or 1974. Also in need of a right rear bumper half. Ed Laird. 770-307-9873

FREE--Full size propane tank with new fill port. 1973 steering wheel. Used air bag that could be used as a spare. Call or e-mail Don Walloch. 770-460-5044 or dwalloch@peoplepc.com

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FREE TOUR INFORMATION

Tracks to Adventure Copper Canyon Tour
www.trackstoadventure.com
1-800-351-6053

(GMCer's Group Rates: \$4000 for the 11-day tour and \$4350 for the 17-day tour)

2005 Departure Dates:

11-day trip: Jan. 23
Feb. 4, 14
17-day trip: Jan. 17, 27
Feb. 11
Mar. 7, 11

Anyone interested in going from the Dixielanders should contact Ken Henderson. See roster for contact information.

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CONTACT MARTY SAMSEL FOR.....

the GMC Motorhomes International rally modeling show with your dress design! The rally is in Marion, NC on Oct. 3-9 and will feature the Dixielanders modeling their crazy, original fashions.

Marty Samsel
865-993-5635
asamseljr@aol.com

BEAN STATION RALLY

Bean Station --- Ahhhhhhhhhh --- Going Home !!!!!

As usual, this last rally was great. We always have the most folks attending whether by GMC coach, car, or in a different vehicle. We are all Dixielanders and anxious to see Home and one another. There were 127 of us there largest rally on record. We were lucky to have several new folks, and they were lucky that Bean Station was the first rally.

We all settled into a familiar routine and we were able to eat, and eat some more, shop either for parts or new things, play games or cards, visit, and either give advice on how to fix or actually do the job. We were all very busy doing the familiar things, but most important of all was that we were together and enjoying each day. Marty kept all in the kitchen working in harmony toward getting delicious food ready and cleaning up afterwards.

We missed several of our friends who couldn't make it for various reasons. Hopefully they will be able to attend future rallies. A few brave souls managed to come when they were quite under the weather and we were so pleased with the efforts.

Bobby and Peggy Moore did a fantastic job of hosting this get together and they say that having it at Bean Station made it all so easy. Also Jeanne and JR Slaten were doing many things as the co-hosts again. We want to thank Marty and Al for all the services, tools, and just plain love that is always there waiting. As usual, you all are special. And thanks for the great weather. Yep, even the rain was needed and it wasn't too rough.

Also at this time we feel that it is time to really say a huge thank you to Alma and Ken O'Rourke for doing so much work on each and every Newsletter that they put out. We know that Sandee and Don Walloch will continue in a terrific way of their own. We appreciate all of you. Looking forward to seeing each member at the next rally.

Ellen Springer

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SEE YA ALL AT MAGGIE VALLEY!!!!!!!!!!!!