

THE GMC

www.gmcdixielanders.org

DIXIELANDER

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2004

We are sad to report the passing of two of our Dixielander members.....

**Bill Wessels
Robert Young**

They were friends to all of us and will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Barbara and Flo and their families.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRES:

We've just finished another of those wonderful GMC Dixielander rallies, this one at Maggie Valley, NC. Gary and "Pete" Barrett did an outstanding job as the hosts, with Ken and Alma O'Rourke right in there helping them all the way. With members from across our area attending, the opportunities to renew old acquaintances and make new friends were numerous. Our formal membership recruitment campaign is beginning to take shape. Just as gratifying is the number of visitors and new members we had as a result of our informal efforts. Three former members returned to the fold, two new members were recruited, and another prospective new member, who came hoping to sell their coach, asked for an application "in case we change our minds". All of us seemed determined to be sure we're never again accused of slighting anyone. I personally am very proud of us, and I thank everyone of you for "being you".

Another pleasant experience for me was our business meeting. We had a lot of issues which needed consideration and decisions by the members.

While not every result was what I originally hoped for, or what the Executive Board had proposed, each was certainly correct because a significant majority chose it after open, complete, and congenial discussions. Operation of the club will surely be improved by the success of our democratic process. We accomplished everything anyone thought necessary and didn't waste a lot of time in acrimonious debate. Thank you.

I hope all of you have an enjoyable, healthy, and safe summer. If we don't get to see you before then, we'll be expecting to do so at The Colonel's Rest in Montgomery on October 21st.

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 Wills	Larry
Lew Ayres	Nominating Committee
Pat Hutchinson Tase	Suzie
Gene Dotson	Audit Committee
Marie Hudson	
JR Slaten	GMCM I Eastern Rep.

Alex Sirum GMCMI Southeast Rep
 JoAnn Fain Photographer
 Judy Acosta Sunshine Lady
 John Nicholls Membership Chairman
 John Richardson Equipment Manager
 Allene Burdette Storekeeper
 Ken Henderson Webmaster
 Sandee Walloch Newsletter Editor

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Treasurers Report as of June 15, 2004

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD \$7236.86
 INCOME:
 New members, flags & caps \$208.00
 Leftover rally income from
 Bean Station rally after P.A.
 repair expense of \$61.28 364.03
 TOTAL INCOME: 572.03

BALANCE \$7808.89

EXPENDITURES:
 JoAnn Fain-film and developing 14.74
 Bill Hutchinson-tape 20.00
 Robert Staub-badges 13.10
 Sandee Walloch-newsletter 227.18
 American Diabetes Assoc. 25.00
 (Memorial for Bill Wessels)
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 300.02
 ENDING BALANCE \$7528.87

Chuck Chambers
 Treasurer

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A Note from John Nicholls.....
Enclosed with this newsletter are two or three of our new Dixielander flyers. Please keep them in your coach and pass them on to membership prospects.

GMC Rallies for 2004 - 5

GMC Alumni July 22 - 24, 2004 Jamestown Beach Campsites, Williamsburg, VA.
 FMCA August 16-19, Redmond OR, Intl Convention
 SunStates September 10 -12, Homosassa Springs, FL
 GMCMI October 3 - 9, Marion, NC
Dixielanders October 21-24, The Colonel's Rest, Montgomery, AL Hosts: Jim & Jane Watson and Curby & Mary Robertson
 GMCWS October 5 - 10, Albuquerque, NM
 FMCA(GEAR)October 7-10, Harrington, DE
 SunState October 15 - 17, Salt Springs, FL
 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 Hosts: Ken O'Rourke and Carl Ebeling
 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
 GMCMI March 20 - 26, Ft. Myers, 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 International Convention
 FMCA(GEAR)October 6-9, Harrington, DE

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OUR OWN JIM WALTERS ASKS.....

“WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO DROP ANCHOR?”

Recently, while at Bean Station a fellow Dixielander commented that he always stops at a particular state park near Gadsden, AL. This prompted me to wonder how many of us have a "special" camping area that we've grown fond of over the years? The appeal of a particular location may be based on proximity to local attractions, shopping, recreational activities or maybe just a nice secluded spot away from the hustle and bustle of daily activities. But, since all Dixielanders have excellent taste (after all we have GMC coaches), I think it might be interesting and informative if members could share there favorite camping experiences. And wouldn't it be nice when we choose to drop anchor overnight, or longer, that we could chose a location based on the recommendation of other GMCers. So, we're looking for your input. And especially the input of the wives for their criteria for that perfect camping area may differ drastically from us guys. Please tell us of your "special" location where you like to plug into shore power for a day, a week or longer. And tell us the reasons you keep coming back to your special place. We look forward to your input.

Jim Walters

(770) 927-9224

jewalters@earthlink.net

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MAGGIE VALLEY RALLY REPORT

Spring Rally 2004-Stonebridge RV Park
Maggie Valley, NC

The meeting in Maggie Valley by the GMC Dixielanders was hosted by Ken and Alma O'Rourke and Gary and Phyllis "Pete" Barrett. Good job folks...well organized! All meals and scheduled events(even the business meeting) were held on time so members could be off to sightsee, do needed maintenance or just sit around and gab!

The campground was well shaded and a little rain and a lot of sunshine made for another wonderful rally. It is always the good friends that make a rally and it was so nice having Jack Brown and Ed and Hattie Whitson back with us. Jack drove his GMC and Ed and Hattie came by car from Louisiana.

Six Dixielanders attending have an exciting summer planned. The Davis and Haught families leave Maggie Valley to work their way west on the Lewis and Clark Trail. Ed and Carol Smith start their journey in July to Maine, the Maritime Provinces in Canada and ending in Prince Edward Island where they will spend 10 days working on a Habitat for Humanity house. They will return to the states for the GMC International Rally in Marion NC and then on to Goldsboro, NC to build yet another Habitat house.

Good luck and safe traveling to all Dixielanders and hope to see you in Marion and Montgomery.

Marty Samsel

Maggie Valley Attendees:

Host's:

Ken and Alma O'Rourke

Gary and Phyllis "Pete" Barrett

Attendees:

Paul & Billie Bennett
Ray & Trula Bingham
Jack Brown
Loren & Nancy Buchanan
Joe & Allene Burdette
Chuck & Sue Chambers
Ron & Betty Davis
Charles & Joanne Dunn
David & JoAnn Fain
Zeb & Debbie Frady(Speaker)
Earl Glover/Muriel Bradley
Richard & Susan Harwell
Herb & Joanie Haught
Ken & Elaine Henderson
Dan & Marie Hudson
Frank & Jeanne Jenkins
Ed & Marty Laird
Don & Elaine Leslie
Hal & Jane Lively

Allen & Pat Martin
Dick & Morguenya McNeil
Robert & Peggy Moore
John & Rita Nicholls
Lynn & Cynthia Olson
Barry & Carolyn Owen
Paul & Korky Rice
Curby & Mary Robertson
Al & Marty Samsel
JR & Jeanne Slaten
Ed & Carol Smith
Bill & Jo Telgen
Harry/Sandra Vordermeier
Don & Sandee Walloch
Jim & Ethel Walters
Ed & Hattie Whitson
Larry & Carolyn Wills

MAGGIE VALLEY GUESTS:

Pat & Norma Morrison
Dick & Millicent Duccini
Jim Hall

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DIXIELANDER MINUTES

June 19, 2004

Maggie Valley, N.C.

After the 9 a.m. meeting of the Dixielanders was called to order by President Ken Henderson, we said the pledge to the flag.

The minutes from Bean Station were read and corrected.

Report by treasurer, Chuck Chambers, gave a balance of \$7528.87. The report will be filed for audit.

Business items:

John Nichols read the following resolution about club expenditures.

Purpose- Neither by-laws nor standing rules provides for authorization of expenditures.

1. Recurring expenses:

A. newsletter/postage -\$400 quarterly

B. roster and bylaws/postage -\$400 as required

C. website -\$100 per year

Treasurer is authorized to expend these amounts with no further authorization.

2. Unexpected incidentals: President and treasurer concur and authorize up to \$200 between business meetings.

3. The executive board by majority vote may authorize expenditures up to \$1000 between business meetings.

4. Expenditures > \$1001 must be approved by majority vote at a regular club business meeting. This resolution was seconded by Herb Haight and passed unanimously.

John Nichols made a motion that members that serve as rally hosts or co-hosts be exempt from rally fees, including camping, for the rally they are hosting or for one other rally during the following year. The Dixielander president must approve this rally fee exemption. Seconded by Joni Haight, it passed unanimously.

Ken O'Rourke presented the idea of investing in a small, lockable trailer to be used for transporting club equipment (coffee pots, over-supplies, etc.). After discussion (re: tag, registration, insurance, etc.) this idea was vetoed. Ray Bingham will be in charge (as he has been) of the P.A. system. Each rally host can decide about supplying paper and plastic ware for their rally.

Sandee Walloch has copies of about 12 newsletters from other organizations and requests input from our

members (re: format, information, etc.) for the Dixielanders newsletter.

Dixielanders will purchase 8-10 six foot long tables to be used and stored at Bean Station. Al Samsel will see to this project.

John Nichols had Dixielander informational flyers printed that will be distributed as needed to prospective members. These flyers contain information about our GMCs and also future rallies.

The executive committee suggested that guests be invited to attend one rally without being a Dixielanders member. Over and above that they must join the organization. A motion was made by Bobby Moore and seconded by Ron Davis. The motion passed.

Joan Fain, club photographer, is taking pictures of members to be used as a pictorial directory. These pictures will be either on the website or in an album.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Joanne Telgen
Recording secretary

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A NOTE FROM CHARLIE & NELL TOOLE....

We would like to thank all the Dixielanders for their prayers, many cards and phone calls during his recent illness. He is recovering from lung surgery and slowly gaining his strength. We hope to see you all in the Fall.

Love, Charlie and Nell

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Another Type of Vacation

Like most of us in the motor home community, we normally take our vacations in our GMC. This year as part of our scheduled 5-year family reunion get together, we decided to combine it with a cruise to the Bahamas. Many of you have already experienced ocean voyages but I'm sure there are an equal number of you who, like us, have for one reason or another, never experienced a vacation afloat. It is to those folks that this is primarily addressed.

Life aboard one of these cruise liners is like a page out of a fairy tale or an episode of the rich and famous that one would see on television. We, for one, were not prepared for the catering and pampering bestowed on the passengers.

Meals were a dining experience one normally reserves for special occasions. Each meal was served in a formal setting supervised by a maitre'd and two waiters that attended to your every desire. The meals themselves were presented in a manner befitting a house of royalty. The evening meal typically started with a choice of appetizers followed by soup or salad, then a choice of entrees. Desserts were always a selection of four or five tempting delicacies and topped off by an after dinner drink (coffee, tea, etc)

Days aboard ship are filled with wall to wall activity. Aside from the casino, professional stage performances seemed to go on constantly. Athletic activities throughout the day were available for those with a penchant to burn off calories and swimming pools, hot tubs, massage rooms and deck lounge chairs for those just wanting to lose themselves in inactivity. All of the foregoing are attended by waiters constantly flitting at your elbow trying to bring you a drink or snack. Evenings presented an opportunity to rekindle long forgotten courting rituals with our mates through quiet deck walks under clear full moonlit skies, dancing to a live band or attending an evening stage show; all following the aforementioned dining gala.

With a couple of shore stops for scuba diving, snorkeling, parasailing and sight seeing, our four days passed all too quickly and we were back at our starting point. Everyone in our group was delighted and ready to plan another ocean voyage. We are still committed to do our sightseeing by motor home and enjoy setting our own pace but we have found an ocean cruise a great alternative.

Flic and Judy Acosta

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Tech Note....from Ray Bingham

A number of GMC owners have recently installed a smaller, more efficient air conditioning compressor. That Japanese compressor, in various models, is used on numerous automobiles and large motor homes. It is available with pulleys for v- or serpentine belts. Reportedly the only modification required to either the compressor or the GMC is to enlarge three mounting holes at the front (pulley) end of the compressor. That modification makes it possible to bolt directly to the front mounts on the GMC 455 or 403 engine. The rear mounting bracket is not used. The identification of the compressor is: Sanden SD-5 Model # 59285U. It should be available used from junk yards, or new/rebuilt auto air conditioning dealers, or auto parts stores.

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ROAD RAGE

THE NEWEST PROBLEM ON THE ROAD

There have been many instances recently of motorists behaving in an overtly and hostile manner. Road Rage has become just as much a problem as car wrecks and carjacking.

According to Dr. Leon James, a social psychologist known as Dr. Driving, there is a cultural factor involved as well. "The fact is that our culture has made aggressive driving into a norm, something we can tolerate and engage freely, even to be proud of. By the time adolescents obtain their driver's licenses, they have been exposed to years of aggressive driving as children in their parents' cars and as consumers of car commercials and movies that depict aggressive driving as a norm.

Road Rage is an angry or frustrated reaction to another driver's actions that usually results in a harmful driving activity. It can be gesturing, shouting through an open window, driving with the intent to antagonize, cutting in front of you, and in worst cases, assaulting with their vehicle or shooting another driver. Road Rage can cause a similar Road Rage reaction in another driver. In some cases the driver that triggered the road rage was not even aware of doing anything wrong, yet their act created a potentially dangerous situation or "invaded the psychological bubble" of another driver.

As GMC motor home owners and drivers, we are particularly subject to this problem. We have long vehicles, drive slower than the rest of the traffic and many people subject to the Road Rage syndrome want to get by us and will take chances cutting in when traffic conditions hardly permit the proper space to be maintained between the vehicle in front of us.

With the continually increasing pace in lifestyle, it seems that everyone needs to get there faster and sooner. More traffic is on the roads and there is less regard for the speed limits. Maybe you are not prone to temper flare-ups but chances are that there's someone on the highway next to you who is.

There are things that you can do to safeguard yourself against the actions of a person with Road Rage. Be courteous, avoid maneuvers that require others to take corrective action, avoid passing on the right, stay in the furthest right hand lane, always signal well in advance of your intentions to change lanes or to make turns. The rule of thumb is to maintain at least 4 to 6 seconds of distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you.

It's important to set the example for all the other drivers out there. If you are the victim of Road Rage, stay calm, keep your eyes on the road and avoid eye contact with the aggressor. Responding to their

challenging actions will only make the situation worse. Be especially alert to any action the aggressor may take such as pulling in front of you and slamming on the brakes. If they get really upset, call the police on your cell phone or enlist the aid of another driver. If you are being stalked, never stop in a desolate place. Always stop in a shopping center, police station or large busy parking lot.

Ken O'Rourke

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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

NEW MEMBERS

Bill and Jane Mauger
6910 Pidgeon Run Road
Navarre, Ohio 44662
330-767-3616
F# 278848
e-mail: MJMRZ@Raex.com

Mike and Sandy Morton
5966 Flintlock Ct.
Hickory, NC 28601
828-324-9093 cell: 828-320-6453
F#348984
Memorton@charter.net

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Loren and Nancy Buchanan
400 Highland Street
Wilkesboro, NC 28697-2823
336-667-7584
F# 156183
LBuch68@hotmail.com

Ron Freeman and Alaska Presley
69 Holland Drive, Apt. 1
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
F# 134285
ronstyle@olsonline.com

Pat and Norma Morrison
771 Tiger Creek Rd.
Roan Mountain, TN 37687
423-725-2795
F# applied for
pmorris1@usit.net

ROSTER UPDATES

Address change -- **Ken and Elaine Henderson**
110 O'Hara Road
Americus, GA 31719
Phone: (229) 924-0851
EH Cell (850) 814-7101
KH Cell (850) 814-7110
EH E-mail: laneybelle@bellsouth.net
KH E-mail: hend4800@bellsouth.net

Address change -- **Wade and Nan Malm**
5586 N. Buffalo Drive
Beverly Hills, FL 34465-2766
Phone: 352-746-1930

Phone # change -- **Jim and Ethel Walters**
Phone: 770-927-9224

E-mail change -- **Earl Glover & Muriel Bradley**
gandbresto@allvantage.com

E-mail change -- **Dan & Ellen Springer**
dfsehs@comcast.net

Address change -- **Gary & Phyllis "Pete" Barrett**
130 Maple St.
Waynesville, NC 28786

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CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS!

Thank you ladies for the great turn out for the first book review meeting at Maggie Valley. It was a wonderful surprise to have so many readers out there! For those of you who couldn't attend, we gave reviews and recommendations of current books we have read. Some ladies were there just to listen. They commented later that all the good books they had read had just skipped their minds! So ladies, from now on, please write down what you have read so it can be shared. Please save your exciting reading materials and books and bring them to the fall rally at Montgomery. **GOOD READING!**

Elaine Henderson

Bits &

pieces.....from the editor

Since Bean Station is our "Going Home" Rally, could we call Maggie Valley our "Let the Good Times Roll" Rally? Ken, Alma, Gary & Pete did a great job!

Kudos to John Nicholls who produced a fabulous new flyer to promote our club. We often encounter people who are interested in owning a GMC or already have one, but don't realize there is a support group out there like the Dixielanders. They will now, thanks to John!

Betty Davis will be the 2005 Alternate Nominating Committee member. The Bean Station Minutes were corrected to include this information.

Thanks to everyone for your response to the last newsletter. Ideas are starting to flow in! I'll again bring the other club newsletters to Montgomery for viewing.

Flic and Judy's article about a cruise made me wonder if there is any interest in a Dixielanders Cruise Rally. We could possibly meet at Jetty Park next to Port Canaveral and proceed from there.

HELP! Send tech articles for the newsletter.

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WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

FOR SALE: Eliminate that troublesome hydraulic wiper control and motor with Ken's electric wiper conversion kit. Mechanical and wiring kits to install your \$20 junkyard Lumina APV wiper motor. \$200 including shipping. For more information, see www.bdub.net/kenhenderson

FOR SALE: 1976 GMC Royale, 26ft. rear bath. Ken O'Rourke 864-297-1893 or electmosq@aol.com

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. 770-460-5044 or dwalloch@peoplepc.com

(Contact the editor to place an ad.)

The R. V. Prayer

*Lord bless this little house on wheels
While we're out on the road.
And as we sleep and take our meals,
Protect our small abode.*

*We're not at home and won't presume
To have everything as good.
Some things, Lord, don't take much room,
But this is understood.*

*Bless the shower, fridge, stove and bed
The generator, and holding tanks,
And the campground waiting up ahead--
For all this we give Thee thanks.*

Submitted by Jo Telgen

"Sometimes a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do!" (Who is this man???)

Photo by JoAnn Fain

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What's the best way to find medical info on the Web?

Times change. Consumer awareness has increased and the public has begun to demand easily accessible health information. And what better place to get it than the Internet? Health is the No. 1 thing people look for on the Web. There is concern that the information the public finds is not entirely accurate or is being pushed with a specific product to sell. Here is a list of favored academic and governmental sites that contain no advertising.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov):** The CDC is an agency of the Dept. of Health and Human Services. The Web site is massive but can be easily navigated to find info on specific conditions, including diet and nutrition. There is also info on specialized topics such as Travelers' Health.
- **Healthfinder (www.healthfinder.gov/):** This one looks more like commercial sites, with easy graphics and good organization. However, the depth of information may not be as complete as others.
- **Mayo Clinic Health Oasis (www.mayohealth.org):** Easy to read and fun to navigate, this site is updated almost daily with the accuracy of information reviewed by Mayo Clinic experts. In addition to info on specific conditions, there are also sections on lifestyle, nutrition and parenting.
- **MEDLINEplus (www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus):** It's very consumer friendly, with a breezy look and contains a wealth of information. It's linked to the world's largest medical library. For quick references go to "Health Topics".
- **National Women's Health Information (www.4women.gov):**

Sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health. Information is easily obtained on medical and health topics but articles are also provided on social issues such as domestic violence.

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Haven't Caught Any Fish Lately?

It just could be you haven't been following folklore and country wisdom! Over the years, the American imagination has created traditions that are not only fascinating but will sometimes make you laugh. You might want to try these on your next fishing trip:

- * If two or more people go fishing together, they must all cross the fences at the same time if they are to have good luck at catching fish.
- * It's bad luck to change fishing rods or poles.
- * Don't carry your rod into the house before your trip or you'll catch nothing. Never step over your rod.
- * Turn your pockets inside out while fishing and you can't miss.
- * The best fishing days are always the 17th and 18th of the month.
- * Absolutely never count your fish. It brings bad luck.
- * "Wind in the east, fish bite least. Wind in the west, fish bite best."

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Remember.....

The late fee date for the GMC Motorhome International 2004 Fall Convention in Marion, NC is August 31st.

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SEE YA ALL AT MARION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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