

“Roaming Dixie Together”

GMC Dixielander

Spring 2007

Movers and Shakers

- President John Nicholls
- Vice-President Jim Walters
- Secretary Flic Acosta
- Treasurer Chuck Chambers
- FMCA Nat. Dir. Don Leslie
- Alternate Alan Martin
- Executive Committee
 - Harry Terrell
 - Alma O'Rourke
 - Dan Springer
- Nominating Committee
 - Marie Hudson
 - Carolyn Wills
 - Don Walloch
- Alternate Betty Davis
- Audit Committee
 - Gene Dotson
 - Marie Hudson
- GMCMI East Rep JR Slaten
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- Photographers Ike & Jan Grove, Jr.
- Sunshine Lady Judy Acosta
- Membership Chm. John Nicholls
- Equipment Mgr. / Storekeeper John Richardson
- WebMaster Ken Henderson
- Newsletter Editor Tom Phipps

Dixielander

Words of Wisdom from the President:

John Nichols, President

Your loquacious President reports: I had a great time at Lazy Days. Thanks to the 27 or so couples who made it enjoyable. For me the best entertainment was each others company. I am happy to report that the Parksdale strawberries are as good as ever. I know of no other venue where men sit around and share experiences as readily as Dixielanders do. **Boy, an I looking forward to Bean Station.**

Thanks to the 134 members who have renewed for 2007. Goodbye and we will miss you to the eight who whatever reason will no longer be part of us and I hope the 32 who have not yet made a decision will decide to stay with us.

I spent three week working on my furnace. My last issue was LP pressure. I will be bringing a manometer to Bean Station for those folks who want to validate their LP gas regulator. I encourage others to think of things to check. How about the low water sensor? How about stray electrical currents through the coolant? Let your imagination run for the benefit of our members.

Lazy Days Rally Report

Jim Walters, Vice-President

We had 26 motor homes at the Lazy Days Rally Park for the GMC Dixielander Winter Rally, January 15, 16 & 17th. This does not include several members of the GMC Alumni. This was a no-host rally with the Rally Park staff furnishing breakfast, lunch, and a catered dinner with entertainment. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was great. And, We welcomed Casey Anderson, our newest member who drove his Royale down from Nashville, TN to be with the group. For most of us the rally was a welcome respite from cold/cool temperatures and Winter weather. Although lunch was provided, it seemed that each day a large number of Dixielander skipped lunch at the Park for the fresh strawberry delights at Parksdale Farms! It doesn't get much better than to be fed, entertained and to enjoy the company of good friends. We've already made reservations for the Dixielanders at the Rally Park next January. Details will be furnished at a later date.

Unfortunately, Peggy Moore spent the entire Rally in their coach. She was fighting a nasty virus but we understand she made a fairly quick recovery. Sorry, Peggy.

Noted:

We are very sorry to have to report the passing of Ed Viering. He passed away at 10 AM on Saturday, January 13th after a long battle with cancer and several surgeries over the last few years. Some of our recent contacts with Ann seemed to indicate that Ed was getting better even to the point that they might be able to make some rallies. We are particularly saddened as we considered them to be close friends. Please join us in praying for Ann and the rest of her family in this trying time of their lives.

- Judy and Flic Acosta -

Judy, Please pass on to all the Dixielanders who sent cards of condolences. I truly appreciate (them). Losing someone so close to you and spending 50 yrs. plus is so difficult. As time passes I'm sure it will get easier. Thanks again.

-Annie Viering-

Dave Greenburg reported on the loss of Wade Malm. He passed away on 18 January of a heart attack after collapsing at a rehabilitation center in Crystal River, FL. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Crystal River on January 23rd. The family requested that donations be made to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers. Wade and Nan were very old and active members of the Sunshine Statesmen for many years and belonged to other GMC based clubs as well.

Sunshine news:

As reported by Ed's daughter, Ed Laird fell on Tuesday and broke his hip. He is in the Gwinnett County Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Room 625.

He had hip replacement on Thursday, which went well. He has fluid on the lungs which they are monitoring. He cannot yet stand up, but they are encouraging him. He will probably have to go into a rehab facility for a few weeks before coming home.

Further from Jim Walters, Vice-President

Since Lazy Days is a long drive for many people, next year should we try to extend the Rally from three to four days? Or, should we move to another nearby park for a few extra days? We will explore this at Bean Station.

Words of Warning

Everyone should watch their credit card charges from Lazy Days. One member reported that they were charged \$120 in November, when the initial reservation was made. Then, they were charged the entire Rally cost of \$267.68 on Jan 9th, and not given credit for the initial reservation charge. They further reported that this is the second time that this has happened to them at Lazy Days.

Technical Notes

From the Desk of Ken Henderson,

Just 13,000 miles ago, I purchased and installed a “new” front frame under our coach. All of the items in the suspension which are subject to wear were replaced with new or better components. Knowing that the previous owner was a highly experienced mechanic and apparently meticulous about everything that he did, I’ve been very confident that everything was ready for many trouble-free miles. Last week I discovered how wrong I was: Both of the lower ball joints had been “working” in the A-arms and were loose – a potentially very hazardous situation.

The original ball joints were installed with rivets, which seldom give trouble. Replacement ball joints are installed with bolts. It is VERY important for that replacement to be done carefully to ensure that the bolt holes are not too large, that the correct sized bolts are used, and that they are properly tightened.

If your ball joints have been replaced, I strongly advise that you check their condition at every grease job. There are three bolts holding each ball joint; one through the A-arm above the joint and one on each side, fore and aft. It is possible to check the tightness of all three bolts without removing the wheels. If you find one loose, it’s time to remove the wheel and the ball joint. If the bolts are loose, the holes in the A-arm and in the ball joint are probably worn and merely tightening the bolts probably will not be a lasting repair. New, larger bolts and/or new ball joints and/or a weld-repaired A-arm may be necessary for safe operation.

FOR SALE, ETC

For Sale: Three 23’ GMC motorhomes, but only need one. 76 Birchaven, rear bath, Clasco redo, \$18,500; 76 Birchaven, rear bath, gutted, build it like you want, \$8,500; 73 Glacier, rear bed, side bath, excellent, \$12,500 John Nichols, (850) 968-4637 johnrita1 at cox.net

For Sale: 78 GMC 26’ Royale, 74,000 miles, rear twin beds, rebuilt 403 engine with headers, rebuilt transmission with 3.70 final drive, Edlebrock intake manifold, Holley fuel injection, seven Alcoa wheels, new Michelin XPS Rib tires, new side windows by Motorhome Enhancements, new windshields, base coat clear coat paint, new Onan 4KW generator, vinyl seats and couch, Maximum CB with controls on the mike. \$24,500. Call: Doris Blackburn (256) 383 6254.

For Sale: One of a kind. The only GMC of its kind, 455 Olds with fuel injection, Special Mercedes paint by Topeka Graphics, Automatic Sat. TV with LCD, Sat radio, 2500 Watts Trace Inverter, 6KW Onan , solar power, heated water/drainage system, maserator, computer desk, Paliser recliner/ottoman, day/night shades, dual A/Cs with heat strip. Full rear bed, all around Zip Dee awnings, Alcoa wheels and Michelin tires. Kept in a heated building, too many options to list. Non-smoker, no pets. Beautiful machine. Call Richard Harwell in Hickory, NC (828) 324 4455

Free: Scale 1:1 Olds 403 engine kit, in pieces. You figure out how to get it home. John Nichols (850) 968 4637

Notes from the Editor; Attached is your 2007 membership list. Please inform me of any corrections. Hope this is useful in your GMC adventures. The want ads are free for you to clean up your spare/unwanted GMC items. Send ads to editor for the next newsletter. -Tom Phipps, Editor

BEAN STATION WORK RALLY

May 3 –5, 2007

The Premier GMC Dixielander Event of the Year – Bean Station Rally – is right around the corner. Once again, Al and Marty Samsel will be our hosts for this event.

Directions: From Knoxville; I-40, Take Exit 392 HWY 11 W – Rutledge Pike– 40 miles East – Turn I n Dalton Lane– Next to Dollar General.

From North Carolina; I-40 West to I-81 North – Take Exit 8– go right (North) 17 miles to Dalton Lane.

From Virginia: I-81 –Take 1st Tennessee Exit - HWY 11W – 70 miles to Dalton Lane.

From Kentucky; Take HWY 25E Exit from I-75– Go approximately 80 miles to HWY 11W – Dalton Lane (Dollar General).

Each Coach please bring a desert to share.

Breakfast served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Thursday evening – Pot Luck – Please bring a Mexican dish or vegetable or salad.

Friday evening– Catered

Saturday evening – Cook-out

Phone Numbers: Cell : 865-604-0672
865-805-5317

Bean Station Rally
Mail to: Marty Samsel
P.O. Box 310
Bean Station, TN 37708

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Name _____ Full Hook UP (\$15 per night) _____

Address _____ Electric Only (\$10 per night) _____

_____ Rally Fee (\$20 per person) _____

Coach: _____

WORK to do: _____

PIT Time needed (Yes or No) _____

Cut-Off Date: April 25, 2007