

“Roaming Dixie Together”

# GMC Dixielander

WWW.Dixielanders.ORG

Summer 2007

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- Asst WebMaster Ken Henderson
- Newsletter Editor Tom Phipps

## Dixielander

Words of Wisdom from the President:

John Nichols, President

Another really great Bean Station Rally. Marvelous fellowship, excellent food and lots of good work accomplished. I think Eric and Joanna Tanner should get the award for surviving the most stress with the greatest aplomb. I enjoyed the “porthole” in Dan and Teri Gregg’s coach. How about that frame work in Audies May’s ongoing project?

I am pleased that we were able to get our rally sites and dates coordinated to the satisfaction of most. Jim and I were made aware of the October conflict with the Alumni while at Lazy Days. He immediately called the campground in Chattanooga to see if we could move our date. They were already booked solid for the leaf season so we decided to press on with the Dixielander Rally. We are delighted that the Alumni have decided to join us for what portends to be another great location at a good time of the year.

The follow on Rally in Winterhaven , Fl (follow on to Lazy Days 08) should be a good fit for our membership. I am suggesting to the Board that we move our business meeting from Lazy Days to the follow on rally at Winterhaven. It is really difficult to conduct a business meeting at Lazy Days..

- John -

Notes from the Editor. I think this issue will be more fun, with two personal stories included. The position of “official photographer” is open. I would really like to add photos to the newsletter. Please remember, any photos submitted will be “edited” to fit available space, and printed in B&W, for the print copy. E-mail copy and Web copy will be in color.

I also did the Rally information as a separate sheet. I think this may be a better way to do it. There is a location map on the back for your orientation of the rally site. Tell me how you like this idea.

This is your newsletter, send me stuff.

-Tom Phipps

Noted: We recently received the note below from Suzie Tase about Nan Malm. Last night we received a second note from Suzie that indicated that things were not going well and Nan was having trouble breathing requiring that they place her on a ventilator. Although no longer Dixielander members, we thought it appropriate to send this on to the old times who have known and cherished the Malms as friends. We ask that you join us in remembering Nan in your prayers and pray for her speedy and full recovery

- Judy and Flic

FYI, Nan Malm had (huge) gall stone surgery on the 21st and since has developed a blood infection and is in the ICU unit. She is up in Cleveland near her daughter and a son, so that is good. She is allergic to penicillin, so they are having to use something else, but are optimistic that she will be out of ICU in a couple of days.

GMC DIXIELANDER TREASURER'S REPORT, As of 4/30/2007

Balance Brought Forward 1/15/2007		\$6116.84
Income: Dues and New Members		\$280.00
Balance:		\$6396.84
Expenditures:		
Robert Staub – Badges for New members	\$ 35.65	
American Cancer Society –Memorial		
Ed Vierling	\$25.00	
LaRosa Rose	\$25.00	
Dene Breland	\$25.00	
Total	\$75.00	
American Heart Association – Memorial		
Wade Malm	\$25.00	
Floyd Heyman Hospice Care – Memorial		
Earl Glover	\$25.00	
Tom Phipps – Newsletter and Roster	\$243.26	
Billy Massey – Website	\$130.00	
Total Expenditures		\$533.91
Ending Balance 4/30/2007		\$5862.93

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Chambers, Treasurer

## Notes from a happy newbie, or subtitled "The Bean Station Experience"

Some time back, I asked for ya'lls help in retiring. I thought I was ready to settle back and enjoy my Crestmont with some other "OLD FOLKS" with the same interest. Nothing like sitting under the awning sipping on a cool toddy swapping stories. I have had my coach for 1 1/2 years and have used it almost weekly for something or other but Bean Station was my first rally, everything went as expected when we arrived late Thursday and JR met us to park and we found out it was his birthday! Wow, the party is on, I thought to myself. We hung out that evening meeting and talking chit chat with the "OLD FOLKS". Went to bed about midnight and woke to the smell of coffee and pancakes, again breakfast was delicious and I went back to the Crestmont for a long relaxing hot tub bath, got dressed and saw the real world in the daylight.... THEM "OLD FOLKS" has the transmission out of Eric's coach, done replaced Dan's Radiator, has CV axles out of another coach spread all over the work bench, another coach outside the bay with the alternator and half the wiring dangling, another group working on tank drain valves. People were hanging out of trees setting up repeaters for the wifi. The girls had arts and crafts set up, a flea market, used and new parts, I thought I was in the Twilight Zone.... I did nothing all day but watch and try to learn, (AND EAT). Boy, do ya'll eat good. At 9:30 that night, I was ready for bed and had thoughts of going to the gym and quitting smoking just so I could hang with these "OLD FOLKS".

I felt like a kid at my first NASCAR race and getting to meet 50 different SMOKEY YUNICKS in one place. I was amazed, honored and humbled to just be there. The cooperation, sharing of information, research, and just pure intelligence of the conversations was amazing. Not just engineers, but craftsmen all, and willing not only to share the information, but to show you first hand what to do right. I felt out of place, I was not prepared for this. I hope I did not get in the way and maybe ya'll will let me come back and hang again some time.

Thanks Chuck for the wheels, thanks Ken for bringing them, thanks AL and Marty for everstuff. Dean Station is awesome, thanks Dan, thanks Roger, Thanks to all..... Chuck, Deb & Killer and happy birthday to JR...

- via e-mail from Chuck Boyd

FALL RALLY, CHATTANOOGA, TN

October 25, 26 and 27.

Plans are being finalized for the GMC Dixielander Rally in Chattanooga, TN. The GMC Alumni will be joining us for this rally. The dates are October 25, 26 and 27th. The rally site is the Holiday Trav-L-Park in Chattanooga, TN. We've negotiated a group rate of \$24.65 per night for full hook-ups (30 Amp) and \$26.35 (50 Amp), including cable TV. The park is located approximately one mile west of I-75. Ike and Jan Grove and Lynn and Cynthia Olson have agreed to be our co-hosts. May of you know that Jim and Lou McDowell of Signal Mountain, TN were founders of the GMC Dixielanders. We have asked the McDowells to be Honorary co-hosts for the rally. Jim is planning a special presentation (that's all I can divulge at this time!).

The Chattanooga area is rich in history and there is much to see and do in the area. The Fall season is perhaps the best time of the year to enjoy the area. Much is being planned of which we will fill you in at a later date. So, mark your calendar, and we will provide the details later.

-Editor's note: Marilyn and I have stayed here, it is a nice campground. We toured the battlefields and had a good time.-

## The Good News and the Rest of the Story – Or, Eric and Joanne’s Adventure

For the Dixielanders

While many know we lost our transmission on the way to Bean Station earlier this month on Tuesday May 1st, the week of the Dixielanders Rally, and had to be towed from Kingsport, TN, about 50 miles to Bean Station, we’d probably better provide some background information for the other’s that weren’t at Bean Station.

In the Fall of 2004, we took the coach to Canada and had a Dick Paterson Stage II, rebuilt 403 and Dick Paterson rebuilt transmission with switch-pitch torque converter installed.

The transmission that went out had 4000 miles on it. Tuesday night, we talked with Dick Paterson and he had no problem with proving us with a new rebuilt transmission under warranty, and because shipping would take too much time, suggested we meet him half-way between Coldwater, Ontario and Bean Station, TN, which turned out to be Morgantown, West Virginia. We and many Dixieland helpers pulled the transmission on Wednesday and put it in the back of our Tracker. Thursday, we drove the 400 miles to Morgantown, arriving within 2 minutes of Dick having driven about 450 miles from Coldwater, slid our transmission into the back of his pickup, slid the new rebuilt into the back of the Tracker and arrived back in Bean Station 17 hours after having left Bean Station.

On Sunday, the transmission was back in (again thanks to the help of many Dixielanders) and the coach was taken for a test drive. The transmission, however would not shift into 3rd gear, and slipped in reverse.

Sunday afternoon, May 6th, we talked with Dick Paterson again and he made it very clear that he would take care of it. Because his transmission builder was out of the country on vacation, and then Dick has commitments as a board member of a local college, we readily agreed to his schedule.

As he clearly said he would, he has taken care of it! On Monday, May 28th, he and his transmission builder drove from Coldwater, Ontario to Bean Station, TN and on today Tuesday, removed and replaced the transmission, tested the coach, and at about 4 pm left to return to Coldwater, Ontario (round trip about 1700 miles). This weekend, we take the Tracker back to Bean Station and drive the coach back to McLean.

A special thanks to Al and Marty Samsel for allowing the coach to remain at their home.

Many thanks to all that helped. We’ve had many inquiries on how it was going; we are grateful for those as well.

- Eric and Joanna Tanner

**Summer Rally - Murphy, NC**

The GMC Dixielander Summer Rally is scheduled for July 26,27 and 28 at the Peace Valley Campground, Murphy, NC. We have reserved 35 spaces with full hook ups including cable TV. The park has a couple of log cabins for those not driving their coach. This rally will be hosted by Chuck and Sue Chambers and Jim and Ethel Walters.

The Peace Valley Campground is located 4 miles North East of Murphy on US Hwy 74E. For those with GPS navigation systems the address is 117 Happy Valley Road, Marble, NC. I tried this on my GPS receiver and it took me within a couple hundred feet of the entrance to the campground.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible but absolutely no later than June 26<sup>th</sup>. Reservations may be made by calling the campground directly at 828 837-6223; by fax at 828 835-3893; or by email at info@peacevalleycampground.com. Additional information concerning the park is available at www.peacevalleycampground.com. When making reservations be sure to identify yourself as a GMC Dixielander. The rate is \$18.00 per night and is the same for those persons arriving early or remaining a few days after the Rally.

PEACE VALLEY CAMPGROUND  
117 HAPPY VALLEY RD  
MARBLE, NC 28905

828-837-6223 (PHONE)  
828-837-3893 (FAX)  
INFO@PEACEVALLEYCAMPGROUND.COM (E-MAIL)

Peace Valley Summer Rally

Mail To: Chuck Chambers  
2379 High Falls Road  
Jackson, GA 30233

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Rally Fee (\$25 per person)

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut-Off Date: June 25, 2007**



Peace Valley Campground: 828-837-6223  
117 Happy Valley Rd  
Marble NC  
28905 US

**Notes:**

GMC Dixielander Summer Rally  
July 26 - 28, 2007

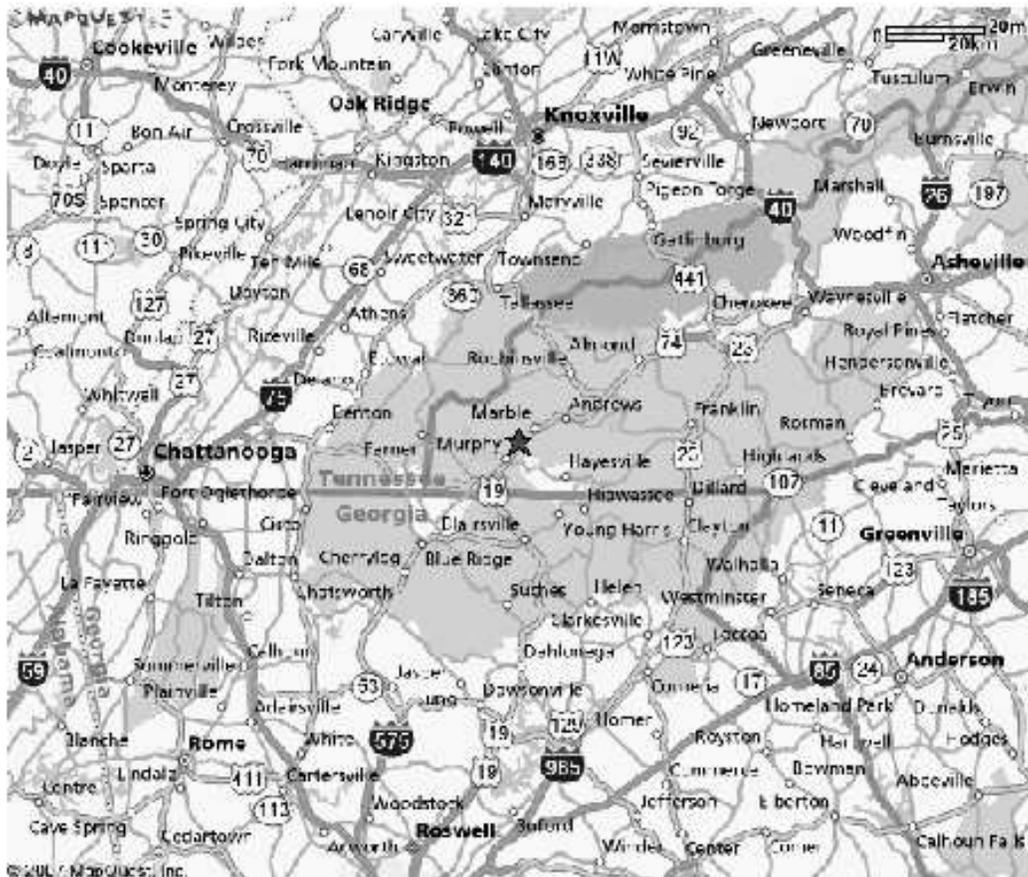


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## Aaaaah! Bean Station

Special Report to the GMC Dixielander News letter by J.R. Slaten-

What a strange Name for the number one annual rally destination for all Dixielanders and lots of other GMC'ers. With 51 coaches and 6 families in cars present, this year was no exception. Even though Bean Station is touted as a Work Rally, and a lot of work is done by both the men and the women, the amount of fun outweighs the work 100 to 1. Some of us are silly enough to call the work, fun. The three day rally that started for some on Sunday and ended on the following Sunday, was filled with food, technical learning experiences, food, crafts and games, food, two parties, and of course food.

Everywhere you looked, there was a hood up, or a wheel off, and a half dozen technicians telling you six different ways how to make the repair. And, of course, they were all right. The pit, under the direction of Ron Davis, was never empty. Ton did such a fine job that he has been appointed Pit Boss again next year. As usual, a few coaches limped in and one came in on a hook. All, but one, left with their problems solved.



I mentioned two parties.

This year, we had a Mexican pot luck, complete with appropriate attire and also our annual Derby party.

The Mexican pot luck would have made HoseA and HoseB proud. The dishes, dips, salsa and chips were endless. The lovely Senoritas and the handsome Seniors were a sight to see. That gala affair could only be topped by the yearly Derby party on Saturday. Our Derby party had everything that could be offered at Churchill Downs. Beautiful women sporting colorful spring hats, Mint Juleps, Gentlemanly wagering and of course, horse racing.



The Winners of this year's Derby Jackpots were: Marty Samsel, Ray Whalen, Peggy Ann Moore, Ann Vierling, Dave Perry, Susan Harwell, Cheryl Sommerdahl, Gene Couples, Jeanne Slaten, and (for the first time ever) J.R. Slaten. Prizes for the ladies hats according to the judges, Al Samsel, Ray Whalen, and Richard Harwell, were given to Peggy Ann Moore for the 2nd Most Derby Oriented Hat, to Linda Terrill, for the pritttest Derby Hat, to Joanne Dotson for The Most Derby Oriented Hat and the Jeanne Slaten for the Prettiest Derby Hat.



I want to say thanks to everyone that helped and a great big and very special thanks goes to our Hosts Marty and Al, Trula and Ray and Jeanne who spent days of preparation and even longer days during the rally, so we all could have a wonderful time again.

The sweetest words that I heard Marty say was at the end of the Rally. They were, "Next year, we'll have a Western Night."

YeeHaw !!! We've commin back .....JR

## Corps Corner By Marilyn Phipps

Did you know the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the largest provider of recreational opportunities in the United States? That the Corps offers half price camping in more than 400 parks on the nation's lakes and rivers? That you can camp for free in exchange for volunteering?

### Camping Information

If you want more information about the location of the Corps campgrounds, and other Federal operated campgrounds, visit <http://www.recreation.gov/>.

Only 60 – 70 percent of all the campsites are listed on the recreation reservation system. If the campground is listed as full on the web, call the project office phone number listed at the bottom of the page to see how many spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you want information on the “America the Beautiful” Pass (formerly Golden Age and Golden Access passes), visit <http://www.store.usgs.gov/pass/>.

### Volunteer Information

Some things you need to know about volunteering:

You can negotiate the job and the hours.

The opportunities are unlimited.

The Corps volunteer clearinghouse will try to match your skills with a project.

You do not have to commit to a 4-6-12 month volunteer period. If you want to try it for a week end or a couple of weeks, Call me at 251-690-2506 or e-mail me, at [marilyn.j.phipps@usace.army.mil](mailto:marilyn.j.phipps@usace.army.mil).

### Good News from Iraq

Since spending time in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I am often asked, “What is happening in Iraq?”, “Is there any good news?”, “Where can I find out more information?”.

The answer to all these questions can be found on-line. Each week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Regional Division posts a newsletter, *Iraq Reconstruction Weekly*, on their homepage. To read it, please visit: <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/>.

### For Sale

For Sale – 1978 GMC Royale. 49,000 miles. Coachman Interior. New Electrical upgrades. Electronic converter with charge wizard. Hard-wired Surge Control. Marine Grade DG Fuse Block/Auto type fuses. New Tires and Bilstein Shocks. New Awning, Dry Side Bath with new larger sink and Tri-Mirror medicine cabinet. \$20,000

E-Mail or call for more information and pictures. Coach located in Lenior City, TN 37771.  
[78GMCRoyale@bellsouth.net](mailto:78GMCRoyale@bellsouth.net) (865) 986-8898. John Howell