

# GMC Dixielander

SPRING 2010

## *Movers and Shakers*

- President Jjeanne Slaten
- Vice-President Dan Springer
- Secretary Flic Acosta
- Treasurer Chuck Chambers
- FMCA Nat. Dir. Don Walloch
- Alternate Don Leslie
- Executive Committee
  - Sue Chambers
  - John Richardson
  - Luther McConnell
- Nominating Committee
  - Audrey Holloway
  - Betty Davis
  - Ted Stinnett
- Audit Committee
  - Gene Dotson
  - Marie Hudson
- GMCMI East Rep Jim Buchanan
- GMCMI South Rep Alex Sirum
- 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

## Notes from the President:

Jeanne Slaten

Happy New Year!

It is an honor to have been elected as your president for the year 2010. I realize that I have my work cut out for me as I try to continue the efforts of our former presidents to keep our club something special. All suggestions will be considered and will be greatly appreciated.

I wish to welcome all new members to the GMC Dixielander family. We are a dedicated group of wonderful people with an immense variety of backgrounds, skills and interests. It is with the most gracious Southern hospitality that we welcome you to the camaraderie of the GMC Dixielanders.

I also want to encourage all members to consider hosting a rally, holding an office, or otherwise getting involved with our club functions. The club usually schedules three rallies per year. This is fortified with a couple of no-host, impromptu rallies and a strong showing at the two GMC Motorhome International Conventions in the spring and fall. JR is currently serving his last year as the president of GMCMI. We are looking forward to seeing you at the April 29-May 2, Dixielander rally in Bean Station, Tennessee, which is hosted by Al and Marti Samsel and co-hosted by JR and I, or maybe seeing you at the March 19-25, International Convention in Montgomery, Texas. It is well known that the fun doesn't start until the Dixielanders arrive, so get your reservations sent soon!

A relaxing, joint rally with the GMC Alumni Club, was held at the Lazy Days RV Resort in Seffner, Florida, from January 11-14. There were approximately 35 Dixielanders in attendance, who were treated to catered breakfasts, lunches and suppers, and different entertainment groups each night. The weather was a little chilly and the bands were a little loud, but everyone seemed to have a great time. Since it was a no-host rally, with no special agenda, there was no need to hold a General Business Meeting. We will be joining the Alumni Club at Lazy Days) again in January, 2011. Carl Tompkins, Rallymaster of the Alumni Club, has made reservations and more information will be sent to our newsletter editor at a later date. (Information for the Dixielander's Summer and Fall rallies will also be included in a future newsletter.)

Thanks again for your support. If you need anything, please feel free to contact me either by phone: 502-930-4703, or by email: [ajeannes@aol.com](mailto:ajeannes@aol.com)  
Take care; travel safely, Jeanne

Sadly, we have to inform you of the passing of Cecil Miller. The note below from Allen Martin sums up many of the details and provides a short bio on Cecil's life. Just prior to receiving Allen's note we had gotten a note from JR Wheeler forwarding an email from Cecil's wife, Pat. She pointed out that his battle went on for 14-months. Also, that she was with him to the end. He was at the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home and the transition was peaceful and he did not suffer. Although Cecil is now at rest, Pat, his wife of 49 years, will continue to suffer the pain of his loss. Please join us in praying for her during this very trying time in her life.

Judy and Flic



Notes from the Editor: You will notice in this issue the photos have been provided for your enjoyment by Flic Acosta. I hope that Judy pointed out some of the good ones. Sending me photos is the easiest thing to do and will get you in the newsletter. As always, I am looking for stories, ideas, etc that will help you enjoy both your GMC and your club, The Dixielanders. We are 152 members strong, as of this writing, so we must be doing something right. Everyone knows that Bean Station is the rally to attend, and this is one case of Dixielanders first. The reservation cut-off date is April, 20, so get it in the mail. With any kind of luck, I'll see you there. Tom Phipps

## LAZYDAYS RALLY, 2010

As usual, the annual Lazdays rally was great. Our weather, however, was not the greatest that we have experienced in Florida. The rally itself ran from the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. The temperatures were uncommonly cool for this time of the year in Florida requiring the use of jackets much of the time during the day and quilts at night. Seems the entire state was undergoing strange and unseasonable weather. This did improve with each day with the daytime temperatures reaching the high 60's to low 70's. The wind however, did make it feel cooler.

Although the weather did have an impact on the usual outdoor activities that Dixielanders normally enjoy, such as sitting outside around our motorhomes chitchatting with friends about events since our last get-together and things we have done to our beloved GMC's, it was more than made up for by the hospitality of the Lazydays organization. All meals, of course, were provided by the rally park folks. Each evening proved to be a gala event. The meeting room proved to be our substitute to the outdoor activities and each evening turned into a wonderful event of intermingling with old and new friends. Our hosts provided the bonding atmosphere with the meticulous layout, delightful catered meals, including beer and wine for those so inclined, and superb entertainment. Judy and I spent more time on the dance floor during our 3-nights at this rally than we have the entire year, but I'll have to admit that we were outdone by Paul and Barbara Frisz.

By my unofficial count, we had 22 Dixielanders in attendance including day visits by the Samsels and the Trivetts who both were spending their winter time close by. Judy and I were also able to spend and enjoy time with a couple of our newer member families; Art and Doris Mansfield and Bobby and Faye Williamson.

Unfortunately, as with all good things, they come to an end. Thursday morning rolled around and everyone began leaving. Judy and I were only going a couple of hours down the road to spend more time at Winter Haven with several of the other Dixielanders, so we took our time leaving and were able to say goodbye to many of the early departures.

- Flic and Judy Acosta

GMC Dixielanders RV Club VIP Cards at Oasis RV Resort 2715 Arnot Rd Amarillo, TX 79124 PH: 1-888 789 9697

We are located just far enough off one of the most traveled Interstates in the country, I-40 (Exit 60). Obviously we want the GMC Dixielanders business as they travel across our country, so we would like to offer the GMC Dixielander members the Oasis RV Resort VIP Silver Card. The Oasis RV Resort Silver Card allows its holders 20% OFF nightly stays and all our services such as RV Wash (retail \$50) RV Carpet Extraction (retail \$75) certified RV Repair (retail \$80/hour plus parts) Propane (\$3/gallon) and Food & Beverage at The Oasis Bar & Grille!, for the remainder of 2010!

Simply have your members send me an email with their address and we will send them their Oasis RV Resort Silver Card!

We have several GMC Dixielander members who frequent our facility, many traveling through and some have family nearby, all very loyal customers who are on the go, and would like to knock off some road grime, or see to a repair that they have been meaning to get to. Our loyal GMC Dixielander customers will tell you that all of our sites will accommodate any size rig without taking off their tow vehicle. (why bother, you can walk to our onsite watering hole!)

All The Best Tom and Jamie Barr, Owners 505-401-8540 tbarn@myrvoasis.com

GMCer's,

We at GMC Motorhomes International are seeking a replacement for Ray Swartzendruber, our Convention Manager. Ray has decided to retire and we are accepting applications with resumes for this position. The position of Convention Manager is a paid position with an annual salary of \$17,500.00 plus approved expenses.

**The general duties of Convention Manager are to:**

1. Set up and manage two conventions (rallies) annually.
2. Report to the president and the board on convention services status and financial activity.
3. Develop convention budgets and control expenditures to stay within those budgets.
4. Sit on the Board of Directors and provide assistance and expertise.
5. Maintain and account for GMCM's equipment and supplies associated with convention services.

**General requirements.**

An applicant shall have educational and, or career experience in business administration. They shall have leadership, communication and inter-personal skills with computer knowledge enough to perform their duties.

Anyone wishing to apply or anyone wanting to suggest someone for this position, contact any of the Executive Search Committee members.

**The Executive Search Committee consists of:**

JR Slaten	502-836-2097	jrslaten@aol.com
Fred Hudspeth	903-509-2495	fbhtxak@sbcglobal.net
Ray Swartzendruber	574-457-3564	redruber@gmail.com
Emery Stora	505-660-9507	emerystora@mac.com
Jim Buchanan	828-464-5105	chicksaw@charter.net
Dave Lenzi	810-653-3902	mlenzi@charter.net

Regards,

JR Slaten  
President, GMC Motorhomes International

Just a note: Please keep the GMC Dixielander's secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor informed of any changes to your pertinent information; mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. This data will be used for up-dating the newsletter mailings, sunshine notices, and the annual membership roster, that is mailed to all dues paying members. This data is not shared with anyone else.. (That's two periods.) Also, if you do not have an e-mail address remember that there are free e-mail services that you can access from anywhere with a internet connection. Some of these are; G-mail, Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, and others. I have personally used web-based e-mail all over the world, including some places that are hard to believe.



# BEAN STATION RALLY

April 29 – May 2, 2010

The Premier GMC Dixielander Event of the Year – The Bean Station Rally– is right around the corner.

Once again, Al and Marti Samsel will be our hosts for this event.

## Event Schedule

Thursday Evening – Pot Luck – Please bring a side dish to share. Main dish will be furnished.

Friday Evening – Sports Night – Marti’s Surprise – Plus. Wear your Favorite Sports Team’s Jersey or T-Shirt, etc.

Saturday Evening – Cook-Out – Each coach please bring an hors d’oeuvre and a dessert to share.

Breakfast will be served Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

You may arrive early and leave late, please tell our hosts your intents.

### Directions:

From Knoxville: I-40, Take exit 392, HWY 11 W – Rutledge Pike-40 miles East – Turn in Dalton Lane-Next to Dollar General. (Make U-turn at Texaco Station).

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

From VA: I-81– Take first Tennessee Exit – HWY 11W – 70 miles to Dalton Lane.

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

PHONE NUMBERS: 865-993-5635

CELL: 865-604-0672

## BEAN STATION RALLY – April-May, 2010

Mail to: Marti 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 (\$25 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

COACH \_\_\_\_\_

Work to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Pit Time needed (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut-Off Date: April 20, 2010**