

“Roaming Dixie Together”

Notes from The Editor; Well, Spring is almost here, and it's time to plan for another wonderful year of rallies with the GMC Dixielanders. As everyone knows, the Bean Station Rally is almost here. Art and Marti Samsel will be hosting another rally extraordinaire on their front yard in Tennessee. The information sheet is on the last sheet of this issue. I hope to see a great group of the Dixielanders there.

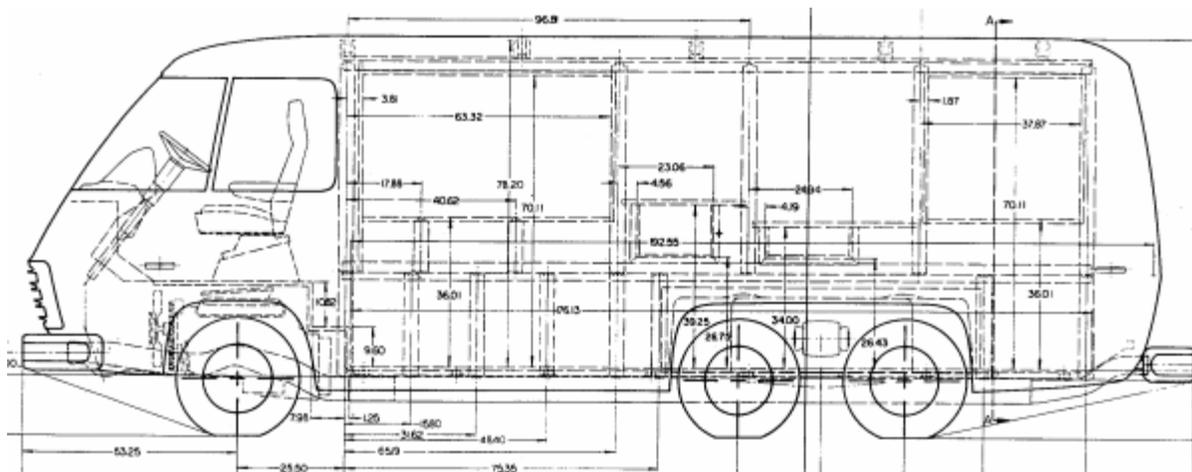
I want to thank those people, who were kind enough to send me photos and stories from the Lazy Days Rally. Read Flic's story about the fun and games. The stripped coach and story is from the able hand of Chuck Boyd. And, the other photos are from Jim Galbavy, and John Richardson. Just a reminder, this is your newsletter, and I can only print from your submissions.

Keep your eyes open for “lost” GMC's. Marilyn and I were driving an blue highway in Mississippi, and found a GMC parked under a shed near the road. That is the second one that we have found.

You may notice a different appearance in this newsletter. My old computer died and took with it the software I used for the past several years to do the newsletter with. This is a new package and my first attempt to work with it. So far, not too bad, but there is a learning curve with any new software, and a new computer.

-Tom Phipps

GMC Dixielander Membership listing - This printed copy of the membership is based on the information that you provide to Chuck Chambers. Please keep it up-dated. The printed copy has a cut-off date, generally early Feb to allow for those who forgot and paid their dues a little late. You will notice loose address labels in your envelope. These are the changes or additions to the membership as we grow over the year. This is a method for you to keep your copy up-to-date. The membership list is the biggest part of our printing costs, so this method should help you find the new members, and keep your address book up with the changes.



President - Chuck Boyd Vice President - John Richardson Treasurer - Chuck Chambers
 Secretary - Flic Acosta Web Site - www.gmcdixielanders.org

Support your GMC Specific Suppliers. Without them, the GMC Motorhome will disappear.

GMC DIXIELANDER

My tale of a 1976 GMC Palmbeach. My wife and I went up to New Jersey to buy the coach which has 185,000 miles on it. She drove the 800 plus miles wonderfully. While we were taking the coach to have some brake work done, one of the oil lines blew and long story short, set up the engine. After much discussion with fellow GMCer's, I realized that I still more likely had a rebuildable core. I was advised the I would probably be better off buying another coach than putting in a new motor. Sure enough, I found a 1973 up in Jamestown, TN for a reasonable price and with the help of Chuck Boyd, made it to Bean Station last year! After further discussion with fellow GMC owners, I realized that my best bet would be to salvage the 1976. Last Summer, I gutted the interior and kept the couch, dinette, fridge, windows, upper cabinets, and misc parts for my 73. I am keeping the engine/trans and final drive as a backup (and also, the boggies).

This year I have to learn about the bed. The appliances remaining went to a young fellow who was living in a converted bus; the level 2 air controls and propane tank went to a fellow who bought a coach which had those items removed; the gas tanks went to a fellow GMC owner, in Knoxville whose tanks where contaminated; the furnace went to an RV technician, who was restoring an old Airstream; the generator (not running) went to a scrap hauler, who wants to put it on one of his vehicles; the body (about 800 pounds) went to a scrap dealer; the rear cap and window are going to a fellow in North Carolina, who wants to make a trailer out of an old 23' GMC; the whole front end is going to Chuck Boyd, who wants to repair Luther McConnel's old damaged coach; the rear frame is going to a fellow Dixielander. I have still available; the frame and the hubs (which are possible Wallace Hubs)

I learned a lot about GMC Motorhomes tearing this one apart. I have made sketches of where the wiring, plumbing, brake lines, air lines and other items are actually physically located. This, along with the service manuals rally give me a heads up / understanding of my 73 and being able to make some really good upgrades, especially mechanical.

All for now, Mark Kalinowski



GMC DIXIELANDER

Lazydays has come and gone and for those that came, a wonderful time was had. The format was changed considerably from past years. For those who have attended past rallies with the full banquet hall and daily shows, music and dancing, this years event could have been viewed as a large comedown. However, the pleasure of seeing portions of our extended Dixielander family more than made up for the changed format. In fact, the smaller gathering allowed for greater intermingling and visiting than in past years.

The breakfast, lunch and dinner format remained the same as in past years with Lazydays providing the breakfast and lunch free at the hospitality center. Dinners were a catered affair which included wine and a food line that never seemed to give out of food. No one went away hungry except by choice.

The event drew about 19 members. Several, who were already settled in Florida for the winter just came for a day or two. Among the members was our newest member; Alan Hamilton and his wife Nancy who hail from Ontario (in the summertime).

The weather also cooperated. Each morning started out cool and breezy, requiring a jacket or sweater for the jaunt to the hospitality center but by mid morning turning into the typical Florida weather that draws the throngs of Northerners to this part of the country each winter.

Dixielander families that attended included the Hutchinsons, Walters, Grays, Hendersons, Whelans, Samsel, Tases, Sirums, Hamiltons, Galbavy, Rowells, Haughts, Bingham, Dotsons, Davis and the Acostas.

- Flic and Judy Acosta



GMC DIXIELANDER



GMC DIXIELANDER

An Interesting GMC Adventure, Starring Chuck Boyd and Ken Henderson

Gene Barrow, Lake Almanor, CA volunteered to move a coach from Boston to San Francisco. This was the second across-the-country move of a GMC that he undertook. The full text of his Dixielander portion of the trip is on the GMCNet, but I thought that it was interesting enough to put a taste of the adventure in our newsletter. Especially, with Chuck and Ken major players in the story.

The trip started out with a bang, dead batteries in the dark, But, they managed to over-come that one easily. A week later, they entered Shenandoah National Park on Skyline Drive in Virginia at Front Royal. This is a beautiful, but cloudy drive. They exited at Luray, VA. Then the big problems showed up. The transmission became very noisy. Fluid was a little low, but dark . Refilled the missing fluid and waited for the temperatures to go down.

Finding no local help on the Black List, Gene decided to head to Tennessee, and Chuck Boyd. Chuck is know for his GMC knowledge, capabilities, and willingness to help. So, off the Knoxville, 400 miles away. It did help that Knoxville was in the general direction of California, and had a Dillard's, where his wife could buy a dress for an up-coming wedding.

Getting to Knoxville, just before dark, Gene found a place to park, and called Chuck. Chuck was just returning from a rally, and he was accompanied by Ken and Elaine Henderson, who were staying over-night in Chuck's guest spot. We planned on getting together the next morning.

When he tried to start the engine, it fired then died, but the starter kept grinding away and would not stop when the key was turned off. He disconnected the engine battery, and now they were stranded. Called Chuck about the new problem, he recommended a shop that he had used to replace the trans in his GMC. Manny Trovao had a rebuilt transmission stored at Blaine Merrill's in Indiana. Ken Burton volunteered to pick up the trans and deliver it to Knoxville, a mere 500 mile trip. Ken delivered the transmission, a 1000 mile round trip to help out a stranger. That's Ken Burton and the power of the Black List. Ken did let him pay for his gas and buy him lunch at Sonic, before he started back to Indiana.

Along with the dead batteries, and the transmission problems, other small items popped up. Wheel temperatures seemed high on the trip, and it turned out one of the calipers was frozen. Chuck swung into action and a quick trip to the parts houses, collecting all the various parts needed to repair the brakes. Chuck replaced the passenger side brake caliper and hose while Gene watched and handed him tools. The infamous buzz box was not charging, an electrician friend of Chuck's stopped by, determined it was dead, and took it away for an quick repair.

There is more to this story, both before and after Knoxville, but mainly Gene wanted to thank all the Black List GMC'ers who helped and got them back on the road.

Miguel Mendez, Manny Trovao, Blaine Merrill, Ken Burton, Chuck Boyn, Ken Henderson, and of course, Roger Black. Thank you for all your help

And for all you other road warriors, if you ever have mechanical problems near Knoxville, whether in your GMC, Harley Davidson, or Kenworth, call Chuck Boyd. He will know what to do.

Gene Barrow, Lake Almanor, CA - Reader's Digest Condensed Version by Tom Phipps

Black's List - Don't leave home without it. If you are not on it, and can help your fellow GMCer's, get on it. www.bdub.net/Black_List

GMC Dixielander

Bean Station 2012 Rally Notice

When: May 3 – 5, 2012

Where: AL and Marti Samsel's Farm, Bean Station, TN

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

Directions: From Knoxville, I-40, Take Exit 392, (HWY 11W – Rutledge Pike) – 40 miles East- Turn left into Dalton Lane (next to Dollar General). U-Turn at Marathon Gas Station.

From N.C.: I-40 West to I-81 North – Take Exit 8 – Go right (North) to Dalton Lane.

From Virginia: I-81 – Take first Tennessee Exit (Hwy 11) – 70 miles to Dalton Lane.

From Kentucky: Take Hwy 25E from I-75 – Go approximately 80 miles to Hwy 11W – Dalton Lane (Dollar General)

Details: Each coach please bring a desert to share and Hors d'oeures for Happy Hour.

Breakfast served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

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

Friday Evening: Dinner to be decided.

Saturday Evening: Dinner to be decided.

Bean Station Rally Registration due : **APRIL, 25, 2012**

Bean Station Rally Registration

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_____PIT Time (Yes) (No)_____

Work To Do:_____