

**"Roaming Dixie Together"**

From The Desk of The President - John Richardson

What a great time we all had at the January Rally at Lazy Days RV Resort in Seffner, FL. Good weather, good company, good sites and all the strawberries you could eat nearby. It just couldn't have been any better.

Our rally was held immediately following the GMC Sunshine Statesmen Rally there. Several of us went there early to join them and visit with old friends as well as meeting with new ones. A few of their group stayed over and participated in our activities. We had seventeen coaches present as well as three couples without coaches. Additionally, the Holloways, Wallachs andwalters came by for our business meeting and to visit. I believe that it was a unanimous vote to return here next year. Our Wagonmaster/V.P. John Nichols, is working on reservations for next year, tentatively for the same time or one week later. I am sure that he will let us know the details when it is finalized.

One item of concern has come up relating to the timely remission of dues. In order to furnish the membership with an up-to-date roster of current members for the current year, it is necessary for your dues to be paid no later than the end of January. If not received by then, delinquent members cannot be included in the roster or receive the newsletter. Additionally, a late fee will be assessed. Not wanting to offend or lose anyone, dues notices with envelopes will be placed in the winter newsletter as a reminder. Your timely remittance is greatly appreciated by all of our volunteers who process them for you. Thank you.

We are fortunate to have the GMC Motorhome International Convention here in our backyard next month, March 22 -28, 2013 at the Dothan, AL Peanut Festival Grounds. Our own Elaine Henderson, (V>P>, SouthEast, GMCMCI), with many Dixielander Ladies are working very hard planning a Ladies Luncheon for this event. So, it won't be just the guys talking about old GMC parts. Many other activities for the Ladies are also scheduled. Check out the information on the website [www.gmcmci.com](http://www.gmcmci.com), and join us in Dothan. We will try and plan one evening for a Dixielander gathering.

Lastly, but surely no less and just around the corner is our most popular Bean Station Rally at Marti and Al Samsels. The first week-end in May. Al told me this makes the Twenty-First Rally that Marti and he have sponsored. Thank you doesn't begin to express our gratitude for all they have done for the Dixielanders. Their participation has contributed immeasurably to the success of our club.

We wish you Safe Travels and hope to see you at our Club activities. - John Richardson.  
Notes from the Editor: Well, It looks like some members had their fill of strawberry pie. Life is short, so start with desert. I hope that you all were able to accomplish something on your GMC, those who are not frozen. Marilyn and I are looking forward to International, then followed by our very own Bean Station. Not a bad way to start the touring season. Eric Tanner taught me a method gas will cost for the average trip. The distance in miles, and a dollar sign and that is it.

President - John Richardson      Vice President - John Nichols      Treasurer - Chuck Chambers

Secretary - Mike Kalinowski      Web Site - [www.gmcdixielanders.org](http://www.gmcdixielanders.org) Editor - Tom Phipps

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

## GMC DIXIELANDER

### Quartsite Rally Report - Jim Galbavy

Ada and I attended the 30th Annual Sports, Vacation and RV Show at Quartsite, AZ this past January 19th thru 27th. We went out to support "Mac the Fire Guy" Mac McCoy is Fire Fight Products LLC's largest distributor and Fire Safety is his thing. Mac gave seminar on what type of equipment to use (and not to use) to how to do an emergency egress from your motorhome. Think about it, you have about 20 seconds from the time your smoke alarm goes off (if you have a working alarm) until you have to be outside before the smoke overcomes you. Do you know where your fire exits are? If you are in the back bed room of a GMC (sound asleep at say 2 AM) and your refrigerator catches fire. How do you and your family get out? (Hint: Rear Window) Mac gave some "live fire seminars" that are a thing to behold.

Fire safety is a subject often overlooked. "It will never happen to me. ...It only happens to other people". Ada and I both took Miller Insurance's "Fire and Life Safety Training Course," and are now certified. This training has opened my eyes to the dangers of fire in an RV. Mac and GMCMCI and the KOA campground in Branson, MO are trying to work out seminars at the campground during the Fall GMCMCI Fall Rally in Sept. I hope that it works out.

-Jim Galbavy

My Version of Ken Henderson's Electric Windshield Wiper Conversion. Looks like most of the rest, however, If you look to the right side of the image, you can see the West Marine Fuse Block that I installed. It is ignition controlled, when the ignition is on there is power to the block. It is relay controlled, triggered by the yellow wire on the A/C fan. On the left hand side, notice the cover over the master cylinder. Since the end of the master cylinder is exposed to the elements, a simple cover can be made from the typical plastic milk carton. I put a label on mine indicated the type of brake fluid in the system.



### Ken's Post International Rally Event

Deriso Farms is a 249 acre "playground" 7 miles south of Ellaville, GA, belonging to my aunt. It's all wooded (some fairly recently clear-cut) with a barn, a 3-bedroom cabin, a "smokehouse" utility building, a catfish pond, and a bass and bream pond. At the barn we have 3 full hookup sites, and 15 amp connections for another 3-4 coaches. I'll have mowed dry camping sites for another 50+ coaches. We'll reserve the full hookup sites for those who truly need them for health reasons, everyone else will choose their own site. There is a dump station but the septic tank is the smallest the building code would allow 15 years ago because it was only to serve a single rarely used toilet -- please arrive with empty tanks and plan to leave full. :-)

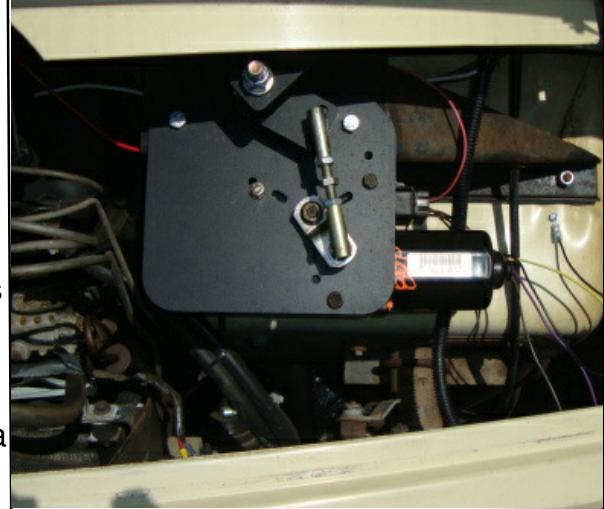
## GMC DIXIELANDER

### Dixielander's Treasurer's Report as of 2/13/2013

Balance Brought Forward 10/12/2012	\$3360.20
Income: Dues	\$970.00
David Shattuck donation for wheel	
spacers donated by Dan Parrish	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Income:	\$1070.00
Balance:	\$4430.20
Expenditures:	
Newsletter	\$253.23
Specialty Engraving- Badges	120.00
USPS - Postage	18.00
Hart Healthcare Center - Memorial Bill Telgen	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenditures:	\$441.23
Ending Balance 2/13/2013	\$3988.97

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Chambers, Treasurer

Tech Stuff - Tom Phipps     Since my Hydraulic wiper motor had failed, I chose to install Ken Henderson's well-designed electric wiper conversion. This is a pretty straight forward replacement. Most difficult part is removing the OEM motor from the mount. Mine was on so tight, I have to remove the mount from the vehicle to break the bolts from the motor. Lots of ½ inch bolts/nuts to remove, some a little awkward. Only real critical part is the aligning of the wiper arm to the motor shaft, but not really a big deal. Ken's wiring harness is excellent, and beats chasing the parts. I also helped John Richardson install Ken's wiper system in his coach while he and Linda were in Biloxi over the New Year Holiday. Then, John helped Kerry Pinkerton install his at Lazy Days Rally. Kerry was lucky, the bolts came out readily without removing the mount. GMCer's helping GMCers.



Kerry's Installation

## GMC DIXIELANDER

### Rally Report LazyDays 2013

Carolyn and I drove down to Tampa for the Dixielanders Rally. It was our first trip in the GMC, our first time in a campground, and our first rally. It won't be our last.

I think there were 17 couples there. A couple are in SOBs and a couple live locally and just came by. Some of the Sunshine Statesmen stayed over also. Really great group of folks. We were impressed with how nice, friendly, knowledgeable, and patient everyone was with the new folks.

The weather was fantastic. The campground is really nice and the evening meals at the rally center were fantastic. We were expecting basic rubber chicken, instant potatoes, and canned green beans but was very pleasantly surprised that the food was really first rate. Really first rate!

For the first few days, the 'free' meals at the Lazydays cafeteria were pretty basic but those who ate later in the event reported really good meals.

Yesterday, Ken Henderson, John Richardson, Hubert Rowell and I went into Tampa to McNichols looking for some woven stainless for our grills. They wanted about 12x48" and I wanted a bit more. We found the grid we wanted and called sales for a price. \$1000 for 4x8' !!!!!

So while we recovered from that, we were looking around with a really nice employee and I happened to spot a piece of exactly what we had been looking at standing up against the wall. The guy told us it would be less because it was off a roll instead of a sheet. Turns out we got the whole thing 38" x 48" for \$44 total and the guy sheared it free. One of the better deals I've made in a while.

After lunch, we decided to install my new electric wipers. At one point John and Hubert were working under the hood in the heat and I was inside taking the dash apart. When I finished I came out and told them that I was trying to hear what they were doing but the AC was too loud. Good sports that they are, they didn't drop their tools and leave. Ken Henderson and I finished it up this morning before it got too warm.

Most of us went back to the strawberry farm (AGAIN) for strawberry shortcake or milkshakes after lunch.

The strawberry farm was almost a daily event. Our coach ran well and we discovered some things we want to change in the long term.

Photos at:

<http://www.gmcmhphotos.com>



## GMC DIXIELANDER

### GMC Rally News:

International Spring Rally - Dothan, AL Friday, Mar. 22, to Thursday, Mar. 28

International Fall Rally - KOA, Branson, MO Friday, Sep 20, to Thursday, Sept 26

Dixielander Bean Station - Bean Station, TN May 2, to May 4 Spring Rally

Dixielander Summer Rally - To be determined.

Dixielander Fall Rally - Noccalula Falls, AL Oct. 17, to Oct. 20

We've locked in Noccalula Falls for the Dixielander Fall Rally. The dates are October 17 until 20th, with provisions for early arrivals. The group rate is \$21.17 per night per coach including taxes. Jerry and Audrey Howell and Ethel and Jim Walters will co-host the rally. We have reserved 30 RV spots and the club house. - Jim Walters



**- We currently do not have volunteers to host the summer rally. If anyone is interested, please let me know and we will work with you to get it organized -**

**Contact John Nicholls (johnrite1@cox.net)**

# GMC Dixielander

## **Bean Station 2013 Rally Notice**

When: May 2 - 4, 2013

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

Co-Hosts      Phone: Cell: 865-604-0672, 865-805-5317  
JR and Jeanne Slaten

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

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

Breakfast served Daily. Continental Breakfast - Coffee, Biscuits, Sausage, Donuts.

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

Friday Evening: Tentative Ham/Turkey and Dressing plus

Saturday Evening: Tentative Pork Loin plus. Kentucky Party - Cowboys and Indians

Bean Station Rally Registration due : **APRIL, 22, 2012**

Bean Station Rally Registration

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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) \_\_\_\_\_