

**“Roaming Dixie Together”**

From The Desk of The President - John Richardson

The Dixielander 2013 Spring Rally, Bean Station, Tennessee.... Wow! We don't have enough space to say all the things about what a terrific time everyone had at Marti and Al Samsel's this year. There seemed to be so much going on everywhere, you couldn't take it all in. The "pit" had a number of visitors, as well as next door, Bill Hutchinson's installation of a Manny Traveo rear suspension system/disc brakes drew quite a crowd. Chuck Boyd did a great job with Eric Tanner in replacing Eric's steering column and he also rebuilt Nicholls and Richardsons columns. And, as always, Bill Bramlett was readily available and assisting anywhere he was asked, Thanks, Bill, you make it look so easy.... I am sure there were many other jobs that were accomplished 'on site' that I missed. Perhaps Tom got some photos.

The Ladies seemed to be having a great time visiting, playing cards and surveying the local area, the main building buzzed with activity both day and evening. Even the weather was exceptional, well, we did have a little shower one day.

Like always at Bean station, the food was delicious, plentiful and it became very difficult to keep from enjoying too much. Thanks to those who put in the time and effort making our meals special. All in all, this rally has become so much more than an RV event, as Al Samsel so accurately defined it as a Family Reunion, certainly all of us would agree. How nice to see and visit with old friends as well as making new acquaintances every time.

We have been trying to find out how many years the Samsels' have had the Dixielanders at Bean Station. They mentioned that 1992 was the first large group to gather, but smaller groups had come up prior to that,.... Over twenty-one years.

I really do not know how we could ever express our appreciation to Marti and Al for all they have done for us for such a long time. The highlight of the Dixielander year is visiting at Marti and Al's. John Nicholls had a special photo taken which pictured all our GMCs gathered at Bean Station with both Marti and Al superimposed on it. The Caption read, "To Marti and Al, from the Dixielanders, We Love You". It was presented at our business meeting and represents a small token of our feelings for all they both have done for all of the Dixielanders for so long. If all goes well, it is being planned to return to Bean Station next year.

John Nicholls has scheduled rallies at Calhoun, Georgia in July and Gadsden, Alabama in October. Details elsewhere in this newsletter. Both should be fun and centrally located for most of us. We hope to see you there. Safe travels.  
JohnR

For folks attending without a coach, you may check the parks website for cabin rental. The Lodges which have all amenities normally rent for \$125 per night; however, the rally price will be \$100.

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

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## 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

\$100.00

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 50.00

Total Expenditures: \$441.23

Ending Balance 2/13/2013 \$3988.97

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Chambers, Treasurer



John Nicholls suggests looking at your vent caps.



In Case you missed it, Ron Whalen is up early and makes sure that the coffee is ready. A true hero for us coffee abusers.

- Tom

## **GMC DIXIELANDER**

GMC Dixielander General Business Meeting – May 4, 2013, Bean Station, TN

Noting that the number of members present represented a quorum according to the bylaws, the meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President John Richardson. Officers present were President John Richardson, Vice-President John Nichols, Treasurer Chuck Chambers, and Secretary Mark Kalinowski.

The invocation was given by Elmer Olson and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Report: Secretary Kalinowski read the minutes of the last business meeting held at Seffner, FL at Lazy Days on Jan 15, 2013. A motion to approve the minutes was made by President Richardson and seconded by the members at large.

Treasures Report: Chuck Chambers read the treasurer's report and submitted a copy to be published in the next newsletter. A motion to accept the report was made by President Richardson and seconded by John Nichols. President Richardson also noted that the treasurer's report was audited and accepted.

Sunshine Report: Judy Acosta noted cards were sent to Paul Rice, Joan Telgin for their surgeries, Ken Henderson on the loss of his mother and Mark Kalinowski on the loss of his father. Joan Dotson read a letter from Joan Telgin about Bill Telgin.

Old Business: No old business was pending to be discussed.

New Business: National Director for FMCA, Jim Buchanan discussed the new FMCA Insurance thru 7 Corners Insurance Co. Ken Henderson mentioned that it is still the most affordable. A discussion was made about FMCA representation. It was mentioned by several members about becoming associate membership of FMCA. Jim Buchanan agreed to represent us as a full voting member for another year. Don Leslie agreed to temporally represent us in Gillette, Wyoming.

Nominating Committee: Jim Walters made a motion to continue with the existing officers for another year. Jim Kanomata made a motion to accept and Jerry Holloway seconded.

Rally Report: Vice-President John Nichols discussed the Summer Rally and provided handouts for such. The Rally will be held at the KOA in Calhoun, GA., from July 18 – July 21. It will be a no host rally. The Fall Rally will be help at Noccalula Falls, Al., on Oct 178 – 2-. It will be hosted by the Walters and the Holloways. The Winter Rally will be held at Lazy Days, Seffner, FL. The Spring Rally is tentatively scheduled for Bean Station, TN.

New Members: The group was introduced to Nick and Darleen Knowlton, Devon Mills, Steve and Kathy Curlee, Pat and Bill Barger and Kerry and Carolyn Pinkerton

Misc: A motion by Chuck Chambers was made to elect our officers in one step at Bean Station, and seconded by John Nichols. This motion would amend our by-laws.

John Richardson recognized our past presidents by having them stand and be recognized. Jim McDowell was recognized for his contribution, although he was not present.

Tom Phipps was appointed as our official photographer. Tom asked for input for the Club Newsletter. A presentation was made by President Richardson and the members to Al and Marty Samsel in recognition and appreciation of many years of hosting the Bean Station Rally.

## GMC DIXIELANDER

As you may know, there were two different braking systems installed at Bean Station. Bill Hutchinson installed Manny's Floating system, using Manny's complete system, with four wheel disks installed, and Mat Collie installing Jim Kanamoto's Floating system using the OEM rear drum brakes. Their reports and some photos follow. My observed opinion, you might want to have access to help if you are planning on doing this to your coach. Thankfully, we have Bean Station and lots of help. - Tom

### Bill Hutchinson's Manny Brake System Report

I arrived on Mon evening and started Tuesday AM removing the drum brakes, checking the bearings and seals, and disconnection parking brake cables. By late Weds, I was ready to start bolting on (I thought!) the new package. This is when the people who had done this conversion arrived and disclosed the modifications necessary; i.e. enlarging the inner diameter of the bushings slightly, reaming out the hole in the backing plate, etc. Without Ken Henderson's guidance, this would have been a monumental task.

I got started on Thurs morning with much help from numerous people, but at the risk of slighting someone, I want to acknowledge the immense contribution by Ken Henderson, Jerry Holloway, Hubert Rowell, Fred Veenschoten, Kerry Pinkerton, and John Nichols. One would think that with a team like this, it would all be done in just a few hours – WRONG! But 2 trips to the NAPA store in Morristown did slow us down some.

We suffered one major glitch when I failed to follow the documentation concerning installing the new brake hoses. I knew that they were 'position specific', but I just let it slip by me! This cost us a lot of time but in the end, we got it right. By late Friday, we had the brakes bled and ready for the crash test. That went well and gave me confidence that my brakes are significantly better than before. I would urge anyone who does this to refer to the documentation on every single step, because it is very thorough and is being amended all the time.

We made it back home without incident and I'm thankful that this mod is complete.  
- Bill Hutchinson, 26' GMC



## GMC Dixielander

Matt Collie's JmK rear reaction arm install with standard drums.

As some of you may know, I got what are called reaction arms in this group installed at the most recent Bean Station rally. This system is different than most offered as it uses the original rear drum brakes with parking brake and requires no other changes be made.

I had hoped to have hard numbers to put in this discussion, but the pavement has been wet every time I had time to conduct such a set of experiments. It is on my list, but that will just have to wait for another day. But, I can tell you the stopping is now very car-like. On a very hard stop, one or more of the rear wheels will lock and it is usually one of the intermediate. I have already dropped the driving habit of increasing the braking until I hear the rear scream and then let up so as not to flat spot another tire.

My evaluation at this time is that this is a very worthwhile mod to add to any GMC motorhome. This is particularly true as it is a single mod only. It will not require anything other than the basic modification to achieve the desired result. The total extent of the modification of your coach is the counter-sinking of the holes that the brake backing plates are currently bolted through.

While admittedly, my coach is lighter than most that should make the braking performance less critical. It might be, and it was adequate, but it did leave a lot to be desired. No longer will I say that. (This a fact that I am very pleased by.) My coach now has brake performance that (as near as I can judge by the accelerometer reading that my smart phone provides) is very car-like. Yes, I can lock some of the rear wheels, but now it is most often an intermediate in skidding on dry pavement. Which wheel will lock up has not been predictable and seems to have more to do with pavement conditions than anything else I can identify.

It is also interesting that the modification is completely reversible. (I can't imagine why one might choose to do this, but the thought is somewhat comforting.) It would also be possible to complete only half of the installation (I don't think it would matter which half) and still have the coach road worthy in short order.

Next thing you will probably want to know is what will it cost. The kit as delivered to me at Bean Station was priced at under nine hundred dollars. I can't even guess what shipping might cost, so you will have to get that from JimK. Add in some money for a 7/32 square drive (Snap-On is worth it, CC will probably break at the torque required), brake fluid that you probably need anyway and maybe buy a real bottle of Loctite (the small size). That should be it. You don't need to up-size the master cylinder or get a sensitized booster (unless you want one).

When I first saw this system and the data Tom and Jim had collected at Amana, I was ready to take one home right then. At that time, the target price was somewhat higher but there were no kits ready to ship. Well, there are now. And, yours will be even better than mine.

Because, I had some difficulties on the way home. I did not believe that I could provide an honest assessment of the this modification until I had all the surrounding issues cleared up. Those issues are now cleared. Some of the issues were the direct result of the location and conditions where the installation occurred (the result working on grass and gravel). Some were manufacturing problems that were largely the result of mis-interpretations by a parts supplier and others were caused by the variations between coaches and model years, but they have all been identified and corrected.

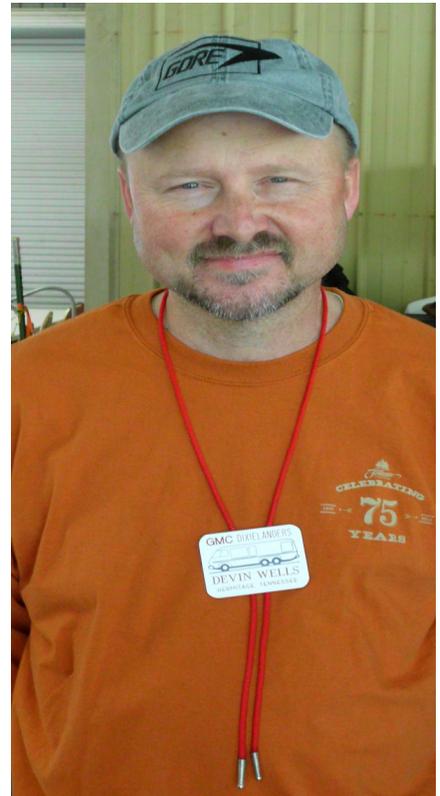
- Matt Collie, 23' GMC

# GMC DIXIELANDER

## Bean Station 2013 Photos



# GMC DIXIELANDER



# GMC DIXILANDER



## GMC DIXIELANDER

### GMC Rally News:

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

Dixielander Summer Rally - To be determined.

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

### GMC Dixielander Fall Rally - 2013

Where. Noccoalula Falls Campground

1600 Noccoalula Falls Road

Gadsden, AL 35904

Phone Number: 256-543-7498 E-Mail: [campground@cityofgadsden.com](mailto:campground@cityofgadsden.com)

Web Site: <http://www.cityofgadsden.com/index.aspx?NID=134>

When: Oct 17 - 20, 2013

Each attendee is responsible for making their own reservations. Use the above telephone number or e-mail address. Identify yourself as a GMC Dixielander member.

Campground rates are \$21.17 per day including taxes, same rate for early arrival days.

Sites A1 - 15; B1 - 11 and C1, 2, 4 and 5 have been reserved for Dixielanders. Due to heavy demand during the Fall season, the campground has asked that reservations be made beginning July 1st with a cutoff date of July 31.

Rally Fee is \$25 per person. Hosts are Audrey and Jerry Holloway and Ethel and Jim Walters.

Editor's Note: You will get this again in the next newsletter. The important thing is to get your reservation in within the July timeframe, so that you can be with the bulk of the GMC's. - Tom

Editor's Notes: The interesting parts of this newsletter is the reports on the two similar, but different installations of a reaction braking system to two coaches at Bean Station. By all reports, after surviving the birthing of their installations, both owner's are happy with their choices. It seems that the reaction arm greatly enhances the braking performance of our coaches, and the choice of disks, or drums is up to the individual's choice and pocket book. I noted that Manny's system does not require the removal of your TrueTrack, if you have those. A plus in my book. Bean Station as always is a great rally. The food was great. The weather was very nice, with a heavy rain storm on the way home, guess who's wipers picked then to stop. Lots of work was accomplished, I got my Rockwall Transmission pan to quit leaking, Fred V replaced a water pump, lots of checking things on many coaches. Eric Tanner did a steering column rebuild. Plenty of opportunity to get down and dirty. - Tom

# GMC Dixielander

## Dixielanders Summer Rally - 2013

When: July 18 - July 21  
Where: Calhoun KOA, GA. Phone: 256-543-7412  
Web Site: [koa.com/campgrounds/calhoun](http://koa.com/campgrounds/calhoun)

Camping Fee: \$28.00 per night.

Hosts: No Host Rally

Details: Each coach is asked to bring a dessert which we will split up over the three evening meals. Breakfast will be furnished each day @ 7:30 am and will consist of doughnuts, fruit, coffee and who knows what. Lunch each day will be on your own.

Thursday: Meet and Greet @ 5:00 pm. Light hors d'oeuvres furnished by club, followed by a potluck supper and meat furnished by the club. Each Coach is asked to bring a suitable side dish.

Friday: Flea Market @ 9:00 am  
Tech Session @ 1:00 pm  
Happy Hour @ 5:00 pm, followed by a BBQ supper furnished by the KOA folks.

Saturday: Executive Committee Meeting @ 9:00 am  
Business Meeting @ 10:00 am

The afternoon is free to visit local attractions. Check the Calhoun, GA web site for local items of interest. State sites in the area; [gastateparks.org/ChiefVanHouse](http://gastateparks.org/ChiefVanHouse), and [gastatparks.org/newechota](http://gastatparks.org/newechota). Evening meal will be on your own followed by an ice cream social, and any remaining deserts at 7:30 pm. Two local restaurants have good reviews; The Fork Diner, 474 Redbud Road and El Pueblito, 206 Park Ave.

Sunday: Breakfast and safe travels.

Clyde and Faye Simmons who live in Calhoun have a fairly well equipped shop if anyone needs to do emergency stuff. Calhoun is within 100 miles for 8 members, 200 for 18 members and 300 miles for 24 members. Ya'll come - John Nicholls

Summer Rally Registration: **Due by 4 July 2013.**

Mail to: John Nichols  
2481 Tate Road  
Cantonment, FL 32533

Rally Fee: \$25 per adult, \$10 per child.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_