



Motorhome TRAVELER



APRIL, 1977

LAS VEGAS ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Las Vegas, Nevada . . .

It has been called the citadel of sun and fun, a delicious desert dessert, and even sin city U.S.A. but one thing that it has never been called is "too late for breakfast!" Yes, just ask any one of the scores of GMC'ers who attended the recent FMCA Winter National Convention, and they'll probably tell you that, in Vegas, ham and eggs are a 24-hour affair. However, they may have a few other stories to tell you first!

On March 4th, riding tall in their cockpits, the happy band of desert motorhome marauders, known as the GMC gang, rode into town gunning for loads of rally "Fun-tivities." One by one they coaxed their beautiful beasts into comfortable stalls at the Hacienda Camperland. Then, after sundown, everyone headed for the big cocktail roundup co-sponsored by FMCA and GMC.

Saturday, high noon, found more than 250 GMC'ers enjoying an elegant luncheon at the Las Vegas Hilton. During the luncheon, GMC Club National Director Mac McDonnell handled the howdies by recognizing each Club, its officers and members present. Carl Rehm, GMC Assistant General Sales Manager/Merchandising, added a keynote to the festivities by expressing his tremendous enthusiasm over the rapid growth of the GMC Motorhome Owner's Club.

Sunday's "Funtivities" began at daybreak with a superb continental breakfast held in the GMC corral, also known as the GMC registration hall. Then, more than 150 GMC Club members joined with Marq Harris as he offered a prayer and blessing to begin the big birthday celebration.



The GMC Motorhome Owners' Club from Southern California, the Elegant Cruisers, drove in a caravan to help celebrate our 1st birthday!

Happy Birthday To Us . . .

Chorus after chorus of the old familiar song resounded throughout the GMC corral. Only this time, there was a new twist.

GMC Motorhome Club members were actually singing happy birthday to themselves! Plum loco? Not at all, it was the official first birthday of the GMC Motorhome Owner's Club and GMC'ers from across the nation were making absolutely sure that the big number one did not pass unnoticed. So, celebrate they did!

Somewhat harmonic strains of "Happy Birthday" were still floating about the hall as the GMC Club Presidents poured champagne for the birthday toast. From then on, it is reported, the toasts were both frequent and hearty with everyone wishing a long and happy life to their yearling club.

No birthday party is complete without a cake and there was no exception to the rule in Las Vegas. There were two beautifully decorated birthday cakes, together bearing the flags

of each GMC Club Chapter and, of course, one candle to celebrate the founding of the National GMC Motorhome Owner's Club one year ago. And with the sharing of the birthday cakes, it was clear that the promise of the biggest birthday celebration in GMC history was complete.

Many thanks go to all of the GMC'ers who helped make the Club's First Birthday Celebration an event which will long be remembered.



See Page Four →

GMC PHOTO-CON II - A SALUTE TO THE WINNERS

**1ST
PLACE**



Top honors in the GMC Photo-Con II, held during the February Orlando, Florida rally, went to Major Eric Anderson for his entry entitled: "Island Sunset, Assateague, Maryland."



**2ND
PLACE**



GMC Shutterbug Gerry Jones earned a second place ribbon for her striking "Skyline" photo.

**3RD
PLACE**



GMC'er John Montero snapped a third place finish with his delightful "Glad I'm Here" photo.



**4TH
PLACE**



GMC Yankee Clipper's President Herb Bernard focused on a fourth place ribbon for his "Yankee Clipper" photo taken at the FMCA Convention in Centreville, Michigan.

"Thru the Windows"
By Mac & Gloria McDonnell
GMC Club National Directors
(L-6006)



Summer is just around the corner and we hope that your plans include joining us at one or more "Fun-tivities" during these coming weeks. We shall be looking forward to seeing each of you soon.

This month we want to ask you for a special favor. Your response by letters is most important to our future plans for the "GMC Motorhome Owner's Club."

We have had a number of "pros" and "cons" with respect to our GMC owners parking together at FMCA national events. Many of you wish to park with your chapter or friends and we recommend that if this is your desire, you should follow your convictions.

However, many of you want to park with GMC Motorhome owners only, so you might meet new GMC friends from distant places. Basically, we need answers to these questions:

1. Do you favor GMC Motorhome owners parking as a group? If the answer is "yes," please explain why!
2. Do you prefer GMC Motorhome owners parking at random with coaches by other manufacturers? If the answer is "yes", please explain why!

The Family Motor Coach Association will hold their 14th National Convention in Syracuse, N.Y. July 26 thru July 29, 1977, and we would appreciate your thoughts concerning this rally.

It is also important to let all of you know we are planning a "Pre-Convention Rally for GMC Motorhome Owners" just before the National event of FMCA, with proposed dates of July 23-July 25, 1977, at a site near the convention.

To date we have not established the location for the "pre-rally." All of you

will be advised as soon as we have determined the rally area and confirmed the necessary contracts for the site.

We remind all of you that the "GMC Motorhome Owner's Club" belongs to you, the owners, and we feel that it is important to abide by your wishes for furthering the success of the GMC Club.

Please write to us at the following address:

M. J. McDonnell
National Director
GMC Motorhome Owners Club
c/o GMC Truck & Coach
660 South Boulevard East
Pontiac, Michigan 48053

In the meantime, drive 'em safely, happy GMCeeing, and we'll see you down the road.
Mac & Gloria



GMC RALLY FANS CAN CATCH "DOUBLE HEADER"

That's right, if you're a real GMC Rally fan, or would like to become one, then here's the chance you've been waiting for. Scheduled for July 26-29, 1977 in Syracuse, New York, the FMCA's biggest event of the year, its 14th National Convention, promises to be even more exciting than last year's bash in Centreville. For GMC Motorhome owners, however, that's only half the fun!

Prior to the FMCA Convention, July 23-25 to be exact, a special GMC Pre-Rally (Syracuse area site to be announced) has been scheduled ex-

clusively for GMC Motorhome owners. The "Warm-up Rally," so to speak, will feature a host of GMC "Fun-tivities" as well as an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with fellow GMC'ers before heading on to the FMCA Convention together.

Pre-Rally "Fun-tivities" will include: a photo contest, potluck dinner, dinner and dancing, a champagne breakfast, and some "surprise" contests!. Please *do* let us know if you would like to attend by returning the Pre-Rally Survey provided.

GMC PRE-RALLY SURVEY

"Summer Festival"
July 23-25, 1977

Yes, we would like to attend the GMC PRE-RALLY in Syracuse, New York. The number of people attending will be _____ adults and _____ children.

Please clip and mail to:
GMC Motorhome Owner's Club
660 South Boulevard East, Rm. 210
Pontiac, Michigan 48053
Attn: Pre-Rally Survey



Quite a group of GMC's, wouldn't you say?



As every card player knows, that's called a full house!

GMC FAMILY ALBUM

LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AND BIRTHDAY PARTY

MARCH 3-6, 1977



Hey pardners, that's a funny looking horse you've got there!



Members of the GMC management team also joined in the gala birthday celebration. Receiving the customary "goodies bags" from Motorhome Merchandising Activities Mgr., Maryann Grausam, are: (L. to R.) Mac McDonnell, National Director, Jim Conlan, General Sales Mgr., Bob Truxell, General Mgr., Carl Rehm, Asst. General Sales Mgr./Merchandising, Larry Pearsall, District Mgr., and Wally Edwards, Director of Engineering.



"Pop" Poppenheimer, alias "The Kool-Aid Kid," procures the podium to present his personal proclamation ... "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!.."



The sweet finale to a honey of a birthday party. In fact, you might call it the "icing on the cake."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Maryann,

I am the proud owner of a 1973 Model 26 GMC motorhome, and I have found it a joy to travel with.

Last November 5-7, I was invited to attend a GMC rally at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. I was happy for the invitation, and my wife and I attended. Gloria and Mac McDonnell were gracious hosts who made us all welcome.

During the rally, I was most fortunate to meet W. J. Mulligan and L. A. Sowinski who made a tour of all the motorhomes and who offered assistance in correcting owner problems.

After the rally, Larry Ericson made an appointment to meet me at the local dealership, and we reviewed the problems. Since that time, all promises have been met.

I'd like to thank the local dealership, La Mesa RV Center, and their parts personnel, Larry Valkman and Bill Valliers, who made the tedious job of ordering parts and the receipt of them painless. And I'd like to thank you and all your people for your kind cooperation.

Yours truly,
Abe Sandler,
San Diego, California

GMC *Motorhome*
TRAVELER

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Articles from readers are welcomed.

THE THREE S's: SERVICE, SEMINARS, SATISFACTION

By Don Rooker
Supervisor
GMC Motorhome Service

- How can you find out if you can improve or modify your motorhome?
- What can you do to insulate your motorhome in subzero weather?
- Where might you learn more about your motorhome's electrical system?

At a GMC seminar, that's where! GMC owners who attended our big birthday celebration in Vegas learned the answers to those questions (and a lot more) by participating in a variety of service seminars and activities. As one rally-goer put it, "If you've never attended a GMC service seminar, you don't know what you're missing."

For instance, the Vegas rally-goers had a chance to talk directly to service reps, who conducted individual tours of their motorhomes and who gave them quick and highly-personalized responses to their vehicle operations questions. If an owner needed any motorhome repairs or improvements, the service rep sent the owner's name to the Factory which in turn contacted his dealer to make sure that the necessary work would be done when he returned home.

In addition, the GMC service people used training transmodes and seminar display boards (see picture) to explain the intricate workings of various systems (electrical, air suspension, and monitor panel) to interested owners. Judging by the large number of owners who viewed the displays, this was one of the most popular service activities.

The daily question and answer period was a well attended service activity. Led by a panel of Factory and area service representatives and man-

agers, a variety of topics were discussed. Many good operating tips were exchanged among the owners. One owner mentioned that a good way to increase traction is to use plastic chains, but in some western states, plastic chains do not meet mountain pass requirements, so you should carry both. Another owner mentioned that a good way to increase efficiency in subzero temperatures is to install insulated drapes in your motorhome. Still another owner mentioned that an external storage bin installed on the back bumper near the spare tire is a good place to store "messy" accessories, such as a sewage extension hose.

The question and answer periods gave the owners an opportunity not only to exchange ideas among themselves, but also to query Factory service reps about future GMC services. Sometime soon, GMC will offer its own insulation package. And in the spring, GMC will introduce a service improvement and recognition program for dealers which will be your guarantee that when you take your GMC motorhome to a "Service Satisfaction Dealer," you'll be certain to receive quality service.

Speaking of "quality service," I'd like to thank the local GMC dealership in Las Vegas (Desert GMC, Inc.) for the fine service that they provided at the Hacienda Campground. Desert mechanics were available at the campsite to make critical repairs for the rally-goers, and many owners were so impressed by the service performed by these mechanics that they opted to stay after the rally to have their non-critical repairs taken care of . . . now that's "service satisfaction."



GMC Area Service Manager, Isiah Sherman, uses one of the many service displays designed to familiarize GMC Owners with the service requirements and operational theory of GMC Motorhome components.

GMC Fun-tivities

GMC ELEGANT CRUISERS

"Butterfield Country"
April 29-May 1
Vail Lake, CA
Butterfield Country
Highway 79 South
(8 miles east of I-15)

Contact: Glennie & LaRue Thomas
1076 West 7th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

GMC FORTY NINERS

"May Outing"
Yosemite Lakes
Trailer Park

Contact: V. G. Lambert
(408) 372-1883

GMC GREAT LAKERS

"Spring Kick-off Outing"
May 13-15
Graveland Oaks County Park

Contact: Pete Zunitch
(313) 647-3924

GMC NORTHERN STARS

"Spring Rally"
May 13-15
Trail Race Campground
Lake Sakakawee, ND

Contact: Jan Softing
RR #1
Moorehead, MN 56560

GMC TIDE-WATER CRABS

"Flying Rally"
June 3-5
Bealton, Virginia

"Summer Fun Rally"
July 8-10
Bel Air, Maryland
Contact: Fred Woodcock
(301) 926-6431

GMC COUNTRY CLUB

"Roaring Good GMC Time"
June 24
Ramada Campgrounds
(East of Indianapolis)

Contact: Marvin Grossman
(614) 443-4601

"SUMMER FESTIVAL" GMC Pre-Convention Rally

July 23-25
(See Page 3)

FMCA 14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 26-29
Syracuse, New York

GMC 3rd NATIONAL MOTORHOME OWNERS RALLY

"Anchors Away"
October, 1977
San Diego, CA

FOOTNOTES

We, at GMC Truck and Coach, extend our sincerest sympathy to Joe DeLozier and his family on the death of Joe's wife, Jeanette. The DeLozier's of Olathe, Kansas, were enroute to the GMC Motorhome rally in Orlando, Florida, when an unfortunate accident occurred.

Upon receiving news of the accident, the GMC Ralliers in Orlando collected over \$350 to send to Joe and his family.

This note was received at the Las Vegas Convention:

Our thanks to all of you who responded in Orlando and put fresh meaning into the words "we care" during our recent loss of wife and mother.

*Sincerely,
Joe DeLozier &
Adeleyne Metcalf*

Joe and Adeleyn, we want you to know that the entire GMC family of Motorhome owners does indeed care. Our thoughts are with you.

* * *
NOTE: Yes, we are compiling a GMC Motorhome Owner's Directory. But first, we need some information from you, the owners — your CB handles! With your help the directory will be complete in time for the pre-convention rally in July! Please send those "handles" to:

GMC Motorhome Owner's Club
660 South Boulevard East
Room 210
Pontiac, Michigan 48053
ATTN: Owner's Directory

GMC Truck & Coach Division
General Motors Corporation
660 South Boulevard East, Rm. 210
Pontiac, Michigan 48053

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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