



The GMC Pacific Cruisers Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (FMCA), is a group of GMC motorhome owners from Southern California since 1976. Visit our website: [www.gmcpc.org](http://www.gmcpc.org)



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## FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

April | May | June 2008

**W**e have recently lost some pioneers in our Club, we are saddened, and they will be missed. Half a dozen manufactures have closed their doors in recent months and others are in the fight of their lives. Fuel has passed \$4.00 a gallon and surely will go higher. FMCA is trying to stem the loss of members, especially the loss of manufacturer members who advertise and otherwise support them. California is talking about closing many of the state parks and Caltrans is trying to put a toll way through another.



Where do we go from here? Well, you can keep on using your GMC. Our members are worth the extra cost incurred to travel to our rallies. You can make up part of the extra cost by maintaining your GMC, by driving a bit slower, by checking the air in your tires before traveling, by staying a little longer and by looking for places closer to home. You have a big investment in your GMC and to not use it is your loss. Just use it wisely and use it to come to more rallies. Typically we get group rates at campgrounds, saving you money. We provide an atmosphere to mix with friends, old and new. We have fun. We are constantly looking for new ways to improve the experience. Lastly we miss you when you are not there.

Not all news is bad news. Perhaps that is why most newspapers continue to have the funny pages as well as the not so funny pages. We too have good news. Jim Peugh and Alice-Faye Brown are now Mr. and Mrs. James Peugh. Congratulations to Jim and Alice-Faye.

We have rallies scheduled well into 2009, thanks to the great job being done by Sharon Cerrina. Our treasury is in fine shape. We have had some great rallies this year, and we continue to have great members that always step in when needed. You are truly fortunate to share membership with so many fine GMCers.

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## OUR MEMBERSHIP COUNT IS **174**

### Inside:

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## FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL CONTINUED

By the time you get this Newsletter new officers will have been nominated and voted into office. I can only hope you were there to let your voice be heard, by casting your vote. I have served the GMC Pacific Cruisers 2 years as VP and 1 as President. I choose to step aside and let new people, with new ideas, have a chance to shine. I truly have enjoyed the ride and gladly pass the keys to whomever you choose. I am so thankful to so many of you who made my job so memorable. Now I can enjoy the efforts and just sit back and continue to have a great time.

Last issue of the Newsletter I asked, "Are we running on all eight or what?" For sure the answer is a resounding, YES!

Keep you eyes on the road ahead and keep your GMC on that road.

Lee Nelsen

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) AND YOU!

by **Sharon Cerrina**

Did you know that carbon monoxide is not easily detected without a CO Detector? You know, of course that oxygen attaches inside the red blood cells to be transported through the body to feed our cells. CO hits the red blood cells at least 40 times faster than the slowest oxygen. The oxygen is pushed out from the red blood cells, thereby transporting CO though the cells, rather than oxygen.

Sources of CO in our RV can be found in improper operating generator, oven, furnace, etc. CO poisoning may include nausea, dizziness, headache, and shortness of breath, unconsciousness, etc.

You may want to install a CO Detector to avoid the silent disaster of CO infiltrating your body. The ideal place to install the Detector is about 5' above the floor but away from fuel-burning equipment. Maintenance of the interior of our RV's is as important as under the hood.

## THE SHADE TREE MECHANIC



### FRONT END HANDLING

By **Ken Booth**

The best thing I've done for front-end handling cost \$8. Even after a \$900 front-end overhaul.

It was simple. I stitch welded a 3/8" square length of hot-roll steel to the front edge of my front sway bar. Removed the sway bar along with the urethane bushings and cleaned it; ground the face to get a good weld penetration; and stitch welded the bar between the frame mounts. When welding, weld only a maximum of 1- 1/2" then weld the other end. Work back and forth...top and bottom to prevent overheating the sway bar. Reinstall the sway bar and your coach will handle better in cross winds and passing 18-wheelers.

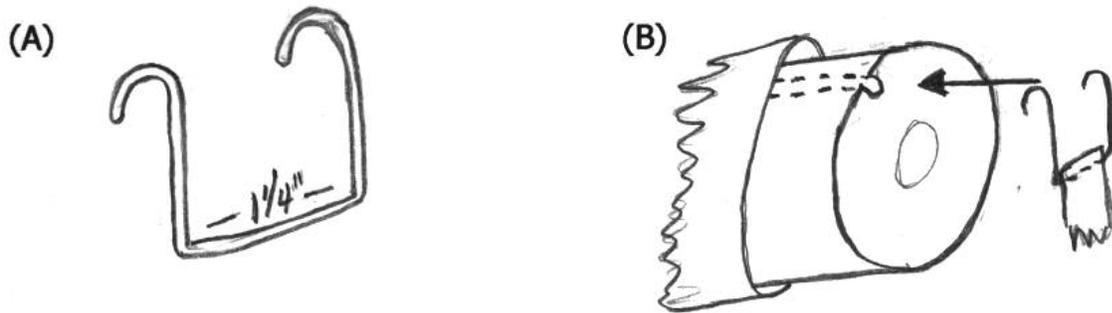
Understand there is also a heavy-duty replacement sway bar. Believe Miguel has it available

## AWNINGS IN THE WIND

This is a quick & easy fix to contain your awning so it won't unroll when you are traveling down the road in the wind.....like mine did!

All it takes is 7" of heavy duty stainless steel wire, a length of 1" heavy duty double faced Velcro, a 1" chrome strap guide and two pop rivets or sheet metal screws.

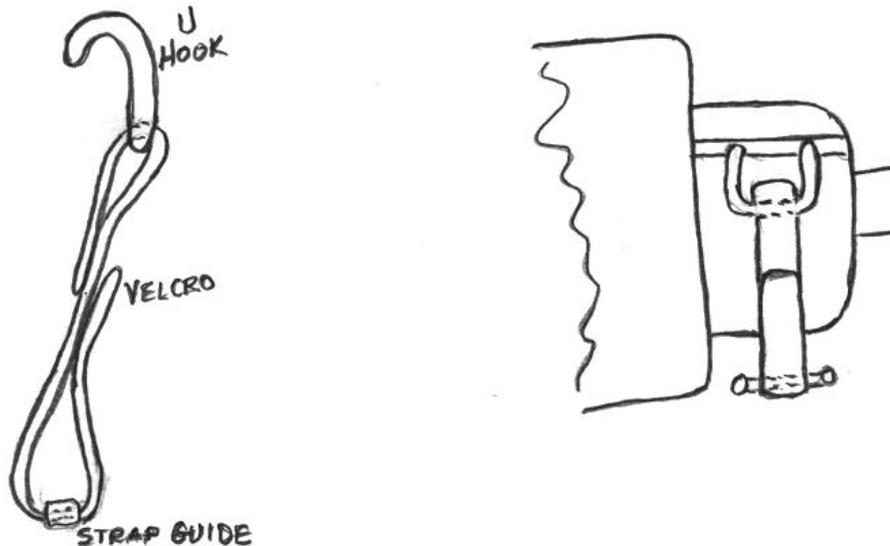
Bend the stainless steel wire into a U with the two uprights being 1-1/4" apart and the bottom 1-1/4" wide & flat. Then bend the top of the uprights towards the back to make hooks (A). The hooks will go into the fabric slot at the front of the awning (B). If your awning does not have a slot, drill two holes in the mast for the hooks.



Below where the hooks will attach to the awning, mount the strap guide using pop rivets or sheet metal screws. How far down this is mounted will determine the length of the Velcro needed.



Thread the Velcro around the flat part of the U-hook enough to secure it. Attach the hooks to the slot in the awning and then thread the Velcro thru the strap guide and pull it up tight and secure it.





# In Loving Memory

## **IRWIN FORSEE**

We are saddened to report the passing of our dear member Irwin Forsee. Irwin passed away on Sunday, May 4, 2008. His memorial services were May 17th. Irwin was a long time member of our Club and a gracious host whenever we visited the "Rainbow" coach. We'll miss Irwin and our condolences are extended to Ilse.

## **BOB BLENKINSOP**

We are further saddened to report that Bob passed away at 12:36 a.m. on Sunday, May 25, 2008. Bob fought hard to win his bout with lung cancer. He even grew a beard in hopes of being able to shave it off one year after the diagnosis thereby beating the odds that he would survive longer than six months. Bob was a co-founder of GMC Western States and truly enjoyed the longevity of the Club. He was determined to make it to the Spring GMC WS rally, and thanks to Greg, he did. He also made a trek to Quartzite last January for the GMC Pacific Cruiser annual event. Bob served our country in the Army and shared many stories of his activities. John and Dee Lockwood spent several hours gathering information from Bob regarding his explorations around the world. His archives have been passed onto the Club to document historical events. Bob's interment will be along with his wife Barbara in Minden, NV in June.



**BILL WHIPPLE**

Also reporting that Bill deceased on May 25, 2008. He suffered double pneumonia over a year ago and didn't fully recover. Bill was 91 years old and came to many rally prior to his health challenges. His family will be gathering on June 28th for a celebration of Bill's life.



**RAY TORRES**

Regretfully, another death has overtaken one of our dear members. Ray deceased on March 5, 2008. He suffered a heart attack the previous evening. Ray had recently celebrated his 80th birthday with many friends and family. He lived a wonderful and full life. He joined the Navy while in high school and served for two years. He was well known throughout Southern California for his fast roadsters. He raced many tracks including El Mirage Dry Lake and Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. He was in Real Estate for 44 years before retiring. He enjoyed traveling in his GMC with Dorothy, gardening and of course watching anything that had to do with racing. Graveside services were held March 13th followed by a celebration of life at March Air Reserve Base Officer's Club.



Reported by : **Lillian Trubert**

Thanks to Donna and Dave de Graffenreid, our Rally Hosts, our May Rally at Emerald Desert was a big hit. This Resort has it all plus the memories of good times over the years. The desert was in bloom, the Margaritas were cold and delicious and the weather was perfect. But it is the wonderful company of GMC Pacific Cruisers old and new that made this rally so darn much fun!

Donna and Dave de Graffenreid really know how to host a rally filled with great food, fun things to do and a friendly laid back ambience. About that food – we literally ate our way through the weekend, and some of us are now in recovery! Fresh cooked breakfasts of pancakes and breakfast burritos; lunch with hot dogs and root beer floats on the patio; and make-your-own pizza lessons for lunch; GMC Pacific Cruiser Tri-Tip and B Q Burgers; and catered Mexican dinners, all set a high standard for a daily gourmet fare. You really have to marvel at the expertise of preparation, but the talent we have for eating should also be noted.

We did stop eating long enough to attend some seminars on GMC maintenance (Ask the Experts), go putting on the greens contests, learn pot luck safety with Dorris Garton (it

is bad manners to poison your friends), play some Jokers and Marbles and other games, and do some over the top shopping. Swimming, lounging around the pool and pulling up a chair to join a group under a tree for some visiting were on going activities enjoyed by many. The early risers could always join Freddi to start the day off with an invigorating walk. The beautiful grounds could really be enjoyed this way. Many other activities were available as the Palm Springs area is a world-class vacation destination.

Everyone seemed to make it to the Clubhouse in time for Happy Hour, especially the night of the classic de Graffenreid "Bucket of Margaritas." Pat Cerrina did an excellent job of not spilling the Margaritas as he served them. Need you be reminded these are a good source of vitamin C?

Open Mike Night the last night was fantastic! So many people got up the nerve to tell a joke or story that delighted the group. Just getting together and laughing the night away was so much fun. What a wealth of comedians!

Try and make it a point to attend a rally soon. You own "The Machine." Now enjoy the life style. See you in Ventura!

**ATTENDEES:**

Booth, Ken & Judy  
Bates, Loren & Virginia  
Brand, Zay & Betty

Cantrell, Dave & Arlene  
Cerrina, Pat & Sharon  
Condos, Frank & Freddi  
Cook, Bob  
Covington, Jerry & Suzanne  
de Graffenreid, Dave & Donna  
(Rally Hosts)

Garton, Chuck & Dorris

Gaw, Betty & Maxwell, Marilyn  
Gandola, Ray & Ellen  
Gosen, Roy & Karin

Hernandez, Phil & Joanne  
Hickey, Guy  
Hobson, AL & Barbara  
Hooton, Bob & Dorothy

Mendez, Miguel

Nelsen, Lee & Suzanne  
Nelson, John & Ann

Roland, Marilyn  
Rowe, Jim & Audree  
Rubio, Joe & Brady, Bernice

Simmons, Duane & Billie  
Simon, Stephen & Karen  
Staal, Ed & Eileen

Trubert, Marc & Lillian

Walters, Buckey & Phyllis

**SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS**

**Welcome! - To our new members and we hope to see you at upcoming rallies.**

**Wilhelm, Augie and Ruth of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.**

They have a 75 Glenbrook with 74,000 miles. Augie and Ruth are retired.

GMC   
**PACIFIC CRUISERS** **2008 RALLY SCHEDULE**  
 **CLUB**

**SEPTEMBER 15–19, 2008**

GMC WESTERN STATES, BLACKWELL ISLAND RV PARK, LAKE COEUR D'ALENE, ID  
 HOSTS: TERRY AND GLORIA MORRIS/GMC CASCADERS

**SEPTEMBER 28–OCTOBER 4, 2008**

GMC MOTORHOMES INTERNATIONAL  
 DELAWARE STATE FAIRGROUNDS, HARRINGTON, DE

**OCTOBER 3–5, 2008**

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS, TUCALOTA SPRINGS RV PARK, SAGE, CA  
 HOSTS: CHUCK AND MARY BOTTS

**OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 2, 2008**

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS, 49er RANCH RV RESORT, COLUMBIA, CA  
 HOSTS: FIN AND MARY BEVEN

**DECEMBER 5–8, 2008**

GMC PACIFIC CRUISERS  
 TAMALE FESTIVAL – INDIAN WELLS RV PARK, INDIO, CA

PLEASE SEE SHARON CERRINA IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A RALLY IN 2009

**GMC**  
**PACIFIC CRUISERS**  
 CLUB

**NEWSLETTER**

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If you would like to  
 submit an article or  
 item, email Freddi:  
**frettyc@sti.net**

**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE FOR 2008**

<b>Publication Dates</b>	Aug. 29	Dec. 5
<b>Info to Coordinator</b>	Aug. 8	Nov. 13
<b>To Publisher</b>	Aug. 15	Nov. 19

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