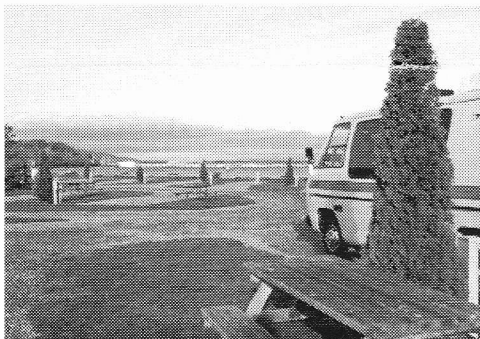


## A GREAT CHRISTMAS RALLY AT ANACORTES

by Jack Cupples

Despite unpredictable December weather, Ken and Jean Wilson and their helper elves Larry and Gaynor Calhoun, Jack and Cathy Cupples, Jerry and Pam Eerkes, John and Vera Gruenewald, and Larry and Virginia Paradis, planned and executed a really enjoyable Christmas rally for the Cascaders at the Fidalgo Bay RV resort in Anacortes. The weather did cooperate by calming down during the events and then venting its wet and windy fury during the late nights. I don't know about the others, but we found a few new water leaks Thursday night during a particularly fierce downpour.

This Christmas rally was a refreshing departure from our regular celebration at Cannon Beach and the Fidalgo Bay venue provided a picturesque location and an excellent facility for us. Our 39 coaches were together on the lower half of the RV Park, close to the beach and also convenient to the fabulous clubhouse right on the beach.



Early arrivers enjoy fair skies and a super clear view of the bay.

Photo by Cupples

Photo by Cupples

Some ten coaches arrived on Thursday to get in a little early shopping and sightseeing around the Anacortes area. There were lots of antique shops to visit and good lunch spots to try in the downtown area. Some rally goers stayed downtown to take in some of the excellent restaurants for dinner that night.

Friday was the actual check-in day and most of the GMC'ers showed up during the day. At check-in, each coach was asked to leave a child's present at the office. These toys were added to the RV park's collection for distribution to the needy local Indian reservation children. In preparation for the Friday night crab feed, the host male elves set up all the tables and chairs in the clubhouse, after which the host female elves decorated the tables with red and white table covers, evergreens and ornament center pieces. Freshly caught cooked crabs arrived in the mid afternoon. Thanks to Jerry Eerkes (below, center), who spent the rest of the afternoon doing the final cleaning of some 70 Dungeness crabs. During Happy Hour, the Wilsons charcoal broiled large



The lodge boasts a huge tree.



Photo by Ireland

fresh salmon fillets. Dinner followed; everyone had the choice of a whole, melt-in-your-mouth crab or a large piece of salmon. Along with that, came hot French bread and fresh green salad, followed with assorted small French pastries for dessert.

## NEXT RALLY

**DATES**

February 21-23

**LOCATION**

Hoodsport, WA

**SITE**

Rest-a-While RV

**HOSTS**

Swanson, Czajny, ... & ...



For information on more rallies, see back page.

# GMC CASCADERS NEWS

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*The GMC Cascader News is published six times annually. GMC motorhome owners from the following states and provinces are eligible to join GMC Cascaders: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Yukon Territory. Contact any officer for information.*

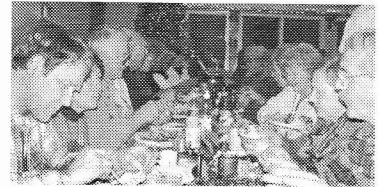
*Right and below—  
Friday night's crab  
feed offers an  
opportunity to  
EARN a delicious  
entrée. Cascaders dig  
into the fresh cracked  
crab with a will!*



Photo by Ireland



*Crab feed images (this page) feature a variety of "picking" techniques.*



All photos this page except for the top one are by Guise.



Following the cleanup, the tables stayed in place for evening games of cards and dominos.



Photo by Ireland

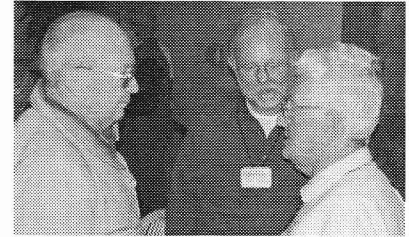


Photo by Guise



Photo by Guise

*Above and left — Serious Mexican Train domino players insist they are having fun!*

*Above and below — Cascaders are skilled at both planning and spinning yarns.*

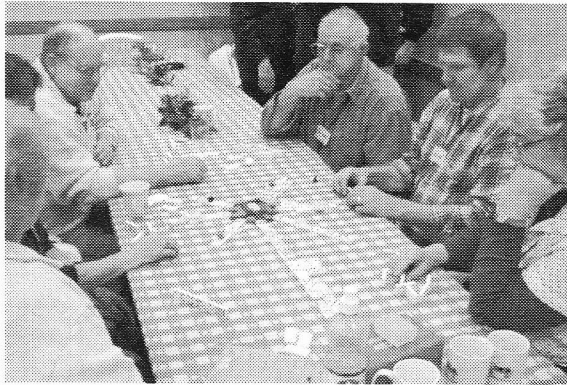


Photo by Ireland

Saturday started with a continental breakfast in the clubhouse. Gift exchange presents for the Saturday night Christmas party were brought in to breakfast and set up by the host elves.



Photo by Guise

*Above — The gift collection grows.*

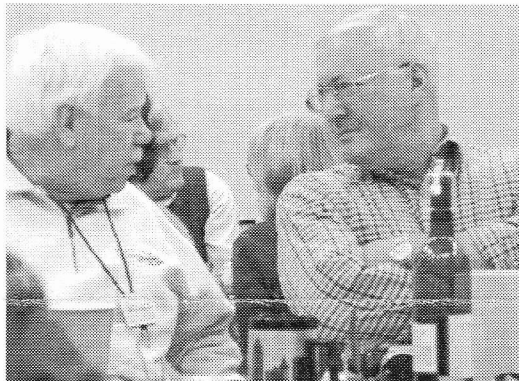


Photo by Ireland



Photo by Cupples

*Above — The Christmas craft fair showcases lots of talent and skillful work among Cascaders.*

As breakfast was winding down, the ladies set up a craft bazaar in one half of the clubhouse while the guys did a GMC technical seminar in the other half. The rest of the morning was open for shopping, casino hopping or what ever.

During the afternoon, the host lady elves decorated the tables again! This time, green strips of plastic ran down the centers of the white and red table covers and red gel candles in glass and crystal containers sat on mirror-like CD discs. The large crystal candles eventually became door prizes. When lit, the tables glowed with Christmas light thanks to Jean Wilson's gel candle idea.



Photo by Cupples

*Above — "Dressed for the occasion"... tables glow, the tree sparkles and a tantalizing row of gifts lines up on the sideboard awaiting Saturday's party.*



Saturday festivities started with a Happy Hour featuring Tim and Cass Jones' (right) tasty hot buttered rums at the clubhouse.

A sumptuous catered buffet dinner followed featuring roast prime rib and breast of chicken along with a full table of choices to complement your plate and please your palate.



Photo by Ireland

Left—Elizabeth Smith chooses carefully from the buffet spread.



Photo by Cupples

Terry Morris (near right) did an outstanding job of playing Santa for us this year during the Christmas party and gift exchange. Vera Gruenewald certainly was convincing as Mrs. Santa in the special costume she made herself (below and top right). Tinker Bell elf John Gruenewald kept things hopping as he helped with the gift exchange.



Santa and helpers pause during their busy labors.

Photo by Paradis



Photo by Paradis



Photo by Guise

Mrs Santa and Elf John supervise the gift opening.



Photo by Cupples

After the gift exchange, Elizabeth Smith of Delta, BC, led the group in singing Christmas carols.



Photo by Cupples

(Page 8.) Those up to more evening fun stayed late to play games and visit around the fireplace in the clubhouse.

Sunday morning, continental breakfast preceded the Cascaders business meeting.

Group pictures, taken around the beach clubhouse, finalized our club activities. The hosts did a final cleanup of the facilities while Cascaders circulated about,

saying their good-byes and preparing their coaches for the trip home. So ended a great season of rallies for this year! Thanks again to all the hosts of all the 2002 rallies. We are looking forward to another fun year in 2003.



Photo by Guise



Photo by Paradis



## Our Own Light Show!

For many years, our Christmas rally has been brightened by decorated GMC coaches. Members are invited to mark the holiday season with whatever decor they wish to dream up. Each year, some new innovations appear. This year, rope light technology joined the more established methods of coach decorating fun.



Photo by Ireland



Photo by Ireland

Photo by Cupples



Photo by Ireland

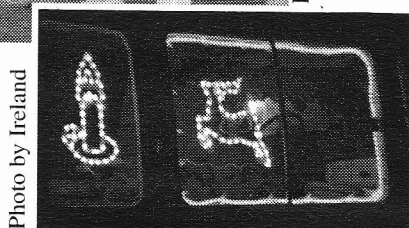


Photo by Ireland

## In Memoriam

**Nellie Hastie**

by Linda Dale

My mother passed away on Oct 26th from a massive stroke. Nellie Evelyn Linn was born December 21, 1918, in Manhattan, Kansas. Nellie married Ernest Dan Hastie on June 27, 1941, in Oakland, California. Ernie and Nellie were married for over 61 years. She was preceded in death by her son James Dan Hastie in 1964 and by grandson Troy Edward Southwick in 1990. She is survived by her loving husband Ernie; their daughter Linda Dale and son John, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Nellie loved family, friends, and traveling with her husband. She will be remembered for her love of Ernie which was equal to her love of ice cream.

Graveside services were held at Oroville Cemetery, on Nov 1, 2002. In celebration of Nellie's life, we had an ice cream social following the service at Evangelical Free church.

## Cascader Email Directory

Our GMC Cascader News Email Directory reports email addresses of newcomers on the internet and changes to existing email addresses. Please note, we can publish only one email address per household.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Lyne, Dick and Jean ..... rlyne@interbaun.com

### PLEASE!!! PLEASE!!! PLEASE!!!

If you would like to add yourself to the list or make a change in your existing listing, SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO BOTH:

Pris Hardin, Editor ..... prisbill@earthlink.net

AND to:

Cass Jones, Secretary ..... timjones@hevanet.com

## Accessing GMC "Sister" Clubs?

Use email and the web as follows:

Western States website ..... www.gmcws.org

Western States email ..... :tweir@pacbell.net

GMC M Internat. website ..... www.gmcmi.com

GMC M Internat. email ..... gmcmh@concentric.net



## MINUTES 12/15/02

FIDALGO BAY RV RESORT, ANACORTES, WA

**President's Message**—President Tim Jones called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. in the meeting room at Fidalgo Bay RV Resort, Anacortes, WA on Sunday, December 15, 2002. Tim thanked our hosts, Ken & Jean Wilson, John & Vera Gruenewald, Lawrie & Virginia Paradis, Jack & Cathy Cupples, Jerry & Pam Eerkes, Larry & Gaynor Calhoun and Walt Ovens. In addition, Tim thanked our Santa, Terry Morris, and Mrs. Claus, Vera Gruenewald. Thank you for a great rally and great job.

Tim welcomed new members: Jack & Marilyn Hodgman, Gabriola Island, BC; Keith & Joyce Ebbert, Salmon, WA; John & Patricia Bartanen, Oak Harbor, WA; Ken & Isabel Lambert, Victoria, BC; Bob & Sylvia Gummingsall, Mercer Island, WA.

Guests attending: Jim & Dianna Bisakowski, Victoria, BC

**Secretary's Report**—Secretary Cass Jones asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the October, 13, 2002, meeting as published in the November 2002 newsletter. Ted Freemire asked the minutes be corrected as he and Jackie were listed as guests *and* as rally attendees. The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes with corrections as published. Motion: Carol Baxter (M) Seconded: Mike Pellegrino (S). Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Helen Hove reported a club balance of \$7,806.81. Current membership is 181.

**First Vice President's Report**—Vice President George Baxter reported sending get well wishes to: DJ Eberhart on knee surgery. Sympathy cards to: Ernie Hastie on Nellies' passing and Larry Cain on Marys' passing. Thank-yous to Persingers, Barries and Hoves for the October rally.

Elaine Fry asked a card be sent to Larry Brown on the passing of DeeDee Popperwell.

**Second Vice President's (Wagonmaster's) Report**—Wagonmaster Larry Calhoun reported on upcoming rallies in 2003:  
February 21–23: Rest-A-While RV Park, Hoodspport, WA. Hosts: Morris, Freemire, Swanson & Czarny

April 18–20: Indian Mary Park, Merlin, OR, Hosts: Ransoms

June 13–15: Silver Spur RV Park, Silverton, OR, The Oregon Gardens. Hosts: Evans

August 15–17: ANNUAL MEETING at Wallace, Idaho, Hosts: Dunlaps

October 3–5: Toppenish, WA, Hosts: Ragsdale, Price, Guise, Cupples & Baxters

December: Need location and hosts

### ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Western States—Spring 2003—April 28–May 3, Pechanga RV Resort, Temecula, CA. Fall 2003—September 14–18, Canada, Lake Osoyoos, BC. Spring 2004—Emerald Desert, Palm Desert, CA. Fall 2004—October 5–10, Balloon Festival, Albuquerque, NM.

GMC International: Spring 2003—March 30–April 5, Tucson, AZ. Fall 2003: October 12–17 Goshen, IN

FMCA—Director Ken Wilson reported next NW rally, June, 2003, in Albany, OR. Newest GMC member Bob Gummingsall reported there will be 6 meals, entertainment every night, 600–700 coaches, it is dry camping (3 nights, 4 days).

Merchandise—Terry Morris has red hats (\$15), club jackets (\$28), decals (\$5) and flags (\$20) for sale. Denny Allen has GMC stamps (you supply the ink pad) \$5 and belt buckles for \$20. Jessie Rowland has club sweatshirts: \$22 if you pick up at a rally and \$26 if mailed. Bill Guise has "cascaders.org" hats (\$16).

### OLD BUSINESS

Website—no report. Jerry Eerkes told of his selling his overhead cabinet that he had advertized on our web page... it works !!

### NEW BUSINESS

Tim presented his 'Mr. Blackwell Award' to Dixie Snow for her 'artistic' outfit she had made and worn to the Christmas party and to Vera Gruenewald, alias Mrs. Claus.

Elaine Cook thanked the rally hosts and the club for having the Christmas rally so close so the Canadians could attend.

Ken Wilson thanked all who worked on the rally.

Deadline for newsletter: January 3rd. Send pictures to Cathy Cupples for the albums.

Adjournment (M/S/P) Bob Gummingsall / Terry Morris

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Jones, Secretary.



## Club Loses Oldest Charter Member

Many well-wishers attended a "Final Rally" for Roland Wilbur in Portland on January 19th. Roland was the oldest charter member of the GMC Cascaders. His daughter JoAnne wrote the following sketch of her beloved father.

Roland Wilbur was born on May 9, 1912, in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii. He lived in Hawaii until he was 11, when his family moved to Soquel, CA, for better schooling for the kids. He shipped back to Honolulu on a freighter when he was 18, to learn a machinist trade. The Waipahu Sugar Mill hired him at \$12.50 a month plus board and room. He worked there for 2 years and then returned to the mainland (Santa Cruz, CA) to look for work and to marry Ruth Frapwell. They were married on April 21, 1934. They moved to Lafayette, CA, in 1942 where he worked for various companies until he launched Wilbur's Bus Service, in Lafayette about 1955 and continued till about 1971. In 1972, they moved to Colfax, CA. In 1973, they bought their first GMC, sold their home, and TRAVELED. They put the first 100,000 miles on a GMC.

Dad loved helping people along the road and made some good friends that way. I don't think Dad ever failed to solve a mechanical problem or fix a motor. If he needed a part and couldn't find one, he could make it. I don't remember him ever having to have his motorhome towed into town. That wasn't even a possibility in his book. He was very ingenious in using what was in the motorhome (safety pins, bobby pins, etc) to get him into the next town. In different letters we've received, he was called "Robin Hood of the Highway," "Dr. GMC," and "The Master Mechanic."

Dad fell and broke his hip on Jan 3, had a hip replacement on the 5th, and joined Mom on the 7th at 90½ years of age.

## Ralph Luby's Tribute

The following points were made by founder of GMC Motorhomes International Ralph Luby as part of his letter written for the memory book at Roland's "Finally Rally."

- When GMC Motorhomes International was formed, Roland Wilbur probably knew more about the GMC Motorhome than anyone else in the country. The Wilburs were the first GMC owners to put 100,000 miles on their GMC. General Motors invited them to their plant and literally dismantled their GMC to see how the vehicle components had held up. The Wilburs were guests of General Motors for about two weeks before their motorhome was ready to travel again.
- Roland put on his first seminar for GMC Motorhomes International at the age of 70 in 1983. I recall that he told the audience that the younger members should be putting on the seminars not an old fellow like him. He conducted his last seminar at a Las Vegas rally at age 88.
- He was the first to figure out why the front wheel bearings on the GMC were wearing out. He had some opposition at first but over time it became evident to everyone that he was right.
- One time when my wife and I flew out to the West Coast and met the Wilburs for a rally that was going to be in California, Roland lent me his GMC and he took their bus. We started out at 9:00 AM and didn't stop until we arrived at our destination at about 11:00 pm. We had gone 700 miles. I turned to your dad and said that I had never driven that far in one day, had he ever driven that far and he said sure, he has done it quite often.
- GMC Motorhomes International owes a lot to Roland Wilbur for his help in the early years. The Wilburs were a tremendous inspiration for many of us who marveled at the energy level and positive attitude that they both had.

Ralph Luby, Founder  
GMC Motorhomes International





## Sing-along

Following the gift exchange on Saturday night, Elizabeth Smith of Delta, BC, played the guitar and led the Cascaders in singing Christmas carols and many other old time favorites.

Thanks, Elizabeth.

*Left—George Baxter joins in the festivities.*

## RALLY SCHEDULE 2003

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	HOSTS
February 21-23	Hoodsport, WA	Rest-a-While RV	Swanson, Czarny, Freemire & Morris
April 18-20	Merlin, OR	Indian Mary Park	Ransom
June 13-15	Silverton, OR	Silver Spur RV Park	Evans
August 15-17	Wallace, ID	Down by the Depot RV Park	Dunlap
October 3-5	Toppenish, WA	TBA	Ragsdale, Price, Guise, Cupples & Baxter
December ??, 2003	TBA	TBA	<i>Uncle Larry needs you!</i>

*Call Larry Calloun to volunteer for rallies in 2003 & 04! ...fellow hosts will appear!*

