

From Red Hearts to Red Cherries... from Jokers to Presidents

by Liz Ovens

What do they all have in common? The GMC Cascaders' Valentines' /Presidents' Day weekend rally in Grand Ronde, Oregon, of course... celebrated thoroughly February 14-17th, 1997.

Twenty-four non-snowbird coaches winged their way into the Wandering Spirit RV Park and nestled in for a wonderful four days of fellowship, frivolity, fever (gambling, that is!) and technical studies... well, I did personally witness three coaches with their hoods up and the usual gathering that ensues.

Our Spirit Mountain rally was billed as "the casino rally" for obvious reasons. The beautiful, glitzy casino captured the center of attention—poker tables, elegant meals served to Valentines night sweethearts in the Legends dining room, slot machines, the popular Coyote Buffet restaurant, video poker, the deli, baccarat card tables and more. It was a toss up whether tummies or slot machines were the better fed.

But Spirit Mountain was not the only game in town. Hosts Dolph and Barbara Eberhart and Co-hosts Bill and Mary Lou Foote had wonderful treats in store for us.

Friday evening, couples enjoyed a special Valentine Sweetheart portrait and corsages for the "ladies" pinned on by their "gents." While these warm fuzzies may have let some of the fellows off the hook, so to speak, I rather think that we Cascaders have some of the most romantic men in the whole Northwest; it seemed that almost every coach I peeked into had a bouquet of flowers or a plant on display or a heart-shaped Mylar balloon drifting about. One coach even sported twin Valentine windsocks.



Photo from Kershaws

Sweethearts enjoying having their portraits made are Glenn and Ruth Diers (left) and Liz and Walt Ovens (lower left).



Photo from Ovens

Corsages required careful pinning—Chet Kershaw managed the task with a little help from Karen (below).



Photo from Kershaws

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NEXT RALLY

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	HOSTS
April 18-20	Portland, OR	Jantzen Beach RV Park	Boyd, Groths, & Frydenlunds

MORE RALLIES... on back page

GMC CASCADERS NEWS

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The GMC Cascader News is published six times annually. GMC coach owners interested in membership should contact any officer for information. GMC motor-home owners from the following states and provinces are eligible to join: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Yukon Territory.



Photo by Kershaws

Wandering Spirit RV Park was wet and sunny by turns (above).

Hard working Hosts Dolph and Barbara Eberhart iron out a few details (right).



Photo by Kershaws

Continuing the Valentine spirit, our hosts shuttled us over to the casino. They repeated this loving commitment constantly over the next four days and nights at all hours. On arrival at the casino, people scattered fast in many directions. What to do first, eat or run to the various gaming rooms? Tummies usually won out unless the dinner or buffet line required more than a 15 minute wait; if so, it was back to the gaming rooms. A lucky few sat down to dinner with big smiles and heavier pockets. The rest of us quietly planned our strategies for spending the rest of our gambling budgets.



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO

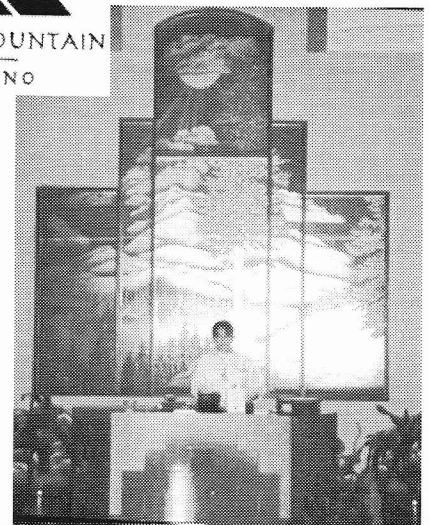


Photo by Kershaws

(Above) The entrance lobby to the casino looks like a church! Draw your own conclusions ...but the art work is undeniably spectacular.



Photo by Kershaws

As always, Cascaders consider food an excellent option— looks like plenty of room here (left).

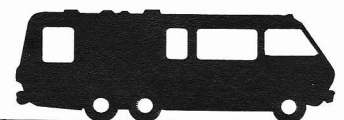


Photo by Fry



Brilliant sunshine blessed our day exploring the Oregon coast from Lincoln City south to Newport.

Elaine Fry and "friend" pause to enjoy the spring-like weather (right).



Photo by Diers

Spectacular marine-theme sculptures welcome visitors to the aquarium (left). One of the largest ones, dwarfs Grace and Clarence Politiske just outside the aquarium front entrance.



Photo by Owens

orca of Free Willy fame, awaited us along with an extensive showcase of living cold and warm water marine life.

Keiko is in rehab for possible return to freedom so he no longer performs for audiences. We were delighted simply with the mere sight of this graceful creature as viewed through the heavy glass windows in the walls of his pool. He is absolutely awesome and well worth the wait for him to decide to swim over and take a look at us. The weather was beautiful... the fog burned off providing brilliant sunshine for our trip.

Back on the bus again, we headed north along the sparkling Oregon coast to Lincoln City for a two-hour shopping spree at the Factory Outlet mall. Not nearly enough time for the "shop till you drop" crowd but it's amazing how many treasures appeared back on

Continued on page 4

At the Newport aquarium, (right) Cascaders board the tour bus for the return trip north.



Photo by Ireland

Estridges bask in the sunshine during lunch at the Newport aquarium's restaurant (right).



Photo by Kershaws

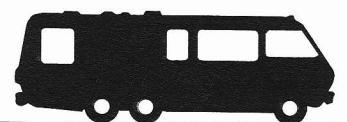




Photo by Kershaws

Alex Birch managed to find a few items to buy at the Factory Outlet Mall in Lincoln City (above).



Elaine Fry brings us the entire column of banquet photos on the right... great job, Elaine. You've invented a new form of "group rally picture."

the bus after such a short time. The bus returned us to the park just in time to refresh, enjoy an attitude adjustment and locate "dinner on your own." The tummy versus slot machines dilemma took over again.



Sunday morning found many Cascaders sleeping in... even Barbara Eberhart could enjoy a well earned rest. Later, some attended local churches, visited local wineries and/or antique malls, or just plain 'lazed' around and visited. Even an impromptu technical seminar transpired... if learning to read the gauge for the black water tank is classified as technical education.



Sunday evening, we shuttled to the casino again for a sumptuous dinner of Cornish game hen or prime rib. We faced another delicious meal and another run at those darned slot machines.

Old timer Cascaders were delighted to see Henry and Lola Abrahams, Clarence and Grace Politiske and Alex and Karen Birch at this rally—we have missed them.



Five photos above by Fry





Photo by Kershaws

We welcomed new members, Henry and Elaine Dykes (above) as they got acquainted with the coaches and new Cascader friends—from left to right: Co-host Mary Lou Foote, the top of Elaine Kragt's head, Harvey Kragt, and Henry and Elaine Dykes.

Monday came all too soon. Most Cascaders packed up their coaches and drove to the casino for our farewell continental breakfast and business meeting. By noon, most attendees were back on the road, homeward or vacation bound. Pockets either brimmed or busted but we headed home, bodies refreshed and souls revitalized by the fellowship of the rally. Rainbows sighted along the way added a final touch.

BELLING THE CAT... WILLIAMS LAKE STYLE.

The story behind the two photos below goes something like this. Ever helpful Bob Fry pitched in at the breakfast to help the overworked casino wait-staff distribute delicious pastries. He loaded up a tray (right) and went to work. Dave Ireland, feeling that such duty deserved a proper uniform, grabbed an extra staff apron and tied it around Bob while he had his hands full.

Photo by Irelands



Thanks, Bob
... and Dave?



Photo by Irelands



Photo by Kershaws

Ken and Deon Madison enjoy a meal in the Legends restaurant at the Casino. The food was delicious and service attentive. The problem often was one of finding a table without a long wait. Could there be a plot to redirect your appetites toward gaming instead of eating?

Notes on Cascaders SOUTH

Allen's early February arrival in the Indio area prompted a grand spaghetti feed at the Mast's trailer. Other Indio Cascaders contributed delectable dishes.



Medical notes from the southland: Daryl Wilson finally had the



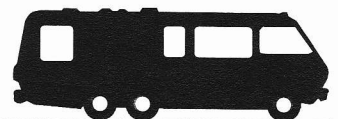
Photos by Masts



See page 8 for more notes on our Cascader snowbirds.

cast removed from his broken arm.

Editor's Note: A special "thanks" to all the volunteer journalists who helped to make this issue possible in my absence. Baxters, Diers, Frys, Irelands and Kershaws all sent material. Irelands even drove to southern California to explain photos and fill in details ...now THAT's dedication!



Minutes—2/17/97

Spirit Mountain RV Park, Grande Ronde, OR

President's Message—President Carol Baxter called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. She thanked rally Hosts Dolph and Barbara Eberhart and Co-hosts Bill and Mary Lou Foote, who received a standing ovation. She welcomed Henry and Elaine Dykes, new members and first-time attendees.

Rally attendees were:

George & Carol Baxter	Linda & Dave Ireland
Alex & Karen Birch	Tim & Cass Jones
Terry & Joanne Boyd	Chet & Karen Kershaw
Glenn & Ruth Diers	Elaine & Harvey Kragt
Henry & Elaine Dykes	Deon & Ken Madison
Barbara & Dolf Eberhardt	Terry & Gloria Morris
Elsie & Clarence Esteridge	Liz & Walt Ovens
Bill & Mary Lou Foote	Luana & Don Perry
Bob & Elaine Fry	Clem & Grace Politiske
Martha & Leon Goebel	Jim & Sheryl Scolman
Ray & Bev Groth	Tom & Marge Thompson
Carl & Helen Hove	George Wenzek & Sally

President Baxter read an email from *Cascader News* editors Bill and Pris Hardin, noting their latest winter address and a paragraph "promoting all rally attendees to *News* production staff" by inviting them to forward photos and rally tidbits for the next edition of the *News*.

President Baxter briefly noted information forwarded by Pris on a defensive driving course for RVers being offered by Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. The subject was previously taken up at the Executive Board meeting. The Board asked Chet Kershaw to investigate the defensive driving class and attend a one-day conference on the future of the Oregon campgrounds under the new funding cutbacks, reporting back to the Cascaders with a recommendation about our participation in lobbying the legislature on this matter.

President Baxter read a letter from Becky Fleet regarding her husband Loren's accident in late August wherein an automotive battery blew up in his face. She wrote that he is slowly progressing.

Luana Perry received a big thank you from President Baxter for offering to update the Cascaders' emergency first-aid kit. She will complete the job and return the kit at the April rally. George Baxter commented that our club's first-aid kit is always carried in the pod of the President's coach (which is kept unlocked during rallies) and easily accessible to members in any emergency at a rally.

Secretary's Report—Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the last newsletter. Moved (M) by G. Baxter, seconded (S) by D. Ireland, and passed unanimously.

Secretary Liz Ovens read corrections to the 1/15/97 Membership Roster and called for further corrections. All corrections will be printed in the March *GMC Cascaders News*.

CORRECT YOUR ROSTER

Membership roster corrections are as follows:
Ken and Deon Madison, 2254 SE Douglas Ave,
Roseburg, OR, Phone 541-672-4762
Terry and Gloria Morris, 206-243-8035
Clarence and Grace Politiske, 503-390-9435

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Ruth Diers reported a treasury balance of \$2,341.38, with \$1,200.00 outstanding for pre-rally expense and \$300.00 for jackets. She reported that the club currently has 161 paid members.

First Vice President's Report—Vice President Terry Morris announced that cards went to Joe Sawtell who is recovering from serious eye surgery and a card went to Cliff Smith, who is recuperating from leg problems. Terry announced that the club will send a second card to Joe Sawtell following a recent chainsaw accident in which he nearly severed his hand.

Second Vice Presidents' Report (Wagonmasters)—Walt Ovens, with assistance from Carl Hove, gave the wagonmasters' report. They reviewed the '97 rally schedule with attention to details. Dates for December's Cannon Beach rally are 12/5-7/97.

Walt reported that invitations for July's bonus rally at Arlington, WA, will go out to members in early March. He also urged members to begin thinking about possible rally locations and dates for 1998.

Old Business

- GMC International's Representative George Baxter reminded the club that Boerne (pronounced Burney), Texas, is the site for the GMC International rally on March 2-8, 1997. George is on the site selection committee and remarked that he is still working for a GMC International rally in the "real" western U.S.
- GMC Western States NW Representative Don Perry noted the Roundup dates for 1997 are May 7-11 at Prescott, AZ, and September 10-14 at Bryce Canyon, Utah.
- Walt Ovens commented on a letter that Carol Baxter received regarding two GMCs for sale by a Missis-



issippi RV dealer. The letter was passed around for review. Walt will add the information to his growing list of transitional GMCs.

New Business

- Carol Baxter invited members to list their email addresses for club use.
- Bob Fry suggested we look into raising the dues to \$20.00 to defray still uncovered expenses and to keep our fees in line with FMCA, GMC Western States, GMC International, and others. Discussion followed. Dolph Eberhart asked if it would be feasible to include a life or multi-year membership. The Executive Board will take these matters under consideration and report to the group.
- Terry Morris asked President Baxter if the past-president bars had been ordered. The Treasurer has taken care of the matter and presented the bars to the past presidents for attachment to their name badges.

Adjournment—At 10:15 am, the meeting was declared adjourned—B.Fry. (M), T. Jones (S), P.

Respectfully submitted
Liz Ovens, Secretary

Cascader Email Directory

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Perry, Don and Luana
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Scolman, Jim and Sheryl Ragnar73@aol.com
FYI, Cinnabar is on the net gmcmh@aol.com

If you are willing to add yourself to the list, send your email address for future publication to: Pris Hardin, Editor, *GMC Cascaders News*.

Canada '98, eh ?

from Dave Ireland

After a number of suggestions I am considering the organization of a Trans-Canada trek after the fashion of the ALASKA '96 adventure. The opinions collected so far indicate September as the most appealing time to travel. The timing would ideally get us into the eastern regions in time for the fall colours (colors). After running out of east-bound highway in either Nova Scotia or Newfoundland some folks wish to explore the eastern U.S. then make their way west to a winter refuge in Arizona or southern California. Others may wish to back track through Canada or the northern U.S. The northern weather at this time of year is usually quite favorable but at its worst should not cause driving conditions that would ground us for more than a day or two.

I need input to make initial planning more effective. Please indicate your interest by dropping me a line.

- 1) Some folks on the Alaska trip would have preferred having dry or partial hookups on alternate nights. What would you prefer, every night, every other night?
- 2) Would you like to have some time in the cities? 2, 3, 4, or 5 nights?
- 3) Group city tours included on the first day?
- 4) Rural locations with country camping?
- 5) 150-250 mile per day has been comfortable?

Forward mail to: Dave Ireland
1605 Wood Road
Williams Lake B.C. V2G 4P1
CANADA

or email: direland@www.stardate.bc.ca

On the Road... notices and sales

LOST GMC KEYS!!! Barbara Eberhart reports finding GMC keys in her car following the Spirit Mountain rally. If you are the owner of the orphan keys, call Barbara Eberhart at: 503-843-3247

FOR SALE

- 6 wheels w/tires, 16½" mounted and balanced: 4 Michelins (good condition), 2 Toyos—\$450.00
 - Pilot and copilot seats—make offer.
- Call Daryl Wilson at: 206-365-5765



GMC Cascaders

Pris Hardin, Editor
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NEW AREA CODE?
PLEASE notify our secretary so your records will be up to date.

Cascaders SOUTH in Indio

Snowbird Cascaders arrived in the Indio area of southern California in a steady stream this winter. Regulars at the Rancho Casa Blanca (RCB) resort found themselves hosting a parade of guests and longer term visitors. Masts, Reeds, Richardsons, the Daryl Wilsons, and Karl Cunningham and Maurene entertained short-term guests: Allens and Irelands. Longer term visitors included: Spelts, Cooks, and Hardins. Earl and Marley Becker of Lake Havasu City also entertained travelling Cascaders.

Carol and Dean Richardson hosted a sourdough breakfast with Hardins for all the RCB "regulars" with Cooks, Irelands, and Spelts as visitors (right).

See photos on page 5 of Mast's spaghetti feed when Allens came through Indio.



Photo by Irelands

Rally Schedule 1997

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	Hosts
April 18-20	Portland, OR	Jantzen Beach RV Park	Boyds, Groths, & Frydenlunds
June 12-15	Lynden, WA	Lynden KOA RV Park	Ovens, Paradis, Calhouns & Eerkes
BONUS RALLY—July 9-13	Arlington, WA	Arlington Airfield (<i>dry camp</i>)	Wilsons, Richardsons & Cupples
September 3-7	Walla Walla, WA	Four Seasons RV Park	John and Lauree Miller
October 3-5	Sisters, OR	Mountain Shadow RV Park	Alan and Margaret Bovee
December 5-7	Cannon Beach, OR	Cannon Beach RV	Diers, Frys, Jones, & Ragsdales

Watch future issues of the GMC Cascaders News for possible changes to the above schedule.

