



YES, YOU CAN
RELIABLY TAKE YOUR
GMC ON A CROSS
COUNTRY ADVENTURE

We did 11,000+ miles, 20 states, 4 Canadian provinces in
just under 3 months with virtually no issues, and you can too



*Jerry & Sharon Work
78 Royale, Kerby, Oregon*

HERE IS HOW

- * Today we will talk about how we prepared ourselves and our coach for this trouble free adventure,
- * Share with you a number of modifications that made it easy to live in the small space of a GMC for that long a period of time without killing one another,
- * and, if there is time, talk about how our GMC's came into being and what the engineers did to make it possible for us to enjoy them for everything from long trips to weekend outings now, decades later.

BUT, FIRST....

- ✿ Let's welcome all of you who are attending a GMC Western States rally for the first time. Please stand up and introduce yourselves.

Now, Back to our Adventure

We took the less significant roads that were paved, and that put us squarely in small town America and Canada

Here in a small town in the mid-west with two RV spots in their city park



*Along beautiful beaches in New
Brunswick*



IN QUAIN T SMALL TOWNS IN NOVA SCOTIA



TO THE LARGEST WOODEN CHURCH IN
NORTH AMERICA....



*...and through some of the most
picturesque scenery one can imagine!*

TO A POTATO MUSEUM, "CAN'T MISS" PHOTOGENIC SEACOAST TOWNS, AND EVEN A SEAWEED PIE CAFE WAY OUT ON THE TIP OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.....



FROM BRIGHT BLUE SKY.....



...TO WHERE DID THAT STORM COME FROM?!



The good news is, storms always pass



LET'S TURN TO OUR PREPARATION FOR
MAKING THE GMC OUR HOME ON THE
ROAD

- ❖ If our purpose is to meet a fixed goal, a 35 yr. old motorcoach is not the way to start out
- ❖ GMC allows little private space or solitary time
- ❖ Teamwork/agreement - give & take are required- from daily chores to bigger decisions about destinations & desires
- ❖ Be patient, flexible, adaptable and honor the other, we depend on each other
- ❖ Realize our uniqueness, attractiveness to strangers. The GMC is a celebrity so be open to curiosity, adoration, folks' needs to share & to learn. Some are potential owners.

BEFORE WE CAN LEAVE HOME WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE MUNDANE DETAILS

- * Set up bills for automatic payment
- * Make arrangements about your mail
- * Stop paper, garbage, deliveries
- * Make arrangements for care of houseplants, “goldfish and turtles”, garden watering
- * Empty refrigerator if possible, turn it off and block the doors open
- * Put hot water on vacation hold
- * Unplug remotely controlled appliances so they don’t come on unexpectedly
- * Transfer all dated foods from cupboards to coach
- * Remove from coach any appliances not used often, i.e., rice cooker, French press
- * Take a notebook for diary, gas log (date of fill-up, location, amount, running total and cumulative mileage)
- * Arrange for medicine and vitamins to continue your usual regimen
- * Be sure to have sunscreen for any time of year
- * Take clothes for all seasons but we usually carry way too many
- * Have work clothes and beach shoes

WITH DETAILS OUT OF THE WAY, BACK TO
GETTING YOURSELF READY

- * Teamwork/agreement - give & take are required- from daily chores to bigger decisions about destinations & desires.
- * Be patient, flexible, adaptable and honor your partner. We depend on each other as we are daily in new situations.
- * Realize our uniqueness, attractiveness to strangers. The GMC is a celebrity so be open to curiosity, adoration, folks' need to share & to learn. Some are potential owners.

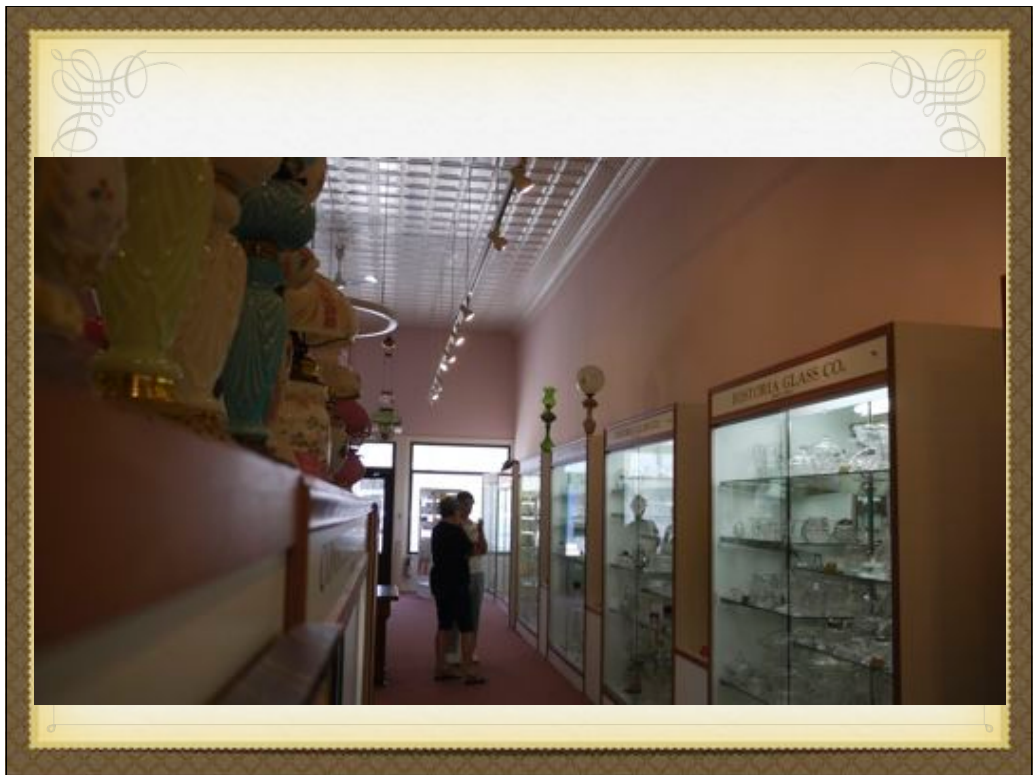


*Examples of give
and take ...*



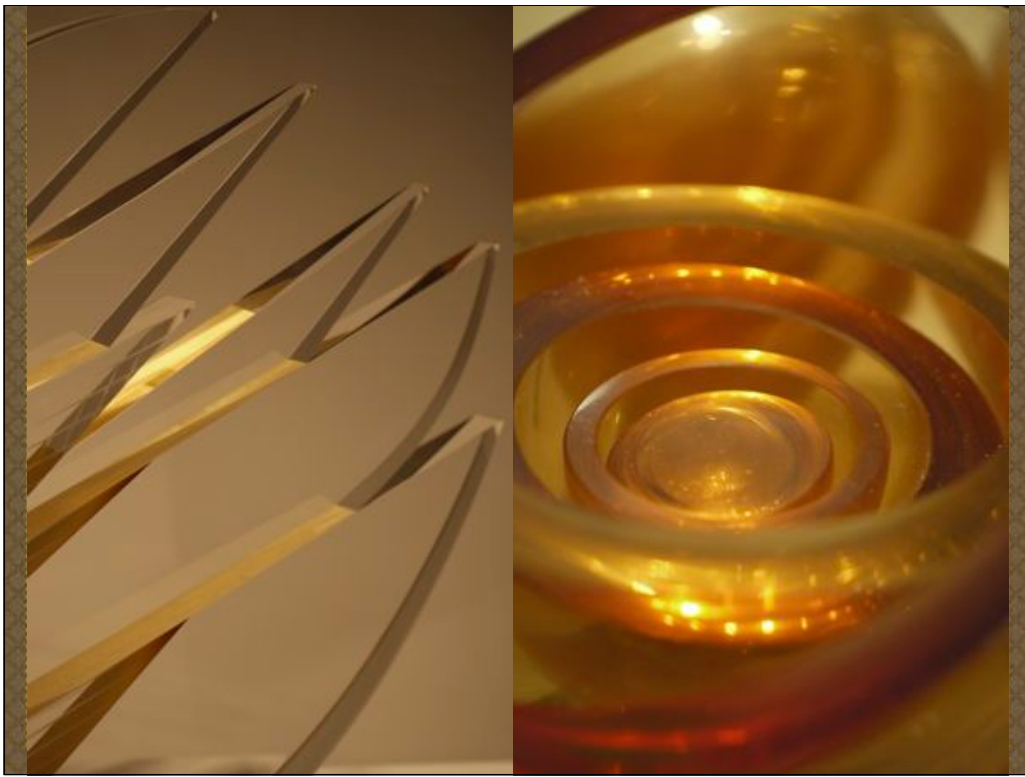


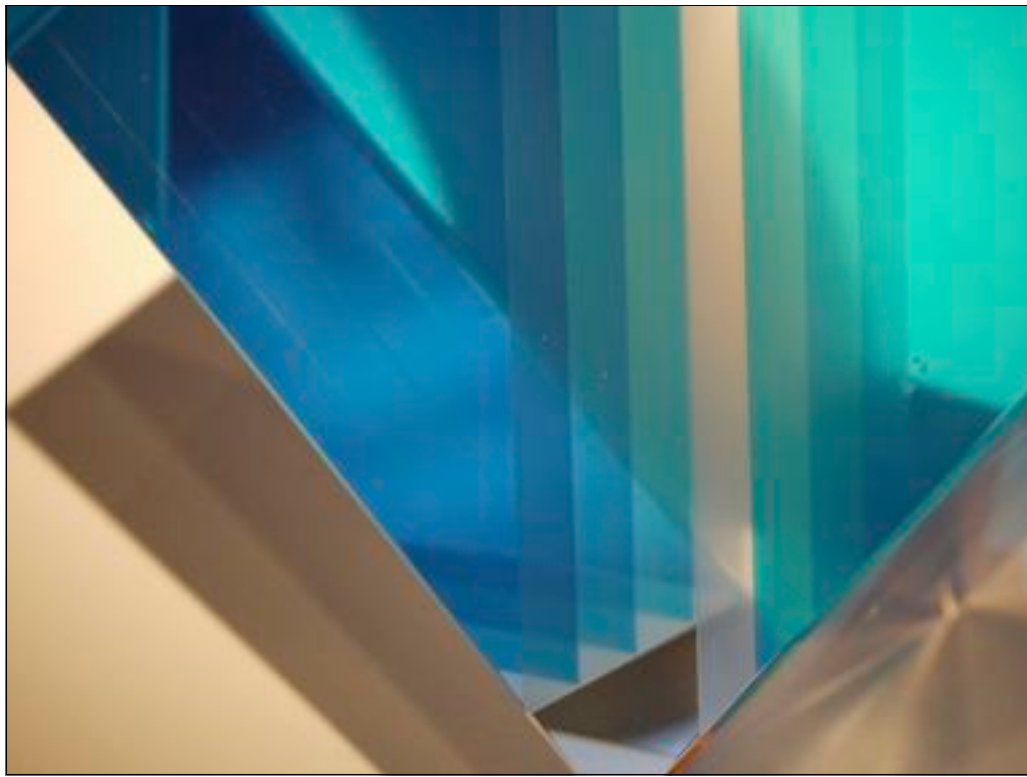
*Examples of give
and take*

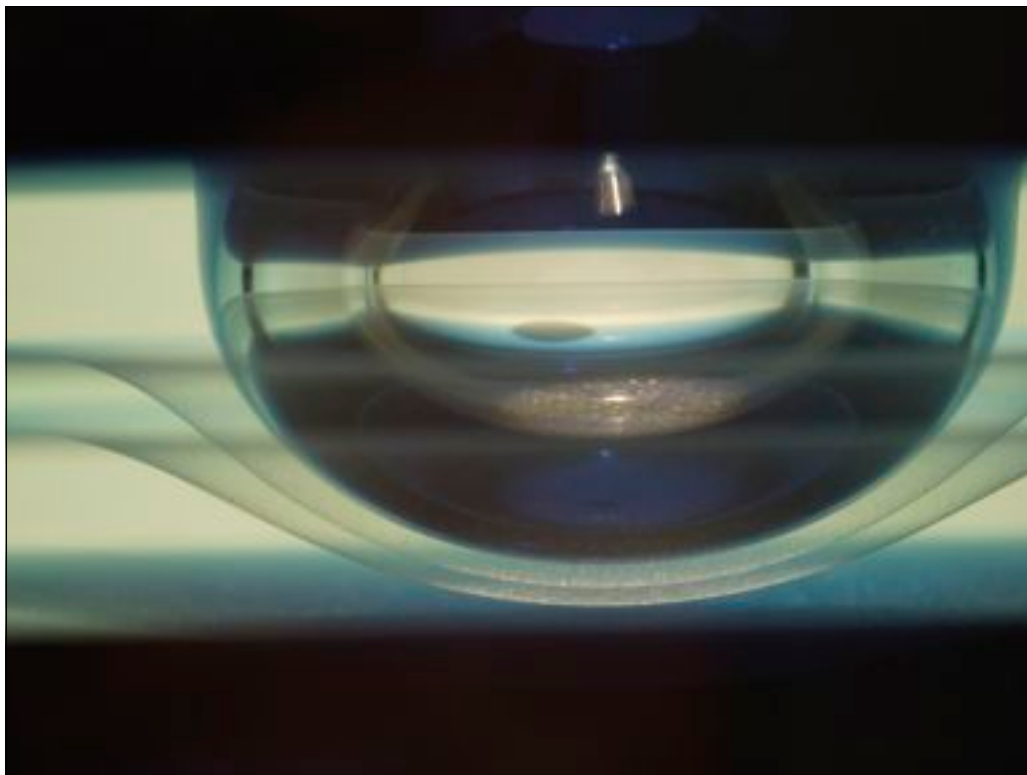


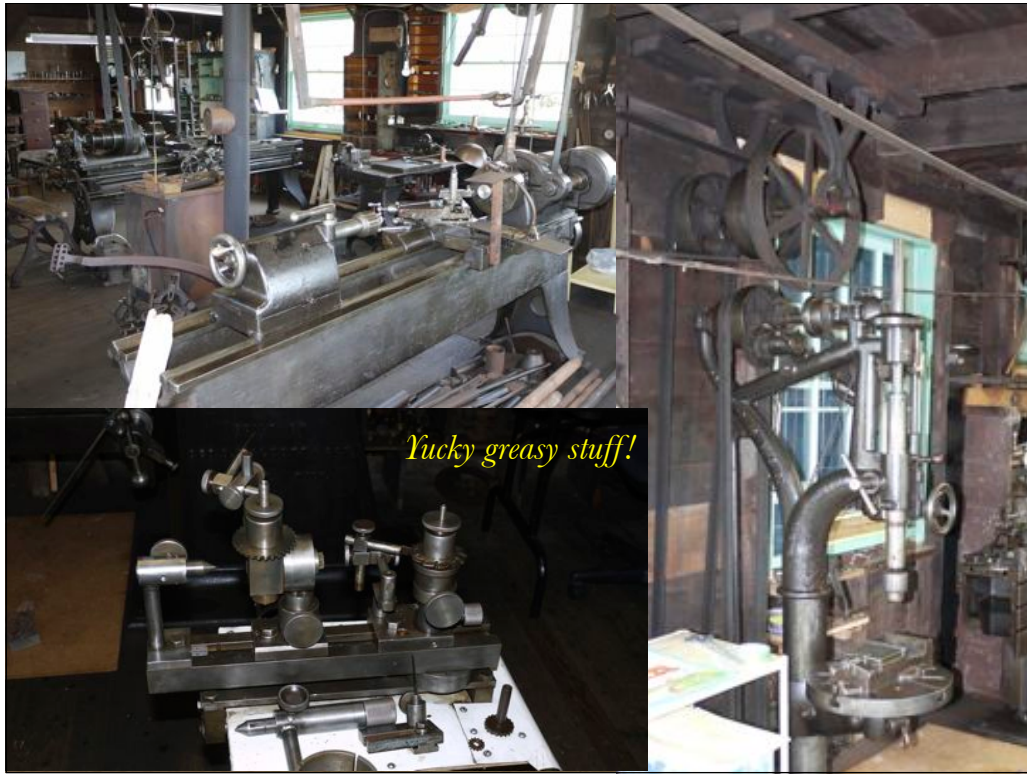












Yucky greasy stuff!

*Anne of Green Gables is
much more my thing*



Patience is often required!



*One more time, your stimulus
money at work!*





*No matter where you go,
someone always wants to talk
GMC*



*Even potential future owners while touring a Frank Lloyd
Wright house*



*And brand new GMC owners in the strangest
places*



*From another potential future owner came an invitation to stay
at his 1700's home in historic Deerfield Village, MA*



THIS IS NOT A TRAVELOGUE, BUT LET'S
LOOK AT A FEW MORE PICS ANYWAY....

*Here is what a really small ferry looks like when you are
out in the boondocks....*



AND HERE IS A BIG ONE GOING TO PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND.....



JUST FOR FUN, HERE IS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO
REVISIT MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING
NEARLY 50 YEARS LATER!



*Amherst, MA, 1962 and
2010, same parking spot*

PREPPING THE COACH

- * The big six for reliability
- * The big five for living well on board
- * The big five for fun and staying connected
- * Some interesting modifications that solved minor annoyances for us. Even minor annoyances can become major when you live in your GMC for weeks or months at a time.

THE BIG SIX FOR RELIABILITY

- * **Make sure your tires have good tread and are less than five years old.** Have your tire dealer inspect them for bulges or signs of deterioration. You don't want to deal with a blowout on the road!
- * **Pay special attention to your radiator.** The old ones can be hard to repair on the road and the new aluminum one will keep your engine cool in any weather or terrain. Change the fluid, hoses & belts before leaving home.
- * **Have your brakes inspected and the brake fluid changed.** Easy to do at home, very expensive to have done on the road.
- * **Make sure your alternator and starter motor are good** - again, cheap and easy to test or change at home, but a real nuisance and expensive to have done on the road.
- * **Have your exhaust system checked thoroughly by a competent muffler shop.** A hole in an exhaust pipe can burn through the wooden floor of your coach and leaking exhaust fumes can be very dangerous.
- * **Re-gear your coach!** Whether you tow or not, coast-to-coast trips mean mountains and the original gearing is just too high to be comfortable and it puts an undo strain on your whole coach.

THERE IS A MACHINE TO CHANGE OUT ALL
FOUR CRITICAL FLUIDS - EVEN OUR LITTLE 3
STOPLIGHT TOWN HAS THEM



*Power steering
fluid changer*



*Transmission
fluid changer*



Engine coolant changer



Brake fluid changer



THE BIG FIVE FOR LIVING WELL ON BOARD

- * Make sure your generator starts easily and runs reliably as you will use it a lot on a long trip, especially if it is hot and muggy outside!
- * The refrigerator is the most used appliance in your coach. Be sure it cools properly both on propane and on AC. You can't live well on board without it.
- * Once we crossed the continental divide our dash air was never off. The roof air was on nearly every time we parked somewhere. 90/90 in a GMC is no fun if either fails to work correctly. Make sure yours are in good shape before you leave.
- * You only need your furnace when you need it.....but, when you need it there are few alternatives unless you are plugged into shore power. Again, they are easy to diagnose and fix at home, but they can be a bear to fix on the road.
- * Same with your hot water heater. On a long trip you really want to have hot water whenever you want it! I can't imagine a cold shower on the road.....

THE BIG FIVE FOR FUN AND STAYING CONNECTED WHILE ON THE ROAD

- * Auto satellite finder and a flat panel TV with a digital tuner. You will use these nearly every day so why not change out that old stuff now?
- * A lap top computer or an iPad with a data plan can keep you on the internet and with GPS navigation no matter where you are. We used our iPad several hours every day and it was perfect for the small interior of a GMC.
- * A cell phone with broad coverage is a great convenience and the new, no contract plan units from places like Walmart are really affordable and work well all over the country.
- * Folding chairs, a folding table, a good BBQ and bikes within easy reach from the ground are really useful. We took off our roof pod and mounted everything on the back, so no more climbing...
- * Bicycles give you mobility without having to tow. We love our folding bikes.....

WE USE THEM EVERYWHERE FROM CRUISE
SHIPS TO GMC-ING TO SIGHTSEEING LOCALLY

On the balcony of the Amsterdam to Alaska



IN ANCHORAGE ON A CLEAR DAY AND AT THE
GOV'S PLACE IN JUNEAU ON OUR 50TH...





READY TO LEAVE

No pod and everything within easy reach on the back



We found we never needed the ladder or top rails so removed them, too, when we got back

SO, HOW DO YOU MAKE IT EASY TO ACCESS
BIKES, CHAIRS, TABLES, AND A BBQ FROM THE
GROUND WITH NO ROOF POD?

*I designed and built a slick rack that fits over the spare tire and holds the
folding bikes horizontally by their seat tubes*



TOP VIEW

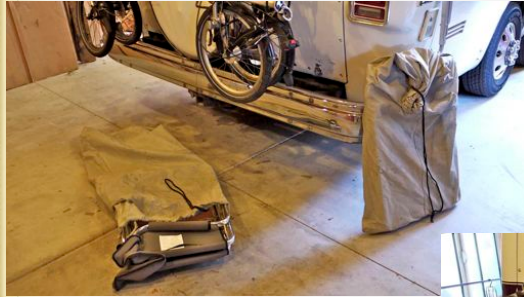


TAKES LESS THAN A MINUTE TO MOUNT OR
DISMOUNT THE BIKES

Built in cable locks keep them secure



THE FOLDING CHAIRS FIT INTO BAGS AND
THEY GO ON NEXT, BEHIND THE BIKES



FINALLY, THE FOLDING TABLE AND BBQ,
EVERYTHING CAN BE REACHED FROM THE
GROUND



AND IT ALL ONLY STICKS OUT ABOUT 10"
BEYOND THE SPARE TIRE



When we left we still had the ladder and top rails in place. We stuffed one chair and the folding table behind the ladder and that partially blocked the rear window.

We found we never needed either the ladder or the top rails the whole time we were on this trip, so when we got home we removed them also. That allowed everything on the rear of the coach to tuck down below the rear window.

We can't begin to tell you how convenient this arrangement turned out to be!

ANOTHER GOOD ADDITION



Auto satellite dishes like this Winegard Roadtrip unit are great time savers. They can be mounted either on the ladder or on the roof. If you park under trees you want to be able to remove the unit and take to where there is a clear view of the southern sky. Climbing to get to it is a pain.

So, I designed and built a vertical mount that allows it to lock up for normal use or slide down for easy removal from the ground. Extension cables plug into receptacles installed through the back wall of the coach.

DO A COUPLE MORE THINGS TO INCREASE YOUR SATELLITE TV ENJOYMENT



Call your sat. co. and have them send you a RF remote so you can put the receiver anywhere



Build an extension to make one OH cabinet deeper to hold the receiver more easily. Use the original door so it matches your original interior



WE ALSO BUILT A SPACE FOR THE RECEIVER BESIDE THE DRIVERS SEAT WHEN THE TV IS ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER FOR VIEWING FROM THE DINETTE.

Receiver lives here for forward viewing



The TV rides safely tucked beside the passenger seat

LAST THING TO TALK ABOUT IS THE DINING TABLE

- * In our coach the large kitchen and dinette are forward, the seating area is in the rear lounge, so no couch up front
- * The table was large and awkward to set up and take down, and it was intimidating for guests coming in
- * We shortened it by 3" so two people can now pass each other when one is standing at the kitchen counter
- * And, I designed an articulating hinge so the table can be set up or self-stored out of the way against the wall in a few seconds.

SELF STORING TABLE





HINGE DETAIL

It is done with a sliding dovetail vertical member to mount the hinge so it always stays against the wall and levers to articulate the mounted table to sit on the floor when stored



FINAL STATISTICS

- * We covered 11,000+ miles, 20 states and 4 Canadian provinces in just under three months circumnavigating the Maritime Provinces in eastern Canada from So. Oregon.
- * We consumed 1,300+ gallons of fuel, 25 gallons of propane, used only a quart of Mobile 1 15-50 synthetic oil every 2,500 miles between oil changes, and needed no additional coolant, transmission, brake or power steering fluid.
- * We lost a starter solenoid for no apparent reason when we first started out in Bend, OR, blew the PS front boggy tire in the middle of Iowa (replaced for free nine weeks later when we got back west to a Les Schwab tire center) and shook a plate loose in the starting battery on the very rough roads on Cape Breton, NS.
- * Oh, and just before getting home we rubbed a hole in the dash air low pressure line. That's it. And, that is how and why our GMC's are such great vehicles for a cross country adventure!

QUESTIONS
