

1978 GMC History

26' Royal Model – Most Deluxe GMC Model – Mileage 109370 – VIN# - TZE368V100616

Our personal history with a GMC Motorhome started in late 1978 when we decided to purchase a new 1978 Royal model.

We lived in Wyoming and often went to Denver to concerts and to enjoy the big city activities, as we passed a Pontiac Dealership my wife noticed a new GMC motorhome in their new car lot, she always really wanted a motorhome, so we pulled in and looked at it. We both fell in love with it, it was the last one left, so we bought it on that Saturday, had our banker forward them the money, \$58,000 and drove it home after the Electric Light Orchestra Concert that we went to Denver to attend. It was the most deluxe model that GMC made.

We owned it for about 10 years, took many trips in it around the U. S. A. and Canada, our kids were ski racing at the time so used it to attend many ski races all over the Western U. S. A. We let my wife's sister and new husband take it on their Honey Moon, we let my wife's parents take it on their 50th Wedding Anniversary up into Canada. Some of the best times in our life bring back memories in this incredible motorhome.

About 5 years ago we were getting ready to retire and thinking back about how much we really enjoyed our years in our motorhome, we decided to look for another one. After much searching, I found one for sale below Colorado Springs, so we scheduled a trip to go look at it. It looked to be in good mechanical shape, the previous owner took good care of it mechanically. We went through all the records that he faithfully kept over the years. It had about 105,000 miles on it, or about 2,500 miles per year over the 40 years. He had spent more than \$18,000 on repairs during these years, having the engine, transmission, Air Ride Suspension and just about everything else rebuilt as needed. During these years, his focus was more on the mechanical areas and the interior and body area were still original.

So, I looked it all over and took it for a test drive, it ran fine, so we purchased it. It ran so well, that I decided to drive it to up I25 to Denver. I initially drove it at 55mph, but it didn't want to go that slow, so I stepped it up to 65 mph after a several miles, it ran perfectly. There is this very long steep hill just south of Denver, it was running so well that I decided to see what it would do going up this steep long hill, as I could afford to have it towed from there if it had any problems. It climbed that hill at 75 mph and in fact passed a new \$200k motorhome in the right lane chugging up that hill.

Once I got it home I got to go through just about everything, I took it to an automotive shop that I have used for years and had them check out all the drive train, etc. They replaced some things like filters and even a section of the gas line. I took it to the Onan Generator Dealer and had him go through the Motor/Generator, he replaced the filter and oil, it was in excellent

condition. I took it to two different RV shops and had them go through the Air Conditioners, Heating System, I replaced one of the batteries. I have had it emission tested twice over the years, it passed just fine.

So mechanically it proved to be in very good shape, however the carpet and upholstery were original and quite worn, plus it needed new curtains and drapes. The Solid Walnut was in excellent shape, just need polishing with Liquid Gold and looked like new. So, its first restoration steps started with the selection of all new carpet and upholstery, then it spent about a month at the upholstery shop. Then on to have new curtains made. I felt that the window shade system was not well designed by GMC, one of the few items that was not done to perfection so designed and built a new window shade system, which utilizes Insulated Shades that go up and down in special tracks that I built for them. I have the molds for these tracks and whoever buys this motorhome should finish this design off and sell them to every GMC Motorhome owner.

We tiled the kitchen and bathroom walls, installed a folding privacy door between the back-bedroom and the front. I installed a special roof mounted Satellite System, which works as a GPS system plus also gets TV anywhere in the USA. I installed two 32" flat screen TV's, one in the living room and one in the back bedroom which fold up out of the way when not in use. I purchased a Special Satellite tracking software package which tracks your constant location and displays it on a laptop mounted on a special console I made that sits between the two front seats. I also purchased a color rear view camera which is linked wirelessly to the laptop. Purchased an auxiliary 12-volt ice cube maker, have matching towels, tool kit, memory foam mattress and sheets, plus changed all the interior lighting over to new LED lighting.

Once the interior was completed just the way we wanted it, I changed my focus to totally upgrading the entire exterior of the motorhome. About this same time my wife was diagnosed with COPD and we soon realized that she couldn't travel as originally planned as she got worse and worse she could not leave the house much at all. So, I was already into renovating the exterior of the motorhome, so installed a new roof storage box, then completely painted the roof and exterior of the motorhome. At the same time, I designed a new graphics package for the exterior and totally redid the exterior of the motorhome. I got quotations to have it painted in the \$15,000 area so decided to do it myself. I also changed all the exterior lighting over to LED lighting

The following page lists everything that the previous owner did to the motorhome plus everything I have done and added to the motorhome.

My name is Jim Kuzara, we live in Denver, Colorado. Phone # 720-212-5212

Previous Owner Upgrades to this Motorhome:

I have all his records, which add up to just over \$18,500 for the following items.

Rebuilt, Engine, Transmission, Air Ride, Furnace, Plumbing, New Tires, Brakes, Suspension, etc., his focus was more on all the mechanicals of the motorhome.

My Upgrades to this Motorhome:

Since all the above were taken good care of by the previous owner, my focus was on all other areas of the motorhome as listed below:

All New Carpet: \$3,000

All New Upholstery: \$5,000

New Drapes: \$1,000

New Insulated slide down Blinds: \$1,000

Special Slid down Blind Track System: \$1,500

Glass Tile in Kitchen and bathroom: \$300

All new LED Interior Lighting: \$500

2 – 32" TV's and fold away system: \$700

12-volt to 110-volt power converters: \$200

Satellite Tracking System for TV & Navigation: \$1,000

Color Rear View Camera System: \$300

GPS Satellite Navigation System: \$300

New Roof top storage Box: \$400

Roof mounted Solar Panel and Controls: \$500

All new LED Roof Clearance Lights: \$400

All new LED headlights, Tail Lights & Side Marker Lights: \$400

New Body Side Molding: \$200

Powder Coat Front & Rear Bumpers: \$200

Fiberglass Rear Tire Cover & Aluminum Fold Up Step: \$250

New Custom Graphics and Exterior Paint: \$10,000

New Hood Emblems: \$100

Added Foldaway Back Bedroom Privacy Door: \$100

Estimated Total: \$27,350

Things that need to be completed:

Install Solar Panel on Roof Mounted Storage Box

Wire in both TV's to Power Inverters, Finish wiring Satellite Dish & Mount Rear View Camera.

Get set up with Direct TV and Install Software in Laptop for Satellite Tracking System.

1978 Classic GMC Royal Motorhome



Fully Restored – Second Owner – Have all records from first owner who had just about every mechanical thing rebuilt over the years that he owned it, Engine, Transmission, Brakes, Suspensions, New Tires etc.

He took super care of his baby.

Purchased it about 5 years ago and started to upgrade everything else as listed below.

- **All new Exterior Paint & Custom Graphic Design, Bumpers are Powder Coated.**
- **New Roof Satellite System with Navigation Software**
- **Front Center Console Record Storage with Laptop and Navigation Software installed can view exactly where you are or switch to the color Rear View Camera.**
- **New Large Roof Storage Box.**
- **Solar Panel Installed on top of Roof Storage Box.**
- **2 roof top air conditioners, plus engine operated Air Conditioning**
- **All Exterior LED lighting, including Headlights Direction Signals & Taillights**
- **New Tires, Air Springs& Shock Absorbers**
- **Roof Ladder and Fiberglass Spare Tire Cover**
- **Aluminum Fold Down Door Step Plate**

1978 GMC Driving Area



The Front Driver's Area has all new curtains to cover the front windshield plus separate the drivers area from the front living area.

The seats have new upholstery, plus new carpet on the floor.

We have also added a center console that contains all the maintenance records on the motorhome from the first owner over the years.

This console was built to also allow us to keep our laptop on it as we drive down the road. We also purchased an incredible software package that is a navigation system where you can schedule your entire trip and the GPS device keeps track of where you are on your designed route as shown on the lap top screen. We also bought a Color Rear View Camera which will be connected wirelessly to the laptop such that you can see behind you also as you are going down the road. Plus you can use the Lap Top for various other uses on your trips.

I haven't hooked in the Rear View Camera yet but all parts are there. If you plan to tow a vehicle behind your motorhome the Rear View Camera will really come in handy.

1978 GMC Front Dining & Bedroom Area



The left side of this this front area has a long couch which make into a single bed.

The right side has two bench seats which also make into a double bed. Between these bench seats a folding table can be installed which is one of the eating tables in the motorhome, the other one is for the rear of the motorhome.

You can also see the large screen TV in the center photo that folds upright on a special bracket for storage behind the front passenger's seat. It can be rotated to be viewed from different angles. This TV and the other large screen TV in the rear bed room are connected to the Satellite Tracking System that is positioned on the front roof of the motorhome.

This system will allow you to receive TV while going down the road or parked in a camping area. If you look at the white dome on the roof of the motorhome, it has the coolest small satellite tracking system inside of it that spins to aim at the satellite.

With the couch folded down and the bench seats folded down you can sleep three people in this area, we have slept four on ski trips with one person on the floor in the center on an air mattress. You can also sleep four on the large bed in the rear.

1978 GMC Custom Window Shade System



From purchasing a new 1978 GMC Royal, just like this one in 1978 and owning it for over 10 years, we found one area that it became lacking in. Our kids were ski racing all over the country during those years and we used it to travel in and live in at many ski resorts all over the USA. We insulated all the plumbing lines, but found that the window shades did not provide much cold weather protection.

Thus one of the first areas that I attacked on this our second motorhome was to develop a good track system of window shades. These tracks allowed me to install insulated window shades in all the windows to keep the motorhome much warmer, especially if you will be using it in the winter. The photos above show these special insulated window shades & tracks.

The photos below shows our original 1978 GMC motorhome with our Jeep towed behind it. If we got into a deep snow area going to a ski slope, my wife would get in the Jeep and start it up, when I put the brakes on the motorhome she would put them on the Jeep. When the brakes lights were not on she would give the Jeep some gas and basically push the motorhome, giving us 6 wheel drive. We could go into any ski area that had a lot of snow on the road when other cars could not make it there.



1978 GMC Kitchen Area



The kitchen has a double sink, built in blender and a two burner stove top unit. The microwave is under the stove top unit. The refrigerator is on the opposite wall with the freezer in the top and refrigerator in the bottom. The refrigerator operates from the 110 volt or 12 volts. We also purchased a separate 12 volt ice maker. The furnace also operates from the thermostat on the front wall of the refrigerator.

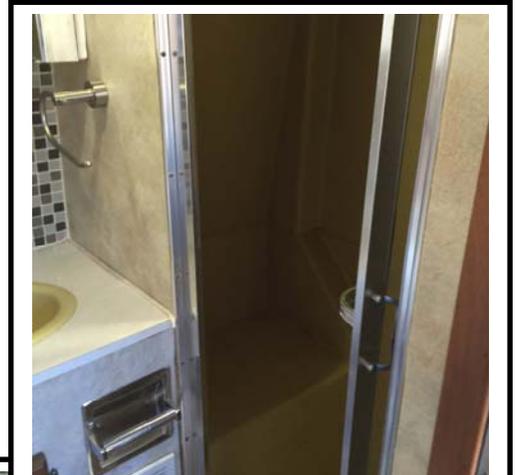
There are storage drawers in the kitchen cabinets, plus all the side and back walls of the motorhome have upper storage cabinets to carry a lot of things, the cabinets are all solid walnut and look like new.

The motor generator is located under the rear bed area, with a battery in that area, plus there are two batteries under the hood. The Refrigerator, Stove and Furnace all run on propane.

There is also a built in Vacuum Cleaner System built into the motorhome, just plug in the flexible hose and you can clean the entire motorhome interior.

There is a large storage area under the trailer floor just in back of the entry door.

1978 GMC Bathroom Area



- **New Carpet**
- **New Ceramic Tile on Bathroom Walls**
- **New Sink**
- **Door with mirror on inside & full length outside mirror**
- **New LED Lighting**
- **New Towel & Toilet Paper Bars**

1978 GMC Rear Bedroom Area



You can see from the first photo above that the rear bedroom goes all the way across the width of the Motorhome. It is set up normally as a “U” shaped seating area with a table that goes in the center where you can eat on or play cards, etc. When you wish to make it into a large bed you just slide out the side sections and it , makes into a King size bed. We have slept up to four people in this large bed.

The large screen TV folds up tight to the wall when not in use and then fold down as shown on the last photo for viewing. It is powered by a 12 volt to 110 v power inverter and is fed TV signals from the Satellite Tracking system on the roof of the motorhome.

Both sides of the ceiling in this bedroom are lined with overhead storage areas also. We also installed a privacy folding door to separate the rear bedroom if desired.

You can see that there is a separate thermostat for the bedroom, plus behind the TV you will see one of the two large closets, one on each side of the motorhome plus sets of drawers below each closet.

1978 GMC Options



You can see both roof mounted Air Conditioner system in the upper two photos one for the front area and one for the rear area, plus you also have the engine air conditioner system for going down the road.

This also shows the portable 12 volt Ice Maker.

This shows that roof mounted Solar Panel which goes on top of the large storage box on the roof. I haven't installed it yet or hooked the system up to supply power to the 12 volt system.

When we purchased this motorhome and started to restore it a number of years ago my wife was in better health and could travel. She now has COPD and cannot travel so our dreams of traveling again in our older years is not possible so we have to give up our dream of traveling in our motorhome as we really enjoyed when we were younger and must sell our baby.

I think you can probably tell that we have spent a lot of time and money getting it ready for the journeys we cannot take.