



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

Covering Parts of Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, & West Virginia

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

Winter 2019



Belated

From the President

What a Wild & Wacky Winter!

These temperature swings and pressure changes sure are making our weather an interesting thing to watch. Now that the deep freeze has set in (for a few days at least), it is time to start thinking (dreaming?) about RVing this summer. Karen and I sure are looking forward to the rallies and to all the other events already set for 2019. We also have two cruises booked; one with a month long trip which includes a 10-day visit with the grandkids. So looking forward to that.

You may have heard about the accounting kerfuffle that has been happening with our FMCA Area Executive. It looks like some mistakes along with some other issues have led the FMCA Executive Board to ask the Area Exec to resign and a new President has been assigned. If anyone has aspirations on FMCA Area Board work.

I am sure she could use all the help she can get. Let me know if you want more details.

In our personal lives, we are working towards shutting down our LillyPad Health business sometime within the next 12 months so we can start to focus on what is coming next. Lots more travel, RVing, YouTubing, Blogging, and so much more. Change is good and we are heading into a load of it so we will keep you informed as life charges forward.

Stay safe and warm this winter. We had lots of fun with many of you in Niagara Falls.

Cheers, Steve



1989 - 2019

Happy Anniversary to us !!!





May Rally – 24-26 – Wellington, Ontario
Karen & Steve Lill
Casa Dea Winery
Info Sheet Included – More detail by the end of March

June & July Rallies – Will be decided based on the results of the meetings and outcome of the August Rally. More later.

August Rally – 2-5 – Canal Days
Port Colborne, Ontario
Emily & Eelko Byker
Tentative only until camping booking can be confirmed in early 2019.

Sept Rally – 13-15 - Rockwood
Conservation Area, Guelph, Ontario
Penny & Cliff Pike

Fall GMCMI Convention -
5-11 October Mansfield, Ohio

Rallies So far

16th Annual Coachless Rally

The 16th Annual Coachless Rally was held January 25-27th 2019, and a wonderful time was had by all, despite the cold, windy weather.

Twenty-four of us gathered at the Holiday Inn in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and a new member, James McAfee from Niagara Falls joined us for dinner and a breakfast.

Friday, we travelled to the Wayne Gretzke Estate Winery and Distillery for a narrated tour and tasting of two wines, two whiskeys, and a scrumptious hot chocolate cocktail. Lunch at the Garrison House helped us to get our bearings afterwards. We were back at the hotel restaurant, Coco's for a great dinner, followed by a gift exchange, which seemed to feature more bottles of "favourites" than we remembered from previous years games.

The next day we traveled to Niagara-on-the-Lake and got to see their famous ice sculptures in the middle of Queen Street. They also served great smelling soups and a variety of local wines. We lunched at the Shaw Festival Coffee and Wine Bar. (all 20 of us!) Back at the Holiday Inn, we were happy to meet with Dot Boehler, one of our founding members and former presidents. She looks and sounds as terrific as always.



Dot & Ian



Almost 1000 feet up !!



The day was “topped” off with dinner at the rotating Skylon Restaurant for the best view of the Falls. Even our 15 minute wait for them to find our reservation didn’t stop our good time. One more breakfast at Coco’s the next morning helped fortify us for the repacking of our cars on a frigid morning to travel home. What a great time we had talking and laughing all weekend !!



A very special thanks for all the organization and work that Lois & Fran Urbanski and Mary & John Peazel put into the weekend from all who attended.

In Memoriam

Alice Daniel passed away on 1 January while in hospital. She and Ed were some of the original founding members of the Heritage Cruisers in 1989 and continued to attend some rallies up to and including July 2018.

New Members

Ted Lister & Diana Corriveau of Tiny, Ontario joined in November having recently purchased a 1975 Belmont.

Ian & Theresa John of St George, Ontario joined the club just in January, also only owning their coach for a short time.

Welcome to you all and we hope you will enjoy the club and that you attend some rallies this summer.

Club Apparel

If anyone is interested in ordering a Heritage Cruiser T-shirt, navy hoodie, stone colored lined jacket, or any caps with the Heritage Cruiser logo, please email Lois Urbanski at franlo@roadrunner.com. When she gets an order of 12 or more of the same color, they can be ordered. Any size of a color can be ordered. The reference to the Club anniversary will no longer be on the hoodies or T-shirts. See the Summer 2018 newsletter for details.



Reducing Part of Springfield Ignition

Recent EPA regulations has caused Dick Paterson to stop the engine rebuilding of GMC 455 and 403 engines. The other services of Springfield Ignition will continue such as carburetor rebuilding, distributor work, and sale of spark plug wire sets, etc. The loss of this high quality service to the GMC community is a big blow to keeping the classic GMC on the road.

He will be selling off 455/403 blocks, heads, intake manifolds, and complete "buildable" cores. Send Dick an email for what you want and he will put your tag on it.



Membership Dues for 2019

That time of year has come once again. The Chapter dues for 2019 were payable by 1 January 2019. Earlier is better !!!

Complete the dues enclosure and mail it with your dues in either US or Canadian funds to our Treasurer, Nancy Berry. **Check carefully to whom the cheque is to be made out. It is different for US & Canadian funds. The cost of dues is \$12.00.** If you have paid the 2019 dues then there should be no dues enclosure with your newsletter.

On 1 May anyone who has not paid is dropped from the membership and the mailing lists and will miss a newsletter or rally information.



Tech Talk

Coach Fire Prevention

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

There has been much talk about coach fires on Facebook and GMCNet recently. Several coaches have been lost to fire lately, including the only Lake Placid model.

So I would like to remind owners of some preventative maintenance that can prevent a fire. Remember the severe vibration while driving can cause problems if not checked regularly.



Electrical system:

- The House 120 volt system should be checked periodically for loose wire connections. This includes the breaker box connections and outlets. If you are not comfortable doing electrical work, have a licenced electrician do this for you; it should take less than an hour. A loose connection equals resistance and current through resistance produces heat which in-turn increases resistance producing more heat causing thermal runaway and fire! For the few dollars they cost I suggest replacing the existing 40+ year old outlets with a good quality commercial rated outlet. Also replace the kitchen outlet with a Ground Fault Interlock (GFI) outlet for safety.
- The 12 volt system should be checked on both the House and Chassis systems. Look for hanging wires and wires that are rubbing. Plastic split wire loom and wire ties are your friends here. On most coaches there is a heavy #1 wire running from under the front passenger side hood to the back battery. This wire charges the House battery from the engine and provides the Battery Boost function. This wire's insulation breaks down so again use plastic split wire loom and insulated clamps under

the hood and along the front frame rail. Unfortunately, this wire disappears through the firewall and runs through the aluminum frame and insulation. It has been found to be chaffing in some coaches. It's not easy to check, so some have run a new wire in its place underneath the coach. Remember to provide additional protection for it if you run a new wire !

Exhaust system:

- Early coaches had the underside of the wood floor exposed with the hot mufflers right below. This caused charring to the floor and several fires. A suggestion is to mount a heat shield between the floor and the mufflers. Old cookie sheets of the appropriate size work well and your wife will appreciate the new replacement ones you buy her.
- Check the exhaust system for leaks from manifolds to tailpipe.
- Check for oil leaks. Some oozing oil can be expected, but excessive leaks need to be check. Transmission fluid is very flammable.
- Check cooling lines for condition and support fasteners. When was the last time the engine oil cooling lines were replaced ? A failure can dump your engine oil in seconds causing severe engine damage and possible fire !
- Transmission vent has been noted for spewing transmission fluid out and possibly causing a fire when it hits the hot exhaust pipes. GM had a tube fitting to replace the vent so excess transmission fluid could be collected safely in a container. Applied GMC still shows the tube fitting here:
<http://www.appliedgmc.com/prod.itml/icOid/866>

Gasoline fuel lines:

- With today's Ethanol blended Ethanol fuels it is necessary to replace all your existing rubber fuel lines with Barrier lines. I had a section of Ethanol rated, but non-barrier hose fail 4 years after installing it. Here is a link to Gate's barrier hose for

carburetor applications: tinyurl.com/y6ll84w
There is also barrier hose for fuel injection.

- Don't forget the large rubber hose pieces on the filling tube. These are likely to be original and when they fail, they will dump all your tank fuel on the ground! These are specialty moulded large short hoses available from GMC vendors (Applied GMC, Cinnabar etc)
- Avoid rubber hose near the exhaust system and on top of the engine.
-

Propane system and appliances:

- I strongly suggest you have a licenced gas fitter periodically check your coach's propane system and appliances for leaks and damage. They have the specialty testers and tools for the job and you can be sure of the systems safety when they are done.
- Your insurance company may require periodic inspection by a licenced fitter to validate your insurance so check your policy!
-



-
- Be aware that our ASME Qualified tanks are now 40+ years old. I recently read of someone with a leaking weld trying to get it fixed! Water gets trapped in the tank and has no where to go so I can see internal tank corrosion becoming a problem. The Propane gas lines run under the coach where they are subject to weather and road debris. They also run behind internal cabinetry out of sight.

•



- Check for bug nests and other debris in the burner area of your LP fridge. They seem to like the smell of propane and it seems to be a source of fires.
- Check for recalls on your refrigerator. There have been several over the past number of years so be sure to check these on the manufacturer's website.

Other causes:

- Check for rodents nests, leaves and debris on top of the engine, especially after storage. There have been several fires caused by debris on the hot engine.

Smoke, Propane and CO detectors:

- Make sure your alarm units are working correctly, your life depends on them! The RV environment is harsh and these units have a useful lifetime then need to be replaced. Check the label for replacement age and replace if required.
- If battery operated, replace the batteries once a year with good quality Alkaline or recommended battery. DO NOT USE Dollar-Store batteries!!! Test your alarms regularly while camping.

These are some suggestions covering common risks and causes of fire in our RV's. Preventive maintenance and common sense go a long way to keeping us safe.

Rally Photos

If you have rally photos that you would like to share, send them to Cliff Pike, the Club Historian, so they can be included in the archives, digital edition. Cliff takes lots of photos at rallies and you can see them at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133356126@N03/albums>. There is also a link to the rally photos on our web site.



Classified

For Sale: Here is a list of the parts from Dan Stuckey - stuckey@brktel.on.ca or 519-844-2083 :

Macerator kits - only three remaining - \$350 US ea.

One engine sub frame galvanized - \$1795 US .

One rear sub frame galvanized - \$500 US

Four frame cross members galvanized - \$250 US ea.

For Sale: Here also is a list of the remaining parts that Paul Lambke has - 519-443-7543 or phlambke@aol.com:

NEW PARTS

2 sets Moog upper control arm bushings @ \$35.00 = \$70.00

2 sets Moog offset upper control arm bushings @ \$ 41.00 = \$82.00

2 Moog upper ball joints @ \$55.00 = \$110.00

1 Moog lower ball joint @ \$119.00

1 GMC final drive Pinion bearing set @ \$ 135.00

1 Tilton HD gear reduction starter motor @ \$ 525.00

USED PARTS

1 right front wheel knuckle (core) @ \$75.00

1 left front wheel knuckle (core) @ \$75.00

1 final drive assembly (Toro 2.73 ratio) @ \$150.00

2 GMC transmission assemblies \$150.00 = \$300.00

1 drive axle assembly, inner& outer CV joints cleaned, checked, repacked with grease and fitted with new outer boot @ \$125.00

All prices in Cdn dollars.

For Sale – There is still time to order a 2018 version of the GMC story board. There are two left from the last printing. They are \$39.55 Cdn each.

See attached copy. Allan Hamilton - akh@1000island.net.

For Sale - New, never installed, GMC holding tank for sale, Ardemco model GMC-1. <https://ardemco.com/gmc-1-waste-tank/>
Bruce Hislop – 519-274-2000 – bruce@perthcomm.com





Listing of GMC-related items for sale is available to HC members and will only appear for two issues unless otherwise arranged.



2019 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2019 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 24 April to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

May Rally Registration - More Later

2018 GMC Story Board

2019 Final Dues Reminder (Some Members Only)

2018 Financial Report