



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 2020



From the President

So, welcome to 2020, everyone!

We are all looking forward to see what this new year will bring. We have a couple of rallies planned, but we are hoping for a few more people to step up for hosting a rally this summer. I know there are lots of us who are willing to help anyone who can take the lead for one. There are so many wonderful places to visit in our countries that we haven't been to yet!

I'd like to thank last year's rally hosts, especially those who tried it for the first time, and lived through it! Don't make John Peazel do it every year, folks.

I look forward to the Rustbuster. Fran bought me a gavel and I'm not afraid to use it! LOL

Lois



Rallies 2020

22 - 24 May – Belleville, Ontario – Jean & Lorne Hawley – **Info & Registration Attached**

15 -18 June – Carson's Camp - Sauble Beach, Ontario –Podmores & Urbanskis
Info Attached – More Later

July – Open

10 – 12 August – No Host rally in the 1000 Island Area under investigation. It will be a simple gathering where we all camp together and enjoy each others company. See the 1000 Islands on both sides of the border from the 400 foot observation tower and more.

4 - 6 September - Balloon Festival – Dansville, New York – Lills & Dankerts



Note: Some members will be attending the Elvis Festival in Tweed, Ontario – 28 - 30 Aug

Rallies So far

17th Annual Coachless Rally



23 – 26 January We once again gathered at the Holiday Inn in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

This year we were greeted with warmer than usual temperatures that made for more comfortable outdoor activity. There were 22 of us, in 11 rooms at the hotel.



We traveled to Lewiston, NY on Friday for a great tour of the Niagara Power Project. Cathy was our knowledgeable tour guide, who made it fun to see how a drop of water made it through the intakes to produce electricity. There was a movie about the history of Niagara Power and a 4D shake-the-chairs animated movie. What fun!



Great video between Tesla & Edison !!

We had a raucous steal the gift-card game, and lots of dominoes, tech talk, and shopping!

A great time was had by all, most especially by the hosts, the Urbanskis and Peazels! A big thanks to them for all their efforts and leading us to the activities.



2019 Financial Report

The 2019 financial Report is attached.



Membership Dues for 2020

That time of year has come once again. The Chapter dues for 2020 are payable by 1 January 2020. 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 to. It is different for US & Canadian funds. The cost of dues is \$12.00.** If you have paid the 2020 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.

Important Question - Should We Separate from FMCA?

by Steve Lill

I have taken on the task of sharing what I know of our connection to FMCA and some recent changes that have occurred with them and with other GMC chapters within FMCA. As many of you know, one of the many benefits of FMCA membership is the FMCAssist program. They will help you through a difficult medical related issue and if necessary help you get your coach back home. Many claim this one benefit is the reason to join FMCA.

A recent FMCA 2019 budget discussion showed that this service was losing money and needed to raise premiums up to 20%. At the rally and official FMCA meeting last fall, the delegates learned this number was a 73% increase and as a group voted to

increase FMCA member dues by +\$25. per year to help cover it. Many members who have no interest in this type of insurance program voted against it but it was approved. This has triggered several groups including GMCMi and GMC Great Lakers to vote to pull out of FMCA and we will soon be asking you this same question. What does this mean for GMC Heritage Cruisers? We will still remain the non-profit organization we have always been but will not be connected to FMCA. This means we lose their insurance coverage of our events and of our Directors. We also lose access to their list of benefits which include their magazine, FMCAssist, and many other discounts offered. Some of these are available to our Canadian members but many are not. On the other hand, this also means we do not have to force our members to also join FMCA each year at a cost of an extra US\$75. (CDN\$100)/year. This means that a number of Associate members may now become full members. The Executive will be doing some research on getting Directors insurance so contact Lois if you have any insight into this process.

Your executive will soon be sharing more details along with a resolution that you will vote on. Remember that this is for the club to separate from FMCA, not to force you to quit your membership with FMCA. That will remain a personal choice that each of you retains. It just means you can join us without being forced to join FMCA. Stay tuned and safe travels!

Steve

National Director & Past President

Tech Talk



Time to Replace my Tires?

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

As I write this it is the end of January, but it will likely be the end of February by the time you are reading this Newsletter. Soon you will be planning the summer trips and thinking about maintenance you need to do on your Coach.

One thing you should check of course is your tires. The tires on RV's tend to age out before they wear out. Tires decay over time leaving them weaker and more prone to blow-outs. The damage a blow-out can cause to your coach can easily exceed the cost of a new set of tires. So replacing them in a timely manner makes good sense. Most agree that 5 years is a good time frame with 7 years being the maximum.



So how can you tell how old your tires are ? Stamped into every tire is a four digit date code showing the year and week of manufacture. For example, 2910 means the tire was made in the 29th week of 2010 so it is now 10 years old and should be

considered for replacement. Tires start to age from the time they were manufactured, it is important to check this date code, not from the date you purchased the tires. So when you buy new tires, be sure to insist on fresh tires, not ones that have been sitting in a warehouse for a long time. Tires on a super sale might also be older tires, so be aware.

If you have the original steel wheels (rims) you are likely running 16.5" tires. This tire size is no longer popular. To my knowledge Firestone is the only Manufacturer still making tires in this size and weight rating. You may find that that size is a special order at your local tire store. If you require a replacement tire while on the road you may need to wait several days for them. Therefore, if your tires are due for replacement, it may also be time to consider replacing your wheels as well to the more popular 16" size. New aluminum wheels are a significant investment, however in my opinion, they add much value to the coach in both appearance and resale value.

When buying replacement wheels there are several things you need to know. If you are not knowledgeable in such things, this may be one time it might be prudent to buy them from a GMC Vendor. Our wheels are dually style and the shape must be checked to be sure they will clear the brakes. The OEM steel wheels were "Hub Centered", however I believe Applied GMC is the only Vendor who has wheels made especially for our hub. The other style is "Lug Centered" which some people don't like, however I have Hub Centered wheels and have no issues.

I'm not going to get into the pros and cons of one tire brand verses another. Everyone has their favourite and not so favourite brand. Any name-brand LT (light truck) tire should be good. A more aggressive tread

gives better traction on grass, but runs hotter and noisier on roadways. As I said earlier, you are more likely to age-out your tires than wear them out.

Those on a budget can elect to replace an axle every 2 years. This would replace the tires every 6 years. In this case I would put the new tires on the front axle each time as the front tires have the most stress put on them. Then move the existing tires back one axle. The rear tires would then be discarded. In this case you might want to check the date code of every tire so as to replace the oldest tires first.

As I said earlier, tires age out before they wear-out. While the existing tires might have significant tread left, the cost of repairing the body damage from a blow-out is considerably more than the cost of a new set of tires (even including new wheels). Safety first!

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 – There one Story Board left from the last printing. It is \$39.55 Cdn. 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 = bhislop76@gmail.com



For Sale – 1975 Canyon Lands stretched to 28 feet with twin beds and many upgrades since the 1989 purchase. The coach won second place at the 25th GMCM I Anniversary Convention. In addition to many, many upgrades it includes a tow bar and stone guard. \$19,000 Cdn or

reasonable offer. Call Virginia Haun – 905-862-6156 or Cell 905-733-0836.



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

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2020 Edition of the “Comings ‘n Goings” are due by 22 April to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.



Enclosures:

Dues Reminder (Some Members Only)
GMC HC Financial Report 2019
May Rally Registration
June Rally Information

