



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com



Winter 2024



From the President

Greetings Cruisers,

I'm Greg Lipsett your new president. I obviously know many of you well but for others I may not know as much, let me take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself.

My wife, Donna and I have been members of the GMC Heritage Cruisers since 2016, when we first bought our black & silver 1974 Glacier 260. We live in Prince Edward County (aka: PEC or The County), near Consecon, Ontario. We love our GMC and think these classic vehicles are so super cool! Like many of you, I caught the GMC bug years ago and really hoped to have one of my own some day. After looking for coaches for 5 years, we finally had the good luck to be able to buy Dan & Terri Gregg's coach in Dexter, Missouri. Dan had recently passed and we promised Teri to take good care of their beloved coach named Liberty (now known as Libby, in honor of her previous owners). I'm an "office" guy who brought some limited mechanical abilities to the table but knew I was in

over my head and needed to quickly find a smart friend. I found that smart friend in all of you and with your support I have never looked back.

There's been a lot of water under the bridge since then with many modifications and improvements completed, a boatload learned on my part (including lessons learned the hard way), and thousands spent (don't tell Donna!). I don't have to tell you, the GMC Experience is the awesome and crazy adventure that we all share together. As a direct result of our common interest in these vintage coaches we have had the good fortune to meet each other. From this has flowed the making of many fond memories together and close friendships that have blossomed across the club.

I'm happy to report we have a great season for rallies shaping up in 2024 and I would like to thank our rally masters for stepping up and also our Wagon Master, Cliff Pike, for coordinating everyone's efforts. I am especially looking forward to connecting with our new members and personally welcoming you into the fold.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past President, Lois Urbanski, for her service over the past 4 years. Under her strong leadership we somehow made it through the crazy Covid era and the club has emerged intact and stronger on the other side. A round of applause for our dear friend Lois!

In closing, I wanted to let you know I'm very much looking forward to serving as your President for the next 2 years and humbled to lead our club into its 35th anniversary in 2024. Please know I am always available and can be reached direct at lipsettgreg@gmail.com or at 416-200-5172. Reach out anytime. Cheers and see you soon!

Greg Lipsett,

President



Rallies 2024

Hello Cruisers,

On behalf of the Club I wish to thank our intrepid 2023 Rally Hosts for all their hard work last year. Well done everyone! Now, with winter half gone we look forward to another full slate of rallies for 2024.

First up is the annual Coachless Rally at Niagara Falls, Ontario on March 5th -7th, hosted once again by Fran and Lois Urbanski. This is always a fun gathering to break up the dreary winter months.

The RustBuster is next up. Hosted by John Peazel at Courtland, Ontario on

May 2nd - 5th. We look forward to another great gathering if the past is any indication of what to expect!

Ernie and Cynthia Dankert will host our June Rally on May 31 - June 2nd at their home in Spencerport, N.Y. Ernie has a GMC'sers dream garage with all the bells and whistles if you need to do any service work on your coach.

Then, on July 18th - 21st Lorne and Jean Hawley will again open their property at Belleville, Ontario to us and host a rally. A lovely spot around the pond, a quiet and peaceful spot to sit back and relax!

Jack and Pat Elzinga will follow up with a rally August 16th-18th at their home property just outside Kingston, Ontario on the Rideau Canal system.

September brings us to Prince Edward County, Ontario when Greg and Donna Lipsett will host a rally at Quinte Isle Campark, September 13-15. Lovely area close to Sandbanks Provincial Park.

So, with that said, all drivers do your due diligence, get your coach ready to travel safely down the highways and byways, and make plans to attend a few, or all, of these rallies!

In closing, why not think about our 2025 line-up and give some thought to hosting a rally then? Its never too early so let me know if this is something you might wish to do.

Cliff Pike, VP Wagon Master

Outgoing Officers

Lois Urbanski is leaving the President's position after four years of service to the Club. We want to express our appreciation for the time and effort she put into serving the Club. Thank you for all you did.

2023 Club Election

The Club election for 2024-2026 was held in October. The results are as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Greg Lipsett</i>
<i>VP Tech</i>	<i>Bruce Hislop *</i>
<i>VP WM</i>	<i>Cliff Pike *</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Nancy Berry *</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Nancy Hamilton *</i>

<i>Historian</i>	<i>Cliff Pike *</i>
<i>Editor</i>	<i>Al Hamilton *</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Al Hamilton *</i>

*Nominating Committee
Bruce Hislop,* Nancy Hamilton, Jim Hamilton. **

*Incumbents - **



Membership Dues for 2024

That time of year has come once again. The Chapter dues for 2024 are \$20 Cdn or \$15 US and were due on 1 January 2024.

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. If you have paid the 2024 dues then there should be no dues attachment 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.

Wearing of Club Name Tags

This is a reminder to please wear your name tag at a rally especially if there are new folks in attendance. It is helpful to both all members and guests.

Liability Disclaimer

The GMC Heritage Cruisers, its officers, and the Editor are not responsible for the accuracy of advice and/or technical notes published in the "Comings 'n Goings". Adjustments or installations made to coaches on the basis of information presented in this publication is the responsibility of the individual coach owner.

An easy way to isolate the airbag is with a shut-off valve on each airbag. The shut-off valve simply provides a way to "shut-off" the air from leaving the airbag. If you have a leak in the system, simply pump up the airbag to the desired height and then turn the shut-off valve to the closed position. This will hold the air in the bag.



Valve for Two Bags



Tech Article

Airbag Shut-off Valves.

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

One upgrade that everyone should have on their rear suspension is shut-off and Schrader valves on the airbags. Four-bag systems typically come with these mounted to the wheel-well air distribution blocks, so here we are talking about an upgrade to the OEM single bag per side systems.

The rear air suspension system has numerous points of failure which can cause loss of air or failure to get air into the airbag(s). These include the air-lines and their connectors, air compressor, ride height valves and solenoids. When a failure occurs, you need a way to isolate the fault and get air into the airbag itself.



Valve Assembly for Four Bags

A Schrader Valve is a tire fill valve except you need the type in the form of a brass fitting. If you can't use the on-board compressor to pump up the airbag, the Schrader valve allows you to use an external tire compressor or other compressed air source to fill the airbag. Simply turn the shut-off valve to the closed position and use the external compressed air source to pump up the airbag to the desired height.

GMC Vendors have kits available, or you can buy the individual parts at local industrial / hydraulic supply shop.



Vendors Kit

One issue has been noted by long-time owners on the GMC Forums. The rear suspension experiences a lot of movement with road bumps and shock which can lead to fatigue and breakage of brass fittings. Therefore, it is recommended that you use steel fittings (T's and angle fittings) and keep the weight of the shut-off valve to a minimum.

While the airbag itself is very reliable however it is a good idea to carry a replacement airbag. A 13.5" 4x4 wood spacer with a lag bolt on each end, or a 3/4" by 18" threaded rod with 4 nuts and washers can also be substituted for the airbag for short term use.



Classified

For Sale – 1977 Royale and 1976 Eleganza II. Low mileage. Contact Verna McQueen for details at 613-475-1435. She lives in Brighton, Ontario. Keep trying to call she has trouble getting to the phone.



1976 Eleganza II



1977 Royale

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

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring Edition of the “Comings ‘n Goings” are due by 15 April to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

2023 Financial Report

***Coachless Rally - March
Niagara Falls, Ont***

***May Rally – Courtland, Ont –
Details will be sent
soon.***

June Rally – Spencerport, NY

***2024 Dues Reminder – Some
members only***