



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

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

Fall 2005

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

President's Note

Being President of the Heritage Cruisers was one of the more enjoyable jobs I have had and it was all due to the wonderful work of the Executive Committee and of course the members who sponsored rallies. I wish to thank all of you for making my term such a pleasurable experience. You scheduled the rallies, planned the programs, kept the books, wrote the minutes, represented us on a national level and provided the tech and the craft programs, which helped and entertained us all.

I look forward to the next two years with Barbara and her Executive committee.

Thanks to you all. See you in January at the winter rally in Niagara Falls.

Bob Morris

Election of 2006/2007 Executive

At the Pembroke rally in September the officer slate for the next two years was decided upon.

*They are:
President – Barbara Oliver;
Vice President, Wagon Master – Fred Saunders;
Vice President, Technical – Bob Paterson;
Secretary – Linda Foldy;
Treasurer – John Podmore;
Non-Tech Coordinator – Norma Hill;
Webmaster – Bob Morris;
Historian – Judy Paterson;
Membership/Newsletter Editor – Al Hamilton*

*FMCA National Director – Syd Collier
Alternate National Director – Doug Barber*

*2006 Nominating Committee –
Chairman – Bob Morris
Fred Ely
Ian Oliver*

Congratulations, to the newly elected and those who agreed to continue to serve our Chapter of next year and beyond.



Wagon Master's Report and 2006 Rallies

We must say a special thanks to three outgoing officers.

Bob Morris was our President for two years and led the Chapter well, guiding the Executive, and continuing with the development of the Chapter website. He is remaining in the Executive to continue his work as the Webmaster. Thanks Bob for all your efforts.

Ian Oliver was relentless in filling our calendar with rallies and finding rally hosts. As the Vice President, Wagon Master he got us ready for the next year as it came around and left a full calendar for the incoming Wagonmaster to oversee in 2006. Thanks, Ian for a job well done.

Finally, Fred Ely has served on the Executive for 10 years at least, as the Vice-President, Technical. He wrote for the newsletter, arranged tech sessions at rallies, presented tech subjects himself, and was seen often helping a member who had problems upon arrival at a rally. Many coaches were repaired at the Ely's shop in Bergen. All in all, Fred helped a lot of people over the years as our technical coordinator and a willing friend. Thanks for it all, Fred.

New Members

We end this Rally season with 93 members, including our latest members, Brion Mayer & Mabel Small of Guelph, Ontario. They joined in July and it is hoped that they make it to the rallies of 2006.

Meeting Minutes

Barb Oliver, our Secretary, has provided the minutes of the August and September meetings for your review and they are included with this newsletter.

This is my final report to the newsletter as I hand the Wagon Master's duties over to the capable hands of Fred Saunders. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years of generating new ideas for Rally locations and themes. I thank the many members who participated with me in developing the overall Rally program. The many hosts and co-hosts who so ably and enthusiastically staged the individual Rallies, certainly made the job easy and fulfilling for me.

Many people host more than their share of Rallies. However, we have a membership of over 90 coaches and I would encourage those who have not yet hosted a Rally to do so. To foster this, we have included with this newsletter the most recent edition of our Chapter's Rally Guidelines.

These Guidelines along with the willing assistance of the Wagon Master make it relatively easy to organize a rally.

The following Rallies for 2006 are set to go; but, Fred Saunders needs people to come forward to host the six rallies in each of 2007 and 2008.

2006 Rally Schedule

January 20-22 Niagara Falls, Ont. Podmores and Lavignes **See below for details**

May 26-28 Morrisburg, Ont. Fred and Norma Hill

June (TBA) Falls Reserve, Ont. Stuckeys

July 14-16 KOA Grand Island, NY Urbanskis

Aug. 18-20 Gananoque, Ont. Al Hamilton, Nancy Berry and Elzingas

Sept. 8-10 Alexander, NY Steam Show. Elys and Saunders

Sept 24-30 Berrien Springs Mich GMC International Fall Convention.

Reminder: July 6-9 2006 - Geneseo, NY Heritage Air Group Show

January 2006 Coachless Rally

From John & Lou Ann Podmore and Nick & Barbara Lavigne:

“Please join us at our 3rd Winter (Coachless) Rally to be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario on January 20, 21 & 22, 2006”. It will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Falls, 5339 Murray Street. It is right across the street from the Niagara Fallsview Casino and many other attractions in Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake.

The cost is approximately \$330.00 Canadian per couple, the US \$ based on rate time at time of payment. We say approximate because the Hotel is still finalizing their rate for Winter 2006. This includes your room, two full breakfasts, one supper at the hotel and a second supper on the top of the Skylon Tower.

You will have to telephone the Holiday Inn at 1-800-263-9393 to make you own reservation. Tell them you are with the "GMC Motorhome Group". After you have made your reservation PLEASE let John & Lou Ann Podmore know at 519-846-0376 or e-mail jpodmore@cogeco.ca . This is the same package as last year when we all had a great time in a very nice hotel and is fairly central for many members on both side of the border.

Cancellation 2006 FMCA NE Area Rally

Enclosed with this newsletter is the notification and rationale for the cancellation of the Northeast Area Rally that was

planned for 12-15 July 06 at Augusta, New Jersey. Many of you received the same information by email in early September. This comes from Bill Conway, the Vice President of FMCA NE Area.

Membership Dues for 2006

That time of year has come once again. The Chapter dues for 2006 are payable by 1 January 2006.

Complete the colourful enclosure (if none is enclosed, you owe nothing) and mail it with your dues in either US or Canadian funds to our Treasurer, John Podmore.

Please pay on time so John doesn't have to chase you. Also, you are dropped off our mailing list on 1 May and will miss a newsletter or rally information.

Interstate 90 Follow-Up

Peg & Tim Colf and Mike Gallagher passed along some more information on the use of the New York State Thruway that was reported on in the summer newsletter.

Mike finally got his "Thruway E-Z Pass Motor Home Discount Plan" after a long wait. So far he can't report on costs because he has not received a charge on his credit card. To speed up the process to get a Pass he said to tape the GMC registration to a paper, write on the paper that you want a "Thruway E-Z Pass Motor Home Discount Plan" E-Z Pass, write your name, address, phone number, **And the number of axles (three)** and send it by fax to: Terri at 1-845-425-2840.

If a problem is encountered with the Thruway system, such as incorrect charges or inability to get an E-Z Pass, there is a contact in the administration offices who may be able to help. It is Rocky Ann Bristol, 1-718-390-3563 ext 3569.

Classifieds

Wanted: 455 Intake Manifold John Podmore 519-846-0376.

For Sale: One Set (for two wheels) 2½" carbon metallic brake shoes, \$75 US or \$100 Cdn George Beardwood 705-944-5729

Parts and more parts: Frank Borrmann recently acquired many GMC parts. Give him a call if you need something 519-335-6257

For Sale: 1977 GMC Birchaven 23', 455 engine, many upgrades to chassis, interior, and engine. Rear bath, 4.5 KW generator, roof air, engine air, microwave, TV, awning, Ragusa step, numerous spare parts. Many, many manuals and technical bulletins. Will deliver \$16,000 Doug Barber 613-523-6238.

For Sale: Special Fred Hill aluminium step and an Onan circuit board. Both are in the coach at rallies. Free – coach roof box – needs some repair. Fred Hill - 613-543-2262.

For Sale: A Henderson electric wiper system complete with motor and turn signal lever with wiper controls. \$US 175.00 Nick Lavigne – 905-331-1411

For Sale: A Norcold three-way fridge, Model 663, approx seven years old, black acrylic door panels , \$600 Cdn – Jack Elzinga – 613-542-9670

For Sale: 1974 Glacier 26' Original owner, many upgrades over the years including frame, paint, bumpers, sky lights, Fantastic fans, awning, microwave, Birch screen door, three-way fridge, new furnace, satellite dish & receiver, and more. Asking \$18,000 Cdn Bruce Ross – 519-621-1028

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

Tech Talk

Replacement Water Tank by Al Hamilton

The General Motors and Avion outfitted GMCs came with a 120 volt electric water heater with an insert that made use of the hot engine coolant to provide hot water while travelling and for some time after stopping.

After almost 30 years a hole about the size of a dime suddenly appeared in the bottom of ours, a few days into our winter trip. Hot water under pressure poured out the bottom of the coach and we thought we would forget the tank and the electric system and rely solely on the propane water heater that was installed some years ago for the days of dry camping. After six months or so we decided we missed some of the features of the electric water heater and its engine coolant insert, or as General Motors called it – the “motor aid assembly” or “motor aid heat exchanger – (in different publications) !!!!!

The convenience of having hot water while travelling was one of the first things we missed. Since we are plugged into 120 volts most of the time, the electric heater takes care of itself and provides water at any time. No matter how hard the wind blows it has trouble stopping our electric heater !!!!!

The water heater is too efficient and produces water that's too hot, so many years ago an adjustable thermostat was installed on the heater and is set to 130 * F and it works well. Cinnabar also sells an Engine Outlet Valve Kit by Atwood for the coolant insert for use if there is a concern about the higher water temperature produced by the engine coolant – 180* F plus. This temperature quickly drops once the coach has stopped. The Kit keeps the water temperature around 140 * F. It sells for \$59.00 US. (The Atwood Kit information is thanks to the GMC Classics Fall Newsletter.)

We purchased and installed a stainless steel tank and coolant insert from Jim DeMaere of Lethbridge, Alberta. It is shown below. The total cost was less than \$300 Cdn with a SS insert including shipping. The tank included fittings and a new 1000-watt element. Not everyone needs the coolant insert, but ours was rusted in place in the old tank, so we bought one for \$34.00.



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.

Winter Newsletter

Submissions for the Winter 2006 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 February 2006 to the Editor, Al Hamilton 613-659-3522 or ahamilton@sympatico.ca.

Enclosures: (Not Included on Website)

2006 Dues Notice – Members Only
Minutes – Aug & Sep 06 – Members Only
Revised Rally Guidelines – Members Only
FMCA NE Area Rally 2006 Cancellation



***The founders of the GMC Heritage
Cruisers at the first meeting in 1989?***

We think!!!!