



# COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

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

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[www.gmcheritagecruisers.com](http://www.gmcheritagecruisers.com)

*Summer*  2009

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## **In Memoriam**

On 17 July, Nick Lavigne passed away suddenly in hospital. He and Barbara were very active in the Heritage Cruisers for many years and Nick had just started a term as the Vice-President, Wagonmaster. Their rallies at Sherkston Shores will always be remembered as great times.

Barbara, please accept the condolences of the entire Chapter and extend our sympathy to your family as well.

## **Sick Bay**

Bruce Hood has had his share of incidents that made for an unpleasant spring. First, he had a knee operation, then it got infected. He is doing well now. It's good to hear all the events are over and recovery is close, Bruce.

## **The 2009 Rally Schedule**

21-23 August – Milton, Ont –

Hoods & Foldys

**The rally information has been mailed separately to all members. Returns are needed by 13 August.**

17- 19 September – Rally with the GMC Great Lakers in Frankenmuth, Michigan. **Advise Bob Paterson by 24 August if you are planning to attend –**  
[geemc@sympatico.ca](mailto:geemc@sympatico.ca) or 519-855-4507

## **September Rally**

We will be joining the GMC Great Lakers at their rally in Frankenmuth, Michigan, 17 to 19 September. For those interested, the GMCMI Fall Convention is the next weekend in Colorado. This would be a good stop over, if you're planning to go to the GMCMI Convention.

It will be at the Pineridge Campground, Birch Run, Michigan [www.pineridgerv.com](http://www.pineridgerv.com). Full hook-ups are \$34.00 per night - pay on arrival, with approximately \$20.00 per person rally fee. There will be two conny breakfasts and a catered meal and a cruise in on Friday night, that will feature classic and antique autos.



Also, Oktoberfest is on that weekend. There is a large Prime Outlet Mall very close, and it's only 450 kms from Toronto and 300 miles from Buffalo!!!

Details will be sent to those who have indicated an interest when received from the GMC Great Lakers.

### **2010 – 2011 Officer Elections**

A slate of proposed Chapter officers was presented at the May rally for election at the August rally.

An Election Notice was sent by email on 14 May and is included with this newsletter for elections on 22 August for the period 1 Jan 10 to 31 Dec 11. Note that Dennis Lepard has been added as the nominee for VP, Wagonmaster and Fran Urbanski as VP, Technical.

### **Rallies So Far!!!**

The May rally was a great success. Lena & Dick Longman put together another great weekend near Stoney Creek. There were 26 in attendance, including Barb & Ian Oliver, who spent Saturday at the Rally. There were great meals, in a beautiful setting, on the shores of Lake Ontario. Lena & Dick were kept busy organizing things and getting everyone where they had to be on time.

Lena's now famous rose bud chocolates were available again and passed around by Linda & Lou Ann.

Thanks for a wonderful rally, Lena & Dick.



**The rose bud ladies passing around Lena's tasty chocolates**



**Jack, the Best Fisherman in the HC, wearing his prize-winning cap**



**Two more happy campers!!!**

When June arrived, we started early in the month with the rally to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a GMC Chapter. Judy & Bob Paterson and Barb & Nick Lavigne put together four fun filled days at Sherkston

Shores on Lake Erie. The weather was forecast to be wet, but like the rest of the rally, the hosts laid on perfect conditions for camping, socializing, golf, the CanUS games, a dance, a BBQ, sit down meals, and entertainment.

Below is everyone attending; over thirty coaches and folks in cabins.



When July arrived we all headed for Brantford, at the invitation of Ed & Mary Anstett. We had a wonderful gathering in the Conservation Area. The food was superb, from the potluck, to the “breakfast-under-canvas”, to the catered meal. Some very tasty items were brought by John & Mary Peazel to round it off. The weather was great also with little rain and mild temperatures – not what was forecast!!! The last evening of the rally was highlighted with a very good entertainer, who was excellent on a 12-string guitar. The song sheets got everyone singing and having a great time. Someone mentioned that the birds were frightened off and some other campers moved!!!! Must have been the threat of rain!!!!

Thanks Ed & Mary for all the organizing and work you put into our July rally. It was great!!!



The winners of this year’s golf tournament and the coveted ball- clad hubcap trophy are receiving it from Judy Paterson. They were Robin Hadcock, Helen Lambke, Dick Paterson, and Jim Hadcock.

It was a great rally and will long be remembered as we look back on 20 years as a GMC Club. Many thanks to Judy, Bob, Nick & Barb.



**Everybody Sang!!!**



## **National Director Report**

*Paul DuBois is the new VP Northeast Area, FMCA.*

*The free Membership certificates (5), that we questioned, were sent to each chapter to recruit new FMCA members. 2500 were sent and so far 84 new members have joined FMCA.*

*Here is a report from the FMCA membership committee to the executive committee:*

- 1. To look into packaging several member benefits and offering them for one amount to all members;*
- 2. To explore the possibility of placing target ads in other publications;*
- 3. To print the "Benefits at a glance" wallet cards and have them available at area rallies and conventions; and,*
- 4. To update the benefits listing in the magazine to show which benefits are included with the membership and which have a cost involved.*

*From the FMCA Executive Board meeting:*

- 1. Procedure Committee concerning additional actions. A report that the associate chapter concept was defined in the Chapter Definitions. Scenarios for an associate chapter could be when a chapter is having difficulty filling officer positions, when a chapter does not have enough members but still wants to hold rallies, or when a chapter does not want to participate in FMCA's governance. For example; a chapter outside the United States and Canada would be an associate chapter and would not be covered by FMCA's liability insurance. The associate chapter would only*

*need 10 to form a chapter and 7 to maintain certification. A quorum for a meeting 25% or 15 whichever is less; but not less than four. Mailings would be only to the chapter president.*

*2. Will not renew MEDEX for 2010. The cost amounts to 5% of the total budget. There will also be various increases in registrations and fees.*

*3. 2010 budget of \$299,556 was passed, which is a deficit, but will be covered by operating reserves, if required.*

*John Evans*

## **Chapter Membership & Nominal Roll**

*Following the review of the membership mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, we have 88 member families in the Chapter. Some long standing members have left, such as, Charlie & Janet Carman, Roger & Alice Colegrove, and Jay & Sue Barrett.*

*Please check your name, email, etc. for accuracy and pass any corrections to the Editor. (The membership list is included with copies of this newsletter to HC members only.)*

## **New Members**

*Craig Smith & Mary Williams of Bradford, Pennsylvania joined the Chapter in the spring. Welcome to the club.*

*Scott Cowden from Coldwater, Ontario joined the Chapter at the May rally. We hope Jane and you enjoy the Chapter and many rallies to come.*

*At the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rally in June, Ralph & Virginia Haun of Ridgeville, Ontario rejoined the Chapter after a few years absent. Welcome back to you both.*

## Standing Rules Review

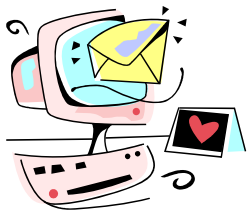
At the May Meeting, the Chairman of the Standing Rules Committee presented the results of their review to the membership. The items that were suggested for revision can be seen in the May Minutes attached to this newsletter. The revisions included some single word amendments, removal of some articles that no longer apply, and some amendments that relate to safety, health, and being good neighbours. The revisions were passed. A copy of the complete Standing Rules is included with this newsletter, reduced in size to fit. Hope everyone can read them!!!!

## Chapter Officer Duties

The duties of the Executive and other Chapter Officers was reviewed and updated this past spring. At the urging of FMCA, a Chapter Safety Officer position has been created and duties were included in the spring revision. It will be a secondary duty, appointed by the President, and filled by one of the existing members of the Executive.

## Emailing of the Newsletter

Receiving the newsletter is still available by email for anyone who would like to have it delivered to their computer.



## Classified

**For Sale:** Two Michelin LTX 225/75/16 Load Range E tires. Dated 2008. 1200 miles. \$350 Cdn Four aluminium cones \$50.00 – Al Hamilton – 613-659-3522 or [akh@1000island.net](mailto:akh@1000island.net).

**For Sale:** 1975 Avion with side dry bath, sleeps six. Six wheel disc brakes. Rebuilt engine and transmission. Rebuilt front end less than 1000 miles. New air compressor. New dash with new dash valves. Replaced ceiling vinyl. Replaced counter top and table. Rebuilt carburetor to GMC specs by Dick Patterson. Tires replaced in last two years with Alcoa front wheels. Replaced fridge, toilet, roof air and awning. New screen door by Alex Birch. Replaced both sink taps with Moen taps. Replaced furnace. Two new batteries. – Fred Hill - 613-543-2262 or [normajoycehill@hotmail.com](mailto:normajoycehill@hotmail.com).

**Free:** Thirty-three year old large version air tank. No leaks yet. Rust has been coming out the drain with water the last few years. May last a few more years, one year, one month, or one week. Only suitable to keep you going if yours has a hole and you've ordered a new one!!!! Al Hamilton [akh@1000island.net](mailto:akh@1000island.net).

**For Sale:** GMC built-in vacuum in brilliant 1976 gold with four filters, most attachments and hose including shag rug head. Works well!!! First offer takes it!!! Al Hamilton [akh@1000island.net](mailto:akh@1000island.net).

Listing of GMC-related items for sale is available to HC members and will only

appear for two issues unless otherwise arranged.



## Tech Talk

### Engine Oil Changes

*In the last few years engine oils have been changed to where many of them do not lubricate flat tappet engines well enough. Our 455 & 403 engines are in this category.*

*There is a detailed article on the subject in the Summer 2007 newsletter and can be viewed on our website.*

*Finding oils with the API CI-4, SJ, or SL labeling is almost impossible now. The later oils such as API CJ-4 and SM require the addition of an additive to make it safe for flat tappet engines. For someone who wants to stay on conventional oil then Rotella T in the white jugs (15w-40) is a good choice---if you want to use a synthetic---then Rotella T in the dark blue jug (5w-40) is a good choice (same level as other level III synthetics ie: Mobil 1---Syntec etc etc.).*

### Relocate the Transmission Vent

*A recent coach fire in one of the other GMC chapters was suspected to be caused by transmission oil coming out the vent on the top of the transmission and landing on the hot exhaust. To prevent the oil from landing on the exhaust a hose should be attached to the vent and run to the side of the coach and a small cap installed to replace the one removed from the transmission vent.*



### People Door Hinge Pins & Bushings

*If your entrance door is not closing as easily as it used to or there is movement when you lift up the door, you probably need to replace the hinge pins and bushings. John Evans found the correct pins and bushings still available at GM dealers. The pin is part # 15699635 at \$6.35 US and a bushing is part # 9721917 at \$1.04 US. Two pins and four bushings are needed per door.*

### The Best Thing I did to Our Coach!!

*I went over almost 20 improvements done to our coach in the past 10 to 15 years and had a lot of trouble deciding on what was the "Best". The short list included six- wheel disc brakes, a macerator, rear anti-sway bars, a*

permanent rear bed, etc., etc., In the end, I decided the lowering of the final drive ratio to 3.70:1 improved the driveability substantially without a significant loss in fuel economy and made towing a car very easy.



**Roger Colegrove, Fred Ely & I**

We changed the transmission sprockets in about 12 hours. I have been told that it can be done in five hours. I often wondered what they forgot to do!!!!

*Al Hamilton*

Your "Best Thing" is wanted for the next issue of the newsletter. Help keep this going!!

### **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 are the responsibility of the individual coach owner.**

## **Autumn 2009 Newsletter**

Submissions for the Fall 2009 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 October 2009 to the Editor, Al Hamilton at [akh@1000island.net](mailto:akh@1000island.net).

### **Enclosures:**

2009 Election Notice  
May & June Meeting Minutes  
Standing Rules revised 9 May 09

### **(Not Included on Website)**

Membership List dated 20 July 2009