



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 2009



President's Message

Judy and I trust that all are looking forward to driving your GMC down the road soon. As I write this, it is -18 C (0 F) here and the weatherman is predicting + 6C (42F) for the weekend. ???? Crazy! However, summer's a comin'.

Our first mobile rally of 2009 will again be the famous 'Rust Buster', to be held at 50 Point, Stoney Creek, Ontario, and hosted by the Longmans'. May 8 – 10. **Details are enclosed.**

Next and very special, our GMC Heritage Cruisers 20th Anniversary Rally!!!! This is one event you don't want to miss. It is being held Mid-Week (Monday, June 8 through to Friday, June 11) at the beautiful facilities of Sherkston Shores Resort. A special note here; - You can also rent cabins at Sherkston, should you not be able to attend in your coach. Watch for the special mailing in early March. We are currently attempting to 'lure' as many Original / Founding members, and Honourary

members to attend as we can find. If you have any contact with them, please ask them to contact Judy or me, 1busybee@sympatico.ca or Barb or Nick, nblavigne@hotmail.com for our "Anniversary Special Rates".

As this is election year, we will also be conducting HC elections, for a two year term for all positions on the board. The slate will be proposed at the 'Rust Buster' in May, if possible, and elections will be at a later rally in the year. Please contact Dick Longman, chair of the Nominating Committee or one of the members, Sheryl Morris or Nick Lavigne for details, OR to volunteer for a position. (905-454-0551) <dick.longman@gmail.com>.

The September rally is still open. The last four Septembers have been overshadowed by the GMC International conventions that have been relatively close by. This years' GMCMI is in Colorado, so we NEED our own rally. One thought that I am pursuing is to have a joint rally with the GMC Great Lakers.



They have one planned for Sept. 17 – 19, in Frankenmuth, Michigan. As well as the Christmas shopping, there is a Classic Car Show on the same weekend. However, if anyone has an interest in hosting our own GMCHC rally, let us know asap.

Best regards to all from the assistant/acting “topdogs”.

Bob & Judy Paterson

The Rally 2009 Schedule from your VP Wagonmaster

8 - 10 May Stoney Creek, Ont –
Dick & Lena Longman

The rally info & registration is enclosed. The deadline is 15 April.

8-11 June –Sherkston Shores –
Patersons & Lavignes

23-25 July – Brantford, Ont – Ed & Mary
Anstett

21-23 August – Milton, Ont –
Bruce & Daphne Hood

September - Open

Sick Bay

In December, Lena Longman had a shoulder joint replaced as a result of a fall that broke her shoulder bone. She recovered well, with no side effects. Good news in the end, Lena!!!

Message from Barb Oliver

Here it is already Feb.5 and I am settled at home after a couple of stays in the hospital. (Dec. & early Feb.) Since I've stopped having chemo, I am eating better,

sleeping better and generally feeling better. What a relief! All the local Social Services have kicked in and I am getting great care. It also allows Ian to get some respite. He, as I have said before, has been wonderful. We hope to spend some time at the Rust Buster Rally in May. I hope the weather cooperates.

Thank you for all your prayers and kind wishes. I really need them.

Sincerely,

Barb Oliver

Thanks from Dot Boehler

Thank you for the many comforting messages of sympathy that I got for Bud and also the generous donation to Saint Francis Chapel in memory of Bud.

He enjoyed many good times and experiences with the Heritage Cruisers.

It was wonderful to hear from so many of you.

Dottie Boehler

2009 Coachless Rally Review

John & Lou Ann Podmore and Nick & Barbara Lavigne hosted the 6th Annual Coachless Rally at the Holiday Inn in Niagara Falls.

A great time was had by all. Unfortunately, two couples had to cancel due to colds and the flu. We had lots to eat and drink at our multiple unscheduled Happy Hours. Of special note were the fabulous hand made chocolate candies from Lena Longman and the mouth watering delicacies

from John & Mary Peasel. As to be expected, the weather was sunny and cold (very cold) but this did not stop members going for walks, shopping and visiting Niagara on the Lake for the Ice Wine Festival and Ice Sculptures. On Saturday night, we were treated to a great supper at the top of the Skylon Tower.

We spent a few hours playing all the games provided by the Longmans and Dot Boehler. We also spent many hours reminiscing, looking at photos, and had a limited discussion of the all important technical matters and, for some, swimming in the hotel pool.

We had the traditional birthday cake on Friday night; unfortunately Sue Collier could not join us because of the flu, we did think about her and celebrated with three other birthday girls; Linda Foldy, Robin Hadcock and Lena Longman.

Some members were having such a good time they asked us to consider making it a four day event next year. We will get prices from the Holiday Inn for both a three day/four day option for next year.

We welcomed our new members John Coupland and Kathy Alexander from St Catherines. Other members present were Dot Boehler, Roy & Joan Carscadden, Ed & Alice Daniel, Sal & Noemi Dignadice, Frank & Linda Foldy, Jim & Robin Hadcock, Dick & Lena Longman, Ian Oliver, John & Mary Peazel, Fran & Lois Urbanski

GMC Motorhomes International Insert

Included with this newsletter is an insert from GMCMI on the availability of the motorhome air bags, where to get them and the alternative. See the other side for details on a GMCMI membership drive with prize draws for new members and current members who recruit new members.

GMC Heritage Cruisers Cocktail Munchies & Potluck Goodies Book

The Goodies Book has become one of our 20th Anniversary projects. This is the last call for your favourite munchies or potluck recipe. Send them to Peggy Colf at peggycolf@yahoo.com.

A Report from the Standing Rules Sub-Committee

Bereavement:

Remove the words "or the Heart Fund" ... the members family will identify the recipient charity. The President will send a card on behalf of the GMC Heritage Cruisers.

Chapter Burgee & Flags :

Remove Sections 8, 9 & 10 as they are no longer enforced nor contribute to the Chapters operations.

Chapter Name Badges :

The cost of the first year dues to change from US \$25.00 to US \$30.00 to better reflect the actual cost of supplying badges.

The Sub-Committee submits this report for consideration by the membership at our next Business meeting.

Membership Dues 2009

There are still a few outstanding dues for the 2009 season. If you received the **Bright** enclosure entitled **Second Notice**, you still owe the Treasury. Complete the form and mail it with your dues to the **Treasurer, Jim Hadcock**. Payment was due by 1 January. Please note that membership privileges cease on **1 May** if dues are still unpaid.

2008 Financial



Statement

Last year's Financial Statement is enclosed for your review from the Treasurer,
Jim Hadcock

Nominating Committee Looking for a Wagon Master



Contact Dick Longman, Sheryl Morris, or Nick Lavigne if you are interested.

Emailing of the Newsletter

Receiving the newsletter is still available by email for anyone who would like to receive it that way.

Classified

For Sale: 1978 Royale 26' - Rear bath, sleeps six, 403 engine, 57,000 miles, original paint & upholstery, one roof air, 18' awning, 6 kw generator, new brakes, shocks, & black water tank. \$4995.00 for HC members. Can be seen at <http://www.bethunesales.com/listings/index.html>. Located with 1978's in New York - Richard Davis - 315-831-5241 or sabrejets@frontiernet.net.

For Sale: Original 6KW Onan - \$750.00 - Richard Davis - 315-831-5241

For Sale: New "Low Profile" Suburban SF 30 propane, 12 volt, furnace with thermostat and 4 inch collars. 30,000 BTU. \$650.00 firm. Bill Farress 585-385-5500 weekdays or farress@worldnet.att.net.

For Sale: Two 1976 GMC Transmodes. Both 455 engines have about 35,000 miles on them and run well. They were driven up from Virginia to Pennsylvania several years ago. These Transmodes were used for educational purposes and are set up as portable classrooms. The interiors have approximately 6-7 desk areas, the bathroom, and the back bedroom area is open. They would have to be towed or have new tires put on. Call and make an offer. Maynard Troyer at 814-665-2435

For Sale: 1974 GMC- It has been in storage for 15 years in Cinninatti. Less than 60,000 miles on it. Owner will sell to best bid over \$5950.00. I can send you more detail and pictures, if interested (akh@1000island.net) or contact the owner, Ralph Blackwelder, Cincinnati (513) 325-2558 cell (513) 561-6938 home .

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



Tech Talk

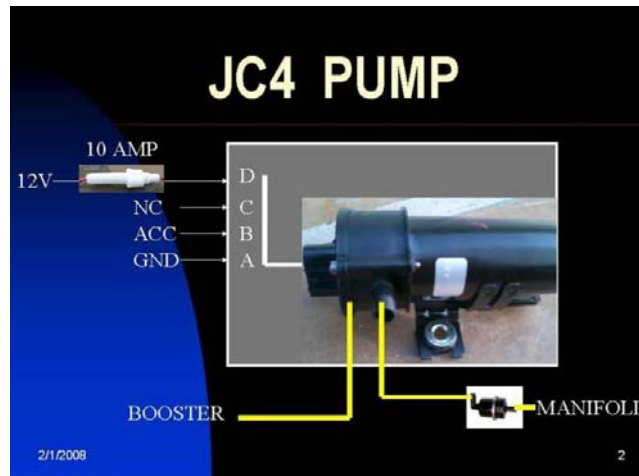
Do you have Brakes if your Engine Quits??

Our GMCs were built with Power Brakes or vacuum assisted brakes that reduced the pedal effort and increased the force applied at the wheels to slow or stop the coach. That

is a very common system used on many cars and trucks all over the world. Many or most vehicles can be slowed and eventually stopped if there is a failure of the power assist from lost vacuum. Our GMCs or at least the majority of them will not even slow down let alone stop without the power assist working.

If the engine should quit, there is vacuum in the booster for one or two applications then it's like pushing on the floor board when standing on the brake pedal. Nothing happens!!!!

To backup the engine vacuum many owners added a vacuum pump, (strange terminology?? Since vacuum is nothing – how can it be pumped???) The pump was in line between the engine and the brake vacuum booster and automatically started producing vacuum, (except vacuum is nothing) when the engine vacuum fell below a specified level. We still have full brakes within a second or two of the engine stopping. The pump used was from some GM cars of the 1980s. That 215-119 pump is no longer available or if a used one were found it would be of questionable value.



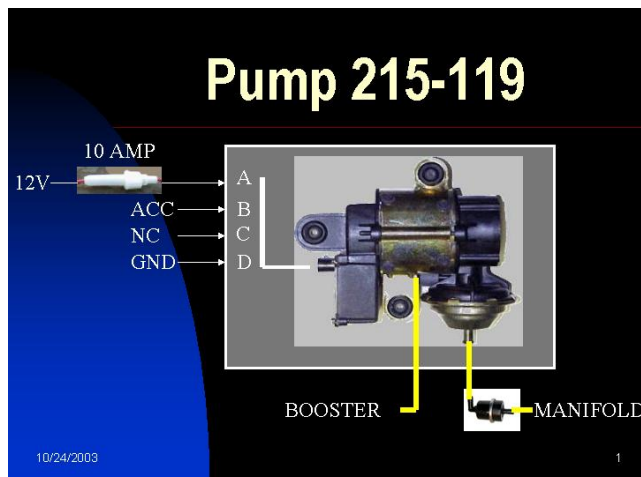
The JC4 Pump is available from dealers and the aftermarket suppliers. Pictures and installation instructions are available at <http://users.california.com/~eagle/addens.html>

Watch the Spring Newsletter for a short article on the Alternator Protection Cable. The full details are in the Winter 2004 issue and on our web site. Also, do a search for "Alternator Field Wiring" & "APC – Gene Fisher"

Get a Bit More Out of your Gas Tank!!!
From the VP Technical

I'm sure, if you are like any other driver on the road.....FUEL PRICES have been foremost in your minds for the past year. And, YES, our coaches are not the most efficient vehicles on the road. But as it looks, with the oil prices what they are today, we should have a travel season that is much more reasonable in 2009. There are also some things we can do to help improve our fuel economy.

1. Tire pressures are most important. Under-inflated tires have two consequences. First, this puts undue stress in the fibres of the tire, causing excessive heat, and probable failure. Second, and more to our attempt to improve economy, they are harder to roll, thus requiring more throttle to



A newer smaller pump is being used now from a GM K Series diesel truck. The GM part # is 89058946.

maintain our speed. Every two lbs of air pressure reduction will increase consumption by one percent.

2. Keeping our top speed down to 90kph (55mph) will save up to 10% in fuel.
3. Proper engine 'tuning' is also critical. (clean spark plugs and proper timing)
4. Something we all tend to forget is that the overall weight of our coach makes a big difference in our economy. It's amazing how quickly we can add 200-300# to our load. Again, the old adage is to ask ourselves the question; - "Is it must have or nice to have?" I know I've personally forgotten some heavy items up in the pod, which were no longer needed.
5. Avoid rapid acceleration and braking, as well as periods of idling. Idling for 10 seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart the engine.

Air Bag Ceasing of Production

The Firestone company announced a few months ago that they will no longer be manufacturing the rear suspension air spring, (air bag) that is used on our coaches.



The alternative is to install one of the aftermarket four-bag systems that is available. The systems use Goodyear, Firestone, and other air bags that are in use by the trucking industry and should be available for many years. There is more information on the availability of air bags in the GMC Motorhome International insert enclosed with this newsletter.

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.



Spring 2009 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2009 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 April 2009 to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

May Rally Notice

GMCCI Insert

(Not Included on Website)

2009 2nd Dues Notice

– Some Members Only

2008 Treasurer's Report – Members Only