



MINGS 'n GOINGS

Cruisers

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

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

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

Winter 2011

From the President

Hello Everyone,

Judy and I hope you are surviving our New York / Ontario winter weather. All I can say is, "If this is global warming, I hope I'm not around these parts for the global colding". Perhaps some of you have ventured south in order to find some pleasant temperatures, and I hope you won't be bragging about it too much at the 'Rustbuster rally'.

The summer is shaping up to be an active one. You will see later in this issue, that we have been able to solidify the dates for most of our 2011 rallies with the only void at this point being June (more on that later.)

Although we've tried to get a balance of rallies north and south of the border, all the offers for hosting rallies this year came from the north. If anyone out there has wanted to host a rally but is a bit worried about the task, it is not an onerous one and help is always close at hand. Lots of people would be glad to assist you or even co-host.

So please, if you have knowledge of a location or an event, with camping facilities close by, please contact myself or Dennis

Lepard. We are looking to fill dates for 2012 and beyond.

All the best for 2011.

Bob

The 2011 Rally Schedule

13-15 May – John & Lou Ann Podmore –
Cookstown, Ontario

See information sheet enclosed

June – Open

15-17 July – John & Mary Peasel –
Courtland, Ontario

26-28 August – Ross Birch & Judy
Ferguson

Roy & Joan Carscadden -
Honey Harbour, Ontario

9-14 September - GMCMI Fall Convention –

Goshen, Indiana



Forecast for 2012

Here are the tentative plans so far for 2012. These are not firm but the beginnings of the next rally year.

June – Cruiz- In – London, Ont

August – Erin, Ont

September – Clayton, NY

Rallies So Far This Year

Coachless Winter Rally

On January 28, 29 & 30, 2011 seventeen lucky Heritage Cruisers enjoyed the 8th Annual Coachless Winter Rally in Niagara Falls. Three other members joined us for fellowship and supper Friday evening. We had our traditional big birthday cake again this year and sang Happy Birthday to Lena and Robin and we signed a card for Syd and Sue Collier ... some ladies shopped in Niagara on the Lake, and four members took in the RV Show in Hamburg, south of Buffalo. Others went out skating while a number toured the lights on Friday evening. We ate copious amounts of chocolate goodies supplied, as usual, by Lena. On Saturday evening we were able to connect with Doug Barber in Mexico (Adeline was back in Ottawa) via Skype and we all had an opportunity to speak with him.

In attendance were: Mary & John Peazel, Robin & Jim Hadcock, Lena & Dick

Longman, Verna Tait & Harold MacQueen, Ian Oliver, Judy & Bob Paterson, Irma & Kari Valanne, Alice & Ed Daniel and Dot Boehler and the hosts Lois & Fran Urbanski and Lou Ann & John Podmore.



Sick Bay

Adeline & Doug Barber went to Mexico again this winter, but Adeline had to return to Ottawa for some heart, lung, and neck tests. The results are not known yet, so we wish you good news soon, Adeline.

Chapter Membership

We have 89 members including the new members below.

New Members

Cliff & Penny Pike of Guelph, Ontario purchased their GMC in September and became members of the Heritage Cruisers

in October. Welcome to the Club. We hope you enjoy all it has to offer.

Gary & Ann Wright of Chatham, Ontario joined in December. We're glad to have you as members and look forward to meeting you at the next rally.

New Member Application

Enclosed is a membership application that you are asked to put in your coach and have available to give to a GMC owner that you may come across and have convinced to join the Heritage Cruisers. Ask them to mail it with their first year's dues.

New FMCA Emergency Medical Program

FMCAassist is a new enhanced emergency medical assistance program for FMCA members that took effect 1 January 2011. Some details were in the December issue of "Family Motor Coaching". There are also two **FMCAassist** member cards to be cut out on page 37, fill in your FMCA number, and carry with you. Details are also available by calling FMCA at 800-543-3622 or 513-474-3622 or email at membership@fmca.com or visit the web site at fmca.com. The cards can be printed off the web site as well.

2010 Financial



Statement

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

Campground Reviews

There is a very useful website that allows you to check amenities at many campgrounds in North America and read good and not-so-good comments from campers who have used them. It is <http://www.rvparksreview.com>.

Emailing of the Newsletter

Receiving the newsletter is still available by email for anyone who would like to have it delivered to their computer. Let us know if you want to change to email delivery. 



Membership Dues for 2011

There are still a few outstanding dues for the 2011 season. The attachment entitled **Second Notice**, is enclosed to help with paying the dues if you have not already done so.

Complete the dues enclosure and mail it with your dues in either US or Canadian funds to our Treasurer, Jim Hadcock. **The cost of dues is \$15.00 US or Cdn .**

On 1 May, folks that haven't paid will cease to be members and dropped off our mailing & membership list. We'll hate to lose you !!!!

Classified

For Sale: 1974 26' Painted Desert (now two tone green) 455 engine 82,000 miles, rebuilt transmission at 60,000 miles, new roof air conditioner. - \$11,000 – Robert Wakeman 607-642-5528

Free: Pair of rear view chrome plated original side mirrors. – Phil Nau – 519-675-0582.

Free: Roof Pod and some rosewood cupboards from a 76 GMC – Jack Elzinga – 613-542-9670

For Sale: 455 right exhaust manifold - \$50. Rear control arm straightening tool - \$10. Unused, but elderly rear brake flexible lines - \$20. Original GM holding tank, voltage, and propane gauge set - \$20. From Gaston Bellavance – contact Al Hamilton 613-659-3522

For Sale: 1977 Eleganza Parts for Sale Complete frame, front & rear bumpers, gas tanks, waste tank, front & rear brakes, propane tank, most of front & rear suspension, complete full bore stainless exhaust system with mufflers. Ray McHugh, Owen Sound, Ont - mchugh@rogers.com.

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



Tech Talk

Beware the Green Nozzle – And Now the Yellow One!!!

A few years ago one of our members fell afoul of a poorly labelled “gas” pump – or in some cases they are not labelled at all. He filled the coach tanks with diesel fuel. The only indication that it was diesel was the green plastic cover on the nozzle.

Some gas stations now have “yellow” nozzles as well as some with “green” and maybe other colours. We can only be careful of what pump or nozzle we select when filling up!!!

Adjust the Front Ride Height



Torsion Bar Adjusting Tool

The front ride height is adjusted raising or lowering torsion bar adjusters by a bolt turned in or out in a frame cross member at the rear of the torsion bars. On some vehicles the adjusting bolt can be turned with the weight of the vehicle pushing down on the adjusters. The weight of the GMC is too high to turn the adjusting bolt. It is likely to strip the threads even though the bolt is a grade eight.

A tool is needed to relieve most of the pressure or weight on the bolt before it is turned. A commercially made tool can be a few hundred dollars. The tool above is

homemade for about \$50. All that is needed is a threaded "U" bolt, two washers and nuts, a bolt with the head removed and rounded to fit the indentation in the coach adjuster, two more nuts to hold it in place, and a piece of flat steel with three holes in it. All parts, except the flat steel, should be grade eight.

There is a hole in the coach frame cross member to keep the tool from sliding when under high pressure of the weight of the coach. A small piece of bolt or other round metal welded to the top, centre of the "U" bolt will do the job.

Now you should be able to safely, and without damaging anything, adjust the coach ride height.

Where Does the Oil Go???

Recently, a relative of a member of many years was helping out with the motorhome maintenance and put over a gallon of coolant in the crankcase by mistake. This hasn't happened often, but more than once. Someone who is not too familiar with the GMC and doesn't look closely at the oil fill cap can put the coolant in the wrong place.

The engine wasn't started, but the oil/coolant mix turned to a heavy sludge and resulted in a very difficult cleaning job that included removing the heads.

It is worth putting a warning of some kind on the cap and watching anyone who is servicing a coach - even mechanics can make this mistake!!!

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.



2011 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2011 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 April 2011 to the Editor, Al Hamilton at gmchc@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

May 2011 Rally Details

New Member Application Form

2010 Financial Report (members only)

2011 Dues - Second Reminder

