



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 2015



From the President

Hi there !

As I write this, some famous and some obscure rodents proclaim that WINTER IS HALF OVER ! Can warmth be far behind? RUST BUSTER HERE WE COME!! While there is still some cabin time remaining, why not grab a calendar and this newsletter and plot this year's rallies on a road atlas to see how close they are. There are only five. What an opportunity to stretch your, and the coach's, wings.

The COACHLESS Rally was, by all accounts, a success. Thanks to the host Podmores and their support staff of movers, shakers, slicers, bakers and candy makers for a fine time.

Well, got to go and follow my own advice and plan away. See y'all soon.

Yours truly, *Fran Uranski*



2015 Rallies

12th Annual Coachless Winter Rally

January 29 - February 1, 2015



The rally was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. It was planned as a two day rally, however all 15 participants showed up one day early. On Thursday evening they had supper at the Grand Buffet at the Fallsview Casino followed by a concert with Rick Springfield ... the star even came down off the stage, and sat on Roy Carscadden's lap! The following day, Friday, the group visited the Ravine Vineyard, in St David's, and participated in a wine tasting, then moved



on to the Chocolate factory for more tastings. They finished off with a lunch at the Queen's Coach Pub. Then the ladies went shopping. In the evening they had the usual "birthday supper" and celebrated Lena's birthday.



Saturday was taken up with a visit to Niagara on the Lake, for the traditional lunch at the Shaw Café and Wine bar followed by more shopping by the ladies. In the evening, we went to supper at the top of the Skylon Tower.

Saturday afternoon Dot Boehler and John Evans drove over from the Buffalo area for a visit. Once again, we all enjoyed the homemade chocolates from Lena and in the evenings we played dominos and the horse race game from the Longman's game bag.

The Coachless rally has evolved into a fun, filled few days and makes for a great break in winter. Try and make it next year, if you can. The group thanked the Podmore's and Urbanskis for another great rally.

Rallies Coming Up

14-17 May – Courtland, Ontario
John & Mary Peazel
Rally Registration Attached

4-7 June – Country Cruz-In Plunket
Estate London, Ontario
John & Mary Peazel
Rally Registration Attached

10-12 July – Ernie & Cynthia Dankert
Spenceport, New York

August – Lois & Fran Urbanski
Watkins Glen, New York

September – open

2014 Financial Report



The final Financial Report for 2014 is attached. It shows a continued increase in both the US and Canadian accounts mainly because of the annual dues and return of two deposits from the August 2014 rally.



Annual Membership Dues

The annual membership dues are payable on 1 January each year. A reminder was included with the Fall newsletter for those who had not paid for 2015. There are still a few members who have not paid. The dues are \$12. Please send the dues to our Treasurer, Nancy Berry. Anyone who has not paid will be removed from the membership list on 1 May, as usual.

Club Shelter Screen Panels

As you know, the Club has two 10' x 20' shelters that fit on aluminum frames. We normally erect them side-by-side to form a square. At some rallies the insects, (bees, flies, mosquitoes, etc.) are plentiful. The insects spoil our evening camaraderie, make dining uncomfortable, and somewhat hazardous to health.

We have looked at buying the screen panels that fit our shelters to enclose the 20' x 20' square. The cost is \$90 Cdn + tax for each panel and eight panels would be needed.

I plan to propose we purchase these panels and will have it as an agenda item at the May rally in Courtland. Your thoughts are welcome before a vote is taken at the meeting or beforehand if you wish.

Fran Urbanski
President

Executive Change

Last November John Peazel became our new VP Wagon Master and will fill the position as appointed by the President until he can be put forth to the Club for election, (probably at the May rally). John also agreed to continue as Secretary until someone agrees to replace him. The Club

very much appreciates your stepping forward when needed, John.

We owe our appreciation also to Bruce Hood for almost four years of coordinating the annual rallies. Since this was his second time at "stick handling" the rally calendars, his total time in the chair was six years. Thank you Bruce, for all your hard work. As well as, thanks to Daphne, who you recognized many times for her suggestions and assistance.



FMCA Items

There are some issues worth reading about in the February issue of Family Motor Coaching, the monthly magazine of our parent association.

Starting on page six is "A Year In Review". In particular, under Member Services, have a look at FMCA RV Insurance, FMCA Road Assist, the mail forwarding service, and in particular, FMCA Assist. It is an emergency medical evacuation and travel assistance program, that on 1 October 2014, became an association-paid benefit again.

Under the heading of "Information Technology" there is a detailed account of the conversion of association membership management software. It came on line last July. It explains why some of us had such a unusually difficult time updating our membership list last fall that we are required to do annually with FMCA Headquarters, including the many calls to you, the Chapter members about your personal details.



Classified



For Sale: 1977 GMC, many upgrades over the years, including paint at Topeka Graphics, refrigerator, furnace,

microwave/convection oven, awnings, Alcoa wheels, 3.70 final drive, new four-bag system, recarpeted and reupholstered, \$16,000 - Richard Palmer – 315-252-8593

For Sale – Motorhome drive axle complete, still with original boots and copper bands. \$100 – Wally Wilkins – wallyjoanwilkins@hotmail.com

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



TechTalk

LED Lighting

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

LED lights are a great thing for RVer's.

-They have a very long life (25,000 to 100,000 hours)

-Require only about 10-25% of the current of an incandescent (long battery life when

boon-docking!)

-Operating temperature is much lower

-They are very rugged (resistant to shock and vibration)

-They operate on low voltage DC

-Have many base styles for direct replacement of existing bulbs

-Are available in many colours including warm (incandescent style) and bright white (fluorescent type)

For house lighting upgrades your first decision is whether to simply replace the existing bulb (fluorescent fixtures require some modifications) or to replace the fixture with a new all LED unit.

Replacement bulbs may either be a one-piece bulb, or may consist of a socket adapter to wires with stick-on strips or arrays of LEDs. These can be found at RV stores, automotive or electrical/electronic suppliers. I bought mine on-line for \$15.00 for a five metre long strip. Search the Internet for pricing and styles.

The strips are very versatile. I put a strip in many dark drawers and cupboards, including a strip inside the closet. They are activated with a micro-switch so the go ON/OFF automatically.

There are many LED fixtures available now. Thanks to the low operating temperature, these fixtures can provide a lot of light from a small fixture. Again, look for these at the sources mentioned above.

I converted my clearance and turn-signals to LEDs and now the turn-signals won't flash!

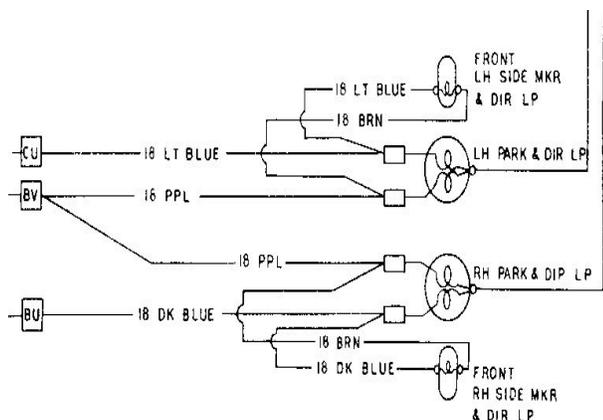
This common problem is caused by the fact LEDs do not consume much current. The flashers used in most vehicles (GMC included) operate on the current flow to the lights. LEDs do not draw enough current flow to make the old flashers work. You

need to look for low current flashers designed for LED lights.



Early GMC's had one flasher for both hazard and turn-signals, while later motorhomes had two flashers. You will need to replace one or both. Notice in the photo the LED flasher has a wire coming out, this is a ground wire and needs to be connected to the dash ground.

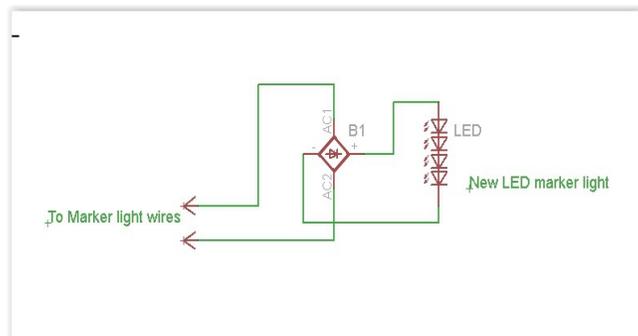
Another issue is your front side marker lamps will not operate correctly. This is because GM used a wiring trick to make the front marker lamps flash alternately with the front directional signals. The trouble is the wiring trick reverses the side-marker power polarity and the LED lamp is polarity sensitive. To fix this issue you will need to either rewire the side-markers by cutting BRN (Brown) wire and grounding it (see wiring diagram), or adding a bridge rectifier into the marker lights.



With the first method, the side-marker will flash with the turn-signals. The second

method allows you to keep the alternating side-markers while flashing.

Wiring for LED front marker lights. The bridge rectifier corrects the polarity reversal during turn signal flashing.



A third solution is to use non-polarized bulbs in the maker lights like these. <https://www.superbrightleds.com/moreinfo/miniature-wedge-base/194-led-bulb-5-led-wide-angle-wedge-base/199/>

LED's come in 100's of shapes and styles. Here are a few.



Note the rope LED light above in the awning roller !



Used GMC Parts

If you're looking for a used GMC part, one good source is still John in Warners, NY at 315-863-3211 or jmichalk@twcny.rr.com.

Wheel Balancing

A product called Counteract is a bead balancer injected into tires. Both the beads and the injector are available from Bruce Hood at bruce@brucehood.ca.

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2015 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2015 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 20 April to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

May Rally Registration

June Rally Registration

GMC HC 2014 Financial Report
(Members Only)

Second & Last 2015 Dues Reminder
(Some Members Only)