



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 2016



From the President

Boy! What a mild Winter! Well begun, half done. The rodent meteorologists concur. The Coachless rally is history, a success thanks to the efforts and guidance of the Podmores. The upcoming rally season is exciting. The Rust Buster, courtesy of Bob and Judy Paterson, will sneak up and bite you. Don't procrastinate! Take some quiet time to recall those things that need to be fixed, modified or included for the coming season. I'll leave the specifics and cheerleading to our VP Tech, Bruce Hislop. Rumor has it that Plunket's car show will be the last one while Ernie Dankert will have an encore. Who doesn't like Elvis and what about a final get together at the GMCMI fall convention in Mansfield, Ohio? It's the closest location I can recall. John Peazel, VP WagonMaster will follow up with more details. **NEW MEMBERS.** Team up with a veteran and get your feet wet hosting a rally. It's painless and rewarding.

Fuel prices seem to be manageable. Now, all we need is for the weather to cooperate! **HERE COMES SUMMER !!**

Thanks for listening. See ya down the road. Happy Trails.

Yours truly,

Fran Urbanski



Rallies This Year

6 - 8 May - Cookstown KOA -
Judy & Bob Paterson

Registration Form
Attached



Urbanski met at the Holiday Inn in Niagara Falls for the 13th Annual Coachless Rally.

For those members who went in a day early, on Thursday, a number of us went to supper at the Grand Buffet at the Fallsview Casino and eight members went on to see the Lettermen at the Avalon Theatre.

On Friday morning we had a great visit to the Jackson Trigg's Winery, followed by lunch at the Garrison Gastro-Pub. The ladies continued on with shopping. In the evening we had supper at Coco's Steak House at the Holiday Inn and celebrated Lena's and Linda's birthday. We finished the evening playing horse race games and dominoes.

After breakfast on Saturday a number of the men took their annual morning walk to Starbucks for coffee at the Sheraton Hotel. At lunchtime we all met up at the Shaw Coffee and Wine Bar in Niagara on the Lake, later the ladies all went shopping (again) whereas the men returned to Niagara Falls.

We were delighted to have Dot Boehler, John Evans and Ed Daniel visit us from the Buffalo area.

*3 - 5 June - London, Ont -
Plunkett's Fleetwood Country Cruiz-In
Mary & John Peazel*

Registration Form Attached

*8 -10 July - Spencerport, NY -
Cindy & Ernie Dankert*

**Registration Form Attached - 17 June
booking deadline**

*19 - 21 August - Tweed, Ont - Elvis Festival
Pat & Jack Elzinga*

30 Sep - 6 Oct - GMCMI Mansfield, Ohio

Dear GMC ers

Can't wait to start on our coach. If El Ninjo treats us as well this summer, we are going to have a Great Rally Season. Easter is early this year and once we get that out of the way, it's full steam ahead. Our rallies have us going back to some favourite spots, but this time we get to enjoy them with a bunch of new members. Decide to attend early and shoot for a perfect season or at least a Hat Trick with no Shut Outs. Just a little reminder to get your Rally Registration Forms in early so that the hosts can book events well in advance of your arrival.

John Peazel - Wagon Master

Lucky 13th Coachless Rally 2016

Al Hamilton & Nancy Berry; John & Mary Peazel; Ian Oliver; Frank & Linda Foldy; Roy & Joan Carscadden; Cliff & Penny Pike; Dick & Lena Longman and co-hosts John & Lou Ann Podmore and Fran & Lois



Over the Falls We Go !!!

In the evening we had supper at the top of the Skylon Tower followed by entertainment back at the co-host's rooms.

Sunday morning we enjoyed breakfast, made our good-byes and look forward to next years Coachless Rally.

John Podmore

FMCA National Convention

One of the two annual National Conventions is being held this summer not far from our area. From 6 to 9 August, the FMCA 94th Family Reunion and Showcase will be in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Details are on the website and in the FMCA magazine.

New Members

Greg & Donna Lipsett of Claremont, Ontario joined just recently after purchasing their coach last fall. We know you didn't get to use it before winter so we hope you'll have a great rally season coming up in 2016.



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 2016. 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.



2015 Financial Report

The final Financial Report for 2015 is attached.

Chapter Standing Rules

Our Chapter is governed by a set of Standing Rules and Bylaws. The Chapter as a whole approves and amends them at a general meeting. The main difference is FMCA suggests the subjects to be covered in the Bylaws and gives final approval of them. The Standing Rules, on the other hand, are approved or changed by us at a meeting without reference to anyone else. We all get a copy when we join and usually are never asked to look at them again. The Standing Rules haven't been amended in over five years.

They are meant to ensure the health, safety, and enjoyment of Chapter functions by all members. They are less than four pages long and cover various subjects such as:

- a. membership requirements, including being a member of FMCA;*
- b. rally masters, rallies, and rally registration;*
- c. guests at rallies and the responsibilities of the member who invited them for their conduct and costs;*
- d. the requirement to wear Chapter name tags at rallies;*
- e. the requirement to have pets on a leash, keep them away from where food is served whether at meal time or not, pick up*

after them, and follow any other rules set by a campground or property owner where a rally is held;

f. don't run generators between 8:00 pm and 7:00 am. Take into account where your exhaust is going. Carbon monoxide and smelly fumes can fill a neighbour's coach under the right conditions; and,

a few others !!!

These are our rules, written, and agreed to by us. If you want to add to or change anything, it's done at a general meeting. Please let a member of the Executive know you want to bring something up so it can be added to the agenda. Copies are available of these and other Chapter documents.



Tech Talk

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

Antifreeze

Well I guess I should have done this article for the Fall issue, but time flies!

I've never been good at changing the antifreeze in my vehicles, but the Murray, my GMC, is a special case. It's been 5 years since I had the engine rebuilt and the rad re-cored so it's long overdue. Time I changed the antifreeze.

Like everything these days, there is a variety of antifreeze types on the market. Most now claim to be good for up to 5 years. These long life products use Organic Additive Technology (OAT, H-OAT,



or N-OAT) chemicals which can attack the head and intake gasket materials used in our old engines. Antifreeze leaks into the cylinders or oil pan is disastrous.

In writing this, I consulted with fellow GMC'er, Emery Stora. Emery is a retired Chemical Engineer with experience in antifreeze formulations and has written on this subject many times on the GMC-Net Forum. For our engines, including those with aluminium radiators, he recommends the older 2 year life ethylene glycol (usually green colour) such as Prestone, Peak or other good grades of antifreeze made with Inorganic based additives in a 50/50 mixture with distilled water. **Be wary of products labeled "Safe for Older Cars"--meaning year 2000 and newer at most.** I also recommend avoiding the cheap off brands found in some auto parts stores as they often have inferior inhibitors in them.

From the Service manual, it indicates the cooling system capacity is 21 quarts (US). So rounded to the next US gallon, I'll need 3 gallons of the green stuff and 3 gallons of distilled water. You can buy 50/50 premix, but you will be paying a premium for the water content.

When draining and flushing the system remember antifreeze is toxic and poisonous. Don't leave any open containers as pets find it tasty but deadly, this includes the water used to flush the system. Dispose according to your local regulations. Check the condition of all hoses and replace any in less than perfect condition. Also remember to drain and flush the engine hoses to the house water heater if your Coach has that feature.

When refilling the system, add fresh antifreeze mixture to the rad until it is full, then install the rad cap just snugly. Start the engine and let it run for 30 seconds or so to

purge the trapped air, then shut down and add more coolant to the radiator. Repeat this several more times until it will take no more coolant. Remember to set the heater to "heat" and open any manual valves to get the entire system refilled with fresh antifreeze mixture. Check for any leaks in the system.



When you finally get the system full, install a new rad cap rated for 9 PSI and fill the overflow jug to the

COLD line. Take the coach for a test run to get it up to operating temperature then let it cool completely. Then re-check levels as more air is likely to be purged from the system.



It is important to replace the thermostat because it cycles many thousands of times and the spring and seals go bad and it will no longer hold

pressure after about a year or so. Water boils at 212 degrees F at sea level. A 50% antifreeze solution will raise the boiling point to 227 degrees F. A working pressure cap will raise the boiling point about 3 degrees for every pound of pressure. So a 9 pound cap, plus antifreeze will raise the boiling point over 250 degrees F.

There is a device on the market that makes flushing and refilling a whole lot easier. It is called the Prestone Flush N Fill.



It is a tee that is placed in one of the heater hoses. It has a fitting that allows one to attach a

garden hose. It also has a 90 degree fitting that snaps into the radiator fill neck. This allows one to bypass the thermostat and flush the engine, radiator and heater with the garden hose. You flush until the water coming out the top of the radiator is clear.

When refilling you take the cap off the tee and pour your antifreeze into the radiator. Excess water comes out of the tee. Once you have all your new antifreeze in, you cap the tee and then you can add the additional water to fill the system. No more need to keep running the engine and filling several times to get the air out and more water in.

It can be seen on Amazon here:
http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=flush+n+fill&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Aflush+n+fill

or a shorter address:
<http://tinyurl.com/zduojmn>

It is also sold at most auto parts stores.

Thanks to Emery Stora for his help and input to this article.

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.

Your Rally Photos

If you have rally photos that you would like to share, send them to Cliff Pike, the Club Historian, so they can be included in the archives, digital edition.



Classified

For Sale: 1978 GMC Royale, gray with red stripe. Located in Orillia, Ontario. The coach has a central bath room with shower separate, there are twin rear beds with a table that fits in the middle for card playing or for making the bed into a king size bed, the engine was rebuilt when we purchased 15 years ago, and has been kept in good running order since then, new air bags, and extra, rebuilt transmission last summer, has not been used in 8-9 years. As for mileage I would guess at 200,000 miles, we believe it came originally from California (this from the previous owner). All of the manuals come with the coach. We are asking \$11,500 - Leslie Welfare - 613-840-5312 or lesliewelfare@gmail.com

Free: Many copies of the 1990s and early 2000s magazine "GMC Motorhome Marketplace" including the Premier edition of 1992. Call Paul Lambke at 519-443-7543

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



2016 Newsletter

Submissions for the Spring 2016 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 April to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

2015 Financial Statement

2016 Dues Reminder (Some Members Only)

May Rally Registration - 6 - 8 May

June Rally Registration - 2 - 5 June

July Rally Registration - 8 - 10 July