



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

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

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com



2020



From the President

HELP! They've closed the border and won't let Fran and me in !! I have a new gavel that I haven't been able to use!!!!

Seriously, I know you are in good hands with Cliff running any kind of meeting we are allowed to have. We are having extreme GMC HC withdrawal symptoms. We did take a trip in the coach to West Virginia for my sister's 80th birthday, but we miss all of you !! Hope you are well, and that we can see you in Kingston in August and Rockwood on Oct first.

I know this won't last forever.

Lois



Rallies 2020

13 - 16 August – Rideau Acres CG - Info & Registration Attached

2 – 4 October – Rockwood Conservation Area – Urbanskis - Information Attached

Note: *Elvis Festival in Tweed, Ontario – 28 - 30 August has been cancelled like so many other events this summer.*

Rallies So Far

July Rally – *Jean & Lorne Hawley hosted us at their home and business in mid-July near Belleville, Ontario. It was a beautiful location where we were parked. There were some very interesting places to visit including a*



water buffalo farm and agricultural museum. Meals were excellent with chefs, Lorne, John Podmore, and Steve Lill. Many thanks to Jean & Lorne for a wonderful rally, enjoyed by all.



Lots of Room



The Hosts



Farewell to the Wagon Master

We have just found out that John Peazel will no longer continue as Wagon Master. He has done a marvellous job over the years for the Heritage Cruisers and we will miss his enthusiasm and leadership. We thank him for all he's done in keeping our rallies going, and for the rallies he and Mary have done for our group.



Friends

Emailing of the Newsletter



The quarterly newsletter will be by email only. The

saving will be applied to the club insurance cost.



Tech Talk

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

House Batteries

For years the deep-cycle lead-acid (LA) battery has been about the only choice for the house battery, but it had some serious draw-backs.

- Continuous maintenance (water levels, terminal corrosion etc)
- You could only get about 50% of its available charge (below that you seriously reduce the life of the battery)
- Explosive hydrogen gas is vented during charge and discharge.
- The battery needs to be recharged immediately after discharging to prevent damage
- LA batteries are very heavy
- High self discharge rate (need to be kept on a float charge otherwise they die on their own)
- A low charged LS battery will freeze in the winter and is damaged.
- Use a low recharge rate (10 amps max) if you want maximum life.

There have been some improvements on the wet-cell, with gel-cell batteries requiring no maintenance, but the other limitations still existed.

Recently though Lithium battery technology has been gaining ground. At this point, depending on your needs, the more expensive Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePo₄) battery is becoming a much better choice. Yes they are much more expensive, but with their increased life and other advantages they are more economical in the long run.



Some Pros and cons of LiFePo₄ are:

Pros:

- Virtually maintenance free (sealed, no maintenance or terminal corrosion issues)
- 80-90% depth of discharge. From a 100 Amp-hr battery you can use 80-90 Amp-hr
- Battery can be left in a partial discharge without damage and does not need to be recharged to the full 100%. It's still happy if you only recharge it to say 90%.
- Faster recharge rate (can be recharged in about 3 hours)
- Nearly flat voltage curve during discharge.
- Much less weight. A 100 Amp-hr LiFePo₄ battery weights about 35lbs vs 70-80lbs for LA. But for LA you would need about 200 Amp-hr (about the same as two 6V golf cart batteries) @140lbs to get the same

capacity as one 100 Amp-hr LiFePo4 battery.

-Very low self-discharge, about 1-2% per month vs 15-20% for LA

-Long life, 1500-2500+ recharge cycles vs 200-400 for lead acid (if not discharged below 50%)

-LiFePo4 is a very safe battery technology. It can be installed inside the coach.

Cons:

-High cost, around \$800USD for a 100 Amp-hr LiFePo4 battery

-You will likely need to replace your converter/charger with one rated for LiFePo4.

-You will need an alternator charging module to charge from the engine alternator.

-Cannot be recharged if the battery temperature is below freezing.

So you can see that one 35lb LiFePo4 battery can easily outlast 4 sets of 140lb LA golf cart batteries... it may be the last battery you need to buy.

If you need to buy a new converter, you should look into purchasing one that already has the LiFePo4 charging capabilities so you won't need to replace it in the future if/when you change to Lithium batteries.

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 is the responsibility of the individual coach owner.

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. Cliff takes lots of photos at rallies and you can see them at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133356126@N03/albums>. There is also a link to the rally photos on our web site.



Classified

For Sale – There is one GMC Motorhome Story Board left from the last printing. It is \$39.55 Cdn. Allan Hamilton - akh@1000island.net.

For Sale - New, never installed, GMC holding tank for sale, Ardemco model GMC-1. <https://ardemco.com/gmc-1-waste-tank/> Bruce Hislop – 519-274-2000 – bhislop76@gmail.com



Holding Tank

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



2020 Newsletter

Submissions for the Fall 2020 Edition of the "Comings 'n Goings" are due by 15 October to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

August Rally Registration
October Rally Information