



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

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

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

Spring

2021

From the President

Hi Everyone!

Fran and I just completed a trip to Temple, Texas to pick up our coach where it was stored for the winter. It felt good to get out and use the GMC again, although risky because of Covid, and possible break downs.

We managed to travel (between the coach and side trips with the Sonic) a total of 7000 miles! We saw parts of 19 states and three time zones. What beautiful scenery we went through! We did hit a couple of dust storms and lots of wind but only one or two short rain episodes.

On returning, we both got our mandatory Covid nasal swab tests and they came back negative, so we are safe for now.

I hope the Covid numbers come down soon, and that all the lock downs do their job, and we are back together soon. We will keep you posted on the status of this summer's rallies. In the meantime, keep your motors tuned and your hopes high for better days to come!

Lois, (the Gavel) Urbanski



Rallies 2021

- ~~14 – 15 May~~ – Cookstown KOA (cancelled)
- 11 – 13 June – Cookstown KOA, Ont
- 16 – 18 July – Hawley's Belleville, Ont
- 20 – 22 August – Dankert's,
Spensorport, NY

Rallies This Year

. Regulations on gatherings will determine what rallies can be held. You will be advised as things change closer to the proposed dates.

Club Officer Volunteers Needed

The Club has two vacant positions on the Executive that the Nominating Committee is looking to fill. They are the Vice President, Wagon Master and a Club Safety Officer. Attached are the duties of both positions. Your help is needed, please contact Bruce Hislop, Karen Lill, or Jim Hamilton.



New Members

Burl Vibert and Lynn MacIntosh became members recently and live just outside Kingston, Ontario. Hope to see you both at a rally soon.

Grant MacEachern & Karen Fritz just joined. They are from Toronto. Welcome to you both.

In Memorium

Nik Michalkow passed away on 15 March after a long battle with cancer. He & Janina attended many rallies in the early years of our Club. He was always helpful and made many devices for members such as jack hooks and air bag raisers.

Chapter Membership List

Enclosed is the latest Membership List. Please check that all your information is correct and if there are errors or changes, send them to gmchc@1000island.net. Also to protect other members, destroy any old copies.

Long Trip !!

Just recently Fran & Lois Urbanski made it home after a 7000 mile trip to Texas, west to Arizona, and then eastward along the historic US route 66. Fran has wanted to do the trip again that he took many years ago.



The historic Route US 66 was created in the 1920s as part of the new US highway system. It followed one of the old trails west from Chicago to Santa Monica, California that thousands followed as they moved westward and settled the American west. There is very little of the old Route 66 signage left because the creation of the Interstate system in the 1950s resulted in 66 becoming I 40. It is still full of many interesting sights and well known land marks such as the Hoover Dam.



Tech Talk

One of their overnight stops along the way. They were fortunate enough to get a tree on their site.



That was a long trip in a short time and with no problems. Shows what good maintenance will do.



Club Elections

This year is an election year for the Club. At a rally later in the year, we should set and elect our Executive, and Nominating Committee. Your Nominating Committee, Bruce Hislop, Karen Lill, and Jim Hamilton, will be determining who is willing to run again and look for replacements where necessary. If you are willing to serve or have someone in mind, let a member of the Nominating Committee know.



The Latest in House Batteries

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

I'm in need of new house batteries. Since we have an all-electric fridge so I was looking to increase capacity to make it through a couple of days of dry camping if possible. The popular thing has been to use two 6 volt golf cart batteries, to give about 230 Amp-hours (Ahrs) of capacity. But lead-acid batteries have a lot of drawbacks, biggest of which they are heavy and if drawn below 50% capacity their overall life goes way down.

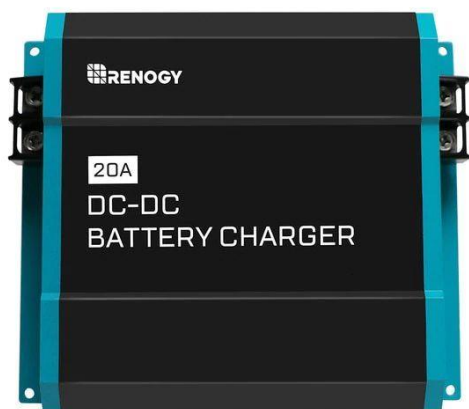
Enter Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄ or LFP) batteries. They are 1/3 the weight, can be discharged down to 20% (or less) several thousand times and can be recharged much faster. A single 100Ahr LFP battery is basically equivalent to the two golf cart lead acid batteries. They have a couple of disadvantages though, such as requiring a different charge voltage than lead acid and they cannot be charged below freezing. I already have a charger (converter) that is LFP compatible and we don't camp in the winter.

The other big disadvantage is upfront cost. I've been following LFP batteries for a while now and costs are falling. Typically, a 100Ahr LFP battery was over \$1,000Cdn. You can buy them direct from overseas (where they are all made anyway), for much less money but you are taking your chances with quality and warranty issues. Last fall I

found some guys in Alberta who sourced a reliable manufacturer and had good prices. I emailed them and talked to them on the phone and they seemed to be on the ball. So this spring I looked them up again and found their 100Ahr battery is now \$450Cdn. This is a price I could live with, so I ordered two of them for 200Ahr of capacity. I will receive these sometime in mid May, so about the time you read this.



I'll need to rewire a few things in the meantime so I'm ready when they arrive. Because of the different charging voltage and higher charge current, I'm adding a DC to DC charger for charging from the engine alternator. I found a Renogy unit on sale for \$119.



If you are looking at replacing your house batteries in Canada, you can now get into LFP for about the cost of replacing two golf cart batteries.

I'll gain some experience with them and be able to report the good and the bad in the next newsletter and in person at the Rallies.

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.



Emailing of the Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter will be by email only. The saving is being applied to the Club insurance cost.

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 – Coach body side moulding for later models from Applied GMC. Was \$200 US. Asking \$100 Cdn – Jim Owens – jbowens@golden.com – 519-462-1380



For Sale - A complete 400 hp Fitech fuel injection system that was recently repaired by Fitech (ECU replaced). All there except the oxygen sensor. It is out of warranty - \$475.00 Cdn – Eelko Byker - call me 905-835-0975 or cell 905-988-3033

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



Available Soon – Two six volt, deep cycle batteries. Changing house battery system and these will no longer be needed. Six years old and still in good condition. Was connected year round to a four stage charger/converter, If you have any interest, please let me know, Allan Hamilton 613-659-3522 – akh@1000island.net

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



2021 Newsletter

Submissions for the Summer 2021 Edition of the “Comings ‘n Goings” are due by 15 July to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

- June Rally Information**
- July Rally Information**
- August Rally Information**
- Membership List**
- VP Wagon Master & Safety Officer Duties**