



COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

Spring

2022

From the President

Hi Everyone!

After a cold and snowy winter, we finally had a chance to get together in Niagara Falls again! Not only that but the get together got our creative juices flowing and we now have multiple rallies in the planning stages for this summer season. It makes all this Covid isolation worth it, to come out of it with new, fun plans for our group. I think even the coaches are smiling in anticipation!

I hope this will be the start of a renewal that is needed for the Heritage Cruisers. So get yourselves and your vehicles ready for a great season!

Lois (I got my gavel and my groove back) **Urbanski**



Rallies 2022

13 – 15 May – Highland Pines, Ontario – Cliff & Penny Pike and John & Lou Ann Podmore

9 – 12 June – St. Thomas Dragway, Sparta, Ontario - Andy & Helen Spriet

See Rally Sheet for Booking Deadline

15 – 17 July – Belleville, Ont – Lorne & Jean Hawley

25 – 28 August – Elvis Festival – Tweed, Ont – Jack & Pat Elzinga

September – Willow Lake Campground -
Woodstock, Ontario –
Judy & Bob Paterson



New Member

Robert Hopper of Rochester, New York rejoined the Club recently. Welcome, we all hope you enjoy the Club and all it has to offer.

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.

Coachless Rally 2022

Niagara Falls, Ontario , 28 – 31 March Was a great success. The Urbanskis & Podmores did a wonderful job setting it up and getting everyone to the right place at the right time.



One unique difference this year was the amount of daylight. Since the rally was delayed two months because of the pandemic we had a lot longer with the sun up. It was especially noticeable at dinner way up in the Skylon. The view was even more spectacular as you can see in the photos.



The Falls



The Great View

Rally Master's Report

FINALLY!! We were able to have a get together in Niagara Falls, Ontario! After skipping 2021, seventeen Heritage Cruisers met at the Holiday Inn on Murray Street, just above the Falls. The Bykers met us for Monday dinner and Tuesday breakfast. We had dinner on the early day, Monday, at the Swiss Chalet, breakfast the following morning at the Flying Saucer Restaurant, and then some of the girls headed to the Outlet Collection in Niagara on the Lake. The boys went to a surplus store, Princess Auto and Canadian Tire. We headed back to Coco's for dinner and a dessert fueled post gathering. The next day, after breakfast at Coco's, we braved icy conditions to Niagara on the Lake for their shops and lunch at The Shaw Cafe, (Thanks, John Peazel, for treating us!) Four of us traveled to the Butterfly Conservatory for a warm visit to the fluttering insects. It was a beautiful place.

The highlight was dinner at the Skylon Tower's revolving restaurant, and thanks to Daylight Savings Time, we were able

to see a 360 - degree view in daylight. The food was great and the view spectacular. Following breakfast at Coco's, we all said our sad goodbyes and headed out into the pouring rain. We were so glad to see our long lost friends, especially Judy Patterson, who, after going through some rough health problems, showed us what a positive attitude will accomplish. A great time was had by all !!!

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.

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.

Tech Article



Steering Column Repairs

By Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

Well, it's finally spring and the Rust-Buster rally is a GO! Don't forget to check all your fluids, belts and tires before heading out on the first trip of the season. Look for leaks as well.

The steering experience on one's coach is a topic that always seems to come up when GMCer's get together. Our coaches are now 45+ years old so there are plenty of places for wear and misalignment.

One place source of play you may not have thought of is wear in the steering column itself. Most coaches came with a tilt column and inside, where the column tilts, there is a universal joint. It's buried out of sight, however I found mine was loose and worn.



This universal joint is a different construction from most types. It consists of a "fork" on the upper and lower shaft and a spring-loaded plastic "sphere" located inside the forks. The spring puts a preload tension on the joint to take up any play. However in the OEM design the spring wears against the forks and loosens the preload. The plastic sphere also wears leaving the joint loose.

Fortunately, GM used the same column on for many years on many models of vehicles so the plastic sphere is still available (GM #26026564). The cost is only \$10-15 Cdn at any GM dealer or parts store. The design has also changed so the spring no longer wears against the forks. I think it is a much better design and should do a better job at keeping the joint tight.

To replace the sphere requires dismantling the column down to the tilt point. Fortunately, it's not a hard job and there is an excellent presentation on how to do this on the GMC Eastern States web site. There are also a number of YouTube videos showing how to do it. The one trick is how to remove and re-install the sphere into the forks. You simply fold the upper shaft down then move it to the 7 o'clock position, then pull the upper shaft upwards at the sphere. The sphere will be released from the lower shaft forks. Then turn the sphere 90 degrees within the upper shaft forks and slide it out of the upper shaft.



To Install the new sphere, generously lube the sphere with grease and assemble the 2 halves with the spring inside. Note the replacement has an internal coil spring that pushes the two halves outward. Orient the sphere so the upper shaft forks slide over the narrow part of the inner sphere section, then turn the sphere 90 degrees. Then slide the sphere onto the lower shaft forks from the 7 o'clock position and then straighten the upper shaft. It's a bit tricky because of the spring tension and the grease, but not too bad.

While you have the column apart you may also want to change the following worn parts:

- Ignition lock cylinder (GM D1402B) Don't forget it will come with new keys.
- Ignition switch gear & rack (Dorman 83211)
- Turn Signal switch (Standard Products TW20)

Video of my worn tilt universal sphere:
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/xjQNUIsTxug>

Richard Sowers steering column document:

http://www.gmceast.com/technical/Sowers_Steering_Column_Upgrade_Repair.pdf



Classified

For Sale – New, unused coach body side moulding for later models from Applied GMC. Was \$200 US. Asking \$100 Cdn – Jim Owens – jb Owens@golden.com – 519-462-1380



Free - K&N air filter and cleaning kit from a 1975 Eleganza 455 engine. Used. Removed as I went back to the OEM filter. Prefer pick-up in Toronto/Scarborough area. Grant.MacEachern@me.com

For Sale – 100 Amp MPPT Solar Charge Controller – never used. Not for Lithium batteries \$25.00 Allan Hamilton – akh@1000island.net – 613-659-3522



For Sale - John Podmore has a Blue Ox Tow Bar # BX7365 that fits a 2" draw bar hitch AND a Brake Buddy both are in excellent condition and work perfectly. He is asking \$1,000 for each item or \$1,500 for the pair OBO. Please contact John in Elora directly at 519-823-3332 or at podmore@bell.net

Free – Satellite tripod. Looks new. 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.



2022 Newsletter

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

Enclosures:

Club Membership List

May Rally Information

June Rally Information

July Rally Information

August Rally Information