

COMINGS 'n GOINGS

Quarterly Publication of the GMC Heritage Cruisers

www.gmcheritagecruisers.com

Fall

2023



From the President

Hi Everyone !

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped me through the last four years in the Executive. We went through a lot together, what with leaving the FMCA, Covid restrictions, etc. I've been very lucky to have so many wonderful members who jump in to help whenever it's needed. No matter what happens in the future, I am totally grateful for all the Heritage Cruisers members especially the Executive which has so much experience and kindness in all circumstances. Thanks again!

*Lois (I relinquish
my gavel)
Urbanski*



Rallies 2024

Hi Cruisers,

Once again, I believe we had a good year of rallies. Thanks to all the wonderful hosts who took care of us so well! Unfortunately, the September rally had to be cancelled due to a lack of participation. I think the GMCMI Convention probably had some bearing on that. Thanks to Fran and Lois for the effort!

So, we look forward to 2024 with some anticipation.

Ernie and Cindy Dankert are thinking about hosting a gathering at their home in Rockport, NY to take in the Solar Eclipse which takes place on Monday, April 8th. This would be a bonus gathering for us, and an early kick-off for the year. Ernie and Cindy would like to get a feel for how many might be interested in attending so please let us know if it could work for you.



Ernie can be reached at edankert@rochester.it.com

Fran and Lois are working on a plan for the Coachless Rally.

The May Rustbuster will be at Courtland once again, hosted by our gracious host John Peazel.

June is currently open. WE NEED YOU.

In July, Lorne and Hawley will be our hosts at their home near Belleville. Always a great time!

Jack and Pat Elzinga are planning an August rally at their home along the Rideau Canal just outside Kingston. (Jack's workshop is like a museum)

Greg and Donna Lipsett will host the September rally in beautiful Prince Edward County.

We do need to find a host / hosts for the June 2024 rally! I know there are many members who have been eagerly awaiting an opportunity to do this so do not tarry! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cliff Pike, VP Wagon

Master

August Rally 4-8 August 2023

By Nancy Hamilton

Four coaches gathered in a spacious area behind the Vale Health and Wellness Centre in Port Colburn,

Ontario. Attendees were Eelko and Emily Byker, Tony Cockshutt and Jane Keppy, Jim and Nancy Hamilton and Gary and Beverly Van Dyken.



Also attending without coaches were associate members – Frank and Linda Foldy and John Peazel and friend Anna. Fran and Lois Urbanski joined us on Monday.

The many activities related to the Festival made for a fun and interesting weekend. The main downtown area with all its entertainment, bands, vendors, museum food trucks and beautiful canal views was only a short shuttle bus ride away. A large craft show was steps away at the Vale Centre. The Sunday Vintage Car Show, with an estimated 800 cars, was held in the parks right beside us and we were part of it. We proudly opened our motorhome doors to at least 100 spectators. There was a great interest in our coaches.

Sunday evening several of us attended dirt track racing at the Humberstone Speedway where we SAW lots of speeding race cars, HEARD their loud motors, and FELT the dust and dirt as it covered our clothes and skin. (ha,ha) We also enjoyed the festival fireworks that evening.



We enjoyed two special meals. On Saturday evening, six of us boarded the EMPIRE SANDY, a 200 ft. long tall ship, for a sunset reception cruise on Lake Erie.



It was a full and busy weekend greatly enjoyed by all present. Many thanks to Eelko and Emily for hosting this fun filled event.

GMCMI Convention Corunna, Michigan



A total of eight GMC Motorhome Families attended the GMCMI 2023 Fall Convention at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds near Corunna, Michigan. The magnificent site was 125 acres, beautifully landscaped, fully serviced and all buildings so well maintained. The sun shone every day.

Those attending were Jim and Nancy Hamilton, Bruce and Paula Hislop, Bill and Lauren Phinney, Eelko and Emily Byker, Tony Cockshutt and Jane Keppy, Gary and Beverly Van Dyken, Robin and Jim Hadcock, and Larry Whistler. Dan and Ginette Stuckey joined us for the weekend having recently purchased the Branscombe's GMC and Dick Paterson came on Friday, for the day, as a presenter. The St Martin's from St Thomas, as new coach owners, joined us and plan to join the Club

Heritage Cruisers actively participated in the many technical and non-technical presentations, the open house tour, meetings, games, crafts, the Funky Down 70's Party. All members either played or cheered at the new sport of corn hole baseball and we proudly came in second place, down by only one run. Happy hour was enjoyed on several occasions.

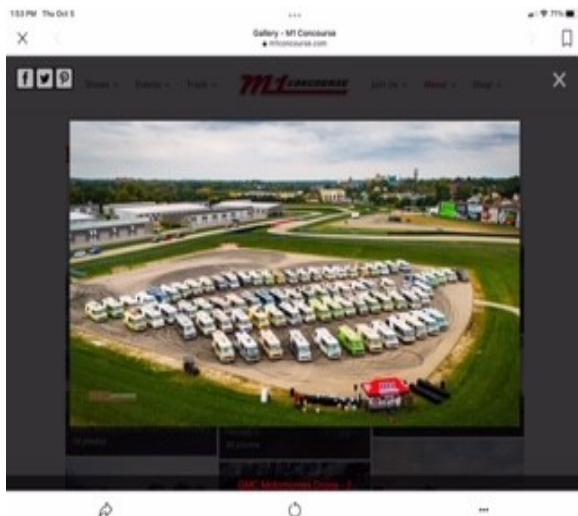
HC members also volunteered without hesitation at so many events starting with Eelko and Emily Byker who carried the Canadian flag at the opening ceremonies. Members served at meals and the ice cream socials, worked in the pits at the Pine Block Derby and helped to input info into the computer/pictures and bio's that were on display. Dan Stuckey led the Worship Service. Four of our ladies - Nancy, Lauren, Jane and Robin- participated in a podcast about "Motorhome Life from a Ladies

Viewpoint” which will appear on YouTube at a later date.



Queen of the Castle !!

On Monday morning, several of our members joined the 80 GMC coaches that caravanned in groups of 10-15 to Pontiac, Michigan, where the GMC's were first designed and assembled 50 years ago. The Homecoming was a memorable event with lunch, dignitaries, speeches and lots of camaraderie among members. It was truly a site to behold.



In Memorium

On 16 August Albert Branscombe passed away after a battle with lung cancer. He and Shelia were long time members of the Club.

Albert was an interesting and innovative character who contributed much to the GMC community, including the upgraded parking brake system that he designed and developed.

New Members

William & Fay Goulburn, of Rochester, NY joined the Club this past summer.

Welcome aboard. Hope you enjoy the Club and its activities.

Todd & Susan Snyder, of Williamsville, NY are now members of the Club also. Glad to have you with us. Lots of activities coming up in 2024.

2023 Club Election

From the Nominating Committee

All Executive Members have agreed to stay in their positions except for the President. Full Club members will be receiving a report of whom is currently on the Executive and the role of the President and will be asked for nominations for President. We will ask for a reply quickly such as 72 hours. The Nominating Committee will review the nominations and speak to each nominee to confirm they will accept the nomination. We will then send the list of nominees out to members for voting, stressing the importance of everyone voting so we have a quorum .



Membership Dues for 2024

That time of year has come once again. The Chapter dues for 2024 are \$20 Cdn or \$15 US payable by 1 January 2023. Earlier is better !!!

Complete the dues enclosure and mail it with your dues in either US or Canadian funds to our Treasurer, Nancy Berry.

***** Check carefully to whom the cheque is to be made out to. It is different for US & Canadian funds. If you have paid the 2024 dues then there should be no dues attachment with your newsletter.**

On 1 May anyone who has not paid is dropped from the membership and the mailing lists and will miss a newsletter or rally information.

Wearing of Club Name Tags

This is a reminder to please wear your name tag at a rally especially if there are new folks in attendance. It is helpful to both all members and guests.

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.



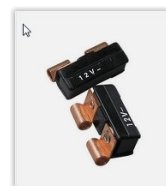
Tech Article

Fuses vs Circuit Breakers vs Fusible Links

by Bruce Hislop, VP Tech

Our coaches have three different types of electrical protection devices, Fuses, Circuit Breakers and Fusible Links.

Fuses and circuit breakers are electrical protection devices designed to break an electrical circuit whenever the current flow exceeds its rated current, usually by 10%.



ATO-ATC Fuse Circuit Breaker

A fuse is a one-time use device while a circuit breaker can be reset either

manually or automatically. For the balance of this document, the term Fuse will also include circuit breakers.

The fuse generally protects the wiring feeding the equipment (lights, appliances etc). For this reason, the fuse rating may seem high for the current consumed on the circuit. However, the fuse protects the wiring which can handle higher current than the powered equipment on the circuit and there is generally two or more pieces of equipment fed by each fuse. Each piece of equipment **may** have an internal fuse or one in close proximity to protect the equipment itself. This fuse will be rated for a current level just above the equipment's current consumption.

A fusible link is a different animal. It is used in low voltage (12VDC) circuits and typically does not have a current rating.



Fusible Link

The fusible link is rated in wire gauge sizes and is generally sized 4 wire gauge sizes smaller than the wiring it is protecting. For example, the main chassis wiring harness power wires are #12, so the fusible link feeding it is a #16. A fusible link can be thought of as a very slow-blow fuse. It can handle short duration high currents without failing. They are also water-proof and can be integrated into the wiring harness in harsh environments such as the engine compartment. They are used as the protection of last resort

such as in an accident where the wiring harness could suffer a severe short and cause a fire.

Our coaches have one main fusible link that supplies power to everything in the chassis except the starter and alternator. It is located on the aluminum plate under the passenger side hood and connects between the **Chassis Battery Positive stud** and the power stud on the **Horn Relay**. It looks like a regular piece of wire but has a special flame-proof insulation and is generally marked as a fusible link and its gauge size.

It has been suggested to replace this 45 plus year old fusible link with a 40 Amp ATO fuse. **DO NOT DO THIS!!**. The reason cited for the change is that you can easily tell if the ATO fuse is blown. This fusible link **SHOULD NEVER BLOW** under normal operation. If yours is failing then you have a major short circuit that needs to be addressed. This fusible link can carry more than 40 Amps under certain conditions. If you have done this modification, it is only a matter of time before that 40 Amp fuse blows. When it does, your engine will die, all your lights (including headlights) will go out, including windshield wipers... everything to do with the chassis will be dead. Imagine that happening at night as you then try to coast your way to a safe area on the side of the road in total darkness!

If you are worried about the integrity of this 45 year old part, go to the local auto parts store and ask for a 16 gauge fusible link and be safe for another 45 years. They are less than \$5.00 which is much less than the HD fuse holder and 40 amp fuse will cost. And if you

want an indicator in case the fusible link is blown, buy an LED eyeball side marker lamp and wire it across the fusible link.



It will light up if the link is blown.



1977 Royale



Classified

For Sale – 1977 Royale and 1976 Eleganza II. Low mileage. Contact Verna McQueen for details at 613-475-1435. She lives in Brighton, Ontario. Keep trying to call she has trouble getting to the phone.



1976 Eleganza II

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



Winter 2024 Newsletter

Submissions for the Winter Edition of the “Comings ‘n Goings” are due by 1 February to the Editor, Al Hamilton at akh@1000island.net.

Enclosures:

List of Past Tech Articles

2024 Dues Reminder – Some members only