

**WESTERN CANADA PLEASURE-WAY CLUB
NEWSLETTER
May 2008**

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership has grown by several owners and they are certainly an interesting group of people.

Wilf and Bonnie Schamber from Cold Lake, Alberta contacted me and we were delighted to hear from them as we lived on the military base in Cold Lake for five years. They use to put a car out in the middle of Cold Lake and when the car went through the ice you knew spring was on the way. Not sure if that is still allowed or not. They said that the lake was still frozen at that time and it would be another month before it would be clear of ice and then pike and lake trout fishing starts until the end of July. Camping is still the best in Alberta and it is the only lake that you can drive to on a paved road and catch lake trout.

They just got back from their 2nd trip to Mexico since they retired and bought their PW. They spent about a month in Arizona and a couple of months checking out the villages and beaches in northwest Mexico down to Puerto Vallarta. Alaska and the east coast are on their go-to list. They are planning a salmon fishing trip to Port Alberni in mid August.



Ruby & Cal Chaffey are from Edmonton, Alberta and they have been RVing for 20 years with a Vanguard C1 B before getting their PW.

Bob & Barbara Tait are from Vernon, BC and heard about our club from his neighbour John & Esther Barker who are members of our club. They have spent the past three winters doing the 'snowbird' thing in Mexico and the southern US as well as plenty of summer travel in the West. They enjoy attending music festivals with their PW. They are always interested in the thoughts and ideas of other RV owners (especially PW's) when it comes to travel, cooking, repairs and general tinkering with the units.

Doug Black is from Coquitlam, BC and at 87 yrs old is still travelling with his PW accompanied by his travelling companion his Cairn Terrier Max. He was born in Vancouver and lived in the Dunbar area most of my life and spent five years in the Air Force. Doug has been a widower since 2000 and his daughter and granddaughter live with him. He likes to wander about the various Provinces and last year he traveled to Vancouver Island and northern Alberta. He bought his PW in 2002 and the first thing he found out was that it lacked headroom. At first he kept taking the skin off his bald head, and learnt the hard way, to slouch down, as you move around the rig. He and his wife used to have a 26' motor home when they used to do the USA bit, then they had a trailer in a park in Yuma, AZ and he eventually downsized to a smaller rig after his wife past away. He hopes to go to Saskatchewan and Manitoba sometime this summer, if he can get a clear book of health from his doctor. Good Luck Doug hope you and Max can travel east this summer.

Ralph & Carole Clark are from Victoria, BC. They have spent a fair amount of time camping on the Chilliwack River, kayaking whenever the river isn't plugged up with fishermen. It is a busy area in the summer. In the winter months they spend time at Jordan River and Long Beach to catch a few waves. Although in the last couple of years it has been less and less white water surfing .. age creeping up, like most of us. Carole is originally from Hope area and Ralph is from Oshawa, Ont. He was a helicopter bush pilot and came out west on a contract and never returned, other than to visit. They have been retired for 10 years.

Jacob & Doreen Harms are from Calgary, Alberta. They recently moved there from Abbotsford to be near their family. They as well had a military career (27 yrs) with the Air Force followed by a number of years with Michelin tires management. They have had large RV units with tow cars etc., and finally got into a Pleasure-Way that allowed them to travel to all the little nooks and crannies. They have owned 3 Pleasure-Way's since their first unit in 1999 and have traveled as far as Inuvit, in the NWT. Due to health issues they may not travel very far this year but would love to hear of the journeys of other Pleasure-Way owners.

Peter & Irene James are from Bowen Island, BC. They have lived on Bowen Island for 19 years following 10 years of living and cruising in a 33ft sailboat. They have always had the urge to travel. Born and raised in the UK then moving to North America (Irene to Montreal and Vancouver and Peter to San Francisco before buying their sailboat in Scotland, cruising the Mediterranean, crossing the Atlantic and then cruising the Caribbean before ending up here on the west coast. For the last few years they were tent camping but wanted a little more luxury in life so in March purchased a 2000 Excel MP. This is our first experience of rving and our first three-day trip to Larrabee and Birch Bay State Parks was so enjoyable that we are now busily planning some longer trips for the rest of this year. We are heading for Camano Island for the Artist Studio Tour and the Olympic Peninsula in May. We are currently trying to get our cat familiarised with the PW as we intend to bring him with us on most of our trips. Future plans for this year include a circle tour from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, Vancouver Island East Coast, Powell River, Sunshine Coast and return to Horseshoe Bay and back to Bowen Island. Also hope to visit Death Valley and the Las Vegas area in the fall. Our other main interests are Photography (Irene) and Stained Glass (Peter). There is a little more information about us and our family and our travels on Irene's website <http://www.mybowenisland.com> We have spent all of our camping time in government run parks both here in Canada and the US.

Jim Dickson & Maureen Campbell are from Victoria, BC. We bought our PW in the spring of 2002 and in the fall of that year we decided to give it a real run and drove it across Canada. We spent seven weeks touring our country and enjoying every minute. We have owned other units from truck &

camper to a larger Bigfoot Motor home but we definitely enjoyed travelling in the PW. We especially enjoyed being able to park everywhere and by the end of the seven weeks we were still talking to one another so we were hooked! We made up the king bed and left it down for the entire trip, which made it easier and we certainly didn't lack for comfort. We have managed to get away every year on a long trip but do enjoy heading out on the weekends close to home. Jim retired last month and we have just returned from a trip driving down the coast from Washington State to San Diego, CA. We spent a couple of weeks on the road and returned home last week. Weather was wonderful on the way down and we hit snow coming home on the last day but apparently it was snowing in Victoria also. We plan to stick pretty close to home for a while and enjoy the good weather when it decides to get here!

Bruce & Adrienne Relkie are from Sechelt, BC. We met them while we were touring on Vancouver Island in early May and happened to see them while in Parksville and then ended up in Chemainus at the same time and invited them to join our club. They just love their PW and had been down to Tofino, Salt Spring Island and have been traveling the Pleasure-Way for a couple of years.

Cliff & Annabelle Ringash are from Brandon, MB. We have been retired now for 13 years, Cliff from the City Police Force and Annabelle from the Brandon School Division where I was the Work Experience Coordinator. We have had 4 other Class B campers and this is our first Pleasure-Way. We bought a 1998 Ford Excel from Florida from the internet, flew to Frostproof, Florida to pick her up, stopped for 4 weeks in Weslaco, Texas before bringing her into Canada. The import process was totally painless on everything but the pocketbook...GST, PST, and the safety check for the Manitoba licence. We have travelled extensively for the past 13 winters throughout Mexico, and we hope to take the camper on her maiden voyage to Mexico for the 5 worst months of the winter!!!

Lorne & Jean McLennan are from South Surrey, BC. They traveled across Canada in their PW in 2005.

We would like to welcome all our new members to the Pleasure-Way Club. We certainly have a variety of interesting people in the group.

Adventures – First Trips of the Year

Connie & Joe Abrook

Hi everyone. Our first trip of the season was taken the 2nd week of April as a shake-down run to make sure our 2007 Excel is performing well. We took an overnigher and traveled from Saskatoon to the town of 'Dog River' aka Rouleau, Saskatchewan. Dog River is the fictional town portrayed in the TV show 'Corner Gas' and is about a two and a half hour drive from home. After touring the town and taking pictures we continued to the city of Moose Jaw and hooked up at an RV park for the night. Temps were a couple degrees below freezing over night and our portable electric heater kept us comfortable for sleeping and our gas furnace brought us up to living temp in the morning. While in Moose Jaw we went through the Western Development Museum whose theme is on travel. Rail, air and ground travel. Really interesting and brought back many memories. The next day we traveled back to Saskatoon bucking a stiff cross head wind. Connie drove most of the way home and we had no problems with the road ability of our home on wheels. Rated on a scale of one to ten, we figure about a nine. (I never give a perfect score). The next day we got a dump of snow, which is continuing for about a week. Our little excursion has wet our appetite and we can hardly wait to get the wheels a

rollin. Our next major trip should be heading west to Vancouver Island to check out the grand kids near the end of May. Safe Travels

Dave & Diane Hardiman - First Trip

We enjoyed our 2 nights away in Mt Kidd RV Park in Kananaskis. It is a lovely site and we were the only campers there so had the hot tub room all to ourselves. It snowed very heavily as we arrived on the Monday but it didn't feel all that cold. It was a bit scary walking through the trees, especially early evening, when our footprints mingled with the wild animal prints, but apart from deer and coyotes we missed the cougar and bear, which we understand were nearby!

We felt quite at home in the camper but the only thing we came across was the fridge didn't work. As it's under warranty and is being sorted out by a mobile repairman. I know you aren't supposed to leave food, etc. outside when camping, but we put the bottle of milk out overnight, and of course, in the morning it was solid! At breakfast it was a case of 'how many lumps of milk do you want on your porridge?'

Oregon Coast Trip

We had just over two weeks away, drove 5,774 kms and came back with batteries fully charged, having seen such incredible scenery and met, without exception, delightful people.

Once over the mountains and into B.C. we came across GREEN grass and the beginnings of spring – maybe the rain had something to do with it! Then down through the Okanagan Valley where the blossom was well under way, and into Washington. We visited the Coulee Dam and the Dry Falls, found the only road open anywhere near Mount St Helens, and then into Oregon.

We didn't time our drive through Portland very well, as it was rush hour, but the road signs were quite good, so shortly afterwards we arrived at the coast at Cannon Beach, and from there on we drove south, and the scenery, as you know, is just wonderful. This was a real joy to us as, coming from England, we were rather missing the sea, the tides and sea gulls!

Taking in all the sights we could we drove down very leisurely as far as Mendocino in California, seeing the redwoods on the way, and drove to a small town called Ferndale on the coast. I kept saying 'Oh the colour, the flowers, the greenery'!! We had left Alberta enjoying the end of the winter, spring had begun in BC, and now we were in summer.

We then meandered back through central Oregon, able to visit Crater Lake, where again, the road up to the south entrance had only just been opened. The snow was about 20 foot thick and the snow came up to the roof at the visitors centre. But what a view when we were able to view the crater from one small area!

A few little problems with the Pleasure Way, and are in fact waiting to hear back from the dealer in Lethbridge about how they are going to deal with them . . . Dave found the **steering extremely light** which he felt made driving not only dangerous at times, but very tiring. **The fridge**, which had never worked and had had to be replaced before we left, wouldn't work during the day while we were driving – only when we were plugged in at a site or off the propane. It blew a fuse minutes after driving off. The city water connection worked well, but the **interior pump** for off site use caused

water to cascade through the outside opening. **The plastic vane for the TV aerial** on the roof had bent up slightly as we drove home after initially picking up the van (maybe the dealer hadn't wound it back enough), Dave bent it back, but on this holiday, having driven through very strong winds, we saw it sticking straight up! A bit of ingenuity on Dave's part – he wound electrical tape around a hand held windshield ice scraper to the plastic vane, and pushed the scraper under that cowl. It's survived the journey back and is still there, colourful but a bit unsightly! The only other problem was one of the **back speakers** didn't work.

We found the State Forestry campsites were almost perfect, but some of the other ones not such good value for money. Not sure where our next travels will take us, it could be in any direction with so much still to see.

Tips - By: Jim Dickson

There is a new lady in my life - Jill. Picked her up on the last trip south and found her to be a very helpful travel companion. To clarify, I always travel with my wife Maureen but Jill will also be a travelling partner from here on. As most of you know travelling around the country, through large cities and along remote roads can be a navigating nightmare. While Maureen can help somewhat with signage, her main pleasure is the scenery. Reading maps is not one of her favourite things to do on the road. So I got Jill to help out. Jill's pleasure is navigating and she does it extremely well.

To those that don't know, Jill is the voice of the Garmin 200 series GPS. I had researched GPS's for quite a while and settled on the Garmin Nuvi 260 for a number of reasons. The main benefit is that Jill translates street names to speech so my eyes do not have to be on the GPS screen when approaching intersections. We found Jill very helpful in locating the nearest library in the towns since we use the Internet in libraries across the country to keep in touch with folk back home. She also helped us find the nearest Wal-Mart, Costco and RV resorts. When I think of our previous travels across Canada and the US without Jill, I don't know how we coped. We had a lot of wrong turns and backtracking. (Remember - men don't ask directions).

Jill's navigating was very accurate. Occasionally we would question the route she chose but she always got us where we wanted to go. I think Maureen got a bit jealous because I would listen to Jill more than I would her. But Jill eased the tensions that often come with having to rely on a passenger/partner to read and translate maps. Saved us having to stop at several travel centres to get maps and seek advice.

California law says you cannot have a GPS mounted on your windshield but the Garmin 260 mount sits nicely in the small cup holder. Or the passenger can hold and search addresses while the driver is busy driving.

Wal-Mart in the USA has the largest selection of GPS's I have seen and they have good prices, good return policy and an inexpensive extended warranty. Costco Canada sells them on their web site but not in their stores. All in all, a good buy for about \$300.

GPS Difficulties by Rosemarie Bull

I am glad that Jim has had such success with his GPS. I hope he is willing to give lessons, because on our most recent trip to Vancouver Island I almost left ours there. We have a Magellan and when you

want to enter an address often the letter you want to enter is not highlighted so is unavailable. We were looking for a campground on Larch St, but that street was not available at all as it wouldn't let me enter the 'a', it gave me a choice of Linden St or Ave. Then when we were looking for 624 Lazo St, it claimed there was only 1 & 2 Lazo. Then it directed us to a dead end street and we could see the street we wanted on the other side of the cement barricade. I have written the company about not letting you enter a letter before, but never received a reply.

Making Room for Their Pleasure-Way - Jim Dickson & Maureen Campbell

Some people will go through the ends of the earth to give their PW a home of its own. They decided to lower the floor of their garage and had all the cement removed from the garage and driveway, dug down 18", cement re-poured and new 9' garage doors installed. At the same time, they also had a sani-dump installed in the driveway and tied in to the main sewer line. Figured we were going this far, might as well go all the way!





Solar Panels by Jacob Harms

We have had an 80 watt solar panel mounted on top of all 3 of our Pleasure-Way's since our first unit in 1999. The 80 watt panel measures around 20 inches by 48 inches and fits just behind the roof air vent and the air conditioner. It sits up there on 4 brackets just off the roof . The wires run through the roof and lead to the solar regulator located near the house battery. Our current unit is the Plateau with the battery under the passenger seat. The regulator is mounted on the outside of the battery box facing the passenger door. The 80-watt solar panel has kept our house battery charged while dry camping for a long time. On our trip to Inuvik we dry camped some time a week at a time and never a concern about low battery. Mind you we have a generator as back-up as well, but didn't require its use. We

have an Inteli-power 9100 wizard that plugs into the Inteli-power 9100 converter, which keeps the charging in proper order. The system works great. This past winter in Calgary while the unit was stored I disconnected the red power switch and the solar panel kept the battery charged throughout the winter months.

Tips – by Rosemarie Bull

Recently I came across a website www.geeksontour.com It is a husband and wife who full time in their RV. They have been in the computer business for some time and have great video tutorials on their website. Also on the left side of the page look for “Articles and Links” that has some interesting websites to check out. A lot of the information is free but they are soon going to be charging for some of their tutorials. I have signed up for their newsletter and have found out some interesting things. They have several articles on WiFi and traveling with a laptop. I really like the tutorials as you can see what to do, which makes it so much easier and it is at a slower pace than some of the others on the internet and if you don’t get it the first time just play it again.

Travel – by Rosemarie Bull

Just in case anyone is thinking of visiting Vancouver Island but is turned off by the cost. Right now it is a reduced rate of a little less than half price. It is called the Coast Saver and if you travel to Duke Point (near Nanaimo) during the week it is reduced rate and travel to Swartz Bay (Victoria) on the weekends you get the Coast Saver again. It isn’t advertised at all and even people we visited on the Island didn’t know about it. So go to www.bcf ferries.com and save yourself a bundle. It cost us \$35 and the same one-way trip in July will cost \$73.00. This sale runs out the end of June.

Tinker by George Bull

If you have any problems with your fridge stopping, there are two fuses you should know about. One is in the back panel inside the RV in front of the couch. Fords that is. Now the other is in the area of the main switch. Look inside this cupboard and you will see three main power cords coming out into black boxes. Each one has what they are for on the front of the box. The one for the fridge is the centre one. Push the reset located on the side and away you go. To note the fridge and outlets including the ones in the bathroom are on the same fuses. This is about to change in PeaWee. Yes another task assigned by Rosemarie.

Nice to be back and in the shop again. Rosemarie has her PeaWee and me on the road to where ever. Finally I built a storage container for the big items such as lawn chairs, solar panel and the likes. First we bought a Delta aluminium box from Canadian Tire, it is 20X24X48. Cost \$225. Then I designed a trailer hitch for the box for it to be carried by the hitch on the rear of the PW, total cost for materials. Total for cargo box and hitch \$260. Cheap say I.



I.



Rosemarie wanted a shelf on the wall above the rear side windows for when we are in bed watching TV she needs a place to put her glasses and TV button and a pile of other items. So I made two very similar to the spice rake only longer and they are going in tomorrow I hope.

Gas mileage on our Island trip was an average of 17.4 MPG. On one fill-up we got 19 MPG. Mind that is taking into account how much we filled up and how full it was to begin with. That's keeping the speed down to 95 Ks and lower. Wanted to see for certain what the gas mileage would be at that speed. Needless to say we are very happy with that. A little more tinkering and one should see the 20-mpg mark every now and again, maybe.

This weekend the temp was high here in the valley and the sun was on the rear windows of the PW. Our temp gauge read 104.8 in the PW. Wow warm. So I used my aluminium insulating foil and cut out two sections for the rear windows. Make them bigger than the window as there is a channel around the glass itself. Just tuck the foil into the channel and it reflects the sun and the RV stays cooler. Take it out when driving and if you have a sun problem in an RV site put it back in. You can buy the foil in any home repair shop, even Home Depot has it. Get the one with the foil on both sides.

Rosemarie keeps coming up with these ideas for the PW. She might just as well have designed it in the first place. She is keeping me busy in the shop on modification. Mind we shall pass them all onto the members and some might even be used. The good ones and the bad ones as well.

Fall Rally

Fall rally info will come via Email to each member as there is a lot of planning to do and also I want to book us into a real nice RV park and make a long weekend of it. We have been communicating with Nk'Mip Campground in Osoyoos but they are very slow in responding and both dates we asked for they finally came back and said that two groups who go there regularly had booked the dates we asked for. We are now trying for different dates or going to look for a different campground. We just thought that Osoyoos was good for boating if someone had a boat, plus there are wine tours in the area and the weather is still warm there in September. We are thinking of looking for a Provincial Park that is nice but they don't have power, if that is important to members. There is a nice little Provincial Park in Osoyoos too that goes out into a spit in the water, but it has to be booked and that can only be done three months in advance. Will have to see if there are openings there in September, but we would have to reserve the number of sites needed. You can check out the info at www.discovercamping.ca. After Labour Day we might not have to reserve, but it would be taking a chance, maybe. So we will be working on that and letting everyone know by e-mail. There are also nice campgrounds between Kelowna and Oliver that we will be checking out.

Wishing all a Pleasure-Way of Travel this summer, maybe we'll see you on the road, if your anywhere near Alaska and Alberta that is.