



## WESTERN CANADA PLEASURE-WAY CLUB NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2009

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club.

#### **Hlus, Zenith & Marjorie**

We live in Edmonton. We have a 2006 Pleasure-Way Excel. Several years ago we drove from Edmonton and toured Quebec and all of the Maritime islands. We left in May and returned in September. On our way back we chose the Eastern US and mid US States route. The Dakotas were the most interesting as we visited the massive badlands, Mount Rushmore, the carving of Running Bear in the town of Crazy Horse, the famous Blackhills, Sturgis where a thousands of Harley Davidsons' meet and the 1890 town of Deadwood.

We are planning an early spring trip to Padre Island and area in the State of Texas. Is anyone interested in tagging along?

A treed and quiet camping spot on Vancouver Island would be Salmon Point. This campsite is located 10 Km south of Campbell River and on the river channel corridor. Charter fishing boats can be chartered from this site. This would be a perfect spot to meet during the summer months.

#### **Kendall, Peter & Chris**

I retired in Courtenay on Vancouver Island in 2002 after a 35-year career in the Air Force. Chris and I are both originally from Ontario but we have lived in many locations across Canada as well as Maryland and Virginia in the U.S. during our time in the military. If we feel safe driving the RV after the fix for road wander we would like to travel south as well as driving to Alaska and going across Canada. We would very much like to meet other club members and participate in any group travels and rallies.

#### **Kerr, Colyn & Ayn**

We are the proud owners of a 'new-to-me' Pleasure-Way Plateau and the previous owner, Jake Harms, has kindly let me know about your group. Although this is my first Pleasure-Way, I've been the well-traveled owner of a VW Westfalia for 15 years and appreciate the value of sharing tips and experiences. Although not part of a formal group, Westie owners are notorious for their camaraderie. It's going to take me a while to stop waving to every Westie that passes, as is the custom everywhere. :-)

Jake's enthusiasm for Pleasure-Ways has convinced me to join your group. As a member, I'll to my best to share my useful experiences.

### **MacDonald, Dennis & Faye**

We are Dennis and Faye MacDonald and live in Edmonton, Alberta. We are very excited to have just recently purchased a "new to us" 2000 Lexor Pleasure-Way. We have been retired for sometime and are downsizing from a fifth wheel. Our only trip so far has been to Minot, North Dakota for the Hostfest. We were very pleased with everything considering we had cool wet weather and very high winds going and on the return trip.

With our fifth wheel we did some longer trips like going down the Baja with a caravan group. We also spent three months touring Florida, Texas and the states between here and there travelling with our sister and brother-in-law. We are looking forward to some shorter trips to escape some of the Alberta winter. We enjoy going to the Kelowna area every spring to do some golfing and visit family and friends. We would love to hear from anyone with ideas and hints on travelling with more togetherness and less storage. The Pleasure-Way Club sounds like a perfect way to meet and share adventures with other people.

### **Morgan, Les & Patricia**

My wife, Patricia, and I live in Calgary. I recently retired after many years with Shell Canada. Patricia is self-employed as an author and professional speaker and she travels extensively in Western Canada (see her website at [www.solutionsforresilience.com](http://www.solutionsforresilience.com) . I'm a paddler at heart and most of my "camping" trips have involved a canoe, a tent and a fishing rod with paddling trips across much of Canada west of Thunder Bay and a little sea kayaking off the West coast. Last year, anticipating retirement and more extensive traveling, I bought my van, a 1995 Pleasure-Way STW. So far I haven't had the opportunity to use it for much other than local Alberta trips, with the exception of a trip to the Sunshine Coast last month. This winter, I plan to head South for a few weeks and next summer I'd like to drive to Alaska and/or East to Ontario and perhaps the Maritimes. Since it would be difficult to carry a canoe on the PW, I've purchased an inflatable canoe which (almost) easily packs into the van.

I haven't yet made any modifications to the PW other than updating the radio and adding an inexpensive rear view camera (although I am considering adding wheel spacers to the rear end). Since I generally carry my laptop, I've also removed the old TV and instead added a USB TV tuner to the laptop, which gives me one extra storage cabinet free. I have also joined a forum, [www.classbforum.com](http://www.classbforum.com) that provides a dialogue board for all sorts of questions and advice relating to class B vans in general.

### **Pauwels, Andre & Anne**

Andre and Ann are from Richmond, BC and just bought a 2007 PW-Ford Excel, last September 8th.

### **GOOD-BYES**

We have to say Good-Bye to a couple of our members, Jacob & Doreen Harms who sold their PW to the Kerr's and Al and Jan Higgins, who have moved up in size. Sorry we never got to meet either of you but we wish you well in the future.

### **Jacob & Doreen Harms**

We depart with sadness. Due to chronic medical conditions we could no longer make use of our third Pleasure-Way, pride of the fleet (Plateau) and have sold it to a nice couple who can now enjoy the unit as much as we did. Having been with the group since 1999 we have enjoyed many pleasurable trips, including a trip to Inuvik, NWT, the Yukon

and Alaska. A road trip like this is a true test of a well built unit, over the Dempster Highway and the route over the "Top of the World Highway" past Chicken, Alaska. Duration of that trip was three months.

It has truly been a pleasure being with the group and most of all having had the pleasure of association with Dean Rumble and Staff at the factory. Having picked up all three of our units at the factory, we experienced a very caring staff who provide excellent service and support to their customers. Thanks to all the Pleasure-Way Staff.

Regards Jacob & Doreen Harms, Calgary Alberta Canada

### **Al & Jan Higgins**

Just wanted to let you know that we have sold our PW and purchased a 30 foot Class A Bay Star. We loved the PW but with traveling for 2 and 3 months at a time, it was just too small. It would be great for weekends or even a week if the weather is nice but we couldn't keep two.

### **TRAVELS**

My wife Marie and I will be going to Arizona and area this winter. We will cross into the USA on Dec 15 and will stay for about 3 months if we like it. We have a number of RV friends who we will meet up with. We have done some packing in our B and are kinda killing time till we leave. We are going down I -15 from Coumts, Alberta and will de-winterize at Las Vegas or around that location.

Chester Taje

"We took our PW on a 6,000 km road trip in September and October. We towed our Chevy HHR and it worked out great. You may remember that earlier this year, I asked for help in finding a lift for my mobility scooter. Once we discovered that the scooter fit into the car, our problem was solved. For our first trip we pulled a small utility trailer but as luck would have it, two different RV's pulled into the campground we were in and each was pulling an HHR. My husband had a chat with each RV owner and we discovered that our car had been built with towing in mind and all the info we needed was in our owner's manual. All you have to do is pull the #8 fuse to the ignition and away you go.

The PW pulled the HHR beautifully. From Calgary we headed south to Cedar City Utah and through the mountains of Utah to Sedona Arizona and on to Phoenix. We traveled to Las Vegas and on to the San Francisco Bay area. After visiting our son we headed east to Reno and Elkhorn, Nevada and at one point reached elevations of 9,000 feet. From Elkhorn it was north to Pocatello, Idaho and home to Calgary. We drove through plains, hills and mountains without a problem. The manual recommends speeds of no more than 60 miles per hour so you actually have time to enjoy the view."

Jan Higgins

### **TIPS**

#### **Generators - Ralph Clark**

I have a mechanical solution for a propane generator that will not start. When looking at the RV from the rear, there is a rubber hose that comes out of the left side of the generator that is connected to the propane regulator. If this gets plugged the generator will not start. Take an air hose and blow across the end of the hose and it should suck out the debris. Do not blow up the hose as this could cause damage to the regulator and also blow the debris further up the hose. There are of course lots of other reasons why the generators won't start, but blowing out the hose got mine going.



### **Security – Armin Sachse (We had this before but a good reminder.)**

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. We started this when we acquired our RV two years ago and stopped at wilderness spots. It is a habit now and we have a place to hang the key beside our bed.

If you hear a noise outside your RV, tent or cabin like a bear or racoon or some animal trying to get in, just press the door lock twice and it will beep the horn. One beep should be enough. If it is an intruder, then press the panic button. The alarm will be set off. The horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain.

Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. It is also good advice for a quick get-a-way. Don't have to look for your keys.

It also works as a home alarm as long as you advise your neighbours. It works if you are working in garden and have an accident and your spouse is in the house.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Have a discussion relating to problems and solutions re the RV units as George had recently done about the wandering Ford units. Zenith Hlus

It was suggested we have a For Sale section. We have listed items for sale before, but being as the Newsletter doesn't go out at regular intervals, if you have something for sale you can send me an email and I will send it out using the bulk address I have for the PW Club.

### **FOR SALE**

2006 Pleasure-Way Ford Excel TS with 65,000 km. An Onan Generator. Price: \$63,000  
Call Zenith Hlus at 780-478-2692 or zenith2@shaw.ca

### **Canadian Bank Cards – USA Travels**

The Canadian Bank cards used to work at an ATM but now that we call them debit cards, they are not accepted in the USA.

My solution is very easy. Go to your local Credit Union and get a chequing account. At the same time get a Mastercard that ties into the account. It is called Mastercard to Global Payment.

When travelling, use it as you would any credit card but instead of paying once a month, the charge comes out of your checking account in about two days. This means it is just like a debit card. As a senior, there are no bank charges other than converting exchange rate.

If this too much trouble then just use your credit card and have your bank pay the bill once a month from your account

### **DIESEL VEHICLES in the USA**

Being as not everyone is registered in the PW Yahoo Group I have included an article about the new emission standards for diesels in the USA. This may also apply to Canada in the near future. Apparently there was an article in the Motorhome magazine that in 2010 the new emission standards will require

another tank filled with urea to treat the exhaust in diesel engines. This requires an extra space for the tank. The tank has to be refilled every 12,000 miles or the engine will not run. The claim is that the new process leaves the exhaust almost pure. At any rate it will add to the expense, which could be anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000, depending on the size of the vehicle, according to Motorhome magazine. An article can be found at the following website: <http://www.physorg.com/news145556132.html>

## **TINKERING AROUND**

I received a letter the other day from Ocean Park Ford, Surrey, BC. It states in part; 2007 and newer models have now changed to a 10,000 Km schedule. The 10,000 Km schedule visit consists of an oil change, multi point inspection, rotate tires and inspect for wear. I read that, as we don't have to have our oil changed every 5,000 Kms. All we need now is, as this says, half the oil changes first recommended by Ford. No I didn't get the info from my normal Ford dealer. But I was at the Ocean Park Ford and they were nice enough to bring me up-to-date on servicing.

### **Water leaks**

Lately I have received a number of queries on water leaks and wet carpets at the rear of the PWs. When you park your RV for the winter or extended time and it seems to rain a lot during that time. Park your RV on as level a spot as possible. If not, park it with the front end on the highest ground. This allows the water to run off the top of the RV and also out from where the air conditioner sits. If you park it with the front of the vehicle lower than the rear, water can build up around the air conditioner and flood into the conditioner and then into the coach.

The rear door seals need to be cleaned before you park your RV and also when you are ready to travel in the spring. Dirt, dust and what have you can get into these rubber seals and allow water to enter the coach and flood your carpet. It is best to clean the seals with a wet rag or sponge and then coat the seals with silicon or a good seal cleaner/coater. The seal will puff up and make a lot better seal than a hard dry seal. When doing this make sure the seal is in the proper place on the doors as it might have slipped out of its place enough to not come into contact with the opposing seal, hence, leaking and wet carpets.

I have received no information on leaking side windows by anyone in the Club. Some have had leaking front windows, especially those above the driver and passenger. These windows need a pro most of the time to sort out the leaking and repair it as well. I did mine but it could have been beginners luck as everything turned out just great and looks good and no leaks. Mind they didn't leak before the rubber seal had just come loose.

My advice is as follows. If the vehicle is still under warranty, contact PW Industries and have them recommend a shop that can fix your problem. If the warranty is up, try the silicon treatment and especially inspect the rubber seals and make sure they are in their proper positions on all doors. As there is a lot you can do yourself and save money in doing so. Perhaps, you are in the dark about something. Put the question out to the members in the Blog and we should be able to help you out on any question and problems you might have encountered. Remember we are here to help each other when needed.

### **Battery Maintenance**

A few newsletters ago I introduced to the membership a small battery charger that is about 6" long x 2.5" wide. It is called a CTEK Multi US 3300 Battery Charger. Bought in Canadian Tire at \$59.00. I have used that charger for some time now and I have monitored it every day since putting it in the Ford. It has four

functions, Desulphation, Bulk, Absorption and Pulse. I have found this to be a good charger and also a battery maintainer. I put it in the Ford, plugged it in and let it do its job. I have run lights, alarms and other power using items to see the differences. As soon as the power in the battery drops approximately 0.5 amps the charger goes to the pulse maintenance mode. The charger will go through all four steps in charging the battery if the voltage drops to lower than 12.9V. If you store your RV for the winter, this could be the item for you.

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the warmth and goodwill of the Season fill your Heart and Home with Happiness. Don't eat too much Christmas cake or turkey.

Rosemarie & George Bull