



WESTERN CANADA PLEASURE-WAY CLUB NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2009

Well, spring is here according to the calendar, so time to think of getting on the road. Many of you are enjoying the warm weather in the south and will be heading home soon. I am sure there is still snow in Alberta and now there is talk of flooding in Manitoba but for those of us who spent the winter in Canada we are ready to get the wheels rolling.

NEW MEMBERS

GUZMAN, Rafe & Marilyn Tiaven are from Oakland, California. They are both retired from working at Berkley in Oakland, Ca. We met Rafe and Marilyn at Dawson Creek on our way back from Alaska and they were on their way to Alaska. When we seen their PW just two camp sites over we went and introduced ourselves and we had a good time chatting about our trip and giving them some information of things to see in Alaska and some they might just want to miss. I seen they had screens on their PW vehicle windows and took a picture and then made some for ours when we got home. They stayed at our place on their way back from Alaska and we have since kept in contact with them. They look forward to coming to Canada again to attend our Rally another year.

HEFT, David & Elle are from Victoria, BC. I noticed on the Yahoo PW Group that a couple from Canada had their PW for sale and the next day they said it was sold. I wrote them and asked if maybe the new owners would like to join our club. They wrote back and said they would, but they had planned on leaving in the next week on a trip to California. So I will get an introduction from them at a later date.

RALLY

We are still planning the Rally to Saskatoon and would like to hear from those who are planning on going along or joining in along the way. We have to arrive in Saskatoon on a weekday in order to take the tour of the plant and are planning on doing that on June 4/5.

The plan is to leave on May 31st and drive to Revelstoke for the first night and stay at the Williamson Lake Campground. According to the owner they still have 2 feet of snow, so hopefully that will have melted by the end of May. You can check it out at www.williamsonlakecampground.com. I was wondering if anyone is interested in taking the 100k one-way trip from Revelstoke up to the Mica Dam and if so, we would have to leave one day earlier to have time to take that in.

June 1st Leaving Revelstoke to Red Deer we can make stops if there is something that is of interest along the way. We usually take the Morley cut-off to Hwy 1A, as it saves a few kilometres. Ghost Lake is along this route and when we went through last year the road had been newly paved. Then from Cochrane, Hwy 22 & 27 to Olds and then #2 on to Red Deer. It was suggested that we stay at the Lions Club RV Park, which is on the river in Red Deer. We are planning on spending two days in Red Deer. Red Deer has about 90 miles of bicycle path and they are not along the side of the road, but through parks

and you can travel nearly around the whole city on bike paths. If you go to www.city.reddeer.ab.ca and click on Parks and Trails then, Directions to the Lions Club Park. Click on “look n book” and there is a picture of the Park.

June 3rd Leaving Red Deer we will be heading to Saskatoon, through Wainwright, as we are having a member join us from there. We will take Hwy 14 in Alberta, 40 in Sask to North Battleford and then 16 to Saskatoon. Hopefully, we can meet up with our member from Lloyminster in North Battleford. If there is something of interest that someone wants to see or stop at along the way, it will be included in part of the trip. In Saskatoon we will be staying at the Saskatoon 16 West RV Park, which is a Good Sam Park for those of you who are Good Sam members. You can check them out at www.saskatoonrvpark.com. On June 4th we will take the tour of the Pleasure-Way plant. There is also the Western Development Museum/1910 Boomtown that might be of interest to some.

June 5th Leaving Saskatoon we will go to Watrous where there is a Mineral Spa and Manitou Lake that is spring fed mineral saline that enables you to float your worries away. There is a golf course and hiking trails in this area. Check out www.watrousmanitou.com. We can stay at the Regional Park and Campground, which is convenient to everything. It is only 125 km from Saskatoon, which should give us the day there and then the next day go on to Moose Jaw via Highway 2, which is 158 km.

June 6th In Moose Jaw we are not sure where we are staying yet and are looking into two different campgrounds. River Park Campground at 300 River Dr is within walking distance of the Tunnels and Spa, but is close to the railway tracks. The Prairie Oasis is on Thatcher Dr closer to Hwy 1 and Wal-Mart and the Western Development Museum. It has mini golf and a pool at the motel. You can check it out at www.prairie-oasis.com I have asked one of our members who lives in Moose Jaw for their recommendation but haven't had a reply yet.

I wrote an e-mail to the town of Rouleau, 47 km east of Moose Jaw, inquiring about the Corner Gas set, as some people may be interested in visiting that area and this was there reply.

“Dog River will still be standing. The Corner Gas set and Ruby will still be around. We are unsure of what it will look like. As for everything else it will always be around. The police station will be up and running as it is our souvenir headquarters.”

June 7th It is 400km from Moose Jaw to Medicine Hat there are two campgrounds in Medicine Hat that look nice, one is Gas City Campground which is a city run park at 402 11th Ave, which is out of town a way. You can see pictures of this campground at www.medicinehat.ca and then go to Accommodations and there you will see Campground – Gas City. The rates are pretty expensive at \$40 for full hook-up, \$35 for power & water, \$31 for power. Prices include GST, but if you want to reserve there is a \$7 charge. We won't be reserving. The other one is Cottonwood Coulee Golf & RV Park, which would be of interest to anyone who might want to golf, a reviewer said the rates were very reasonable. The golf course can be seen at www.cottonwoodcouleegolfcourse.com It is a small park located at 3245 – 10 Ave SW, and is easy access and exit to Lethbridge. There are no pictures of the campground and it only has 21 sites. None of the Medicine Hat campgrounds have websites, except Gas City which is on the city website. Apparently the World's Largest Teepee is located on Hwy #1 near the Information Centre. Another point of interest is the Medicine Hat Clay Industries National Historic Display.

- From Medicine Hat, head west along the Crownsnest through several of the region's agricultural towns such as Bow Island, the first town in Alberta to operate its own natural gas well. The town of Taber is famous for its produce, and fresh Taber corn is popular throughout Western Canada. Taber is also home to Empress Foods and the Taber Sugar Beet Factory.

As it is another 163 km to Lethbridge, I think it is too far to drive there from Moose Jaw in one day.

June 8th Leave Medicine Hat and have a stopover in Lethbridge. There are a couple of interesting places to see in Lethbridge, the Fort Whoop Up Interpretive Centre at www.fortwhoopup.com and the Galt Museum & Archives at www.galtmuseum.com both with very reasonable admission charges. There is a nice looking campground in Lethbridge at www.hendersoncampground.com in case our schedule changes and we do end up in Lethbridge overnight. Bridgeview RV Resort is part of the Holiday Trails Resort and also looks nice. They can be reached through the Holiday Trails Resort website.

There is a campground in Pincher Creek, which is 104 km from Lethbridge. I am checking into the Sleepy Hollow campground, which can be seen, at www.sleepyhollowcampground.ca. The other is Pincher Creek Veterans Memorial Park and Campground.

- The Highway passes by the town of Pincher Creek and heads into the Canadian Rockies. In Pincher Creek visit the Lebel Mansion and the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village.
- Stop and watch the Crowsnest River plunge over 12 m (39 ft.) into the canyon below at Lundbreck Falls.
- Visit the site of the Frank Slide. In 1903, 91 million tonnes (92 million tons) of rock crashed down Turtle Mountain covering a part of the coal mining town of Frank, killing 70 people. At the Interpretive Centre displays of the tragic Frank Slide, coal mining methods and the social life of the Pass offer a glimpse into the area's past.

June 9th Leaving Pincher Creek for Fort Steele is 210 km, via Hwy #3 and 93/95. Places of interest to stop will be the Frank Slide, Sparwood and Fernie. That will be a full day of travel and sightseeing. We will stay at the Fort Steele Campground across the road from Fort Steele and visit Fort Steele the following day.

June 10th Fort Steele opens at 0930 hrs with the shops opening at 1000 hrs and likely a visit of 2 hours would be good. Unfortunately, the shows don't start until July 1st. Being as we don't know what the weather is going to be like, we may want to continue on or take a visit to the German oriented town of Kimberley.

After leaving Fort Steele we had thought about going to Nakusp, but when checking the mileage that route is 796 km from Fort Steele to Oliver and 453 km travelling Hwy #3 going through Grand Forks, Greenwood, an interesting little town and then on to Oliver. We have camped at a nice campground on the Kettle River before with a golf course across the road, but I can't remember the name nor can I find it in the book so will have to do some searching on that. There are also a couple of nice ones in Grand Folks, the Municipal one in town at \$36 for full service and one out of town for \$22 for full service, but a 15 minute walk to town.

June 11th Leaving for Oliver, which could include a stop at a campground in the Kettle Valley area and arriving in Oliver on June 12th.

After working on this itinerary it seems like we are trying to do too much in not enough time and I might have to revise the date of arrival in Oliver to June 12th. Another alternative is to leave a day earlier if that will work for the members who plan on departing with us from Chilliwack and those meeting us in Revelstoke. This will give us more time to see some of the sites and maybe stay in one place longer. The

main thing is to arrive on a weekday in Saskatoon. I would appreciate hearing from those planning on attending as soon as possible as we are hoping to get away for a while in early April.

I have advised the Bel-Air Cedar Resort of our arrival date being Jun 11th and some members have planned on meeting us there at that time. I can advise them of a change of date to the 12th if necessary.

I will forward Bel-Air's e-mail to the members. They have asked for a non-refundable deposit, but last year we took our chances and we all got sites. It will be up to each member to decide if they wish to reserve or take a chance. They may be busier in June than Sept but I would wait before booking. I will advise you later as to how many members have confirmed with us that they will be taking the trip or planning on being in Oliver. Depending on the numbers, we can decide whether we wish to reserve. They do give us the option of having two units per site, as they did last year, but we all ended up with one site. Last year I gave them the names of the members attending, which I will do again this year, to make it easy for them when booking in.

Information Needed

Jan Higgins is looking for information, can anyone help her?

We have a 2008 Dodge Plateau. We were hoping to put a motorized scooter lift and scooter (hopefully trailer hitch mounted) on the back in order to accommodate a scooter for me. We have been unable to find someone in Calgary AB who can find one to fit. Does anyone have such a thing on their vehicle or know whom I can contact for information? Please contact Jan at cruisers@shaw.ca

Tinker

There has been some discussion as of late on toilet paper and the cost in some RV stores. We were looking in our grocery store here in BC and they sell a number of brands that we use in the house, double ply that says on the package, Marine and RV compatible. Much cheaper than buying at the RV stores and worth looking into as well. I seen a good brand at Wal-Mart the other day too.

If anyone out there is still having wandering problems with their RV or hard to steer in strong winds, please let me know and I will forward the solution to each and everyone who needs it, as I have the copy from PW Industries on how to solve that particular problem.

A few members have had problems with their petcocks on the RVs that drain the water out of lines and the drinking water tank. Yes they are plastic and they do break especially when cold. If this has happened to you or does happen, in the future, remove the part that is in the line or tank by screwing it out. Take it to a hardware store or an RV dealer and get a new one and screw it in. Problem solved. I would not put a plastic one back into the line or tank, I would use a copper or stainless one. They don't break so easy or so often. Remember to use a sealant, or Teflon tap, between the petcock and the tank or line that you are putting it into. Last fall I noticed that the petcock on the fresh water tank was hard to turn to open. I removed the pet cock from the outer sleeve and cleaned it up and put a silicon lubricant on the barrel and now it works like a charm. I will do the same for the other two this spring before we leave in Apr for our first trip of the year. Might save me from breaking that little necessary piece of equipment.

Update on the small solar panel for my battery upkeep. I have checked the battery from time to time since I installed the small panel. As you are aware I hung the panel inside the RV from the front side window. Now that spring is in the air, I have noticed that the battery is charged up and holding steady. It boils down

to available direct sunlight to activate the small panel enough to charge the battery and keep it charged. I have some drain on the battery, such as alarms, so it will discharge if it does not have a source to keep it in a charged state. My conclusion. If you are in an area where there is sufficient sunlight during the time you store your RV. The small solar panel should keep the battery charged, to the level that your RV will start in the spring. Also as we are all aware, a flat battery will destroy itself in very short order. Batteries are expensive for sure. I have found that the cost of a new battery is lower in Costco than in other Canadian stores. However be aware and check the date on the batteries. We bought one there for another RV we had and it did not hold a charge. I returned the battery without any problem I had my money returned to me, might be worth looking into.

Campground Recommendations

Donna Vaters has recommended a few campgrounds they have visited in Alberta.

An interesting place is the Dinosaur Provincial Park north of Brooks, Alberta, we took a tour into an actual dinosaur dig. Also there is a campsite near Fort MacLeod and it's a Good Sam club site, very nice people running it and very quiet and clean campground.

Also if you are coming along Highway 16 between Highway 36 and Innifree there is a campground that few people know about and it is one of the better campgrounds around here. It is the Innifree Recreational Park and it's across the highway from the Petro Canada gas station, you have to look for it but it's worth staying there.