



WESTERN CANADA PLEASURE-WAY RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER – July 2016

Website: <http://wcpwrv.weebly.com>

NEW MEMBERS

Jennings, Peter & Bonnie join us from North Saanich BC.

It is nice to have my sister and brother-in-law (Jim Dickson and Maureen Campbell) give us a few pointers. We purchased our 2007 Excel from club members from Parksville BC.

We own a 34 ft Tolly and belong to Capital City Yacht Club. We are looking forward to meeting everyone and hope to come to many events. Peter is retiring in November, so that is when we can really do a lot of travelling.

Clark, Mike & Tara who live at Charlotte Lake off grid near Nimpo Lake, BC

I had received an email from Bill Musselwhite saying he sold his PW to a nice couple from up country. When I received the contact sheet from Mike and he said they lived at Nimpo Lake I was curious how they found the PW in Vernon. So he has given us the story of the great adventure to buy a PW. I was also excited to hear they came from Nimpo Lake area, as several years ago I had read a couple of books by Chris Czajowski who wrote Snowshoes and Spotted Dick and Diary of a Wilderness Dweller about her life living off grid and running Nuk Tessli a walk-in trekking camp in that area. Mike says her place is across the lake from them and still lives in the area. She has a new book out called Ginty's Ghost. I highly recommend her books.

So how did my wife and I come to buy the Musselwhite PW ? It was actually a pretty long journey to get there that started many years ago with our first camper. Since then we have had three other campers, a 30 foot 5th wheel, a popup Chateau and a Little Guy. The space in 5th wheel was a plenty but mileage was horrible and we learned that we hate slides. The popup was a stop gap, the little guy was fun for a while but lacked any amenities and the campers were practical but getting harder to get in and out of as we get older and getting in and out of the truck in the rain or villainous hoards of bugs was no longer desirable, which got us to thinking of a motorhome.

For the past few years we have thought about a class C, but either could not settle on size or find one that appeared to be good quality, and we looked at many Class C's. After dealing with the umpteenth leak in our camper, despite proper care we decided that a Class C or anything of that type of leak prone design is out of the running. Our only option became a Class B. Ever since I was young and saw grandmas camper van I wanted one. Not to mention, that on some of our trips we have seen the benefit of having a small unit, especially in places like Zion or Northern

Michigan and Maine backroads. We started researching and it seemed that the Pleasure-Ways were the best quality, and the quest began.

During our RV wanderings we have seen a few vans and had some idea, and Youtube provided loads of insight.

Finding a good one however was harder than it should be. Just before our trip to Vernon to buy the Mystery Machine we went to Squamish to look at a "well maintained, excellent condition, never leaked" PW that was most certainly not well maintained, had certainly leaked and was in poor condition. That trip however showed us what we needed to know about layout and space. As we drove home my wife searched Kijiji and discovered the Musselwhite PW. It actually seemed too good to be true. We arrived home from Squamish, and the next day Bill phoned my wife and set up a viewing. As she had to work it was up to me to race down there and see it asap. The next morning I left before even first coffee at 0630 and arrived in Vernon at 1530. From the moment I met Bill I had a good feeling, it was like meeting an old friend. The van was beautiful and I put a deposit on it, much to the disappointment of many I am sure. For once Tara and I got the deal ! I headed back to Williams Lake to await my wife who was driving in for meetings. Once her work week was over we returned to Vernon to finalize the deal.

After the government took their very large piece of the deal we were on our way Friday afternoon. In a convoy the PW leading and the old truck and camper following. I was amazed to receive my first Pleasure Way wave outside of Kamloops. Being a jeep owner I am accustomed to such a thing and enjoy the community feeling it instills.

We have travelled many places all over Canada and the US, but for some reason, likely the convenience of its location, there is one place outside of Clinton where we have camped with every single unit we have owned. It is only 10 minutes off the highway and has loads of room to stop for the night, not to mention pretty good views. The bugs can be insane though. We arrived late, but quickly put out our new awning and had a glass of wine and dinner. We went to bed and spent one last night in "Titanic" our leaky camper.

After breakfast on Saturday we "moved" into the fancy new van. We were actually surprised to see that everything from the camper fit, with room left over. The only issue will be on those trips where I take my pontoon boat and fly tying kit, but it will still work, though the dogs won't like their lack of space, but a man has to fish !

Now for the funny part, how did I come across this group? Well it seemed to me that the vehicles alternator was not charging the house battery. I checked the disconnect, I checked all fuses, and wires. I tested the battery connections with my meter, I even removed the coolant overflow and checked the isolator, all to no avail. So I came inside and emailed Bill to see if he had any ideas. Back outside, like LT Columbo on a tough case I sat in the van and thought. Then I decided my next move was to do what I should have done first. I looked at the 12 volt wiring schematic and discovered the circuit breaker in the system. A quick check, and sure enough the breaker was tripped for some reason. All was not lost in the five hours however as I got to know the electrical side of the van very well, and Bills reply to me had the link to this group. This isn't the first time and won't be the last time that my last step in solving an issue should have been my first. My brain works in mysterious ways. Its trouble shooting puzzle solving wiring is all crossed up, but by golly I can locate the truck stop in North Dakota where I had that amazing burger 4 years ago without actually knowing where we were. My recollection of places we have been, usually food related constantly amazes my wife.

The Mystery Machine, (so named after all the Scooby Doo cartoons I watched as a kid, and because when we travel by RV we rarely know where we will go, we simply drive and see what we see end up where we end up, following signs that lead to interesting sounding places, hence the mystery) now sits ready for our first trip to Prince George next week.

See you on the road

Another great read if you enjoy BC history is called Three Against the Wilderness. It takes place in the Chilcotin, Meldrum creek area and is all about how one family brought the beaver back from the brink of extinction.

This is truly beautiful country and I highly recommend a trip through to anyone.

Webb, Martin & Susan join us from Victoria, BC.

We are fairly new to RV'ing, however, over the last year or so, we made several RV purchases, seeking the right RV for us.

We are both recently retired and originally we thought we would venture across Canada during our retirement. As such we purchased a 2015 T@B S M@X trailer, as we thought we simply wanted a bed and washroom. After a couple of short ventures, we discovered that the T@B simply did not have enough storage or room to move and we really did not like towing. We looked at larger trailers, but the idea of towing still did not sit well. We had originally looked at true Class B units (Pleasure-Excel and Roadtrek Popular 210), however, the shower in both those units did not seem practical. We ended up trading in the T@B on a 2013 Sunseeker 2215 LE (23'Class C), despite my promise to myself that I would never own a mass produced RV from one of the major RV companies. So I finally came to the realisation that I ultimately wanted a Pleasure-Way. I had come across a Pleasure-Way Pursuit when we first started looking at RV's, and it was love at first sight. The Plateau XL, was simply the perfect RV in my eyes. So I decided we should stop compromising and get what we really wanted. And so we did.

I would love to participate in discussion groups as I feel I can contribute valuable thoughts and ideas. We would also like to meet up with likeminded owners and share our experiences and learn from others.

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Haasbeek, Wilhelmina joins us from Winnipeg, Man

Looking forward to meeting Wilhelmina at the rally in Cochrane, AB

Munro, Neil & Sandra Spence join us from Courtenay BC.

Sandra and Neil have just purchased their first RV and choose a Pleasure-Way Excel TS. They currently reside on the east coast of Vancouver Island and look forward to getting out to explore more of what the Island has to offer along with meeting other like-minded people. Since they are still working they are limited to the weekends but look towards a time when they can venture further afield. They also look forward to meeting other enthusiasts out on the road and at the first Pleasure-Way meeting of the year which took place in May at the Rondalyn Resort.

Cook, Ron & Debra join us from Cowichan Bay, BC

Ron & Debra just joined the club but were able to get to the Island Rally the end of May and enjoyed meeting everyone there.

Rochon, Lea Ann joins us from Bowen Island, BC. *When Lea Ann contacted me she was travelling in the east coast.*

TRAVELS

Remember anyone can find a campground and be a host. Just let others know on the PW websites and see who will come. My theory on a rally is keep it simple. That way we all have more fun.

Passport America

One of our members asked me if I knew anything about Passport America and if it was worth the cost. I knew that Keith and Linda Oliver had told me they used it on their trip last year from New Brunswick west, so Keith has given a full description of his experience.

Passport America is \$44US/year. If you want their printed directory (we found it useful on our cross-continent trip but won't purchase it every year), I think it's about another \$25 or so. They also have an app that's more up-to-date than the book and is free to download.

You'll find that a lot of campgrounds that accept PA have restrictions: not valid July and Aug; valid Sun-Thurs; not valid holidays; etc. But when you are able to use it, the savings are 50%. The first time we used it, we stayed at a nice campground near Bangor, ME that had a rate of \$42US/night. They had a restriction of Sun-Thurs and we wanted Thurs and Fri - they gave us the rate for both nights. That one trip almost recouped our PA cost as we saved \$42. It was June and they weren't yet busy. For the campgrounds that accept it, PA is a way for them to fill otherwise empty spaces. Why offer the rate when they know they're going to be booked up anyway? It's unlikely you'll find the discount in areas that are always busy - Niagara Falls, Yellowstone area, etc. On the other hand, we used it on both sides of Custer State Park/Mt Rushmore in ND, both great campgrounds (where the campers beside you are likely paying twice what you are!)

On our trip last year (2015), we only made one reservation more than a day ahead. That was in Niagara Falls where we knew when we'd be there and that it would be busy (\$65/night no PA of course). Other than that, each day we'd look at the map and decide how far we wanted to go that day. Then we'd check the printed directory (has maps of each state with PA campgrounds noted and a listing of cg info), try to find a PA cg near where we were going, check the update on the app, then call ahead to reserve that night. Some campgrounds were not much more than a field with an electrical plug-in (like we found in N. Ont.); others were some of the nicest we stayed at on our whole trip. Some states have lots of PA listings, some very few or none. They are more scarce in Canada. You can check out their listings through their online site.

In my opinion, if you use the same campground regularly and it doesn't accept PA and you rarely camp anywhere else, it might not be worthwhile. If you travel a lot, especially in May, June, Sept, Oct, and/or through the week, you can realize substantial savings. I estimate on our trip last year (mid Aug to early Oct), we saved upwards of \$250 by using PA wherever we could.

This year we have a trip planned in Jun/July to Newfoundland. There are few PA campgrounds there. But there are several in NB, NS, and ME. I think it's likely we'll be able to use the PA discount several times this year, certainly enough to recoup the \$44, so we renewed it. With more and more campgrounds charging \$40-\$50/night, it doesn't take long to get your \$44 back, even if that's nearer \$60 in loonie-money!

Hope this helps.

(BTW, if you or anyone else decides to join PA, I think there's an option to identify who referred you. If you give my name (Keith Oliver) and PA no: VRC-664318, I think I can get a discount off of next year's membership.)

Keith

RALLIES

The first rally was arranged by Jim Dickson and held on May 27 & 28 at the Rondalyn RV Resort, Cassidy, BC on Vancouver Island. There were 19 units that attended this event and some were new members who had just recently joined the club and were from the Island. Everyone enjoyed themselves in spite of the weather. Luckily they were able to use the clubhouse the first night for the pot luck. As they could only use the clubhouse one night, despite of the rain the next day they improvised with a canvas cover and I had reports that it was still a great time was had by all. Being as we have 42 units registered from Vancouver Island the plan is to hold an event there every spring due to the cost of the ferry to travel to the mainland. Thanks to Jim Dickson for arranging these events.

On June 21, 22 & 23 we were at the Lakeside Resort in Oliver, BC. We had a good turn out of 18 units and a few that it was the first time attending a rally. It is always nice to get first timers out as they usually come to other events then. It was great getting together with members that we hadn't seen in some time and catch up on things. The weather for the first two days/nights was perfect for the Meet & Greet and the Pot Luck the second night. There was no shortage of food and it all tasted great. The third day was a little damp and some people went on a Wine Tasting Tour in the Oliver area. Others had their bikes and biked or some walked into town. There was also the bike trail in town that was used.

The second day Roland and Josie Brown came with their 1986 Pleasure-Way, which was the year that Pleasure-Way started in business. Their PW is still in original shape and has over 300,000 kilometers on it. They have owned their PW for 24 years and have been as far north as Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Roland likes to fish and has Clipper Canoe on the top at the ready. He often takes his buddies out with him fishing. At 84 he said he would love to have someone accompany them on a trip to Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. Check out the picture on the Club website.

Welcome to Tuktoyaktuk!

Located in [Canada's](#) farthest northern region, Tuktoyaktuk lies on the shores of the [Arctic Ocean](#) at the tip of the [Northwest Territories](#). Anglicised from an Inuvialuit word meaning 'resembling a caribou', Tuktoyaktuk, or simply Tuk, is a hamlet with a population hovering around 1,000. Accessible only by plane in the summer and by ice roads in winter, adventure companies based in Inuvik provide aerial tours as well as hunting and fishing excursions. [Tour operators](#) offers a range of activities including dog-sledding, igloo-construction, snowmobiling, ice-fishing and community and culture tours, all of which give visitors a glimpse into the lives and traditions of locals. Visitors who make the excursion north of the Arctic Circle to the Land of the Midnight Sun will be dazzled by the Northern Lights, as well as the unique landscape which includes massive ice-covered hills called pingos. A group of these can be seen along the [Beaufort Sea](#), 5 km (3 mi) west of Tuk, at the [Pingo Canadian Landmark](#).

Then to see the advancement of the Pleasure-Way RV we also had a 30 year anniversary unit in attendance, the 2016 Lexor owned by Dan & Shirley Lennox.

From Oliver several of us then travelled to Shuswap Falls RV Campground 22 km from Enderby on the Mable Lake Rd. We had been at Shuswap Falls last year and the sites are nice and big, plus it has a screened in room that we can use for our Meet & Greet and Pot Luck meals. The river was high and fast moving compared to last year when it was very low, but we were there in August last year. We also had two extra couples join us there and one for the first time to an event, which gave us 11 units there. We had more great food to eat and were able to play Mexican Train and Pegs and Jokers in the clubhouse. Jeff said he is going to make an extra Pegs & Joker game for next year. Some also played bocce ball and there is horseshoe and badminton and a pool for swimming. Everyone liked the large grass lots, clean washrooms and free showers and said they would like to go back next year. It is a place for total relaxation.

Check out the website for pictures of these events at <http://wcpwrv.weebly.com>

On 21, 22 & 23 of August we are having an event at the Bow RiversEdge campground in Cochrane, AB. We are hoping more members from Alberta and further east will be able to attend this event. You can check out their website at www.bowriversedge.com Call them at 1-877-832-4675 to make a reservation and make sure you tell them you're with the Pleasure-Way Group to get the group rate. They have a small clubhouse that we have reserved for our pot luck the second night there. Unfortunately, it was some time ago when I made these arrangements and I can't remember if we have the clubhouse for all three nights. I know it was reserved on previous nights and that is why I choose the dates we have. Please let me know if you plan on attending, so far we have several members attending who have not been to a rally before so it will be nice to meet them.

Tech Talk

Being as several of our decals were starting to peel and look very shabby, we decided to take them off. So we have been working the last two days to accomplish this. In case you have some to remove here was the process that we used. One side of the RV is in the full sun, summer and winter so they were pretty baked on and George softened up the glue with a hair dryer and then we peeled them off but the glue stayed on the RV and the decal came off easy. The first one we used several methods that took ages, to get the glue off. Then we found out a better way and that was to use 3M Woodgrain and Stripe Adhesive Remover (08908). Spray that on the glue, let it sit for three minutes and rub it off or use an old credit card to peel it off. This worked very good but still a lot of work. It is best to do small sections as the spray dries and then it is hard to get off and is easier if it is still a little damp. On the shady side I was able to peel the decals off without the heat and then most of the glue came with the decal which and made the job much faster. But it has still taken us two days to complete the decal removal. Then George washed the RV to get all the grime off and mother nature was good to rain last night and did an even better job of getting it clean. Today George has spent the whole day waxing and buffing the RV and it is looking like new and with the slickness of the sides it should get at least another 2-3 miles per gallon more as it travels down the road on our next trip.