

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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Well here it is yet another newsletter hits the streets. The season is half complete and another AGM is looming on the horizon. Before the main AGM of course is the Youth AGM. Printed at the end of this newsletter is a nomination form for the Youth Committee. So come on folks support the future of the centre and nominate away! This newsletter has contributions from Alex and Ena, Joyce has chipped in with a ditty. One or two people who have been asked have not produced anything for me so you are stuck with my view and of course Alan's review from the minutes of the committee meetings.

300th Celebration Rally - Evanton 21st - 24th April

On Friday evening there was a gathering of some well kent faces and a few new ones outside the marshals tent, where we were served a choice of Lentil or Carrot and Coriander soup, both were delicious. As is normal at Highland Centre Rallies there were social gatherings in many caravans well into the wee small hours, extended by a small band of moths.

Saturday Morning Sorry we don't do mornings!! But we did manage to make the opening ceremony. This special event was opened by Donny and Lena Aird. After the speech, the flag proved to be rather reluctant to unfurl, after some tugging it put in an appearance. Donny was a bit concerned on seeing not one but three cakes, thinking perhaps he had one too many the night before, but we were able to reassure him that there really was three. The afternoon was spent relaxing in the sunshine in good company, listening to "e crack", poetry reading and partaking of some refreshment. A most pleasant way to pass the afternoon.

Then it was time to get dressed in our finery for the evening Ball which was held in the Jubilee Hall. We enjoyed a pre-dance drink with Bill and Liz King. An excellent meal was provided by the Marshals. I am sure everyone appreciated the hard work in providing a three course meal for so may hungry people, so a big thank you to all of you. After the meal we enjoyed dancing and party games with the lively music provided by the Ardrross Dance Band, supplemented by Frazer Sparling on the drums. With everyone ready to enjoy themselves the evening was in full swing right to the last dance. Therefore it was a merry band of campers who made their way back to the site where the partying continued till the wee small hours.

Sunday. We arose with fuzzy heads to find the sun still shining for the Church Service. There then followed a parade of bonnie bonnets, it seems we have some very talented ladies in the Highland Centre, judging by their

creations. Competition results were then announced, congratulations to all our winners. Afternoon activities consisted of an organised walk to Black Rock Gorge, led by Hamish. Most people were either impressed or terrified by the natural ruggedness. Yours truly entertained six of our grandchildren which terrified us!! Sunday evening entertainment, again in the village hall, consisted of a quiz and games night, organised by the marshals. This turned out to be a very competitive and noisy affair. The eventual winners proved to be the North Centre Numpties. Our team, Lucy's Lads (average age elevated by Gran and Grandad), came a respectable 5th.

Monday dawned somewhat cloudier as everyone began to pack up for the return home. I am sure everyone had a great weekend and once more thanks to the marshals for all the hard work. Many people left in good spirits looking forward to the National Rally in Aberdeen the following weekend, while we were heading to the Isle of Bute for our annual pilgrimage to attend the Jazz Festival.

Alex and Ena

300th Celebration Rally The Fact and Figures

Rally Team: Donnie & Libby, Lex & Helen, Hamish & Joyce.

Van Breakdown :

Total	49
CC	1
SE Reg.	1
SCC	1
West	1
North	14
Highland	30
Unattached	1

Dennis & Isobel Blackburn - First Rally

Alistair & Yvonne Fisher - 150th Rally

SCC National Rally April 28th - May 3rd Hazelhead

Twenty two Highland vans were reported in attendance but a count of faces gave a further three vans. The wet weather, which caused the venue to be moved slightly to the old Hazelhead Caravan Site and surrounding car parks, eased off for the weekend. Full marks to the North Centre for dealing with such changing circumstances so late in the day. Sunday turned out to be the best day for the weather and for the Highland Centre. First of all the ALBA trophy (photo competition) was won by Benny Baldry. He won with the delightful photo of Dunrobin Castle. Secondly we came third in the Inter-Centre sports with a good mixture in the team of: Alistair and Yvonne, Elaine

Ferrier, Craig Benison and Alan and Donna Sparling. All ably managed by Dave Benison. A third member of the Sparling family along with centre vice-chairman Ian MacLean took part for Dumfries & Galloway. (Un)Fortunately they came in 7th position. A good Dinner Dance and Ceilidh was enjoyed by the members and a chance to renew old acquaintances. Looking forward to Ayr already.

I'm sure you will join me in expressing our condolences to relatives and friends of Robert Nowrie of East Centre who passed away during the Rally.

Cup Final Rally - Nethybridge 12th - 14th May

The Hot and Sunny weather returned with a vengeance this weekend, superb weather for a superb setting and rally theme. Twenty three vans attended the Cup Final rally, 1 SCC, 1 South West, and 21 Highland. The rally was opened by Shirley Bateman, a ranger for Explore Abernethy, accompanied by her dog Cassie. The lovely weather meant that most people did not wander too far from the field and spent the afternoon basking in the sun and wine and food. This carried on well into the social on the field, where the mixture of footballers, fans, back room staff and even Archie MacSparling took part in games and dancing. During the evening the Vulcan Bomber came out for another flight but unfortunately the starboard engine (Donald Kent) was a bit quick when it caught fire and managed to get out of the way before the fire fighting system took hold. Not so lucky were one or two of the ground crew who got caught in the line of fire. The marshals for the weekend were Kevin and Sally Westall, hopefully enjoying their first taste of marshalling and Dave, Lindsay and Craig Benison, hopefully enjoying this one a bit more than Dornoch, last year. At least the hall was in good condition!!

Wild West Rally - Halkirk 2nd - 4th June

What can I say, a posse of members heeded the call of the west and headed for the far north. Under the watchful eye of Little Chief Eke'thump, the Marshal with No Name and their partners a great rally was had by all who made the journey to Halkirk. Friday night saw an impromptu gathering having to put down their wine and beer to partake of the local brew, Soup at the Marshals tepee (OK awning!). Saturday morning and the opening was visited by the horses and hands from the Buchan Ranch. The weather was reasonably kind to us considering the northern latitudes but the Saturday social moved to the stable. Apart from one dubious cowboy builder everyone joined in the theme. Burger and beans was the cowboy feast, and I'm sorry to say Ena, Sue knows about the beans. The Sunday Karaoke made an innovative and very different service. Soon it was time to hitch up our wagons and hit the trail south again. Thanks to Jim, Avril, Alex and Ena for a memorable rally in the Wild West of Caithness.

The French Connection - Alness 23rd - 25th June

Allo, allo where is the Rally. Was this a Alness rally in Invergordon or an Invergordon rally in Alness. Or was it a new field between the two found for us at the last moment after problems with original venue. Well done to the Marshals and Hamish for locating the alternative venue. At this rally was to be held the Stuart Shield the annual centre Boules competition. Rather than me write a load of Boules here is the ditty that Joyce wrote for the opening;

The Rally Marshal, Bill by name
 phoned us up one night.
 Says he, at Alness we play the game
 I want to get it right.
 I've borrowed a tape measure and even learned the rules
 So now I'm all ready to play the games of boules
 The current champ is quietly confident he know it's just a game
 But to some of the others it's not quiet the same.
 Some went North, a practice game to play
 Oh you can play the umpire said but don't create a din
 Cos' even if we let you play, we winna let you win.
 Our chairman Alan took the huff
 Two years he's tried and failed
 This year he's really had enough
 I'll just stay at home he wailed
 So all of you who play the game we want you to have fun
 And if on the shield you get your name a bonus you have won.
 So may your aim be straight and true, right to the jack your boules
 And in true Highland fashion **JUST FORGET THE RULES.**

A big thanks to Bob, Maimie and Bill (It's my last Rally) for a great weekend at Alness/Invergordon

70's Revival Rally - Fort Augustus 7th - 9th July Youth Committee Rally

Two SCC and Fifteen Highland vans made the long trek down the banks of Loch Ness to the Youth Rally. This was the second rally running that a change of venue was required. Unable to go to Foyers the rally relocated 13 miles to Fort Augustus. Typical Scottish summer weather saw the Friday tea coffee and doughnuts consumed quickly to get out of the weather. Saturday dawned, well at least it would have if the low cloud and drizzle had allowed any one to see it. A quick panic and search managed to locate a hall at short notice and set up the social there. Saturday night saw a load of folk who needed reviving sorry. A load of folk in their trendy 70's revival gear answering quiz questions and bopping to DJ Neil's disco. The Youth committee would like to thank Neil for his square pit and his hip Disco. And thanks from us to the Youth Committee for the weekend.

Tourist Rally - Petty 21st - 26th July

Forty six vans attended the Tourist Rally at Petty. I could give you a breakdown but I do not know it! More than half were visitors to the Highlands, some of whom were on return visits. The rally followed the normal Tourist format with the usual forays to Loch Ness, Baxter’s Glenfiddich and the Scottish Showtime. Socials are always a problem on longer rallies, finding something to keep weary ralliers happy can be a problem. Friday night saw soup at the tent followed by the traditional free barn dance with Frankie and Saturday followed the traditional with a BBQ and dance on the field. The BBQ was a strange affair. One half of the field was warm and bathed in sunshine whilst the other was cold and windy. Sunday night however saw the groundbreaking “Who wants to be a Highlander” competition launched upon the masses. Six contestants and their “friends” took part in this adaptation of the ITV show. After much hilarity and bending, if not downright breaking, of the rules Avril and her “friend” Alan won the competition. Let it be said though that “the friend” was of little help, claiming to have known every other answer but the one he was asked! Monday was a “quiet” game of bingo called by Iain. A great big thanks to the rally team of; Ian & Christine, Ian & Jean, Iain & Chrissy and Not Ian (Bert) & Cath for all the hard work they put in during this extended rally.

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Parish Notices

Lost and Found

Lost – One Santa Suit and Bell, last seen at the Christmas Rally. Did you borrow it? Do you know where it might be? Please contact the Chairman if you can help in this matter.

Wanted

Alex Carson is looking for a cheap awning to fit a 16’ Sprite.

And Finally The Youth Committee Nomination Form.

Nominations to Y.L.O. (Dave Benison) by 21st August 2000

The Youth Committee Nomination

I propose to the office of
..... on the Highland Centre Youth Committee.

Nominee’s Signature

Proposed Seconded

Signature Signature

CC No CC No