

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

Dear Members

How quickly time flies by, once again the festive season is upon us, and it will soon be time for our annual Dinner Dance, which has been moved this year to the Drumossie Hotel due to it's increasing popularity. But the winter break from rallying gives you plenty of time to study your new handbook and plan your rallies for the year ahead and also to do all those jobs around the house that you couldn't get round to because you were rallying. If you are new to the Centre or have not rallied before, why not give rallying a go; you can always be assured of a warm Highland welcome. With this newsletter, is a voucher, which gives you, your first rally free, so why not make use of it, you've nothing to lose and you will almost certainly enjoy it. If you would like more details about rallying (it does not mean racing around a track or field with your car & caravan), please contact myself or any other Highland Centre Committee member, whose details you will find in your SCC handbook.

Your Centre Committee has again organised a full and varied programme of rallies for 2002, with return visits to some regular venues plus a number of new locations to visit. So please give your Committee the support they deserve, by attending as many events as possible. This year it is the turn for the Highland Centre to host the **SCC National Rally**, from the **3rd – 7th May 2002**, at Dochgarroch, so please take a note of the dates. As I have said before we will be looking to all rallying members to assist us in the running of this rally. If you haven't already been contacted and feel that you can help in any way, then please contact Jim Ferrier or myself. You can greatly assist in the organisation of the rally by booking early, you only need to send a £10 cheque to secure your place on any event at the rally, remember the Dinner Dance and the Sunday Ceilidh are limited.

Christine & I would like to thank the Committee and members for their support and encouragement in my first year as Chairman and are looking forward to meeting you all, at the Dinner Dance or on the rally field during the year. In closing, I hope you have had a merry Christmas and wish you all happiness and prosperity for the New Year and happy caravanning in 2002.

Ian Maclean
Chairman
SCC Highland Centre

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PRO Ravings

Ok Ok. I am sorry to report that once again the only thing I seem to be good at is getting it totally and utterly WRONG. So here are the apologies I know about; I am sorry to Hamish and Rosemary for spelling their name wrongly and I hope to be back on “name” terms with the Nisbet family soon! I also forgot about the distillery visit at the Invergordon Rally. I forgot because I did not go. I know that it is hard to believe I passed up the opportunity to visit a distillery but there you go, miracles do happen. Thanks to Bob for arranging the trip to the Dalmore distillery. Anyway if you have read this far you either have skipped the Chairman’s report like me or are very brave and actually read it. If you did please let me know what it said so I can nod in the correct places at the next committee meeting. Oops there goes another apology.

Youth Committee AGM 2001 – Hopeman (The Youth View)

Arriving at 9:30 on the Friday night, it was more or less too dark to do anything, let alone set up a tent and a van.

Saturday morning, SUNSHINE!!! A perfect morning to go for a walk. The marshals, Jean and Ian Menhenick and Alan and Shona Bremner, had organised a walk around Hopeman. Fiona Murray took us across the football pitch and down to the shore. We were told we were going to be looking for dinosaur footprints. Our walk took us on some very narrow paths, high cliffs and across a golf course. The golfers were less than friendly and told us that we couldn’t walk on the course, even though they were playing in the opposite direction. When we got to the quarry, we found the dinosaur footprints. They had been made millions of years ago (the temperature was much hotter than it is now). The dinosaurs were running up the dunes and the prints had turned solid almost instantly, due to the extreme heat. On the way back, about half way, we met some people we knew *taking it easy on a bench!!* Lorna, Angie, Dave and Cooper, we all know it was you! When we returned, the marshals who didn’t join us on the walk greeted everyone with a well-earned cup of tea and some biscuits. It was a good thing we got back then as the heavens opened and the crowd out side the marshals van, disappeared without trace into their caravans.

The rain had eased off a little by 2 o’clock and the Youth Committee AGM was held in the club tent. Neil Buchan stood in for Dave Benison as YLO. The new committee was formed and stands as follows:

Chairwoman	Fiona Buchan
Secretary	Donna Sparling
Committee	Gordon Buchan, Michelle Fraser, Stephen Fraser, Vikki Hendry, Ean Watt and Natalie Watt.

Craig Benison stepped down from the role as Chairman after three years.

The social was held in Hopeman Hall. The marshals only had to walk across the road to get us our fish and chips and we even got ice cream to follow. The kids, who got the kids meal, received masks in their box and were running about in Batman and Robin masks all evening. Whether it was a fix or not, our Chairman and his wife won the spot dance. We had a special treat. Fiona Murray's niece kindly performed a marvellous display of Highland Dancing, even without the help from the accordionist. This year we didn't have any hassle from the local kids and all in all, the social was truly enjoyable.

The weather was sunny again on Sunday morning but we were wondering if it was to last. Fortunately it was. The Youth Committee got presented with their window plaques and their badges at the closing ceremony.

Fiona Buchan
Youth Chair

Dornoch – October 19 – 21 Youth Rally

A return visit to the Links Camping & Caravan Park, Dornoch, was the venue for the Youth Committee's Film Star Rally. The breakdown of the 22 vans attending was 1 – SCC (Fiona Murray), 1 – North and 20 – Highland. The opening ceremony, performed by Billy Macrae was followed by a surprise 70th birthday party for Rachel Munro, this left the Saturday for those intrepid enough to explore a rather rain soaked Dornoch. It was good to see that most ralliers had joined in with the spirit of the social and dressed according to the theme. Carmen Miranda alias Helen McCall won the adults prize and Basildon Bond alias Neil Buchan kept us dancing on the sloping floor with the Youth committee providing various party pieces. Another 2 fellowship plaques were presented to Alex & Moira Hendry and Dave & Lindsay Benison. The outgoing Youth committee has to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and hard work over the weekend. The Youth Committee presented a cheque for £500 to Kevin Brown, Treasurer of the Thurso Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind. This was an excellent total for the Youth Committee to have collected over the year. It was a pity that they hadn't been given the key rings etc at the start of the year, as I am sure that they would have boosted the amount raised considerably. Our thanks are due to Craig Benison, Fiona Buchan, Vikki Hendry, Michelle Fraser, Stephen Fraser and Gordon Buchan.

North Alves 2 – 4 November.

After 3 changes of marshals and last minute site re-arrangements, it is a wonder that this rally took place, but the North Alves caravan park was finally the venue for the Fireworks Rally. An excellent turnout, for the time of season, of 35 vans attended. The breakdown being, 1 – SCC, 9 – North (including Dave & Monica Hoskins, their first Highland rally) and 25 – Highland. Andrez Gomez, the site owner, for whom we are grateful for his co-operation in accommodating us, opened the rally on the Saturday morning. With the Vice Chairman, Hamish Stuart, stepping in to present Christine and myself with our 250th rally plaque. The social, as usual for this event, was a trip to the excellent

bonfire / fireworks display at Cooper Park, with the bus stopping at the chip shop for a welcome bag of chips on the way home. With the weather being rather blustery on the Sunday, the church service was held in the games room, which greatly improved the singing. Three more friendship plaques were presented to Don & Lena Aird, Bill Kerr and Dod & Mary Cowie. The marshals to thank for an excellent weekend are Dave Ross with Rebecca & Jordan and Hamish & Joyce Stuart with Connor.

Inverness 30th Nov – 2nd Dec Christmas Party

Once again Geordie Sutherland site at Torvean was the venue for the Christmas Party Rally. The weather failed to remember that it is traditional that it snows at this rally. However it certainly was cold enough without the white stuff. A Friday night opening saw Donnie Stuart introduce us to the wonders that Inverness has to offer and provide an alternative route around the road works. Hot soup and Sausage Rolls followed and were welcomed to ward of the cold. People then remembered another form of keeping warm and scurried of to the heat of their vans. Saturday included the wallet emptying ceremony as many people headed into town for a spot of retail therapy. Having survived this it was time to go to the social at the Loch Ness House hotel. The social saw the return of Fabulous Frankie complete with fingers; Frankie provided the music for the fun and games at the children's party. Santa arrived with his delicate elfin helpers in their size ten boots. All the children must have been good again this year as from deep down in his sack the presents just kept on coming. Unfortunately for Alan he must have been bad this year because Santa did not have a new tyre for him! Fiona and Robbie judged the "Spirit of Rallying" competition. In this our Silver Jubilee year Avril won with her picture of "The Chains" at the Silver Jubilee dinner dance. Massive thanks for a superb rally got to Santa and his elves and of course to the marshals Roy and Sheila with the chiefs Pam and Doug.

Parish Notices

Rachel would very much like to thank everyone that helped to set up the surprise birthday party at the Youth Rally. She said to tell you she enjoyed it very much. The party was on the occasion of her Birthday. You did not honestly think I would reveal all in print did you.

Safety Note

As everyone knows safety is becoming more and more to the fore in all aspects of our life. As you also know Caravan Club recommends that we carry a 1kg dry powder fire extinguisher, a fire blanket is advised, as is a water bucket for awning users. Well Duncan has can help us with a deal on the extinguishers. Please contact him if you are interested.

Have a Safe and Happy New Festive season and see you all on the Rally field soon

Dave Benison
PRO