



KNAUS KONTAKT

MAY 2004

THE PETERBOROUGH SHOW RALLY- AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!

The weather was excellent and we had 14 vans on the Knaus Club site. Three others parked elsewhere joined us for the AGM and one couple travelled all the way from Ireland to be with us! Having good weather made socialising very pleasant and tips and views exchanged. We were delighted to greet several new members.

Needless to say the stalls and stands of the Show were very tempting and more than a few purchases were carried back to members vans in spite of good intentions not to buy.



Some of the members at the AGM

Bill and Jean step down



Above: Bill & Jean Sier after the presentation on their 'retirement'

The Founders of the Club, Bill & Jean Sier,

had always said that they wanted to step down once the club had been established and sadly, due to ill health the time had come.

Bill made this announcement when gave his annual report at the start of the meeting and the news was greeted with sadness. The couple really had been instrumental in the formation of the club which now had over fifty names on the membership list.

In recognition of their sterling efforts and stewardship a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Bill and flowers to Jean.

Needless to say they intend to continue to support the club in any way they can and will continue to organise the Peterborough Rally.

A MEMBERSHIP FEE IS INTRODUCED

In the Minutes of the AGM, members will see that whilst it was agreed the club should still be run on an informal basis the question of finance needed to be addressed. Producing and distributing the Newsletter plus building and maintaining the Web Site all cost money and in order to be able to continue with these two vital tools of communication it was felt a membership fee should be introduced.

This was initially set at £5 per van, to be reviewed at the next AGM.

In order to inform all potential members a form should be sent to all 50+ names on the current list asking them to -

- Confirm their details are correct, especially their email addresses
- Indicate if they require a printed copy of the Newsletter or if they are happy to view it on the Website

- Indicate if they are members of either of the Caravan Clubs listed.

(This would help when organising rallies since if a large number of our members are also belong to either of these then we know we could use their listed sites as possible venues too.)

The introduction of a membership fee means we will no longer require s.a.e's .

A news sheet for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

Hon. Secretary
Michael V Dixon
20a Colkett Drive
Old Catton
NORWICH
Norfolk
NR6 7ND

Phone: 01603 426243
Mobile: 077110 18139



Dates of proposed meetings

•York Rally -

Tony Poole is coordinating the attendance at the Northern Motorhome Show at York on the 17 - 19 September, 2004. He will be sending the application forms to members when they become available. Please return the application form directly to the organiser at Warner's Group, together with your remittance. State you are attending with the Knaus Owners Club and claim your £2 reduction. Please advise Tony of your intention to attend. Tel:01944 759067 tonyandolive@manorview2.freerve.co.uk

• April 2005

Peterborough Show

• When additional rallies / meetings are organised details will be circulated

Secretary's Note:

We are still hoping for volunteers to offer to arrange a meeting, perhaps in their own area or at a site they can recommend.

Gary Jenkins reports on his ski trip to Van Thorens

I don't know how many Knaus owners like to ski but it is one of the reasons I purchased a Knaus – for its winterisation. The following notes about my first ever motorhome ski trip may be of some interest. As a tester for longer duration trips I decided to have a ski weekend with two friends and two of my sons to the highest ski resort in Europe! Val Thorens in the French Alps. Planning the trip it was obvious there was no shortage of winter sites, but mainly lower down in the valleys below the snow line. This would be fine if we were not arriving on December 11th – too early in the season for lower snow. The Ski Club of Great Britain web site showed a parking site next to Val Thorens. Enquiries with the parking authorities revealed that camping was allowed if booked in blocks of seven days, for a sum of 100 Euros.

Free tokens were issued for



the use of the flot – bleu and a credit note for any nights not used – valid for two years. We stayed three nights so next year I have four nights already covered.

As this was a boy's weekend away, I got the others insured for one week at a cost of £28 (I am with Safeguard Insurance) and booked the tunnel for £170 return. Leaving at 6pm, we took turns in driving at two-hour intervals through the night and arrived at the car park at 9am, ready for the slopes.



The parking could not have been better. Five minutes walk from the town centre, views across the mountains and valley below us, and an added bonus – there was an ice car race meeting directly below us, giving us grandstand views whilst sitting in the warm Knaus.

The lifts were four minutes walk, and by staggering our returns to the van at half hour intervals we all had hot showers each day. To keep things simple we all used sleeping bags and it never seemed crowded. With the temperature at night down to -14 degrees the heating was always on at 22 degrees. This meant using 7kg. Of gas every 24 hours approximately, but I took two 7kg. and one-13kg bottles and, being a short break, this was sufficient for the 'wild camp'.

To summarise, **the Knaus performed 100%** and has given me confidence to ski the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Granada when we go to Spain's Costa del Sol at Christmas/New Year.

The place we parked was: Valthoparc, Parking Plein Sud.

Tel (France) 79 00 02 49

If you found this interesting you can find more 'Travellers Tales' on the Web Site.

Email your own experiences or tips to stevebrock@ntlworld.com

or write to the Secretary

A Small World - a note from the Secretary

On leaving the Peterborough Show Jill & I travelled to Salisbury and stayed on the Camping & Caravanning Club Site. Walking back to the van I noticed another Knaus motor home parked next to us. On checking the membership list I found it was Jim & Ann Ferguson. We had a pleasant evening together over a glass of wine. They were brought up to date on the Club's future intentions and in return they paid their subscription for 2004 on

Hants & Dorset Outdoor Leisure

the spot!

Our next stop was a rally at Netley, near Southampton. As well as seeing the magnificent sight of the Queen Mary 2 leaving thru' Southampton Water we travelled towards Portsmouth the Hants & Dorset Outdoor dealership.

There was a full range of Knaus motor homes on display, plus two second-hand models. We asked if the Knaus Box Star 550 Panel Van Conversion, now in Germany, was likely to find it's way to the UK and were informed this is not likely. This is because to do a right hand drive version would be costly and difficult because the internal configuration & layout would have to be changed. Also in addition the importers would have to place a large order to warrant this.

We met Jeremy Symonds, Managing Director, who re-iterated that he would be pleased to welcome us as a Club to visit in the future. Also should the Club wish to visit the Knaus Factory in Germany he would be pleased to help make the arrangements – this is certainly food for thought for another year!