

B.C. BUS NUTS KAMLOOPS, B.C. Spring Rally - May 2017

The last weekend of May 2017, NW BUS NUTS members, Vic & Donna Crane of Longview, WA; Tom & Karen Goldsby of Battle Ground, WA; and Richard & Patti Harper of Kelso, WA, caravanned North to British Columbia, Canada's beautiful KAMLOOPS, B.C. for the ***B.C.BUS NUTS, Spring Rally***. Here's what they experienced.



May 17, 2017

After a quick repair on Harpers' Country Coach to fix a leaky valve stem-on their NEW Michelins, (under 50 miles!) the group headed North from Kelso, lead by Vic & Donna, who did a great job as Wagon Masters. Managing the heavy Seattle area traffic with ease the buses found the first overnight stop at the Tulalip Casino and RV Park. Enjoying a good buffet dinner in the Casino.

May 18, 2017

Thursday was just a short jaunt to LA Connor, WA. Parking overnight in the Swinomish Casino Lodge and RV Park. They had wonderful view spots looking out onto the water and many Yachts, boats and even trains up close. The Ladies visited the Quilt Museum for a 3-story tour of quilts and art displays. The Guys drove a ways back down I-5 to check out a HOT ROD & CLASSICS SHOP and all enjoyed viewing John Wayne's Yacht which still sits in the Harbor in LA Conner, WA.

May 19, 2017

Friday morning the coaches crossed the Canadian Border at Sumas. A very helpful and knowledgeable Canadian had chatted with the guys Thursday evening and gave specific directions and suggestions on where NOT to go and WHAT NOT TO DO and to get thru customs efficiently. Unfortunately he failed to clarify what TO DO and WHAT LANE the RVs SHOULD be in to cross the border.

"Too late." Donna told Vic "I don't think we should be in this lane!" "I think we should be waaaaay over there in that other lane"!!!! Too late as there were now a barrier and three lanes full of cars in the way, so with two buses following him, all were committed and none could back up or change lanes and so like 'ducks in a row,' they followed Vic right into the NEXUS PASSES ONLY LANE! Vic had followed a small Class C, and it seemed logical that was the lane he should be in, before Donna realized a slight problem. The Border Patrol called someone and informed them they had three big USA RVs in the wrong lane! They all pulled right up to the window of the NEXUS PASSES ONLY !!! One after another the drivers were informed they should have been way over there! They were asked a few basic questions and while talking to Vic. The Border Patrol had called someone and informed them they had three big USA RVs in the wrong lane and he was just going to process them and send them along. Whew! All three coaches were thru the Border in under 10 minutes! "Good job Vic," that was slick!

After a pleasant and unplanned side trip up the Frazier River Canyon, about 10 miles, to check out the scenery, the buses returned to the Trans-Canadian Hwy 1 and then onto the 'connector' Hwy 5 to Kamloops, as planned.

The group was greeted warmly by the parking crew upon arrival at Silver Sage RV Park in Kamloops.

After introductions to most of the other attendees dinner was started. A huge pot was placed on a propane burner and about 40 cans of different soups poured into the community soup pot! It turned out amazingly good!

* Each day was unplanned except for morning and evening meals.

May 20, 2017

Saturday several members prepared 'eggs in a bag' to go with coffee and juice. The rest of the day was free to explore the sites of Kamloops, shop at Costco, take a nap or visit. Some just relaxed and enjoyed watching the Jet skiers and boaters on the Thompson River, right in front of the campgrounds. Dinner was a 'Grand Catered Affair' of baked chicken, salads, and a yummy choice of deserts.

May 21, 2017

Sunday, Donna chauffeured Karen and Patti to the Hudson's Bay Store for a bit of shopping. Vic, Tom and Richard along with many of the other guys spent several hours exploring at the 'PRINCESS AUTO STORE' described as a harbor freight store on steroids! Richard wishes there was one of these stores in his area! Picking up a new Celinoid for his bus stabilizer jacks, Richard said, "there were dozens just hanging on the wall. It's a really cool 'guys candy store!'"

Evening dinner was Pot Luck with a variety and all very good. Proving once again that BUS NUTS know how to cook and eat!

May 22, 2017

Monday morning everyone was getting prepared to leave and go their separate ways. During morning coffee and donuts many pictures of groups, people and their buses were taken to help all put faces with names, RVs and new friends. Best routes & directions were clarified.

Harpers were invited to follow Pat and Nickie MacPhail, in 'Olde Violet' to their home to Chilliwack, BC. They traveled down the beautiful, scenic Thompson and Frazier River Canyons, enjoyed more gracious BC hospitality, and stayed overnight in MacPhail's driveway, before heading south to their home in Kelso.

The Crane's and the Goldsby's decided to head further North and check this area out on up to Rebelstoke, BC. From there they drove SE to Gelona Bay and a free ferry boat ride across the Upper Arrow Lake and the little Indian town of Nakusp. A few miles down the road we were able to get into Summit Lake

Provincial Campgrounds. Got to back right up to the lake with the clearest cold mirror image water. From there we headed down 6S to New Denver; then headed East on 31A, which was quite the climb. Streams were running over their banks and the waterfalls were crashing down. The road pretty much follows the river, as it gets bigger to empty into Kootenay Lake at Kalso BC.

We were able to find another BC state type campground at Kokanee Creek. Great parks. Tom had to do some electrical work to get power to their coach. We decided to stay a second night so we could check out the area at Nelson BC. Beautiful old homes and stone architectural churches and courthouses built on a steep hillside. From there the group went back to Kalso to look at the old town buildings dating back to the late 1800's and a tour of the SS Moyle, the worlds oldest in tacked passenger sternwheeler built in 1898, and worked until 1957 in the area. It is one of the smallest sternwheelers weighing in at only 834.7 tons.

We finished our last day in Canada crossing back into the good ole USA at the Nelway border crossing. Crossing went well except the Goldsby's bus didn't want to start when it was their turn to pull up for inspection. Tom did a little wire wiggling and they were on the road again.

From there we headed to Pat and Ann Horn's in Spokane for a few days lay over and to tighten the R side drive axle bolts on the Crane's bus, *must be all the Cat power*. The Horn's were great hosts and we all enjoyed our visit.

From there the Crane's headed home and the Goldsby's went on to a family gathering at Boardman.

Note: Money exchange in Canada was great and didn't run into an unfriendly Canadian the whole trip. ☺