



STAMPEDE CITY GYROPER

Issue 2 2022-2023

Editor – Alan Pentney

September 27, 2022

EDITOR'S RANDOM COMMENTS

Fall has arrived and we are blest with Autumn weather. Sadly, the Maritimes and Newfoundland are suffering a hurricane but mostly it is property damage.

Gasoline tax is back, our dollar is worth less in the States, interest rates are increasing and food costs more – is there no end to the negative financial news? However, in perspective most of us are much more comfortable than our parents were. We were so poor when I was young that we had no food so mom would sit us down at the table and read the recipe to us.

Feedback on the D-VIII Convention we hosted this past weekend is we “Knocked it out of the Park”! People were falling over themselves trying to tell us how great it was. More on the event later. It's a credit to the 13 members (5 singles and 8 couples) from our club that each spent significant \$ to attend and perform the various duties. We would have spent triple that for a vacation with less satisfaction, less fun and not have the pleasure of enjoying friendship with so many people. Special mention to Stuart who really wanted to be there but had to stay home - he still did planning and arranging. Huge Kudo to Brian and Vianne for quarterbacking the event in their hometown and planning it for 4 years – remember we cancelled in 2020.

PRIOR EVENTS

Tuesday September 6 - First Meeting of the New Gyro Year

The last bulletin said this meeting would be a business meeting but that has been rescheduled to Oct. 19. In its stead, information was sent out on August 31 about a Cornhole Game. Attendance was low due to conflicts but those in attendance had fun.

Thursday September 22 – Sunday 25th – District VIII Convention in Medicine Hat

This club last hosted a Gyro Convention in 2006 and we went all in on a joint District and International Convention with 400 persons attending. Paul Stout and Ian Greig steered it with an event at the zoo and a gala production of Chicago at the Westin Ballroom that Gyros still talk about. So, it was our turn to host again in 2020 and we choose Medicine Hat as a place that members would enjoy. Eventually, with the aid of vaccinations we targeted 2022 in the city with “All Hell for a Basement” (Rudyard Kipling).

At one point we had a registration for 90 persons but various illness and conditions up to the day of the event resulted in 76 persons attending – still a good turnout! The Medicine Hat Lodge allowed us to post large banners welcoming Gyros and they arrived Thursday for a Past District Governors meeting attended by 16 eligible members, followed by a poutine and burger buffet dinner and then a hospitality room in two adjoining suites run by Paul Stout and Brad Hinds - who then stayed in the rooms – good thing they were going stag that weekend. I counted 60 persons in the joined rooms that had seating for 14! Yes COVID was a possibility but in this case friendship had no bounds.

Early Friday morning after breakfast 18 golfers headed to a par 66 Cottonwood Executive course that turned out to be quite challenging with doglegs, tiered and sloped greens. When that was done our own **Karin Green took home the Ladies' Low Net Plaque** (she was so excited) and it was well deserved as she was smashing the ball. In addition, **John Cobb was awarded the Men's' Low Net Trophy** with a respectable 71. Thanks go to Garry Pattison for organizing this and coordinating Registrations.

Non-golfers enjoyed narrated bus tours of the city that morning and then everyone met in the afternoon at the Exhibition and Stampede Grounds that included a covered pavilion and a pioneer village. There we signed up 56 bocce players on 14 teams and proceeded to do battle for 2.5 hours. The hospitality crew moved the bar to the venue so we would not get thirsty, and Al Clark arranged for his friend Dwain Sands to sing for us through the afternoon and into the evening. We enjoyed a delicious barbeque beef dinner provided by Brian's brother followed by popular selection of local donuts including Bismarck's!

At the end of the day trophies for Golf and Bocce were presented. Additional golf winners were John Hodgson of Calgary Club with Low gross of 72 with that trophy held by Mike Wagg of Nelson for four years. Laura Young of the Calgary Club took home the Low Gross Ladies Trophy. On the Bocce courts Stampede City cleaned up. The **A side winners were Dale Green, Paul Stout, Wes Fillo** and Myrna Gerhart of Edmonton. On the **B side the winners were Dave Smith and Garry Pattison** as well as, Chuck Gerhart of Edmonton and Carol Denny of Calgary – that is 5 Stampede City prize winners of a bottle of wine each.

Hard to believe but the mobile bar was redeployed to the hotel in time for a more subdued slurry of night-caps. **A 50/50 was run for the 3 days by Alan Lynas and Al Clark with over \$1000 collected.**

Saturday started with the District AGM and 40 members present. The healthy bank balance led to a vote to **not have a dues fee in the budget** until next fiscal in May 2023. The budget included funds of \$1000 if our club has a deficit. An election was held with our guy **Ken Williamson approved to become Governor** and the incoming Lt. Governor is Edmonton member Dunc Mills who will be at the Curlarama. Next up was the Awards with **Fred Schute of the Edmonton Club receiving the Best Bulletin Award** and the **Stampede City Club receiving the Man Mile Award** for the highest percentage of members attending out of 8 clubs. Three clubs did not attend – Regina, Wallace and Crossroads.

Saturday noon saw everyone bussed to the Medalta Pottery Museum site where dishware, crocks etc. were produced from 1916 till 1954 that supplied 75% of Canada's stoneware. A buffet luncheon was enjoyed in a large hall followed by a presentation and tours of the museum and cooling kilns where migrant workers in the Depression were allowed to sleep until the morning when the kilns were needed. Each lady received a succulent plant and each guy received steak spices made in the Hat from our Club.

The final event of the Convention was the **Gala Governor's Banquet** which included:

- A Piper leading in the elected officers and spouses that included **Gyro International President Peter Carter** and wife Eileen Kuhl;
- 10 tables decorated with wheat sheaves and identified with a prominent Medicine Hat location for assigned seating with at least one Stampede City member at each table;
- A rousing rendition of O Canada led by John Cobb and Lorene Anderson;
- A unique grace provided by Paul Stout;
- The first toast to a King by a D8 Gyro since 1951 given by Dave Smith;
- A carved turkey and salmon buffet;
- A heartfelt toast to the ladies and reply by Wes and Judi Fillo;
- Installation of officers by President Carter including Ken Williamson as Governor;
- Live music during dinner and for the Ball provided by Calgary pianist and vocalist, Joel Spire;
- Winner of the 50/50 sum of \$410 was Marion Hess of Cranbrook; and
- Winner of a set of Medalta bowls was Joyce Deis of Calgary.

Pictures are at: <https://www.calgarygyroclub.com/copy-of-horseshoe-tournament-2017>

Many accolades were expressed to the attendees by Governor Sid Slade, International President Peter

Carter, Ken Williamson and President Dave Smith. The dedication of all our members to assisting everyone and catering to their needs was impressive. Also, attention to detail in all the member dining activities was a key ingredient for success – thanks to Vianne Stein and Tara Pentney.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday Oct. 4 – Mini-Golf at Golfuture – YYC

This 9 hole course is located at the Driving Range just north of Burnco at Glenmore Trail by the Bow River – the address is 7100 15 Street SE. Meet at 5:30 and golf at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be about 7:00 at the Shark Club in Deerfoot Meadows (near the Sandman Hotel) at 7995 11 St SE. I recall that 2 years ago we ate takeout in a parking lot. Thank the Lord that we can go inside now!

Friday Oct. 7 – Founders Night – Blackfoot Inn

This annual event occurs in October to commemorate our Founders. This is a mixed event with a great opportunity to meet the Calgary Club Gyros in a relaxed atmosphere. The dining will be excellent as will be the entertainment. More details on timing will be sent out but you can assume at least a 6 pm start.

Saturday Oct. 15 – Bits & Bites – Dale and Karin Green Hosting at 4708 Nipawin Cres. NW

It's also been a long time since we had this event as a get-together! Karin and Dale are opening their restored home following a fire so let's all join them after 7:00 pm for fun and friendship. Please bring a hors-d'oeuvre and your own beverages. Remember this is not a pot-luck meal so keep the quantity down. Savory and sweet appetizers are welcome.

Wednesday Oct. 19 – Business Meeting – Horton Road Legion

An agenda, financials and other information will be sent out, so we are prepared to discuss the budget and future of the club given our various ailments.

Sunday Oct. 30 - Curl-A-Rama Practice – Winter Club

Dale Green has arranged for practice ice at the Winter Club at 3:45 pm followed by adult beverages at the club. Curlers or anyone wanting to watch let Dale know in advance dale@dalegreen.com

Friday Nov. 4 – Sun. Nov. 6 – Curl-A-Rama in Canmore

Please let Dale know your intentions for this great event that brings in new members. Details are:

\$320.00 Cdn. per Curler, \$230.00 Cdn. per Non-Curler

Prices based on 2 per room - \$110.00 Single Room Supplement. Price Includes:

- *CURLING (minimum of 3 games – 6 ends per game)*
- *2 NIGHTS HOTEL*
- *2 BREAKFASTS*
- *GYRO HOSPITALITY FRIDAY EVENING - Including food and host bar*
- *SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET*
- *SATURDAY EVENING POKER TOURNAMENT*

Saturday Dec. 10 - Mixed Christmas Party - Winter Club

Please plan to attend and confirm early so put this in your Calendar because a lot of effort goes into arranging meals, decorating and booking entertainment. A healthy turnout ensures it occurs and makes for more fun and friendship. Details will be forwarded as the date gets closer.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Stuart Chalmers has been scheduled for Prostate surgery, but it has been postponed till Nov. 14 due to

him catching COVID.

Mary Ann Clark missed the convention due to worsening hip problems.

Ken Williamson took a chunk out of his scalp in an argument with an AC unit on Sept. 6 – hence he missed the meeting that night. Stitches are out now.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 3 – Al Clark

Oct. 10 – Ken Williamson

INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT NEWS

The **2023 District VIII Convention** is going to be hosted by the Calgary Club at the Deerfoot Casino in July. More information to come from Chairman Ken Baker.

The **International Convention in Winnipeg** is now scheduled for August 23-27, 2023. The theme is Northern Lights and Summer Nights. They promise we will have a new experience.

GYROSCOPE

Please have a look at our Gyro magazine new issue sent to you by Editor Derek Hay today - accessed through gyro.org at <https://members.gyro.org/gyroscope-3/>.

HUMOUR SECTION

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from his recent accident were serious enough to take the trucking company responsible for the accident to court. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer Joe.

"Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, that you were fine?"

"Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the--"

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. **Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, that you were fine?"**

"Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and was driving down the road--"

"Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question." By this time the Judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and told the lawyer so.

"Well," said the farmer, "as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ol' Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, **'Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?'**"