

Escape

a chronicle of the christie lodge owners association

Eez aye been a kettle biler!

We will shortly translate the above title, after first laying a wee bit of groundwork for the reason behind its usage here. We begin by explaining that the title is part of the Dundonian Dialect, that is, speech directly from the mouths of those colorful folks who reside near Dundee, Scotland, the gateway to the Highlands in the upper parts of the country.

By now you might be wondering what Scotland has to do with the Christie Lodge. It's an indirect connection, but it is a fact that there are over fifty RCI-affiliated resorts in Scotland, and with appropriate planning and circumstances, it is possible to make an exchange from the Christie into one of these resorts.

This story will highlight some actual happenings of a Christie Lodge exchange experience, exchanging one of our weeks for a week in the Kilconquhar Estates resort, about forty miles north-east of Edinburgh, Scotland.

By the way, the title literally means, "He has always been a kettle boiler," but as you might guess, it meaningfully translates to, "Instead of getting a job, the lazy bloke has always stayed at home to look after the house."

It takes a good amount of planning if you plan to visit somewhere in Europe or anywhere else for that matter. A good place to start is your travel agent. They will no doubt have names of clients who have already been to where you want to go. And believe it or not, they will most likely sell you an airplane ticket for the same price that you will find on the discount internet services. Don't be afraid to walk in with the quote you find on the internet in your hand - they're most likely accustomed to that very situation.

Meh dowpees awa' doon the cundie.

* See page 2 for the meaning of this one!



This is the main building of the Kilconquhar Castle and Estates. It is a "modern" castle in the sense that its history only goes back a few hundred years. It is surrounded by cottage rental units.

Before we continue with our intrepid traveler's Scottish adventures, we reiterate the usual prudent procedures for timeshare exchange. Our Reservations Department is staffed with experts who will remind you of the necessity of booking, banking and beginning your vacation search at least a year in advance.

They can also help you with the notions of banking your week(s), let you know how trading power works, and help you get the best experience from your Christie ownership. You can always reach the Reservations Department. at 1-888-325-6343.

Now that we've got a place to exchange into and airplane tickets, let's continue the journey! Should we rent a car? Of course!

(see "The Haylans" (Highlands) on next page)

Summer 2011

(continued from front page)

Exchanging into the Scottish "Haylans"

So, we've decided to rent a car for a week. In the United Kingdom you must drive on the left side of the road. That doesn't happen everywhere and you should find out before you decide if you want to brave a left-sided country. An excellent website for determining this is at <http://www.i18nguy.com/driver-side.html>.

In any case, just as in our great country, it is a good practice to purchase the rental insurance. Our daring traveler found that out on his second day in the country when he shredded the left front tire and dinged the wheel on a hard curb like the one shown at the right. He was fortunate to employ the spare and limp back to the Edinburgh airport rental return the next day.

When exchanging the car for another one, he asked if his insurance would still be in effect. The nice man at the rental agency dryly replied, "Of course. Feel free to do it again!" Luckily there were no more similarly unfortunate incidents. There are no requirements other than having a U.S. operators license to drive in the U.K.



Downtown Edinburgh is a building lover's delight with an abundance of ornate old yet functioning structures.

What do you do about money? Again, ask someone who has been to wherever you are going lately. In the United Kingdom, retailers won't take your U.S. dollars. Nor will they take Euros. They will take British Sterling Pound notes and coins. Our adventurer gave \$500 US to the Amex agent and got back about £280 pounds. That was disappointing.



Scottish roads are narrow, many have concrete curbs and stone walls . . . and they drive on the wrong side!

But better solutions exist. It turns out that in many countries, in particular those in the UK, you can use your debit and credit cards just as easily as at home, and just about every retailer takes them. Your statement will show the U.S. conversion and the rate will be fair. Chances of identity theft are no greater than back home, so what the heck!

Things are pricier in Scotland than in Avon, that's for sure. For example, gasoline, which is sold by the liter, was about £1.50 per liter. Knowing that there are about 3.79 liters per gallon and knowing that a pound was worth about \$1.62 when this was written, a gallon of regular cost about \$9.21 - yes, per gallon!

Okay - now we're in Scotland or some other exotic destination. We have a car and are flush with cash and plastic. What next? Why not consider the free or nearly free stuff first? There are many such opportunities that are available and not too hard to find.

Again, don't forget your travel agent and scour the internet for leads. In Scotland many national museums and art galleries admit you free and that's a deal that's hard to beat. The City Art Centre in Edinburgh boasts work from artists most of us have only read about. Art galleries and museums in Europe are second to none.

* "Meh dowpees awa' doon the cundie," means, "my cigarette butt has fallen down the drain!"

(see "Swally" on next page)

Ehm awa' fir a swally . . .

You can always participate in packaged touristy diversions, but to get a better feel for the local life, having the car allows you to get out and mingle with the public. After a long day of sight-seeing, our adventurer decided it would be fun to visit a pub and have an adult beverage. He could have said the title above, which translates literally to, "I'm away for a swallow," which obviously needs no further explanation.

It turns out that the Kilconquhar Castle is only a short drive away from St. Andrews, which is a most historic place. The amazing castle ruins go back for centuries as the first castle known to be in this location was built in the late 1100s.

St. Andrews is credited with the distinction of being the birthplace of golf. The historic downtown is populated with many top line golf shops that offer equipment fit for royalty. By looking at folks walking around in St. Andrews, it appears that this is the Mecca of the golfing world.

The Christie traveler was reminded that we have a lot to be thankful for living in America. Many other countries do not enjoy the abundance of luxuries and freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. An example is electricity.



In addition to units in the Kilconquhar Castle, several very nice cottages are scattered about the property. This resort is about a mile from the Firth of Forth (a large bay where the Firth River flows into the North Sea).



*Castle ruins are abundant in Scotland and many other European countries - all are well worth a visit.
This is St. Andrews castle.*

Because of the scarcity and resulting high price of Scottish power, guests are required to take a meter reading upon arrival and departure and pay a fee. For a week in a 3-bedroom unit, the charge averages about \$85 US. But parking is free!

Summing it all up, if you've gotten in a rut and have been wondering about visiting some far off exotic place, why not start planning? Search your exchange company's website and contact the Christie Reservations Department. Who knows what adventures could be in your future? We will be glad to help you get the most from your Christie Lodge ownership!



**Rez Hotline:
1-888-
325-6343**

We are here for you! Please call us, as far in advance as possible, to discuss your reservation needs. We will help make it work!

Visit www.christielodge.com for owner benefits including Bonus Time, internal exchanges, discounts, and special owner purchase weeks.

Annual Meeting to Elect Three CLOA Board Members

The 2011 Christie Lodge Owners Association's Annual Meeting is scheduled on Saturday, October 1, 2011, beginning 9:00 a.m. MDT, at the Christie Lodge in Avon, Colorado.

The Christie Lodge Owners Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 1196
Avon, CO 81620-1196

Owners will have the opportunity to elect three candidates to become members of the CLOA Board of Directors. All owners interested in becoming candidates in this election should submit their resume to the CLOA Executive Office, P. O. Box 1196, Avon, CO 81620-1196 via USPS or you may e-mail a .pdf file, as an attachment to: boardcandidates@christielodge.com. Resumes should be submitted and received on or before the close of business, Monday, August 1, 2011.

Board of Directors

Gary Kujawski, President
Steve Vickers, Secretary
Lucy Aldridge
J. Raymond David
William McReynolds
John Mertens
Art Olson

Board member services include attending about 3 or 4 meetings per year. There is no remuneration for Board member services, but travel, meals, and lodging expenses are reimbursed for attendance to Board meetings. Board members must review periodic financial information and be available for input on other various issues. Officers of the Board invest additional time.

Christie Lodge will arrange discounted room rates available to owners interested in booking a stay in conjunction with this Annual Meeting. More detailed information will be included in the Official Notice and Agenda to be sent to all owners, closer to the meeting date. Please plan to attend and take part in this important meeting.

Be a Happy Cat!



When an owner makes a timely maintenance fee payment, they have a chance to become a happy cat! He or she then becomes eligible for a nice prize - a free exchange week from RCI or II. The Christie Lodge pays the exchange fee. A week is given away each billing period.

This period's winners are:

Walter & Linda Duke.....Guyton, GA
Russell Paulson.....Forney, TX
Merii & Raymond Golenor.....Redding, CA

Prompt payment of maintenance fees keeps the Association healthy and allows us to make constant improvements to the property, making your ownership one of which you can be proud and cherish.

When you are planning your trip, don't forget to pre-plan your activities! One of the best places to review the Vail area activities is online at: <http://web.vail.net/local/event.cfm> You can see a complete calendar of events for the current months. Or you can enter "Vail Calendar" in your favorite search engine, where you will find great browsing of activities for summer or winter. After all, **WE ARE IN THE ROCKIES!**

Our Concierge Desk is available to help you with advance or onsite bookings of great fun and cool things to do! It can be directly reached at 970-845-4528.

Christie Lodge Is An Industry Role Model

We want you to know how much we appreciate each and every owner who, from the beginning to the present, has chosen the Christie Lodge as their precious vacation destination.

Recently there has been much press about the alleged demise of the timeshare industry. We've seen internet articles from mainstream media, major brands exiting the business, negative television ads, telemarketing, deceptive mailings and, unfortunately, transfer companies defrauding owners.

Let's examine the facts. Seven million families have chosen timeshare resorts because the flexibility of ownership fits their lifestyles and travel preferences. The consumer information section of the American Resort Development Association (ARDA), the premier trade association of the industry, confirms that the vast majority of owners are happy with their vacation experiences and options. So, why do we see the negative press? In a word – resales – of existing timeshare ownership.

With 7 million owners there will be owners that want to sell for various personal reasons. It's no secret that there is a secondary market for timeshare sales that is a proverbial minefield with upfront fees, unfulfilled transfer guarantees and possible title problems. ARDA's Consumer Advisories and Resources (available at www.arda.org) provides excellent answers to many questions and what to watch out for in the resale market. A small percentage of 7 million adds up to a lot of negative press. If you are one of those few who have had a negative experience, please allow us to help you. Start by calling our Owner Services department.

Everyone can make a difference. Together we are a strong voice and we urge you all to act to protect your vacation memories. Our call to action is simply this: if you receive a postcard or other offer that, in your opinion, devalues the industry, file a complaint with the Colorado Attorney General's office.

It is a simple online process: log onto https://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/departments/consumer_protection/file_consumer_complaint (this is not a hyperlink, so copy and paste it into your browser). You should file such a complaint under "Other" with the title "Timeshare Deceptive Advertising".

Earlier this year, we met with the deputy attorney general who encouraged owners to report any unusual practices. They are more interested in the number of complaints on

any given subject than details - so it's okay to be brief. It may be better yet, to physically mail to them, the postcards you are receiving. We want to get their attention. The Christie Lodge, with the help of ARDA ROC (Resort Owners' Coalition), is leading a group of Colorado timeshare resorts to reverse the current trend of negative advertising and we all need to work together.

Timeshare resorts are no different from any other real estate property. Each has unique characteristics, benefits and value. Like all other reputable resorts, we want people to want to vacation in our resort's location and appreciate the value of their stay. The Vail Valley remains a worldwide premier vacation destination and billions have been invested into real estate development and mountain amenities in our area.

The Christie Lodge strives to maintain and even set the highest standards for the industry. We are constantly amazed at how many people around the country have heard of or stayed at the Christie Lodge. We are admired by our industry peers as a success story in the industry. Why is that? The answer is simple: we do not try to be all things to all people. A recent article in Resort Trades Magazine made a great point that we believe applies to the Christie. "Timeshare owner happiness and satisfaction does not hinge on a resort being perfect. It hinges on a resort being responsive to them as the people whose opinions matter most."

We recognize that lifestyles change over time and the Christie Lodge is changing with you. This year we are working on a number of exciting owner appreciation initiatives and want to start by asking for your opinion. We have created a new member-only input section on the owners website designed to get your feedback in three areas:

- **What has been your experience with Christie Lodge over your ownership years?**
- **One thing you like and don't want to change about the Christie Lodge?**
- **If you could change one thing about the Christie Lodge, what would it be?**
- **What are your thoughts or experiences with resales?**

Please check back regularly for exciting surprises and new opportunities for input. Many of you have been with us since the beginning and now we have the goal to adapt to provide the highest satisfaction for the next generation's vacation memories.

Getting to Know Us - Rick Dameron, Director of Operations

The Christie Lodge prefers to promote from within when a deserving employee is eligible and qualified for a given position. That was the case when Management chose Rick Dameron to move up from the position of Chief Engineer to the position of Director of Operations.

Rick has been with us for nearly three years and has overseen many improvements to the Lodge. Under Rick's direction, the recent renovation is almost complete in a record time of 90 days! He also managed the pool renovations and many other projects.

Rick's roots in the hospitality industry go way back to the time when he was 16 and took a bellboy job in a hotel in his hometown of Flint, Michigan. He later worked resort construction work with his father and thoroughly understands hospitality operations.

A love of wildlife is one of Rick and wife, Susie's, passions. About three years ago they decided to uproot from Michigan and head to the wilds where they could enjoy and cultivate that interest. It came down to Alaska or Colorado and we are very fortunate that Colorado won that toss, in particular, Avon.

The couple routinely makes an annual cruise to Alaska and recently got to experience crab fishing on the Aleutian Ballard, the boat featured in the second season of the Discovery Channel's Deadliest Catch series.



Rick enjoys a view of Gypsum Cliff from his office window, and the beautiful flowers and statues provided by the City of Avon.

The Aleutian Ballard is the ship that was hit and nearly destroyed by a 60-foot rogue wave!

Rick and Susie have two grown children, Heather and Jason, who have blessed them with grandchildren Julian, Kristin, Chloe and Leah, all of whom reside in the Flint, Michigan area.

Our new D.O. enjoys a challenge and especially likes to make new things out of old ones. The Christie Lodge isn't really old, but it certainly benefits from Rick's talents and attentiveness to correctly performing a task with pride.

Events FUN Activities Local Favorites Concerts Shopping Dining Theater
Breathtaking Views Excursions Hiking Fishing Rafting Phenomenal Nature
We have all this and more at the Christie Lodge!



P.O. Box 1196
0047 East Beaver Creek Blvd.
Avon, Colorado 81620