



GYROMAT

The official newsletter of the Kitimat Gyro Club
August 2020 (COVID Edition)

Welcome to Your 4th
Issue of the 64th Year !!



Recent Activities and Highlights

Unfortunately, our calendar of events has been completely derailed by COVID-19. The highlight for August was that we were able to hold an outdoor gathering and regular meeting on August 12th, 2020.

A Message From the President and Vice President

Fellow Gyro's and Gyro Ladies,

The year 2020 has been unlike no other, with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting and changing things like we've never seen before or couldn't have imagined.

As we continue to social distance and keep our circles small, you are encouraged to keep up the good work. We will together make it through this hurdle life has thrown us. Also, please reach out to each other if help is needed, not necessarily even within the club, but others that may need a hand. Congratulations to any members (families) who've made it through self-quarantine. Many thanks to all Gyro's and Gyro Ladies for sharing information, entertaining stories, videos and jokes that we all need, Please let's all stay healthy so that we can plan for more good times ahead.

We were finally able to have our outdoor meeting earlier in the week. We were able to successfully social distance with 10 members and had a BBQ, held our regular closed meeting, shared some laughs and enjoyed seeing each other again.

With the future still being unsettled due to Covid-19 we unanimously passed the following moving forward until the Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and the overall situation becomes more clearer:

1. We will NOT be having our Installation this year and will be keeping the status quo with our officers and directors until further notice.
2. We will be trying to have similar small gatherings (possibly monthly) to maintain contact with each other and hold our regular meetings.
3. Our members did NOT want to hold meetings via ZOOM (on-line) though that could be discussed again depending on how things unfold.

We will probably be working under this premiss for the remainder of 2020 and likely the first part of 2021 until things become more clear and COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Enjoy the rest of your summer (if we get one) and stay safe.

Cheers to you all,

President Steve Revell

Vice President Joey Ocsouai

Outdoor Gathering and Meeting

We were finally able to have our outdoor meeting earlier in the week on August 12th, 2020 when the weather finally cooperated, albeit barely. We were able to successfully social distance with 10 members and had a BBQ, held our regular closed meeting, shared some laughs and enjoyed seeing each other again. This was much needed fun evening and hopefully we can do it again soon.

Thanks to Don (DK) Reeves and Doug Oleniuk for the food (Burgers, Smokies, Corn on the Cob and DK's Bush Beans), Steve Sheasgreen for setting up the Gyro Bar and Don (DK) Reeves for hosting.





In Memory Of

It is with great sadness that the Kitimat Gyro Club lost one of its long time members Ken "Rin Tin" Minifie on March 9, 2020.

Ken was in Gyro for over 42 years from 1977 until 2020, Past President in 1984 and 2002. He will be fondly remembered as a great friend, committed Gyro and all round class guy.

Ken was a veteran of the Second World War and a true hero of his generation. During the war he flew missions over Europe as a wireless operator in the Halifax bombers. Sometime in 1944 his plane was shot down over The Netherlands and Ken spent the remaining duration of the war as a prisoner of war.

At wars end, Ken obtained his engineering degree and landed in Kitimat working for the Aluminum Company of Canada preparing for the start of up the Kitimat aluminium smelter in 1954. In 2015, Ken was a guest of honour at the smelter and pulled the disconnect turning off the power to the last remaining potline in the old smelter.

At 63 years of continuous Royal Canadian Legion membership, Ken was the senior member of the Kitimat Branch. Many years ago, Ken was awarded a Life Membership in the Legion. Twice a week or more, up to his passing, Ken continued his regular visits to the Legion Lounge where he could be seen hoisting a beer with his friends. A proud Legion member to the very end.

The Kitimat Gyro Club will be making a donation to the Royal Canadian Legion on behalf of Ken.

Condolences and best wishes go out to Kens's family and friends.



August 31, 1922 – March 9, 2020

Ken passed away peacefully on Mar 9 in Kitimat General Hospital at the age of 97.

He leaves behind many friends and family members who will dearly miss him. Predeceased by his loving wife Sis after fifty six years of marriage, his grandson Jamie, his 7 siblings and his parents Elizabeth and Henry. Ken is survived by his 3 children: Wayne (Janette), David (Elaine) and Debbie (Jack), his 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

He was born in Spillimacheene BC where his Dad worked for the CPR railway. From a young age he was a

great outdoor enthusiast and played many team sports. On one of these trips he met Lillian (Sis) who would become his future bride. Early in 1940 Ken enlisted in the Armed Forces and after training in the RCAF was sent overseas where he flew several bombing missions over Germany before he was shot down and Captured.

After 18 months in a prisoner of war camp, he was freed by the Russians and returned home.

He married his sweetheart Sis in 1945 and that same year he enrolled in Metallurgical Engineering at UBC. After graduating he joined Alcan Smelters working at the Anvida plant in Quebec, but soon thereafter he returned to BC where he would startup the first pots of the new Kitimat smelter.

Ken was an active community member and joined several organizations including: Gyros, Masonic Lodge, Yacht Club, Minor Hockey, Cross Country Ski Club, and the Claque Mountain Ski Hill building group to name a few. He was always ready to volunteer his time for a worthy cause. He also enjoyed time at the Lakelse cabin watching the grand kids swim.

In his later years, his efforts went to playing pool and discussing politics at the Kitimat Legion. He lived life to the fullest and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

A special thanks go to Emma and Sarah for taking such good care of him at home. The family would also like to extend their thanks to Dr. Kay, Dr. Skully, Kitimat Fire & Ambulance Services, and the nursing staff at Kitimat General Hospital.

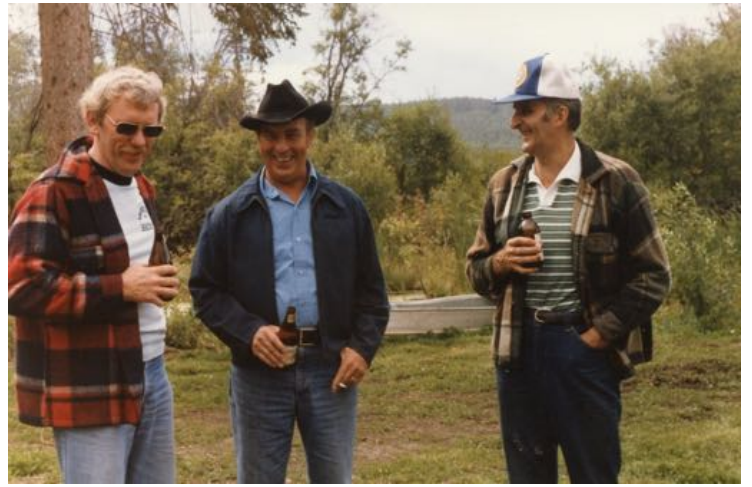
Many thanks to the Legion, Kitimat Masons and Gyro members who helped with his service.



The following photos celebrate some fond memories with Ken during his many years in Gyro.







Happy 60th Anniversary

A Happy 60th Anniversary to Don (DK) and Sheila Reeves on August 6th, 2020.

Cheers to you both 🥂🕶️



Coming Events – Regular Meetings & Events

Unfortunately all further regular meetings and club events are cancelled at this time due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Kitimat Gyro Club will follow all guidelines as set forth by the provincial health authorities and will only re-convene once it is deemed safe to do so.

We discussed at our August 12th meeting the possibility of having another outdoor gathering / meeting in mid September 2020 so we will keep you posted of a date once decided and hope to see you all there.

Coming Events for District IV

September 12, 2020	VIRTUAL District IV Business Meeting
September 12, 2020	Kelowna, BC Installation
September 18, 2020	North Shore, BC Installation
September 19, 2020	VIRTUAL District IV Installation and Happy Hours
September 19, 2020	Olympia, WA Installation
September 25, 2020	Prince George, BC Installation

Coming Events – Gyro District IV Annual General Meeting and Installation



The name Gyro is derived from the gyroscope, symbolizing the ability to maintain a desired course and attitude regardless of outside influences. While we are not able to gather in person this year, Gyros can't let a little thing like a global pandemic stop us from having a great time!

We invite you to the first ever Gyro District IV Virtual Convention, the most fun you can have with your friends without leaving your home. Some unique advantages of a Virtual Convention:

- Everyone can participate! Meet new friends from around the District, no physical travel required
- No line ups at the bar and a very good chance they'll have what you like.
- No one can tell if you're wearing pants! Well.... at least until you stand up.

As virtual events involve a lot of sitting, we will be building in a break period to the main event and holding the AGM on the weekend prior.

Annual General Meeting: September 12 starting at 9:00AM.

District IV Main Event/Installation Evening: September 19 starting at 4:00PM

- 4:00PM to 6:00PM - Virtual Hospitality Rooms. Wear a funny hat, costume, or come as you are. In order to comfortably see everyone else's video and avoid accidentally talking over each other, members will be placed

- in small hospitality rooms. Room participants will be rotated every 20 minutes, allowing you to meet and chat with new friends. Room changes will occur automatically, no technical knowledge required,
- 6:00 PM to 8:00PM - BREAK. Stretch, have something to eat, top up your glass, and get ready for the formal event.
- 8:00PM to 9:30PM - The Formal Installation. While not mandatory, this is your opportunity to get dressed up and show off your style. Listen to live music, meet the new District Executive (Officers + Club Presidents), hear from Gyro International, and celebrate this year's award winners
- 9:30PM - End of Formal Installation. Virtual Hospitality Rooms re-open.

As not everyone has used the Zoom platform before, we will be holding a number of test sessions prior to the event. If you require additional assistance connecting, we will make sure there is help available. For those without a computer, a dial-in phone number will be provided.

Additional details and the link to join the Zoom meetings will be sent via e-mail closer to the date.

We look forward to this unique opportunity to share stories, enjoy some laughs, and celebrate the importance of friendship.



Gyro District IV AGM and Installation Agenda

AGM

Saturday, September 12, 2020

8:30 am	Registration / Zoom Room Opens
9:00 am	Meeting starts
11:00am	Meeting ends

Installation

Saturday, September 19, 2020

3:30pm	Zoom Room Doors Open for Happy Hour
4:00pm	Happy Hour Starts
4:00 – 6:00pm	Room rotation every 20 minutes
6:00pm	Happy Hour Ends / Room Closes
Break	
7:45pm	Zoom Room Reopens for Formal Installation Event
8:00pm	Live Music
8:15pm	Introduction
8:20pm	Club Presidents Introduction
8:35pm	Greetings from International
8:40pm	Remarks from Retiring Governor – Don Patterson
8:45pm	Installation of new district officers
9:00pm	Remarks from New Governor – Matthew Williams
9:05pm	Presentation of Awards
9:15pm	Special Presentation
9:25pm	Closing Remarks
9:30pm	End of Installation Event
9:30pm	Socializing in Zoom Rooms commences

Chase The Ace



The pot is now up to:



\$1,562.50

Better run get your tickets quick and see if you can't draw this beauty card.



The next draw number **27** will be held at the next Kitimat Gyro Club meeting.

Don't miss out !!

Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday To:

August 11 – Mike Steponavicius
Sept 29 – Sharon Bruno

August 31 – Ken Minifie
Sept 30 – Trisha Gabel



Sept 19 – Phil Germuth
Sept 30 – Debbir Hoffman



Happy Anniversary To:

Aug 4 – Joe & Sharon Bruno
Aug 9 – Eric Bottah & Cynthia
Gyamfiwah

Aug 6 – Don & Sheila Reeves
Aug 17 – Dave & Yvonne Lee
Aug 31 – Ken & Adele Billingsley

Aug 6 – Darrin & Brenda Stamper
Aug 21 – Paul Connolly & Denise
Lodge

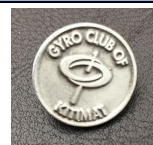


Membership

The Kitimat Gyro Club currently has 22 active members.

Kitimat Gyro Pin

The Gyro Club of Kitimat pin is a stylish classy pin available in pewter and is provided to all club members or can be requested through an existing club member.



Kitimat Gyro Club 2019 / 2021 Officers and Directors

President: Steve Revell	Vice President: Joey Ocsovai
Treasurer: Doug Oleniuk	Secretary: Joe Bruno
Immediate Past President: Mike Steponavicius	
Director 1 Year: Ken Billingsley	Director 1 Year: Darrin Stamper
Director 2 Year: Adam Taylor	Director 2 Year: Lloyd Eastman

**“One of the greatest gifts of life is friendship, and
through GYRO we have achieved it”**

Regular Club Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Chalet in Kitimat, BC at 6:30pm

Club Website: <http://kitimatgyro.com>

Also join us on Facebook:

