



TRAILBLAZER



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Always open to feedback, email me at cnbreeding52@gmail.com
Nancy Breeding, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I heave the sigh of contentment that ensues when we return home after a long camping trip! Almost six weeks on the road in our Concourse. It was awesome, and now we are ready and glad to be back in our at-home routines.

What a great variety of stuff we can do in our Chinook! We were in small towns, big cities, and people's yards and driveways. We were living large in a resorty campground with full amenities. We were hopping from place to place by day and hunkering down in Walmarts by night.

I was particularly taken by how much boondocking we did on this trip. We were in an RV park for the rally obviously, and there was that great KOA in Orlando (which might be a future rally spot if I have my way). So much of the rest of the time we were at Harvest Hosts or Walmarts.

Straddling somewhere in between was the three days spent at Suncoast Designs to have our windows defogged. What an operation! They actual have water and electric hookups for 24 RVs to use while their windows are being worked on, as well as a dump station. Not quite a camp, not quite a boondock, we enjoyed our

days there in the unexpected company of Jim and Linda Stamper, who were having the same work done. It was a bit of challenge sleeping in the Concourse while things were torn up so they could remove the windows, but we managed okay, and we were done soon enough. \$250 for each window, and now they're beautifully clear.

Yep, nice to be home for now. The next trip will be here soon enough!

Mark McCluski
President

WINTER RALLY WRAPUP

January 2017 Rally - Flamingo Lakes, Jacksonville Florida

By mid afternoon Sunday there were already a lot of coaches present. Ultimately we had something along the lines of 20 Chinooks. Friends greeted friends in small pockets of visits at individual sites in weather that was on-and-off rainy and a bit blustery. There was the customary gathering around an open hood. The weather got more ominous as the day wore on, though. Folks had some stories to tell of really strong rain and winds they'd driven through as they passed through Georgia and points north; the folks coming up from the south had an easier time of it by far. Strong winds in camp that first night, as we watched news of tornados landing up in Georgia. As ominous as it looked and felt, the storm never hit us head on, and by morning it had all but left us.

Monday daytime was more casual encounters. When it got to be five PM, people started to wander over to the club room. Rally hosts **Debbie and B.J.**



Person, Lillian Schmidt, and Ken Bliss (ever-assisted by Eileen and Russ Disbrow) had done a great job making the place look all celebratory with a "Happy New Year" theme. The appetizer/finger foods once again took on the scale of a mini potluck, with an abundance of great tastes. New members were welcomed: **Pat and Mike Botsley, Dave and Rondelle Ruggiero, and Greg Snedden**. And it was great to see the **Muncy's** again! Long time since they made a rally!



The sun came out on Tuesday, and temperatures rose to a nice level for visiting outside. The amazing kitchen crew treated us to a fine breakfast of eggs, sausage, French toast sticks, and more. At 10:30 we enjoyed a round table talk of problems and solutions. It felt like there was more of the former than the latter this rally, but even where the problem didn't have an answer it had the attention and support of the whole club.

New-ish member **Greg Snedden** kindly offered to install an led indicator light to show if the water heater was in operation for anyone who asked, and boy did he have a busy afternoon! Really quite a nice little add-on: the kind of thing you hadn't realized you were missing. While Greg was working the rest of us were schmoozing. Sunny and temps in the 70's. Just a delightful afternoon.



Before you knew it it was time to eat again, though, so we trundled over to the traditional potluck supper. As usual we all ate more than our fill. The day wrapped up with an hour or so of bingo. Wednesday started foggy and cold, but the writing was already on the wall for another sunny warm day as we headed over to our second club breakfast: pancakes, biscuits and gravy, more eggs, more fruit. **Nita Wilkinson** treated us to freshly squeezed grapefruit juice from her own trees. Good stuff!



After breakfast **George Papadi** gave us a little slide show of the extended trip he took to Alaska last year. Man, he made it look so good!



From 2 to 4 there was an open house, and everyone had a chance to check out the improvements owners had done to their coaches. Some were big, some were small, and a lot of good ideas were shared. Then before you know it we were eating again, the club provided burgers and hot dogs.

Now usually there would have been a campfire, but Flamingo Lakes lacks that one facility. Our rally hosts improvised an alternate activity: a variation on the theme of Trivial Pursuit. **Debbie and Lillian** called out the questions and two teams did their best to answer. It was lively, I hope to tell you! The game broke up around 8 or so, and folks returned to their coaches.



Thursday morning was an unexpectedly substantial breakfast! Lots of food leftover from the last two mornings. Then fond farewells and all but a few Chinooks went on their way.



Did you miss it? Well you'll have another chance next January: we decided the arrangements were good enough to warrant renewing this campground right on the spot! You can mark your calendar now. Dates will be **Arrival Date: JAN 22 18** **Departure Date: JAN 24 18**

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE HELPERS AT THE WINTER RALLY!

Many thanks to all the helpers at the Jacksonville Rally in January. We have a great group of people who make being a host a breeze! See you in Asheville! **BJ, Debbie, Lillian, Ken (below)**



UPCOMING RALLY SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

With any rally please make sure you say you are with the Chinook Camping Club.
VOLUNTEER HOSTS NEEDED, CONTACT T BURGESS AT cccrallyvp@gmail.com



Spring Rally @ East Asheville KOA, April 30-May 3, 2017

2708 Old US Hwy 70E, Swannanoa NC 828-686-3121, let them know you are with the Chinook rally.
Hosts needed! If you are interested in volunteering or just want to ask questions about what is involved email T at CCCRallyVP@gmail.com!

We had such a wonderful time last year, we are gathering here again! The park is beautiful and in a scenic mountain area. Explore Black Mountain, one of the most scenic and cute towns in America. Visit Asheville and the Biltmore estate, or drive on down to the other western North Carolina mountain areas. And as usual, visit with the other Chinookers!

Summer Rally, 2017

We're still hoping for an event in the late spring. T Burgess and Judy Boone are checking out a campground in upstate New York for a June or July time frame. If you have any ideas that you'd be willing to work on, please email T at CCCRallyVP@gmail.com!



Fall Rally Branson Lakeside RV Park, Branson MO Sept 25-30, 2017 ANNUAL RALLY

September rally will be a joint gathering with the Western club at Branson Lakeside RV Park, 300 Boxcar Willie Dr, Branson, MO 65616. Phone 417-334-2915. We will be hosted by western club members **Jim and Marnie Weidmaier**. We'll beg a little time apart from our western cousins to conduct our annual business meeting. More information will be coming soon.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Gerry Rutter

We have 76 coaches registered.
We also have 1 associate member.
Members in 27 states.



New Members:

Rondelle & Dave Ruggiero CCC# 415
Vera & Bob Raudman CCC# 416
Jan & Ed Shaffer CCC# 417
Kathleen & John M Perry CCC# 418
Lorie Burks CCC# 419



Departed Members:

Fred & Evelyn Erb	CCC# 20
Louise & Robert Schloss	CCC# 21
Sue & David DeMartini	CCC# 182
Loretta & Lenny Melancon	CCC# 198
John & Donna Findling	CCC# 221
Jo & Don Phillips	CCC# 231
Charlotte & Dick Kohrs	CCC# 275
Charles & Catalina Nelson	CCC# 303
Diane & Braxton Nagle	CCC# 319
William O'Donnell	CCC# 331
Margaret Folgate	CCC# 337
Paul E. & Christine W. Lamarche	CCC# 355
David Eppstein & Deborah Foster	CCC# 363
Ruth & Williams Yobs	CCC# 364
Joanne & David MacDowell	CCC# 369
Hugh & Ann Durgin	CCC# 394
Linda & Al Platz	CCC# 395
Ruth & Williams Yobs	CCC# 364
Jean & Dave Oatway	CCC# 400
Ramona & Nelsy Livingston	CCC# 402
Lee Murrer	CCC# 405
Frank Scatigna	CCC# 408
Henry Lisowski & Mary Anne Haburn	CCC# 409

Please review your information on the Membership Directory, and send any corrections, mismatches or updates to me at ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com

EZ Member Directory App:

The EZ Member Directory app is based on our e-mail addresses. I had tried adding additional addresses into the system, but this created a problem with clicking to launch on email programs. Anyone with multiple addresses, will notice that they have been moved further down the page. This is accessible within the app and can be edited by you. Use the app to view your entry and click the crayon at the top of the screen. We will use the "Info 3" field for additional addresses.



If you need your access code or assistance with the app, please send your questions to ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com

Some of our members have not had the opportunity to attend a rally. SOOO, we do not have photos of you or your Chinook. If you wish to have your picture in the Member Photo Directory, please send me a photo of yourself and your Chinook to me.

Thank you
Gerry Rutter

DID YOU FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR DUES??



MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
"Chinook Camping Club" and mail to:



Chinook Camping Club

Dottie Norris

57 Downes Rd.

Underhill VT 05489

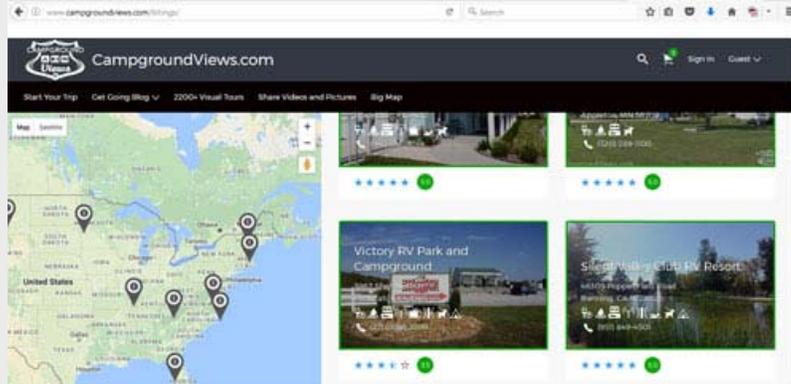
CLUB DUES OF \$35 PER COACH ARE DUE EACH YEAR ON OCTOBER 1.

Dues are considered delinquent after December 1.

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE EDITOR

A few helpful or interesting web sites or newsletters:

Facebook: Look for [Roadtreking: The Group](#). Basically they are people who own Roadtrek RVs, but they accepted me into the group. As Roadtreks are Class B units, we share some similarities in small RV travel tips and tricks. Mike Wendland also does a Roadtrekkers newsletter and online video blog that has some interesting information. Find him at <http://roadtreking.com/> where you can sign up for the newsletter and follow his blogs.



Another interesting Facebook group and web site, [Campgroundviews.com](#) (search on Facebook) or the website at <http://www.campgroundviews.com/> Has reviews and photos submitted by members.

A couple of good web sites, and some of them also have apps that are useful on the road: [RVdumps.com](#) and [Sanidumps.com](#). They come in handy if you've been doing a lot of boondocking and need to dump and fill up water tanks. You can also do a search in Google maps for RV dump stations.

In addition to Allstays- both the web site and the app, there is a sight called <https://www.overnightrvparking.com/> that might be worth checking out. It is a subscription site though, but does offer a test run.

Another newsletter I enjoy is from [rvtravel.com](#). Sign up at <https://rvtravel.com/subscribe/> They also maintain a tips page at <http://www.freecampgrounds.com/> that lists lots of resources.

Some additional travel safety tips:

Following a disastrous misstep at a [Harvest Hosts](#) farm where we had stayed the night, I am reminded that we should all review our emergency medical coverage. A broken ankle required a stop at a Georgia urgent care. I discovered my insurance had moved X-rays to the after deductible coverage, and didn't cover a portable walker (that the medical supplies company wanted \$80 dollars for! I knew I could get one at a thrift shop for \$5 or less, and couldn't use it in the rig anyway, so I declined). Good thing the Chinook is small, you can limp from one end to the other pretty well. With a little hop into the bathroom! Review your medical coverage, make sure you have your medical cards, and financial resources to cover the unexpected bills!

And another member pointed out on Facebook, if you are traveling with a spouse or companion, make sure they have had some experience in driving the Chinook. Some couples, including Charlie and me, will leave the driving mostly to one person. But this could leave you in an uncomfortable position if the driver was injured and unable to drive. So schedule a practice session in a parking lot and have a backup plan! Good Sam does offer a travel assistance plan that is supposed to help get your RV home if something happens to the driver.

And lastly, I am going to channel our good friend and Chinook guru Tom Jackson - change out your carbon monoxide alarm if it is old or past expiration! Check it yearly!!!!



CHINOOK LOGO ITEMS

The club has a variety of logo items available for purchase. The Royal or White collared polo shirt is very nice. Also available are T-shirts in Royal or White, Sweatshirts and Fleece Vests in Royal. They all look great with our club Baseball Cap. For information on availability contact **Eileen** at chinook121@tampabay.rr.com or by calling 813-633-5113.

CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB LOGO ITEM PRICING

Prices as of Oct 2015 and are subject to change
KC Brushed Cotton Ball Cap – KC8210S – Royal \$9.25
Ladies Pique Polo – BG6500 – Royal/White \$15.95
Men's Pique Polo – BG7500 – Royal/White \$15.95
Ladies T-Shirt – GL200L – Royal/White \$8.40
Men's T-Shirt – GL200 – Royal/White \$8.00
Sweatshirt – GL120 – Royal \$15.10
Fleece Vest – M985 – Royal \$21.75



TECH TALK ROUNDTABLE AT THE FALL RALLY and ADDITIONAL TIPS

The winter rally featured a tech roundtable where members got together and shared challenges, solutions, ideas and upgrades. Summary notes by **Mark McCluski**.

There was discussion of battery drainage problems: one member's truck battery drains every 2 or 3 days, even with everything turned off. Battery is new. Problems started after motherboard in generator went bad. Motherboard has since been replaced. Fuses were tested. Didn't get resolved at the roundtable, and I'm not sure if it got resolved afterwards.

Another member's digital TV Antenna replacement has stopped working. TV works on cable but not broadcast. The selector box is appropriately set. This was another one that folks were going to look at after the roundtable ended, and another one where I do not know the outcome.

Another member's fridge has stopped working. Universal consensus that the first suspect is always control board: everyone agrees that an after market Dinosaur board is the way to go.

There was a discussion of clear coat maintenance. Before reapplying clear coat, preparation is important: have to sand down first.

Several members discussed a problem with water in their battery compartment. Again, no clear answer.

Grill below windshield can be removed. Black plastic grill can be removed (with effort). If needs to be cleaned out or unclogged. Seals better if you slam hood down when closing.

Sources of parts:

Aubrey's RV in Yakima Washington 509-453-4709. Caroline is contact person. Has some Chinook parts. Had some windows.

Our own Tom Jackson is another excellent source of parts! (352) 867-5841 tjackson@embarqmail.com 379 NE 57th Street Ocala FL

An updated parts listing will be posted soon. Keep an eye on your email and the Facebook group for more information. Thanks to **Eileen Disbrow** for updating the sources!

Discussion about keeping critters out. FreshCab https://www.amazon.com/Earthkind-Botanical-Rodent-Repellent-Pouches/dp/B00L236OMW/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485274048&sr=8-1&keywords=cab+fresh also carried by Tractor Supply. Members have had mixed results.. Some swear by Irish Spring soap.

Screen door latches Factory RV Surplus 800-325-1461. Many other old supplies.

Some hints for dry camping if house batteries don't hold a charge. Check ground connections. There are three on driver side rear, two passenger side rear. Main one where batteries located. One member ground out the old screws, ground the chassis down to hard metal, and replaced with stainless steels screws.

What wax to use on clear coat? Macguires. Nu Finish.

Once again **Terry Arnold** caught everyone's attention. This time it was with a set of replacement for yellowing headlights. The model he specifically discussed was available from a vendor on eBay, but other DOT



approved headlight assemblies would also work. Terry stressed how easy the replacement is to perform. <http://www.ebay.com/itm/1992-2006-Ford-E150-250-350-450-Econoline-Van-SMD-LED-DRL-Headlights-Clear-/371230890410?hash=item566f15d9aa:g:EvEAAOSwu4BVsXLY&vxp=mtr>



Some additional popular upgrades:

Skip Braden and Anne Brown's door storage, behind the couch organization (I don't know whose coach that one is), **Skip and Anne's** pull out smoothie station, storage organization (again, I don't know whose that is) and **Terry Arnold's** swing out table.



Chinook Easy Eats!

Cheddar Bacon Egg Salad

Adjust salt as needed in this recipe, as some bacon and cheddar are quite salty already. 😊

Yield: 3 big sandwiches

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 6 eggs
- 4 slices bacon
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes



- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup grated cheddar cheese



Directions:

1. Add the eggs to a medium sized pot and fill with water to 1 inch above the eggs. Bring the water to a boil over medium heat. Remove from the heat, cover with a lid, and let sit for 15 minutes.
2. Run the eggs under cold water or place them in an ice bath until cold.
3. While the eggs are cooling, chop the bacon into bite sized pieces and fry until crisp over medium heat. Drain the fat and set aside the bacon.
4. Peel the eggs and mash them finely with a fork. Add the mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, parsley, salt, and pepper and stir to combine.
5. Stir in the bacon and cheddar.
6. Serve as a dip with crackers or between bread as a sandwich.

© Buns In My Oven - <http://www.bunsinmyoven.com/2014/01/27/cheddar-bacon-egg-salad/>

SUNSHINE UPDATES

Do you know a member who is ill or recovering that needs some SUNSHINE? Send the info to **Debbie Person** debper68@att.net



TRAVELOGUE:

SEEKING contributors for the travelogue! Have you taken a trip lately? Share it with your fellow Chinook travelers. We would love to get the details on routes, campgrounds, sightseeing, Chinook issues. We all learn from each other! Write it up, short or long, and send it along to the editor for the next newsletter! Email to cnbreeding52@gmail.com



SEEKING: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I have been editor of the newsletter now for over three years, and although I love passing on information to our wonderful membership I am feeling the need to hand over the reins to a new editor soon. We have expanded our means of communication within the organization with the Facebook group, the various online forums where people seek technical help and the frequent president's updates. The newsletter has moved to an electronic format through MailChimp, so the need to be proficient in page layout programs such as Publisher aren't needed. A little knowledge of copy, paste, and downloading and formatting photos if about all that is necessary to update the newsletter and send it on! Content is provided by board and group members. If you have an interest in contributing to the organization by producing the newsletter, please contact me at cnbreeding52@gmail.com, or at a rally!

DON'T FORGET TO POST YOUR CAMPGROUND REVIEWS!

Let's share information on where to park our Chinooks overnight en route or for an extended visit to wonderful places. Here is a **BLOG CHALLENGE!** For a few years, **Sally Arnold** has had a blog online where we can post about campgrounds we've visited, organized by state. It's a great resource, but needs to be expanded! **Here's the challenge:** We're asking each Chinook Club member to log on and post **TWO** reviews of campgrounds you have visited along route. It would



add another couple of hundred places if all members participate. Here's the address:

<http://chinooktravel.blogspot.com/>

Just click on the state and add a comment, like you would on Facebook! Let's see the list grow before the January rally!



[SEE THE WINTER RALLY PHOTOS!>](#)

More photos have been added to the Chinook Club Flickr site. These albums will not be searchable to the general public. The address is <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chinookcampingclub/> Each of the rallies has an album, click on albums to choose a particular rally. Thanks to **Eileen Disbrow** for uploading the pictures, and to **Ed Cremens** for being the club photographer when they can make the rallies!

The photos are not available to be downloaded unless you sign in. The login for the site will be in an email sent to members. To download you would click on the photo, and then click the download arrow in the lower right corner. Enjoy! Let me know if you have any questions about how to access them.

cnbreeding52@gmail.com

President

Mark McCluski

VP, Membership

Gerry Rutter

VP, Rally

T (Tara) Burgess

Judy Boone

Treasurer

Dottie Norris

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Debbie Person

Newsletter Editor, Website Coordinator

Nancy Breeding

Thank you to the Webmaster for both
CRVC and CCC,

Dave Shehane,

for his time and talent

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