

# TRAILBLAZER

### **Governing Board**

The Trailblazer is a publication of the Chinook Camping Club

December 2013

### **President's Message**



Wow, my first President's message for the Trailblazer! What was I \*thinking\*, accepting the nomination to run after the amazing job Eileen Disbrow did? Maybe I wasn't being too foolish, though; I have seldom seen a more supportive group than the Chinook Camping Club. And when I saw the rest of the slate of board members...Linda Stamper, Gayle Wroble, Cricket Jones, Diane Poole, Diane Cremens...as well as Nancy Breeding and Sally Arnold doing the newsletter...I thought, "what an amazing team to work with!" So

here I am, and happy to be here. Let's hope we all still feel that way in the months ahead!

I'm excited by the great rallies that have been set up for the upcoming year. It's looking more and more like January at Fort McCoy isn't in the cards for Jeanie and me, but I hope to see you in Navarre, Elkhart, and Williamsburg. Even if you're not a rally-goer it's great that we have each other as fellow travelers. There's never a need to feel alone if you're in a Chinook.

# Florida Winter Rally January 28 - 31, 2014

# Escape the winter doldrums! Come to our Winter Rally at Lake Oklawaha RV Park located in the Ocala National Forest

A location that is surrounded by the magnificent Ocala National Forest, one of the south's best bass-fishing lakes and the site of many awe-inspiring sunrises and sunsets. 3,700 feet of privately owned water frontage on magnificent Lake Oklawaha!

# Reserve today! Call 352-546-2151 Nightly Rate: \$26.73

Address: 15991 NE 243rd Place Road Ft. McCoy, FL 32134 For directions go to website: www.LakeOklawahaRVPark.com/directions.html





President Mark McCluski chinookcamping@icloud.com

VP, Membership Gayle Wroble ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com

VP, Rally Cricket (Cynthia) Jones cmjfreedom@hotmail.com

Treasurer Linda Stamper lindastamper@bellsouth.net

Secretary & Sunshine Diane Poole poolead72@gmail.com

Chair, Nominating Committee Diane Cremens dscremens@gmail.com

Thank you to the Webmaster for both CRVC and CCC, Dave Shehane, for his time and talent in posting our Trailblazer

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# Notes from the Nashville Rally

The Nashville rally and annual club meeting was truly a good time had by all! Great food at the pot luck dinner, the club and potluck breakfasts, and especially at the barbeque dinner—a real treat! Thanks to John and Nancy Cross for hosting. The music show was memory-inducing and highly entertaining, and having the shuttle available to run to downtown and the impressive Opry Hotel was an added treat. The weather was iffy at the beginning, and beautiful for the week.





The week was also filled with toasts and thanks to the outgoing board: Eileen, Jim, Don and Nita, and welcome to the new and continuing board members: Mark, Gayle, Linda, Cricket and Diane Poole, who agreed to continue as secretary. Diane Cremens will continue as chair of the

nominating committee which also includes Eileen, Alvin Cantrell and Rebecca Williams.

Good times closed out with a roaring campfire complete with ghost story and some passing of the "legal" Tennessee moonshine. Check out the photos on the last page!





Meet the New Board Here's a little bit about the wonderful people who volunteered (agreed) to serve on the board!

New board President **Mark McCluski** and Jennine Porta of Teaneck, NJ own a 2005 Concourse, purchased new, "a powerful lesson in depreciation!" Mark worked for the New York Public Library doing a wide range of things: reference, outreach, political action, library management. "At the time of my retirement I was coordinating Braille and talking book services for the downstate New York region. We love reading and movies, and we try to see a play in New York every month or so (depending on the price of the tickets.) Elvis, our Sheltie, keeps me busy with agility training and trials. Actually, Elvis keeps me busy kind of steadily: that dog has a lot of energy. We also enjoy fitness classes at our local health spa

several days a week. And then there's food! We enjoy all manor of ethnic cuisines, and a good eatery is such a nice

#### Meet the new board, continued

reason to go out. Or we eat in: I enjoy cooking, especially baking bread." Your favorite Chinook trip: "The first winter after I retired we went on the road for 2 1/2 months, driving down the eastern seaboard, visiting family in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. We went to Daytona, we went to Orlando, we went to the Key Largo and Key West. We rallied with Chinookers in Jacksonville, then turned left and went to Destin and to New Orleans. We meandered back home at a snail's pace and loved it. By the time we got home the worst of the New Jersey winter was over. We really hope to take another extended trip like that again sometime."

Vice President, membership, Gayle Wroble, writes, "I am a nurse, mostly retired, and have worked in

gastroenterology nursing for about 18 years. I have a son, Jason, a daughter-in-law, Amanda, and two beautiful grandsons, Jax & Eli. I purchased my 1998 Chinook Concourse in 2009, with the intention of traveling to every state in the US just as I did with my family when I was young. So far, I think I've made it to about half of them, and a few Canadian provinces. The best travel year I've had so far was this last year when I went from my home in Paragould, AR, to our rally in FL, through the southern states to southern CA, and back home again in about 2.5 months. Then later the same year traveling from AR to Calgary Canada and up through the Canadian Rockies, then back again stopping at many great places along the way in about 2 months. Whew! Logged a lot of miles this year. I think my favorite place has been Joshua Tree National Park. I love rocks and there's a lot of them there, along with the most wonderful memories of climbing on them with my Dad when I was young.

My hobbies include traveling (of course!), hiking, photography (mostly travel & hiking photos), and sculpture. I used to work with ceramic and stoneware, and am currently interested in polymer clay. And anyone who's met me knows I am a major tech geek. I also like to write and have a travel blog with lots of my photos, although I don't keep it updated like I should. You can find it at <u>www.hikebyphoto.com</u>. If you read the blog from the beginning, you will get a play by play story of my experiences as a new RV owner bringing my Chinook home from AZ where I bought it. Thankfully, after joining the Chinook Camping Club, my knowledge of RV ownership is vastly improved, thanks to the wonderful members who generously share their knowledge and experiences.

Linda Stamper, Treasurer, says "We have a 2005 Glacier and live in Statesville N.C.; Jim and I have been married 51



years and have three children and two grandchildren. My career consisted of 25 years with the state of NC, primarily as an accounting instructor at Mitchell Community College, retiring in 2003. I was also a CPA for 20 years. My hobbies include reading, traveling, and quilting. One of our favorite trips was to Alaska with five other Chinook couples in 2012; we spent 9 terrific weeks meandering to and from Alaska. "

**Diane Cremens**, chair of the nominating committee, tells us that she and her husband, Ed, "own a 2004 Premier that we bought used with 6,750

miles. It now has over 96,000 miles. I was born and raised in Chicago, and have lived in the little town of Byron, 100 miles west of Chicago for the past 34 years. We are currently retired, but volunteer at the local Forest Preserve Golf Course as a ranger/starter. I enjoy golfing, hiking, playing with grand kids, playing computer games and most of all, camping in our Chinook. As for a favorite Chinook trip, we enjoy all the rallies and traveling out west to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks."







# 2014 Rally Schedule

PLAN NOW FOR THE UPCOMING RALLIES!

January 28-31, 2014: Lake Oklawaha RV Park - Fort McCoy, FL 352-546-2151 \$26.73/night Remember to tell them you're with the Chinook Camping Club. And remember to let rally host Sue Jackson know if you have a talent or skill to share <u>stjackson@embarqmail.com</u>.

April 27-30, 2014: Emerald Beach RV Park - Navarre, FL 850-939-3431 \$46.85/night

\*\*\*If interested, follow your friends to Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL immediately following the Emerald Beach rally. Make your reservations early as Gulf State Park is very popular. Call: 251-948-7275 to reserve the state park. GULF STATE PARK CAN NOW BE RESERVED ONLINE! Go to the following website: http://www.alapark.com/gulfstate/reservations/

June 23-26, 2014: Elkhart Campground, Elkhart, IN 576-264-

2914 Rate TBA We've issued an invitation for the Western Chinook Club to join us for this wonderful event! Here is your chance to visit the Elkhart area, the RV History Museum and see the Amish areas. Also near the huge Shipshewana Flea Market. Another rally you don't want to miss! More info soon!

October 5-8, 2014: Williamsburg, VA at American Heritage RV Resort. An

"Oktoberfest" Celebration is being planned by Nita & Klaus Wilkinson so mark your calendars for an authentic German celebration at the 2014 Annual Meeting!

For now, blocking out those dates on your planner will do but it

is not to early to reserve the Winter or Spring rallies. The 2014 Rally Schedule will soon be posted on www.chinookrvclub.net under "Eastern" - Upcoming Events. Phone numbers, rates, dates, etc. will be provided.

Do you know a member who is ill or recovering that needs some SUNSHINE?

Send the info to Diane Poole at poolead72@gmail.com



Happy holidays and hopes for a safe, happy New Year! 2014 is shaping up with some fantastic rallies and get-togethers. Thanks for the suggestions, tips, tricks and travel info, keep 'em coming! We're always looking for things to share: article ideas, improvements to your coaches, sources for parts, recipes, photos, sunshine requests, travel information, apps

you use often, campground recommendations, and more! I'll be collecting info at the rallies too, so make sure to find me! Thanks! Nancy Breeding, cnbreeding52@gmail.com and on Facebook.com/nbreeding

Thoughts for the day

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton Facebook: DailyGood





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## **VP of Membership Report 2013**

As the new VP of Membership, I'm looking forward to getting to know all our members better. Club membership is currently at 106. We have welcomed two new coaches owned by: Robert & Linda Hilgenhold, and Jim & Paulette Day. We have said goodbye to Robin & Debra Conn, Judith Leib & Jean Jones, and Bob & Tippy Martin.

As we come to the end of the year, if you haven't done so already, please send in your club membership dues. If you want your info included in the next printing of the Member Directory, we need to receive it by the end of the year. The new directories will be printed before the Florida Rally in January. Please send your \$35 check, to our new Treasurer, Linda Stamper, 219 Monte Vista Drive, Statesville, NC 28625. Make checks payable to "Chinook Camping Club."

I will have club business cards available at the Florida rally, but if you won't be there and want some let me know. I can mail them, or send a digital file for you to print for yourself. If you do happen to see another Chinook while traveling, sticking a printed card with our club info on their RV is much nicer than a hastily written note scribbled on the back of a crumpled piece of paper that you found stuffed in your wallet or purse. (Yes, I've done that!) On the other hand, if you happen to find a Chinook with the owner still inside, by all means, do whatever is necessary to coerce... uh, I mean convince them that they might like to join our club, as we are a really fun bunch to camp with. (I've done that too!) Please let me know if you have any ideas for increasing our membership. I welcome any and all suggestions. Gayle Wroble

#### Welcome to the newest members!

Robert & Linda Hilgenhold, Cannelton, IN - #348 - 2002 Destiny

Jim & Paulette Day, (right) Norwalk, IA – #349 – 2000 Concourse



Members represent the following Chinook ownership: model years range from 1993 through 2005:

| Concourse | 50 |
|-----------|----|
| Glacier   | 16 |
| Premier   | 21 |
| Destiny   | 11 |
| Cascade   | 3  |
| Summit    | 2  |
| Eagle     | 2  |
| Baja      | 1  |

75 members renewed by December 1. <u>2014 CLUB DUES OF \$35 PER COACH ARE DUE NOW</u>

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YET, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

"Chinook Camping Club" and mail to:

Chinook Camping Club, Linda Stamper, Treasurer



219 Monte Vista Drive, Statesville, NC 28625



#### Chinook Camping Club

Saw your coach—please come join us for fun, family, and to learn more about your CHINOOK!

www.chinookrvclub.net chinookcampingclub@cox.net

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# Crock Pot Sausage Breakfast Casserole for a Crowd!

1 package (26-32 ozs) frozen shredded hash brown potatoes

1 package Jimmy Dean Hearty Original Sausage Crumbles (or turkey sausage crumbles

2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese

1/2 cup julienne-cut sun-dried tomatoes packed in oil, drained

6 green onions, sliced

12 eggs

1/2 cup milk

1/2 tsp salt

1/4 tsp pepper



Spray a 6 quart crock pot with cooking spray. Layer 1/2 of the potatoes on the bottom of pot.

Top with 1/2 of the sausage, mozzarella ad parmesan, sun dried tomatoes and green onion. Repeat layering. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper in large bowl with a wire whisk until well blended. Pour evenly over potato-sausage mixture. Cook on low setting for 8 hours or on high setting for 4 hours or until eggs are set.

Notes: substitute 1 cup chopped fresh tomatoes for sun-dried if desired.

Substitute 1 package regular flavor Jimmy Dean Pork Sausage Roll, cooked and crumbled. Serves 12.

Thanks to Bob and Charmaine Gibson

# One Pot Andouille Sausage Skillet Pasta Dinner

Prep Time 10 minutes, Cook Time 20 minutes, Total Time 30 minutes, Yield 4 servings

This incredibly cheesy pasta dish easily comes together in less than 30 minutes in one skillet - even the pasta gets cooked right in the pan!

1 tablespoon olive oil 2 cloves garlic, minced 1 onion, diced 1 (12.8-ounce) package smoked andouille sausage, thinly sliced 2 cups chicken broth 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes 1/2 cup milk 8 ounces elbows pasta Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese

Instructions

• Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add garlic, onion and sausage, and cook, stirring frequently, until sausage is lightly browned, about 3-4 minutes.

• Stir in chicken brown, tomatoes, milk and pasta; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until pasta is cooked through, about 12-14 minutes.

• Remove from heat and top with cheese. Cover until cheese has melted, about 2 minutes.

Serve immediately. From recipegirl.com



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# TIPS, TRICKS AND THINGS WE LEARN THE HARD WAY

#### This month's question: What is the most indispensable item in your Chinook?

Ginni Schenck I think that would be our battery powered reading lights. We use them every night but they also came in handy on the way home from Nashville when even the slightest thing drained our battery (just as Sam predicted!) Ginni, hope you got that fixed!

Eileen Disbrow I have two favorites...our set of plastic drawers that fit between the cab seats when we're on site, and ride between our club lounge chairs on the road. (I've seen others put them in the closet.). Available at Walmart. The second, the towel bar "shoe rack" thanks to Rebecca. A simple wood towel bar from Home Depot installed below the closet. A perfect place to keep your shoes.

Gayle Wroble I replaced my toilet paper holder with a white plastic paper towel holder I bought at Ace Hardware, which folds flat when you slide the two rolls of toilet paper off of it. I now can take a shower without the holder posts poking me while taking a shower. That was the single most useful upgrade I've done to the inside so far.

Diane Cremens Since we usually keep the dinette bed down, we like our Tablemate II to use for meals. It folds under the dinette and we pull it out to use. I also move it to the sink area when I need to wash dishes and put a dish drying mat on it for the clean, but wet, dishes. I also like the expansion bar I hung over the back door. I use it to store the back curtain when we want to see out the back door. The snaps are hard to snap in and we don't have to look for the curtain when we stop for the night.

Luanne Dennison On the hanging bar in the closet I hung a canvas shelving unit with canvas drawers and a hanging shoe unit making storage handy and not weighty. The shoe unit is handy pigeon holes for things other than shoes. Donald Phillips Jo and I have and love our Automatic Hydraulic Leveling System ("Bigfoot"). Quadra Manufacturing Inc. See http://www.bigfootleveler.com

Rebecca Williams likes her wide angle lens stick-on for the Chinook rear door, available at Camping World and other places, for better visibility. She also loves her mini-radiator style heater for quiet radiant heat.

#### Suggestions From the blogs and message boards: rv.net OXO Good Grips No Spill Ice Cube Tray available at Bed Bath and Beyond and on Amazon. Roku 2 Video Streaming Box: refurbished is a steal! Davis Instruments Air-Dryr 500 Dryer to keep the moisture levels down in the camper And here's a recent one to review, not much info out there yet, Mr. Heater "Portable Buddy" Propane Heater, and indoor-safe heater that runs on those little cans of propane! If you have experience with any of these, send a review to the editor at cnbreeding52@gmail.com and we'll include it in the next newsletter! Useful Apps: recommended by Gayle Wroble **RVcompanion** - This iPad app has a lot of RV related things like checklists, and a travel log, but the coolest part is the leveler. It tells you approximately how

many inches your RV needs to be raised to be level.



State Lines - This iPhone or iPad app

tells you things you need to know about each state as you travel: things like time zone, state tax rates, seatbelt, motorcycle, texting, cellphone, and smoking laws. Also includes speed limits, driving & rest area rules, max tow limits, and many other things you might want to know about traveling through different states.

Chinook Social Media

http://chinookrvclub.com/

There is a Yahoo Group called "ChinookRVOwners" that is a great resource for all things Chinook. You can find the group at: http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/ ChinookRVOwners/ Set your preferences to send posts by email and filter in your email to a Chinook folder to read at your leisure! Note that there is another Chinook Yahoo group, chinookrvs, that has good information, but is not moderated and gets a lot of spam.

Sally Arnold has set up a blog for us to add info about places we have enjoyed while traveling. The entries are divided by state, and it is very easy to use and make contributions. Find this blog at: http://

www.chinooktravel.blogspot.com/

Help your fellow travelers-post recommendations and reviews here!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/chinookcampingclub



This group is designated as "secret" which means it is only for members. You will need to request to join by sending a response to one of the weekly updates sent to you by email. It's a

fun social tool that keeps us in touch between rallies. With the security setting, we can also post photos and info from our trips as we're travelling.



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

What a year our Chinooks have had, our group has traveled all over the USA and Canada. I took a survey at the Nashville rally of our Chinook group adventures this summer, based on just 13 responses, we traveled to 28 states and 6 Canadian Provinces. That's a lot of traveling and these were places we stayed at, not just passing through. I will give you just a few of the highlights from our travels and you might want to consider them for your upcoming Chinook ventures.

This year with the June rally at Cape May, New Jersey, it seems like a lot of us set our ventures around that. After all when gas is so expensive we need to plan to see as much as we can on those fuel dollars. So New York and New England became the prime area, after all we were already in New Jersey.

Charlie and Nancy Breeding planned their trip to the New York area after the Cape May rally. The State Parks were very nice places to set up Chinooks. BUT personally, I would avoid New York City totally because there are too many obstacles to overcome with an RV and the tolls are horrible. Once you are beyond that the state is beautiful, even New York City is probably wonderful just not in an RV. The Finger Lakes region of New York State has such an abundance of natural beauty and amazing attractions. From the pristine lakes, gorgeous waterfalls, and magnificent parks to the charming villages, one-of-a-kind museums, and unique shopping opportunities; the Finger Lakes have something for

everyone to enjoy in all four seasons of the year. The Corning Museum of Glass is a must visit. www.corningfingerlakes.com/attractions/museums/corning-museum-glass

The Mohawk Valley has a great deal of history surrounding the Revolutionary War. mohawkvalley-wiki.com

The Jello Museum (right), Le Roi, NY (www.jellogallery.org) is all about the history of Jello.





Niagara Falls, NY was the city built around factories that utilized the power of the falling water for energy. The downtown area borders a park (Niagara Falls State Park) affording a close-up view of the American, Horseshoe and Bridal Veil Falls. You need to take your passports so you

can also visit the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. It is really beautiful too. Another recommended campground, within easy reach of the Canadian crossing is the Four Mile Creek State Park (left) http://nysparks.com/parks/6/details.aspx on Lake Ontario, with large sites and great views. www.niagarafallstourism.com/experience/and www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/Americas-Oldest-State-Park.aspx

The Green Mountains and Lake Champlain area in Vermont is especially beautiful in the fall with the colored leaves. I have to always get my fix of "fancy grade" maple syrup when visiting Vermont. A must if you go to Vermont is the Shelburne Museum shelburnemuseum.org/, also a favorite of mine. www.vermont-byways.us/ Lake\_Champlain\_Byway and www.vermont-byways.us/green\_mountain

The White Mountains of New Hampshire have long been known for natural splendor, cultural richness, historical charm and stimulating recreation—as well as some of the most beautiful scenery in the eastern United States. The White Mountains Trail, designated a National Scenic Byway, encompasses all these aspects over the course of its 100-mile route. The Trail is a loop tour that winds through sections of the 800,000-acre White Mountain National Forest and past many of the region's most popular attractions. It can be driven in a day or can be the object of an entire vacation's worth of relaxation, exploration, and discovery. The Northern and Southern Loops are fascinating routes to explore, affording a unique look at life in and around the White Mountains. www.visitwhitemountains.com/things-to-do/

Another area where several of us went was in the area around Hershey, Harrisburg, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This area is filled with things to do. Gettysburg was celebrating its 150th commemoration of the Civil War with lots of programs and fanfare this summer. If you love history this area is for you! National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/

Gayle Wroble and Mary Ellen Van Pelt did a caravan as far as Jasper, Alberta Canada. On their travels they went to the Calgary Stampede, Banff, the Icefield Parkway to Jasper, Yellowstone, North and South Dakota visiting a lot of the National and State Parks along the way. A fabulous journey that Gayle has recorded in pictures on her Hike By Photo site (hikebyphoto.com). Last year we had a large group that did a caravan to Alaska, something that we can think about... Caravaning! We are doing one this year after the April rally at Emerald Beach. Follow your friends to Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL immediately following the Emerald Beach rally. This should be a lot of fun, Gulf Shores park is very nice.

Terry and I took our trip to where the pavement ends in Labrador and visited Newfoundland exploring and following the Viking Trail. For you adventure seekers this was a nice trip, but such a remote and different way of life! See more details in the September newsletter posted on the Chinook web site.

Visiting family and friends are one of the most popular and rewarding uses for the Chinooks. Rebecca Williams visited where she grew up in the Mohawk Valley, NY near Rochester. So she visited areas along the way that were very interesting . Pioneer Village in Salem, MA www.pioneervillagesalem.com/ and Harper's Ferry, WV (right) http://www.nps.gov/hafe/

Rena Hull had an extremely rare happening on her Chinook travels this summer. On one day she visited friends from every stage of her life. One friend she had known from 3 years old to 9th grade, two brothers from elementary school to high school, one friend from nursing school, and a couple from her adult life. My, all in one day, that was really something!

United States: Alabama Arizona California Colorado Florida Georgia Illinois Kentucky Louisiana Maine Massachusetts Mississippi Montana New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York

North Carolina North Dakota Pennsylvania South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Wyoming Canada:

Alberta Newfoundland & Labrador Nova Scotia Prince Edward Island We had members travel all over as you can see from the states visited. I hope that you can see from just this small survey the unbelievable adventures that are out there

waiting on us. Start planning now what you might want to explore in 2014. Hope to see everyone in January at the rally.

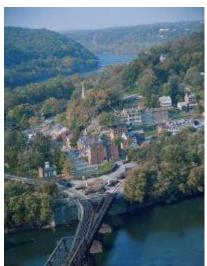


Terry and Sally and Toby at the rally.

# **Club Logo Items**

The club has a variety of logo items available for purchase. The Royal or White collared polo shirt is very nice. Also recently added are T-shirts in Royal or White which look great with our club Baseball Cap. In addition to the above, a few members have purchased a lightweight fleece vest which is very sharp. For information on logo items contact Eileen at <u>chinook121@tampabay.rr.com</u> or by calling 813-633-5113.







#### December 2013

**Nashville Rally and Annual Meeting 2013** 



Lots of eating-dinner, breakfast on the green, Tom's tech talk, the Krooner's music show, exchanging information, open house, downtown Nashville, campfire ghosts and moonshine! Below Eileen passes the presidency on to Mark, Eileen finally sits down, group shot, barbecue night and Tom's parts clearance! Great times, great memories!



The Chinook Camping Club wants to thank our outgoing and incoming boards and all those who make our Club a family!