

Governing Board

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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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March 2012

President's Message



Spring is around the corner and no one can be happier about it than me! It's been a rough, but warm winter and the signs of Spring will be welcome.

Many thanks to all our hard working members who made the Jacksonville Rally a success. Rally Directors, Don & Jo Phillips worked non-stop; members working the breakfast made feeding the almost 80 present a breeze. Even the guys were seen washing dishes! Our rallies really are a group effort and kudos to everyone whether it was cooking, cleaning up, setting up activities or making new members feel welcome. You are a FANTASTIC group!

Get your reservations made for the April rally at The RV Resort at Carolina Crossroads in Roanoke Rapids, NC.....we'll see you there!

Sincerely, *Eileen Disbrow*



Chef Curt prepares his specialty Mickey Mouse Waffles!

JANUARY 2012 RALLY AT FLAMINGO LAKE RV RESORT



We had quite a large group arrive in Jacksonville for our winter rally! For a period of time we occupied 40 sites! The Pot Luck was a great time to meet and greet members and the Florida weather welcomed us with warmer than normal temperatures. What a treat! Members enjoyed the on-site Café and met there on and off throughout the rally. Applause to the crew feeding our group for breakfast which was no small task. Sue could have used a truck to bring her huge pots of Sausage Gravy! Pancakes, eggs, sausage and Curt's "Mickey Mouse Waffles" were enjoyed by everyone. The Alaska info was presented by Bob Schleif, and a tech "gadget" session was held covering soup to nuts....Smartphones, Tablet Computers, eReaders and members preferences were shared. Soup Night was fantastic and everyone had plenty to eat! The rally was a huge success and members polled asked to return in 2013!

For additional rally information, to suggest a rally site, or host a rally in your area please contact :

Don & Jo Phillips
VP, Rally

donjophilips@verizon.net



Membership Info:

Nita Wilkinson

VP, Membership

chinookcampingclub@cox.net

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
Nita Wilkinson, VP Membership



CHINOOKS HEAD TO ALASKA!

THE ULTIMATE ALASKAN ADVENTURE!!



This unguided tour takes place over 66 days (including 9 days of cruising 500 miles of the Inside Passage). You will have driven 5600 miles through the last great frontier with great friends, new and old, in their beloved Chinooks.

You will see many vistas with mountains, glaciers, seascapes and Gold Rush towns.

Wildlife viewing will include bears, eagles, moose, puffins, whales, sheep, goats, dolphins and many more.

The structure is provided, the detail is up to you. You can fish, both on you own and guided, have plenty of opportunity for hiking, bird and animal watching, visit historical towns, take specialized tours and much more. Alternatively, you can do very little. Just enjoy the trip!!



You can stay with the group or take off on you own.

Visits are scheduled to Gold Rush towns: Skagway, Fairbank, Dawson Creek, Chicken (not Ptarmigan).



Entertainment can be provided at Soapy Smith's or Diamond Gerties for starters. There are many more places with local talent.

Of course there is a great variety of seafood, 5 kinds of salmon. 2 kinds of crab, razor clams, halibut plus more. All of which you can cook yourself or find in an excellent restaurant. We won't miss going to a salmon bake.

We will experience the varied heritage of early Alaska; Russian, Norwegian, Native American.



Campsites will have vistas of Denali, locations on the shores at Kenai, Homer, Seward, Valdez and more, especially through the Inland Passage. We will even visit hot springs.

We will be able to go to the Alaska State Fair which starts August 23.

This great adventure is available for a limited time for one low price (nothing), tips included.

And not only that, it would be easy to schedule visits to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks ahead of the trip and still have time at the end of the trip to make it to the Chinook Rally in Branson.

Eileen is handling all of the correspondence.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RALLY VP'S

Hello to all of our members!

2011–2012 has provided us with some wonderful rallies with great attendance. Another indication that Chinook is alive and well! The support you receive from fellow members and getting the one on one experience at a rally is all the more reason to attend.....besides it is fun!

We're always looking for your help in locating a rally spot and helping to host. It's not a hard task and we have many members willing to step in and lend a hand. Tell us about your favorite spot if you think it would be available for a group.

For those of you looking for some action this coming October, prior to our annual rally and meeting the "Wings and Waves" Air Show will be held in Daytona Beach. The show will be performed on October 13 and 14, 2012 off the Daytona Beach shoreline centered in front of the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. Show will start at 11:00 daily and admission will be free to all. <http://www.wingsandwaves.com/>

Looking for a place to stay near Daytona? Jo and I stopped at this resort and recommend it. If you are a race fan, or simply are looking for a place near the East Coast of Florida, give International RV Park Campground a try! <http://www.internationalrvdaytona.com/>

I was wondering if anyone might be interested in attending an "unofficial" Chinook rally, at a "Good Sam" sponsored Rally, at the fall adventure, at FLORIDA'S DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY, November 2-4, 2012. Visit www.therally.com . Contact Eileen and she'll spread the word!

Everyone should be making their reservations for our Spring Rally at The RV Resort at Carolina Crossroads. The information is in the newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you there as this is a "first time" location for the club. Haven't made your reservations for the 2012 rallies? Bad news is, time flies—good news is, you're the pilot!

Also, word is that the Branson Lakeside RV Park received only minor damage, some limbs down, etc. and is fully operational. Silver Dollar City is OK, as well as the **upper end** of the strip. The Hilton and Convention Center received severe damage which will take a few months to repair.

Don & Jo Phillips
Rally VP's



October 13th & 14th, 2012
Dayton Beach, FL

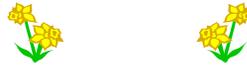


Daytona International
Speedway
Nov. 2nd–4th



415 Wallace Fork Rd
Roanoke Rapids
North Carolina

SPRING RALLY!



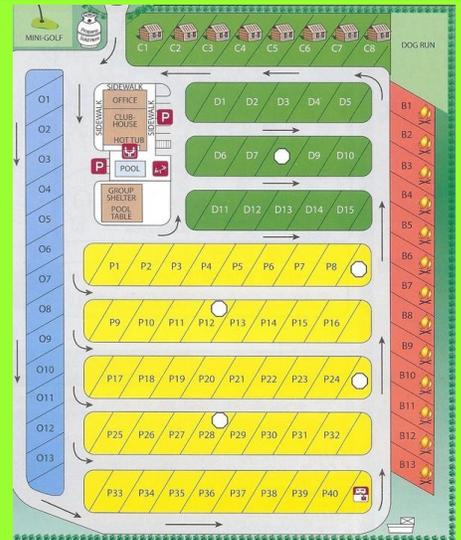
Get ready to shake off the winter cobwebs and meet your friends for some fun and relaxation at this pristine resort located just off of I-95 at exit 171.

This resort offers many amenities including 24 hour security, a pet area, hot tub, tiled bathrooms, large meeting room/kitchen facility, cable TV and Wi-Fi. All sites are long pull thru with full hook ups.

The laundry room is located at the club house with an adjoining lounge area to relax and watch some TV while you do your laundry.

There are many restaurants in the nearby area plus a Wal-Mart.

**Make your reservations now by calling:
252-538-9776**



RALLY DATES: APRIL 19-22, 2012

Resort can be viewed at the following webpage:

<http://033b649.netsolhost.com/>

2012 ANNUAL RALLY & MEETING



**October 18th–21st
Galax, VA**



We return to “*Cool Breeze Campground*” (formerly Deer Creek) in Galax, VA for our fall rally. This wonderful resort offers the amenities you like in a relaxing setting. Don’t miss out on an opportunity to visit nearby Mt. Airy, NC and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

FORMERLY



**SAME RESORT, SAME
OWNER, JUST A NEW NAME!**

To reserve: 1-866-342-0300

FALL IS BEAUTIFUL IN VIRGINIA!

Full Hook-ups, Cable TV, Wireless Internet





JOINT RALLY EAST MEETS WEST



BRANSON! SEPTEMBER 19 to 23, 2012

LOCATION: BRANSON LAKESIDE RV PARK, 300 S. Boxcar Willie Drive, Branson, MO, 65616

Website: www.bransonlakesidervpark.com for more information on the resort.

DATES: ARRIVE: Wednesday, September 19th DEPART: Sunday, September 23rd

NIGHTLY RATE: \$31.20 (GOOD SAM: \$28.08) PAYMENT IN FULL UPON ARRIVAL

RESERVATIONS: CALL (417) 334-2915 and ask for "DONNA" and refer to:

Confirmation #29886- Chinook RV Club



Currently, RV park office is only open 9-11 A.M. CST week days. RV Park does not require deposits for reservations. However, they request that if your plans change, please notify them so they can make your reserved site available to others.

Proposed Schedule: (Thursday, Friday, Saturday mornings, club will serve coffee and rolls/donuts around 7 A.M. in picnic shelter/pavilion. Asking nominal donations.)

Wednesday Pot Luck around 5:30 P.M. Picnic shelter/pavilion; Get acquainted time.

Thursday: Open day; Coffee and rolls 7 A.M. Picnic shelter/pavilion

Optional 4 P.M. Dixie Stampede: Transportation provided; Pick up 4 P.M. ,Return about 7 P.M. Show ticket and shuttle service \$53 / person*

Friday: Open day; Coffee and rolls 7 A.M. Picnic shelter/pavilion

Optional: 2:15pm Showboat Branson Belle. Transportation provided includes tour of Branson Landing, a 95 acre along LakeTaneycomo that offers more than 100 retail shops, restaurants, a river walk, and a wonderful fountain spectacular, synchronized to light, music and fire!
Pick up 2:15, return about 6:30pm. \$55 / person *

If you choose to attend one or both tours above, checks to be made out to and sent to Jim Weidmaier, 19119 Hwy 59, Country Club, MO 64505 before August 19. Put a notation on check which event(s) wanted.

*** both trip package \$108 per person. Price based on minimum 30 person booking.**

Saturday: Open day. Coffee and rolls 7 A.M., picnic shelter/pavilion.

For more information on Branson, contact Chamber of Commerce for free package of 2012 Entertainment and Visitor's Guide (800) 214-3661) or www.exploreBranson.com and request it.



CHINOOK
CAMPING
CLUB

FLAMINGO
LAKE RV
RESORT

JACKSONVILLE
FLORIDA

JANUARY 2012



Those lakefront sites were nice!

Terry and Sally leaving the Café that was a huge hit with many members!

Members enjoyed activities indoors and out!
From the Pot Luck to Soup Night, from Alaska Trip Prep to relaxing...we had a great time!



VP of Membership News

As of Feb 2012, we have 100 members who are paid up! We welcome again, 10 new owners: Steve and Judie McKown, Greg and Sue Foreman, Mike Volkerding and Carol Allen, Mike Jones and Martha McEvoy, Mike and Jackye Moody, Bob and Tippy Martin, Jim Baker and Joan Mills, Jeanie Rhodes, David and Melinda Schramm, and Pat and Margaret Cafferty.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE! DUES ARE OVERDUE—so send your check now!

As I get ready to publish the 2012 Directory, we would like to include everyone in our Chinook family. Please do forward your dues:

"Chinook Camping Club" in the amount of \$35 to:

Jim Runyon, Treasurer

8243 The Midway

Annandale, VA 22003

Our new Directory will be published and mailed in March. If you don't receive yours by the end of March, please call or e-mail me. If you have changed your address, telephone number or email be sure to let me know ASAP.

Don't forget to share your Chinook Camping Club info cards with Chinooks you find on the road, in parking lots, and in campgrounds. If you need some more, just give me a call.

Nita Wilkinson, VP Membership

Pictured below are new or newer members attending their first rally which was held at Flamingo Lake, Jacksonville, Fl, in January!

Nancy & Charlie
Breeding



Mike Jones &
Martha McEvoy



Mona & Gary
Leverett



Steve & Judy
McKown



Amy Jo Smith



Misti & Ron
Tolley



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CHINOOK CHOW—RECIPES FROM THE ROAD

Island Cookies - Amy Jo Smith



1+2/3 cup flour	1 tsp vanilla extract
3/4 tsp baking powder	1 egg
1/2 tsp baking soda	2 cups (11 1/2 oz. pkg) butterscotch or chocolate morsels
1/2 tsp salt	
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened	
3/4 cup packed brown sugar	1 cup flaked coconut
1/3 cup granulated sugar	3/4 cup macadamia or walnuts, chopped

Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and vanilla in large mixer bowl until creamy. Beat in egg. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in morsels, coconut and nuts. Drop by slightly rounded tablespoon onto un-greased baking sheets.

Bake in preheated 375°F oven for 8 to 11 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Let stand for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

Lemon Soufflé—Porgy Smith



1 pkg (6 oz) Lemon Jell-o	2 cups 7-Up
2 cups boiling water	16 oz. tub Cool Whip

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water; Add 7-Up. Cool to thicken. Whisk in Cool Whip. Chill.

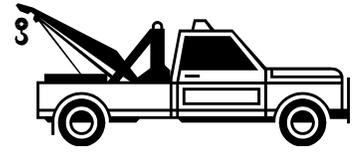
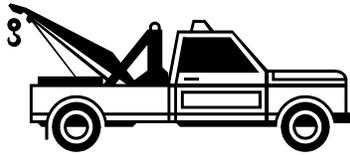
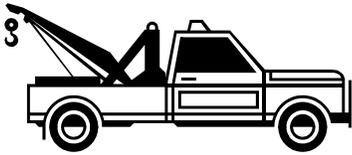
This is light and delightful and was enjoyed by many at the rally!

Slow Cooker Minestrone



3 cups water	1 1/2 lbs stewing meet, cubed	
1 med. Onion, diced	4 carrots, diced	
1 (14.5 oz) can tomatoes	2 tsp. salt	1 TBSP dried basil
10 oz pkg. frozen mixed vegetables		1/2 cup dry vermicelli
1 tsp. dried oregano		Grated Parmesan Cheese

Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker except the cheese. Stir well. Cover. Cook on Low 10–12 hours, or High, 4–5 hours. Top individual servings with some Parmesan cheese.



MEMBER MAINTENANCE TIPS . . . OR THINGS WE LEARN THE HARD WAY

A little different this time, but here is the opinion of members Bob & Rebecca on their RV experience:

“Chinooks are not so different from other campers we've owned. We have had many wonderful Toyota based campers. The Chinook starts out with some high end installations, but after 10 years it starts to have the same problems.

We never winterized. Never have. We use our campers year around, including all the old Toyotas. The Chinook has those heated tanks which we've never turned on. Seems silly. We have a trailer for our bikes, and we go everywhere with it, from 10 miles to 1000 miles. If it is cold enough to freeze our tanks, we head south. That would be too cold for our own comfort. If it will freeze at home, we run an electric heater.

My point? Campers are really fun. **They should not be stored; they should be used.**

Problems and solutions:

The low voltage disconnect died. I bypassed it completely behind the driver seat. Downside is that 12 volt is never off. Upside is that the refrigerator is never off. The main power supply stopped charging the batteries. I just put a nice battery charger in the compartment next to the batteries and ran an extension cord to the camper's outside plug for it. It is one more step when I plug in to also plug in the battery charger, but it is better than an expensive power supply replacement. Most often I only plug in the battery charger. 12 volt batteries, even 2 of them, seem insufficient for this fancy rig. Changed to 2 six volt golf cart batteries. Works better and each battery is less than \$100. Added one more solar charging panel on the roof. Huge difference in summer. Nothing to do it, but it will run everything. Replaced the mother board for the refrigerator. Worked great ever since. Air conditioner/heater died. Replaced with a cheap air conditioner. Never liked the heat pump anyway, and the low profile air conditioner was silly. The extra two inches are negligible. Had to install a new thermostat for the heater and bypass the expensive wall unit. Downside is I have to keep the camper heated in winter. Upside is that it is heated in winter. TV antenna won't rotate any more. Don't watch much TV anyhow. If I can't get a signal, I don't watch! I did replace the old CRT TV with an LCD 12 volt. Like it much better. Also replaced the stereo with a new Kenwood that has mp3 input and better quality sound. Like that a lot. Music is important.

That's about it. Love my 2002 Concourse. Mostly love it for the Ford V10. Ride is good. Bed is comfy. Everything works year around. “ (We should mention that Bob also feels the club is a great support system for owners! Thank you Bob!)



Skip Braden shares this about his improvement pictured left:

This is our 2002 Concourse. This is the procedure I used to enlarge the storage compartment .

Remove corner brackets from left and right side of the back board; Remove screws on right and left side panels; Take out the back board and cut about 4” off the bottom—replace back board and sides. You now will need to “box in” the PVC exposed in front of you.

End result? You'll gain about one-third more space in the rear storage compartment. (Gee, Skip, I wish our back compartment looked that !)

PC or MAC...Nook or Kin-
dle...iPhone or Droid ??? Tab-
let or iPad....on and on the
age old problem of too many
choices!

At our recent rally a great discussion took place on the topic of tech gadgets that we just can't seem to live without. In this article we will not try and decide for you, but will offer information on some of the "Apps" that members have found useful. (I'm still trying to figure out "what is an App? LOL)

Here are some you may find useful:

Overnight Parking WalMart

4roadservice.com

iExit

AllStays Camp & RV

RV Dump Stations

Camp & RV

RVParking

Dog Park Finder

RV Companion (journal)

ATTENTION!

This page is for information you would like to share with your fellow members.

Please, please send in your contribution at any time and we will include in the earliest edition as space allow!



NOSE TO NOSE?



Member Bill Storment stopped at a Wal-mart and found himself "nose to nose" with a similar Concourse! Bill took this opportunity to inform the couple about the club and offer them one of Nita's "Join Us" club cards!

We want to remember all of our members who are currently recovering from illness and surgery.

Please let us know if you are in need of a little sunshine! Our members are some of the most thoughtful and caring friends you could ever want to meet!



SUNSHINE CORNER

Smile! It increases your face value!



ANOTHER MINOR RENOVATION TO MAKE LIFE EASIER!



Moving Sewer Pipe Holder toward the outside...2 pieces of 1/16 or 1/8 alum about 6" wide by 5" long - drill 3/8 hole thru the knob - 3/8 rod 12" long put tubing on each end - Red marks line up cover to install easier. This makes it easier to reach!

Thanks Skip again for a great tip!

