

Governing Board

President:

Eileen Disbrow
chinook121@tampabay.rr.com

VP, Membership

Nita Wilkinson
chinookcampingclub@cox.net

VP, Rally

Don & Jo Phillips
donjophillips@verizon.net

Treasurer

Jim Runyon
jrunyon59@cox.net

Secretary & Sunshine

Sue DeMartini
dpd17@aol.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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The Trailblazer is a publication of the Chinook Camping Club

September 2012

President's Message



The summer is almost over and we look forward to the upcoming Branson joint rally with the CRVC (see June issue) and our Annual Rally and Meeting which is always a fun event. This year we return to Galax, Virginia, in the Blue Ridge area.

We want to thank Mike & Cricket for hosting! Each year we look forward to the annual rally and we can reminisce with friends about the past year. We hope it's been good for you, it certainly has for the club.

Last count we have 111 coaches in the club! It seems the loss of Trailwagons has resulted in owners realizing the value of belonging to the club. Kudos to all of our members for supporting the club and continued ownership of our very fine coaches!

We look forward to seeing many of you next month and hopefully through the coming year.

Sincerely, Eileen Disbrow



Member Steve McKown poses as our Alaska travelers make their way to tour our 49th state!

WELCOME TO GALAX! IT'S ANNUAL RALLY & MEETING TIME!

Everyone looks forward to our Annual Rally and Meeting. We've been to some great locations over the past few years, and heading back to Galax is a treat. Formerly "Deer Creek RV Resort" the newly named "Cool Breeze Campground" remains a top notch spot for a rally. The club room is complete with a kitchen and makes for a great spot to gather with your fellow members. Cool outside? Perhaps we can get that campfire going once again.

We'll begin the rally with our Pot Luck Dinner followed by our meeting and election. On tap will be some surprises by our hosts, Mike and Cricket, along with plenty of time to relax and share summer stories with fellow members.



Our group will enjoy lunch at the nearby "Mountain Surf Seafood Restaurant" which will be a short hop up the mountain from the campground, not 5 minutes away!

Have your thinking caps on as we plan our 2014 Rally Schedule and we will need your help.

Sign up now—don't miss out on all the activity at our rally in October!

Left: 2007 Annual Rally at Galax

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



IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE

2013 CLUB DUES ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2012

\$35.00 PER COACH

Please make your check payable to “CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB”
and mail to:



Chinook Camping Club

Jim Runyon, Treasurer

8243 The Midway

Annandale, Virginia 22003-3716



IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE

Mayberry, USA - Visit Mount Airy, NC

Coming to Galax? Take some time and visit nearby Mount Airy, NC home and inspiration for “Mayberry USA”. Time to take that stroll down Memory Lane and revisit moments from the long time favorite “The Andy Griffith Show” which went off the air after 8 seasons.

You can take a ride in Mayberry’s squad car, see Floyd’s Barbershop and even Snappy Lunch. See the old Jail and Visitors Center, home of the Andy Griffith Museum.



1926-2012

There’s much to do and see in Mount Airy, from nostalgia to wineries, museums to the world’s largest open face granite quarry. Grab a friend and take a ride! <http://visitmayberry.com/>

Virginia’s Blue Ridge Highlands - Travel the Parkway

During our stay in Galax, we will be in the region of the Blue Ridge referred to as Virginia’s Blue Ridge Highlands. Below is taken from the Blue Ridge Parkway Travel Guide:

“Traditions are valued and preserved in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Highlands. Everyday life and culture of the area is on display at Blue Ridge Institute & Museum. (A stop along the Crooked Road Music Trail - get a copy of “Lonely Planet 5 of USA’s Best Trips from your library) Ancestral music is celebrated with annual events such as the Old Fiddlers’ Convention in Galax and the Rhythm and Roots Reunion in Bristol, the birthplace of country music. Mountain music is preserved for future generations at Blue Ridge Music Center on the parkway. Take time out to enjoy swimming or paddle-boating at Hungry Mother State Park or visit Mabry Mill, one of the most photographed sites on the parkway. As the parkway winds its way through these rugged hills, discover the State Theater of Virginia in the Commonwealth’s oldest town, Abingdon. Enjoy fine dining, art galleries, museums plus the excitement of NASCAR racing near the parkway.” <http://www.virginiablueridge.org/> and <http://www.visitgalax.com/> for additional info.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RALLY VP's

Hi Chinook Friends,

Jo and I are planning on attending the **Good Sam Rally in Daytona Beach, FL ; November 2-4 at the Daytona 500 Speedway, hope we can make it an "unofficial" CCC gathering !**

Both the Good Sam Highways Magazine -- August - September 2012 and the MotorHome Magazine -- September 2012 issues, have full page advertisements for the Good Sam Rally in Daytona Beach, FL.

Evening entertainment will feature, superstar, Reba McEntire and Katharine McPhee from American Idol.

We'll be camping at none other than Daytona International Speedway, with Rally activities taking place right in the infield. Take advantage of special savings by registering early for the 15th annual RV event! (Register before September 10 for the savings.)

For additional details, or to register call 800-701-1399 or visit us online at www.therally.com. " Rally pricing: <http://therally.com/information/rally-prices/>

They will also have a "Vintage RV Village" with owners camping in their vintage RV's. (Courtesy of RVMH Hall of Fame, Elkhart, IN)

Sincerely,

Don & Jo Phillips
Rally VP's



2012 ANNUAL RALLY & MEETING

October 18th—21st

Galax, VA \$30/nt



LAST CHANCE

RESERVE NOW

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.

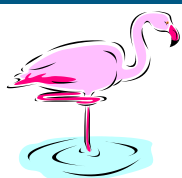
1-866-342-0300

FALL IS BEAUTIFUL IN VIRGINIA!

Full Hook-ups, Cable TV

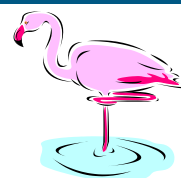
Wireless Internet

www.coolbreezecampground.com



FLAMINGO LAKE RV RESORT

January 21st—24th, 2013



Welcome back to Flamingo Lake RV Resort for our 2013 Winter Rally!

Conveniently located, right off of I-295 at Exit 32 in Jacksonville

Flamingo Lake RV Resort offers your choice of sites, **regular or lakefront!** Reserve early to have your choice! Rate TBA but we will receive a 20% discount for 10 sites+

Beautiful surroundings, clubhouse, café and sandy beach on the lakefront.

Visit nearby St. Augustine, Amelia Island, Jacksonville Beach or the attractions of downtown Jacksonville.

We had a wonderful time at Flamingo Lake back in '09 and '12, let's do it again!

Reserve now by calling toll-free: 1-800-782-4323

www.flamingolake.com

April 8 - 11, 2013

Brunswick, GA



RESERVATIONS:

912.264.3869

Beautiful resort
located off of
I-95 at exit 29.

All amenities
including dog play
area, fishing dock,
horseshoes, pool,
on-site store and
more!

An easy drive to
Jekyll and St.
Simons Islands.

\$35.70/nt

DID YOU MISS OUT ON CAPE MAY LAST TIME? WELL HERE WE GO AGAIN!

SEASHORE CAMPSITES - CAPE MAY, NJ - JUNE 10-13, 2013



Just minutes from Boardwalks, Beaches and Victorian Cape May!

Visit the Cape May Lighthouse.....enjoy the natural beauty of Cape May SP

Join in the fun! Site Assignments begin at Galax! \$35/night tax included

*For reservations call: 609.884.4010 or 1.800.313.2267
and mention you are with "Disbrow" group reservation*



www.seashorecampsites.com



MEMBER TRAVELOGUE

EXCERPTS FROM THE ALASKA TRAVELERS.....

From Bob & Marcia:

We left from Prince Rupert (leaving at 4:45 AM but the kicker was we had to be there to check in, do customs and get in line 3 hours prior) to Ketchikan. The ferry was delightful many places to choose from for seats/ viewing. Of course it rained but the scenery was gorgeous.

Two days in Ketchikan (bears, eagles, and salmon running) and we boarded another ferry for Sitka with short stops in Petersburg and Wrangell on the way. Again, we left at 4:45 AM but this time we only had to get there 2 hours early (no customs) for our overnight adventure. We all made for our cabins and some sleep. The trip was cloudy and rainy but the scenery was to die for. We saw seals, whales in the distance, an otter on its back and glaciers. In fact the captain had two of the crew gather some ice for drinks for us. Man that made our scotch taste really special. 24 hours later we landed in Sitka—you guessed it, 4:45 AM! Before I forget, in Ketchikan, 6 of us took a bus/boat tour to watch them pull Dungeness crab ending with an “as much as you could eat” gourmet crab dinner. We were all in agreement—the BEST crab we had ever eaten!!



Our final day in Sitka and we are parked downtown at the info center in the rain. We have decent WiFi and cell phone for a change! So far, Sitka is my favorite city/town, beautiful setting, bear refuge, great fish and nice people. In fact all the Alaskans we've met have gone way out of their way to be helpful. Tomorrow we take a high speed ferry to Juneau. We leave at 1 pm—YEA!!! These rides have saved us about 600 to 700 miles already and are getting us set for the hard stuff.

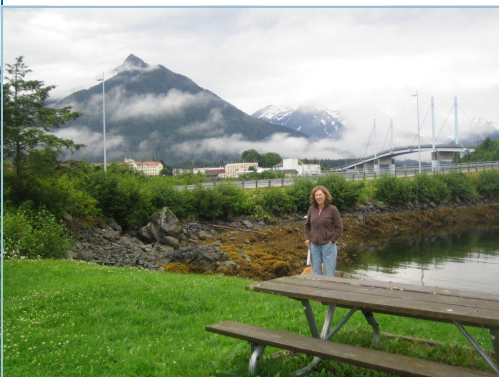
From Steve & Judie:

Sitka has been called one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It's right on the water with huge snow topped mountains surrounding it, and little islands all around. We are at a small municipal RV lot right on the water, over a bridge from downtown so we can walk back over the bridge and cruise around the town. Every other shop is a gift shop, lots of them with Russian themes since we bought Alaska from the Russians.

It took a 24 hour ferry ride to get here from Ketchikan, which we also got to by ferry from Prince Rupert, BC, Canada. The dogs had to stay in our RV the whole time but there were a couple of stops on the way so we got to take them for short walks. They did great. We had a fun ride, saw some whales from a distance, and some glacier ice bergs – small aqua blue chunks of ice floating in the ocean. 10,000 year old ice, as the captain said. He sent a couple of crew members out in an orange boat to chip off some for us so we could see it up close



The price of food up here is astounding. Bananas are \$1.10 a pound, bread \$5 a loaf. We are eating lots of salmon but even that is between \$10 - \$15 a pound. Halibut is \$20 a pound. Both are worth it though. Most folks here just catch their own – everyone fishes, it seems. It feels like it's the main topic of conversation. Gas is much less expensive than Canada which was about \$5 a gallon, and it's \$4 here – practically a bargain!



Back in Hyder, Alaska, we went to a place where salmon are spawning and bears come to catch them. We watched (from an overlook) a female grizzly catch a fish, then she went upstream to catch another. We lost her around a bend in the stream and as we were walking back to the parking lot along the walkway built for pedestrians, she suddenly came out of the brush on the other side of the road, big fish in her mouth, and walked straight at us. I was so busy backing up and fumbling for my camera that I didn't get a picture of her straight on, but she went under the walkway (whew!) and I got a picture as she went into the woods.

We have another day and a half here, and then we take another ferry to Juneau. From there, we're back driving, heading towards Denali with lots of stops on the way.



The Arnold's made a trip to Banff, and supplied us with some beautiful photos!

Our Alaska travelers have taken great photos too!



Pjesky's in St. Andrews, British Columbia



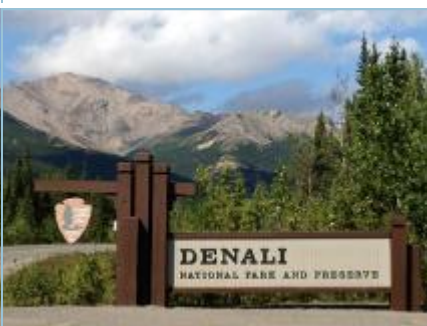
Alaska Group in Houston, BC



Thanks to Marcia & Bob for all the work organizing the Alaskan Adventure!

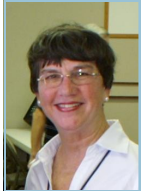


Skip and Anne headed north to Alaska ahead of the group...boy did she take photos! Come to the October Rally and hear the tales of our summer travelers!





VP of Membership News



As of 31 August 2012, we have 111 members! Since the June newsletter was published, we have added the following new members: Keith & Bonnie Schmid of Dunedin, FL; Jerry & Stella Church of Palmetto, FL and Skip & Sherry Jones of Franklin, GA. We also want to acknowledge Harry Bufkin, a past president, who has recently purchased a Baja and re-activated his membership with the club. Welcome to all!

Looking ahead, it's getting time to renew your Club membership for 2013. Please send your \$35 check to Jim Runyon or bring it to the Galax Rally. New directories will be distributed in the Spring of 2013. We want your info to be included, but we must get your payment to do so.

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

NEWER MEMBERS AND SOME WE HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING . . . YET!



Pat & Patty Peery
Sugar Grove, OH



Nancy & Ron Coyle
Hamlin, NY



John & Donna Findling
Tipton, IN

Chinook Camping Club

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

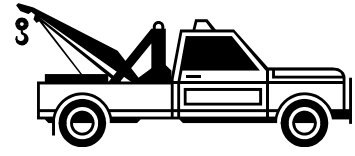
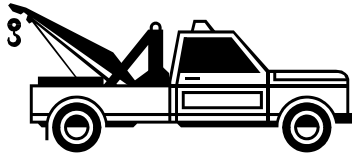
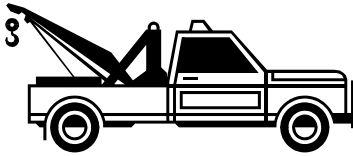
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MEMBER MAINTENANCE TIPS . . . OR THINGS WE LEARN THE HARD WAY

All of us have to be very innovative in our little Chinook homes on wheels. I wanted to share some of my "savers" and I know you all have lots of ideas too. We need all the help we can get when we are without full hookups!



THINGS I DO IN OUR CHINOOK THAT I THINK SAVES RESOURCES

1. Use paper plates, but I still have to use real silverware and not the cheap paper plates. Really saves on dish washing with that valuable water going down the drain. I have even splurged for paper bowls because the water saving is so good! I especially like the electric skillet, it is so versatile if I have electricity and with the Teflon coating I can just wipe it out for easy clean up.
2. Cooking outside on the grill is wonderful no matter what. If there is no electricity and hot it sure keeps the camper cooler too. I also carry a small iron skillet that is multipurpose, can cook anything in it from the camper gas cooktop to the outside grill.
3. Make your leftovers a wonderful Chinook meal. We have a vacuum sealer that I love. Anytime you have leftovers just put them in a small vacuum package in a size that fits perfectly in the Chinook freezer. Then on that camping day when you just don't feel like cooking... Viola! Just pull out the frozen meal for either warming up in the microwave or a pot of boiling water in your homemade vacuum sealed boiling bag. This saves you time and money, not to mention those valuable resources.
4. Making the little wet bathroom work. The first thing I do is put the shower curtain completely around the tract and pull the shower curtain over the commode. This way you don't get the whole bath wet. I try to conserve water so I quickly spray the hand shower over me and turn it off and put some water in the sink. I then soap up with the sink water. When through with that I start the shower again to rinse off. Clean up as all the water is let out of the sink. Be sure all water goes down the drain if you're Chinook is un-level. I then pull the shower curtain back and don't have wet walls and commode. Makes clean up so much easier and really saves water.
5. Add LED lights. We've added one in each of the fixtures because they are so expensive. Will try to get them all replaced eventually, but they really save the battery at night.
6. I found some really nice plastic containers that are rectangles and when not in use they fit inside the larger one. Brand is *Snapware* and found it inexpensive at *Ross* but also have seen at *Bed, Bath and Beyond*. The tops are locking, containers are waterproof, safe for microwave and freezer, multi-sizes. I love them because they stack and you can get so much more in the little fridge (mine is the small one door variety!). Great space saver and MADE IN THE USA!
7. Get that Golden Age National Park Pass just as soon as you can! It will reward you many, many times over with the splendor and beauty that is all over our great country!

Can't wait to get out on the road again!

Contributed by Sally Arnold

PARTS LOCATOR



Compartment Door Retainer Clips - Topline Mfg. - Part #T1005C-4 (Polar White) Available online from a few retailers, one is www.tweetys.com; We've found a few different sources with a wide range of price and shipping. This part is on our 1998 Concourse.

Porch Light (under awning area) - Again, an item getting more difficult to find, we located this part which appears to be correct - Fasteners Unlimited Porch/Compartment Light # P-1327 (Retailing on RVPlus.Com for \$24.99)



Porch Light - lens only - RVPartsNation.com for \$5.95 each; Part number Mfg. P-1328



MILEAGE SURVEY

The earliest model Chinook in the club with top mileage is a 1997 Concourse SE with 162,548 and they are the original owners. (A 1996 was sold with 167,000) The most current Chinook with the top mileage is a 2005 Glacier Diesel with 55,000 miles. In between we have three 2002 Concourse models with 151,000, 135,000 and 128,000! Go 2002!

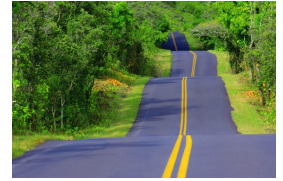
In total, there are 9 units out of 63 responding over 100,000 miles. Only 2 have under 20,000.

The lowest mileages and years are 2004 Destiny with 8,500 ; 2000 Concourse with 15,000 and a 1997 Concourse with 31,367.



On The Road Again.....

It is not the destination where you end up, but the mishaps and memories you create along the way.



Memory Lane

Past, but long time members Gary and Denise Kinney took off in their motorcoach this past Spring leisurely making their way across the country. One of their stops in Washington, was to stop and take a look at the one time home to most of our Chinooks. Now just a memory, here are the photos they were kind enough to send to the club:



The business park still uses the name "Chinook" but now is home to Coca Cola!

All three photos show the fiberglass fabrication building where the fiberglass shells for our Chinooks were made!

Thanks to Gary & Denise for taking the time to send the photos!

