

TRAILBLAZER

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 5

DECEMBER, 2004



Governing Board 2005

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THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Thanks for the honor of being elected President of Chinook Camping Club, Eastern Region. I shall try to maintain excellence as set forth by past Presidents Dean, Jackson and McWaters. Thanks also

to the other members of the 2005 Board; VP Membership Anne Payne, VP Rallies Brad Locke, Treasurer Dick DeSchraver and Secretary Pat Calloway, for stepping up to the task of leading the Club. Helen Flory will be serving as Sunshine Secretary. This coming year, we will be challenged to find those special spots to host the type of Rallies you have ask for. Tampa and San Antonio are the first to be booked. Make sure you look at these as they will be really good. Tampa was super last year

and all indications that it will be just as good this year or better. San Antonio's agenda looks dynamite. Make your reservations now.

We need you! We need you to volunteer to serve with the elected Officers on their teams or committees. Ask Anne Payne how you can assist her in the recruitment and retention of Members. Ask Brad Locke how you can assist in finding and booking Rally sites. You can help Dick DeSchraver by sending in your Dues (\$35) early. 27 renewed at the annual Rally, 8 were multi year. That's a good thing. Pat Calloway will need your notes to help record the Rallies. Helen Flory needs all our help in advising the names of those that need our help and prayers. I personally look forward to another year of the Trail Blazer. Look for some new features too. See you in Tampa.

Harry Bufkin, President - Chinook Camping Club

NASHVILLE RALLY CHINOOKERS FIND FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

The 5TH Annual Rally of the Chinook Camping Club was held at KOA Nashville. Rally Director Anne Payne greeted each member as they checked in and presented each with a bag of goodies, and a most impressive agenda which contained door price tickets was handed out. 40 Coaches were in attendance. Could that be a record?

Thursday night's Potluck dinner was stupendous as we have come to expect. Most returned that night to the Music Hall for some Nashville Style entertainment.

Friday morning's casual start gave time to visit prior to the 11:00 depart to the General Jackson Riverboat for a bountiful buffet followed by the entertainment of Tim Watson. He really could do the splits in the air. Can you imagine such a big boat turning around In the Cumberland River? More free



time was enjoyed prior to an evening departure to The Grand Ole Opera. Even the wet weather and overcast skies could not



dampening the spirits of those participating in the Discovery Nashville Tour on Saturday. Lots of visiting was done in the afternoon.

The Music Barn was again host to the Annual Business Meeting following the catered BBQ buffet with peach cobbler. Please see minutes of the Business Meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Sunday Morning services directed by Chaplain Lon Muncy included eulogies for Ruby McWaters, Jackie Waggy, Tommy Imel, and Jack Robnette. 45 members were Present for the service.

TRAILBLAZER is a publication of the Chinook Camping Club, Eastern Region and is published Quarterly in the months of December, March, June, and September.
Editor: Harry Bufkin

Rally's Rally's Rally's

WINTER RALLY - JANUARY 6 - 9 TAMPA FL

Winter Rally, Jan 6 - 9 to be held at Lazy Days Rally Park, Tampa, FL. Costs for this fantastic outing is \$223. Make your reservations now.

Comments from last years

Rally at Tampa were "Wow! Best Ever". We have booked 40 sites, so you will need to register early to confirm. 4 days/3 nights of just plain fun all provided by Rally Park. Contact 1-800-905-6627 to make your reservations. Also advise Brad Locke 1-772-221-3849 or locke1189@aol.com.

Twenty-three members signed up at the Nashville Rally. (They know a good thing when they see it.) Reservations for Tampa must be made by each individual by December 1. Telephone number is 1-800-905-6627. Total cost is \$223.00. Cost for early arrival or Stay over is \$30.59/day. Each Coach will receive a FREE coach wash and the daily newspaper, compliments of Rally Park.

Agenda:

Thursday January 6, 2005. Check In. NO Pot luck dinner as

Rally Park provides a Social Hour with Drinks and Hors d' oeuvres.

Friday. Breakfast 8-9 AM. Lunch 11-1 at Lazy Days. Different seminars available. Dinner 5-7PM Cocktails & Dinner with entertainment following. Saturday Same as Friday.

Sunday. 8:00 Continental Breakfast. Church services - check for location in Rally Center.

Activities available at Rally Park.

Heated Swimming Pool (Bring your suit). Hot Tub, Horseshoes, Tennis, Shuffleboard, Camping World. Weather should be good for picking Strawberries, Casino, Ybor City, all of which are short driving distance from Rally Park.

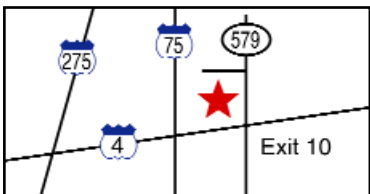
Also you may want to check out the New Dealer: Bates RV, 4656 McIntosh Rd, Dover, FL 888-228-3778 or 813-659-0008. www.batesrv.com ask for Chuck Kellogg.

Sign Up Now!



LazyDays RallyPark
Tampa, FL
Jan, 8 - 11, 2004
www.lazydays.com

Interstate 4, Exit 10
LazyDays RallyPark is on the north side of I-4. Go 1 light, and look for LazyDays RallyPark. LazyDays Rallypark is conveniently located near I-4, and all of the area attractions have easy access for RV's. Call 1-800-905-6627.



Major Attractions Include:

- Busch Gardens
- The Florida Aquarium
- The Salvador Dali Museum
- USF Golf Course

SUNSHINE PRAYERS



*May you find a warm smile
and speedy recovery knowing
you are in our thoughts today.*

Please Notify:
HELEN FLORY
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Dahlonga, GA 30533-2486
706-867-7980, wrflory@aol.com

**SPRING RALLY - SAN ANTONIO, TX
KOA KAMPGROUND - SAN ANTONIO, TX
MAY 5 - 8, 2005**

**CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB – EASTERN
CHINOOK RV CLUB - WESTERN — COMING EVENT**

WHAT: CINCO DE MAYO CHINOOK MINI RALLY

WHEN: MAY 5TH – 8TH 2005

WHERE: SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HERE'S THE STORY: San Antonio represents one of the great tourist destinations in the country. There are many attractions including the River Walk, Alamo, Tower of the Americas, El Mercado Market Square, and historic hotels and missions – many attractions are free – plan on pot luck on Thursday. Friday, a short city bus ride to the downtown sightseeing area – buffet lunch optional at the historic Menger Hotel (see handouts). Then Saturday more tourist activities – dinner downtown, then an ice cream social outside at the KOA Kampground patio featuring Texas Best “Blue Bell” Ice Cream. More activities planned, exact meal locations will be arranged when we get a better idea of attendance.

ACCOMMODATIONS: THE FINE PRINT: Forty (40) sites (more are available) have been reserved at the San Antonio KOA – full hook-ups at every site, please call 800-562-7783 to make your reservations – please advise them you are with the Chinook Camping Club. KOA offers swimming, hot tub, shuffleboard and more.

TRANSPORTATION: After your arrival, there is public bus transportation to and from downtown San Antonio and all attractions. Cost currently is eighty cents (\$0.80) per person per ride. There are also trolley tours of San Antonio and river rides along the River Walk with various pricing plans based on each tour. These are all available downtown. If there is enough interest, a special group tour can be arranged.

ATTRACTIONS: Brochures are available, and will be sent to you on request – let us know. Just a sample of interesting places:

The Alamo	IMAX Theater (Story of the Alamo)
San Antonio Missions	San Antonio Zoo
Market Square	King Edward Historical District
River Walk Mall	LaVilita-Historic Old Town San Antonio

As you can see this will be a fun filled event with something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Your Hosts - Eastern:

Dan and Christine Foulkrod
2720 Bent Tree Trail
League City, TX 77573
E-mail: seasidechrisy@aol.com
Home: 281-334-4327
Cell – Dan: 713-907-5461
Christine: 713-898-4407

Your Co-Hosts - Western:

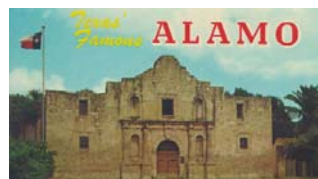
Bob and Dorothy Berryman
P. O. Box 143
Mountain Home, TX 78058
E-mail: rbbfly@hctc.net
Home: 830-866-3710
Cell: 830-660-6800



Please let us know if you are coming – accommodations can be made for everyone.

Eastern – Western – Somewhere In-Between

Y'all Come!



ANNUAL RALLY - NASHVILLE, TN

October, 2004



Special thanks to Contreras, Cousins, Flory and Muncy for providing Photos.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RALLY

The 5TH annual meeting of the Chinook Camping Club was held on October 23, 2004 at the KOA Clubhouse. We had 40 coaches registered at KOA Campground. Meeting was called to order by our VP/Rally Director Anne Payne. She then turned the meeting over to VP/Membership Harry Bufkin. The minutes from last years meeting were read and approved by all. The treasure, Dick DeSchriver presented an audited financial statement.

A report on activities of club and rally hosted was presented. Members wanted to stay South of the Mason-Dixon Line for the October Rally. So Pennsylvania was not to be the Rally for 2005 as previously planned.

Lon Muncy, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave out ballots for voting on officers for the remaining of 2004-October 2005. Officers were elected as following;

President	Harry Bufkin
VP Membership	Anne Payne
VP Rally	Brad Locke
Treasurer	Dick DeSchriver
Secretary	Pat Calloway
Sunshine	Helen Flory



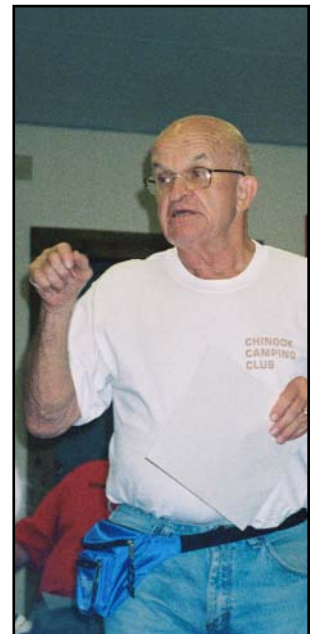
We were pleased to have the VP of Trail Wagon, Paul Comisky and wife Julie with us. Paul answered some questions and enlightened us on plans and visions of the Chinooks Motor Homes. Also with us, was Mike and Sherry Headding. Mike works at Trail Wagon and is very knowledgeable about any work that needs to be done on your Chinook.

President Harry Bufkin then turned to Brad Locke and Dan Foulkrod to present facts on the upcoming Tampa and San Antonio Rallies. Members were asked for suggestion for new sites for our rallies. None were suggested.

There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned

Pat Calloway
Secretary



MEMBER PROFILE: CAMPING COUSINS

Ralph and Domenica got the call of the road and bought a tent in 1962. For two years they spent their vacations from Florida to Maine enjoying the great outdoors. As luck would have it the tent never got rained on. Then pop-ups came on the market and the tent was put aside for a new Starcraft. Traveling with a unit that heavy without trailer brakes was a worry. So after two years, they bought a slide-in truck camper. It was at a camping show in 1969 they saw their first motorhomes. A 25 foot Executive was bought and the traveling really began. For three months, in the winter after the farm work was done, the states from coast to coast were explored. In 1974, when gas was so scarce, they joined a Mexican Caravan and that was the first of three trips south of the border. The second was taking the Piggy Back train trip over Copper Canyon in '74 and the third being seven weeks to the Yucatan in '76. Friendships made during each of these were lasting and full of memories. The first Executive was traded for a 74, and then a 77 (each time growing longer, and then towing a Volkswagen Rabbit).



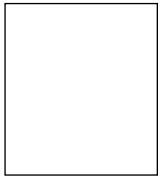
In 1981 the Cousins decided to retire from the farm and move to Florida. A 33 foot Revcon was purchased and then the traveling in the summer was the new adventure. Able to go to the northern states and Canada during this time was exciting, one being a caravan to Alaska. They got side tracked in 85 when they built a summer home in North Carolina and sold the RV. After several years they missed the road and took their van camping. Two Roadtreks came in the 90's and one day traveling back to Florida, a stop was made at State Line RV in Pennsylvania to have some service done and they saw their first Chinook. It was love at first sight. All the features of a large RV and yet being small enough to park at any site or parking lot. The freedom of stopping anywhere and enjoying the scenic spots meant going back to some places and doing them over. When asked about favorite places, how can one choose after being in every state in Mexico and the USA, and every province in Canada. Taking in the Rose Parade and parking overnight in back of the grandstand with the RV was one, and going to the Calgary Stampede and joining Good Sam for a three day rally was another. It would take months of campfire stories to hear all the adventures. Even after all the years of travel the road stills calls them to pack the Chinook and sing "On the Road Again".



If you would like to be featured on Member Profile, please send Photos and writeup to the Editor, Harry Bufkin, 9812 Saddle Ave, Marvin, NC 28173.



CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB
HARRY BUFKIN - PRESIDENT
9812 SADDLE AVENUE
MARVIN, NC 28173



CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB — COMING EVENTS

WINTER RALLY	SPRING RALLY	SUMMER RALLY	ANNUAL RALLY
LAZYDAYS RALLY PARK	ALAMO AND THE RIVER WALK	TO BE ANNOUNCED	TO BE ANNOUNCED
JAN 6 - 9	MAY 5 - 8	JUNE	OCTOBER



TOM'S TECH TIPS

After reviewing several problems in the field, I have come to the conclusion that the issue of checking the water in the coach batteries has not been made clear.

If you do not maintain the proper water level, each month, there is a possibility of having damage to the battery storage capacity. This happens because the water level is low and there is not sufficient fluid to complete the charging process without overheating the battery. Over heating the battery causes the plates to warp and short out. This in turn causes a loss of surface material and

a loss of amperage. The voltage will still read as twelve volts but the battery will only provide power for a short period of time.

Batteries that are left for one to two years without adding water or generally considered damaged to the point of having to be replaced.

Today, there are dry batteries that require no maintenance. They are expensive but can last up to 10 years. If you want more information contact me at tjackson@atlantic.net.

Regards, Tom Jackson

