

Western Road Runner



Is a publication of the Chinook RV Club



February 2005

Inside this issue:

Rally Feedback	2
Rallies	5
Special Places	7
Technical Tips	10
RV Covers	11

To the members

- Thanks for your support and attendance at the Rallies
- Please contribute articles and photos to this Newsletter. Send or E-mail them to the Editor, Phil Beautrow. His address is on the last page.

Welcome to 2005

A Busy Year Ahead

The results of the Questionnaire from the Hood River Rally are included on the following pages. Your officers will use this information to plan for the future.

The present officers agreed to serve another year. However, a nominating committee of Wilson Elliot, Phil Beautrow, Maxine Flohr, Barbara Bakke and John Turchan has been formed. They were asked to submit names for new slate. Please...if you have any suggestions, contact any of us.

There was a comment relating to an internet forum. This would be nice if we had someone to organize and maintain it. Any ideas?

Please see the Attachment for the latest Rally information. The mini-rally in Pahrump is upcoming. Hope you can join us.

We hope you are interested in "Special Places." If you have similar experiences, please let us know and send some pictures.

Each issue has a column on Technical Tips by John Turchan. We trust that you will find this information useful.

Barry Prentice, our president, wrote an article on RV Covers. Probably 90 percent of RVs including the multi-million dollar "buses" are not covered and suffer from the usual "lot rot." Your investment in a high end Chinook may warrant protection from the weather. Good covers are not inexpensive however. Your editor has chosen to "keep covered", and has never regretted the investment.



Greetings from Sisters, OR!

Thanks to all of you who responded to the questionnaire about our RV Rallies and future interests. Below is a synopsis of your comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Bridge RV Park: 4-Star! Excellent...great...good! Nice, clean and pretty. Super place, central with nice restrooms – rate it the tops! Only negative comment was the noise from the trains – maybe move the train?

Transportation: Best drivers ever – friendly, informative and helpful. Good, would like to have more local information from the drivers. Clean buses, safe, comfortable and convenient. Nice not to have to drive and to have transportation. Great plan – on time and top notch!

Scenic Rail: Loved this ride! Enjoyed the trip and loved the food! Interesting, enjoyed the narration and the views were great! The caboose was uncomfortable, but scenery, narration and food made up for it. When they seemed to run low on food, they were very accommodating.

Chinook Care & Maintenance Tips: Always worth hearing – do it again. Good, but be sure all can hear. Worth the whole trip – solved one of our problems, we were lucky to have them attend. That's why I tell everyone how happy I am to be a Chinook owner. Always interested in tips and ideas. Nice to know the factory is interested after the sale. Helpful tips great polish job, informative, handled questions nicely. Always have them as part of the Rally.

Western BBQ: Excellent food and timing – tasty and served quickly – well put together. Wonderful ice cream treats. Friendly and cheerful servers. Very enjoyable – consider potluck. Really enjoyed and a nice way to kick off the first dinner. Great time to meet more people and make new friends. Could not hear because of the train. Talent shows could be fun in the future.

Maryhill Museum: Would rather spend more time here – skip Stonehenge. Very interesting – informative orientation and history. Well done, good and very nice. Wonderful – who would have believed it in the middle of nowhere? Loved the grounds and peacocks – beautiful serene area made up for box lunch. Good lunch. What a prize – well done. Whole experience was super. Enjoyed the time very much – would do it again – good choice. Well worth the time, interesting what money can do. Unique



experience and the lunch was great. Maybe too much time at the museum. Group too large for one volunteer.

Stonehenge: A resounding yes! Enjoyed the stop. Good last minute decision – will probably never see the original. Nice to be flexible. Great view of the river valley. Good spur of the moment idea. Brief stop was just right.

Maryhill Winery: Absolutely – on every outing. Excellent and informative. Learned more than at other wineries. Enjoyed presentation and wine – include again. Good climax, a lot of fun and relaxing. One of the best winery experiences. Good wine and informative, friendly staff. Enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot. Very entertaining and personable. Visit wineries again. Nice place, good orientation, even though we didn't "taste" the time was just right. Enjoyable to talk with others. Fine, although not users of wine, we were fine with it. Maybe plan as an option.

Sternwheeler Cruise: Loved it. Excellent, very nice and fun as a group. Glad we went. Really enjoyed it. Fun trip just for the boat ride, but narration added depth – good to visit too. Captain was knowledgeable – time good. Fun to be on the river. Nice cruise, informative – renewed our interest in historic value of river and area. I got a little bored, but overall ok.

Marine Park Pavilion: Perfect setting and quality dinner. Good food and good time. Great, best tasting salmon – whole meal well prepared. Everything was super – a nice ending. Loved the salmon and the rest was great. A real luxury to get off the boat and walk over to the delicious salmon dinner and after the meeting board the bus for the return trip. Need social hour. Great food and good company.

Other comments: Would like to have more round table discussions about our RV's. Well planned and executed, leaving us looking forward to the next opportunity to be together. People were friendly and willing to share ideas and tips. Great job, wonderful experience. Events flowed just right. Work overload – two people needed for future events.

FUTURE RALLIES

6 – Every year in WA or OR 12 – Every other year in WA or OR 3 – I/we don't care.

Other suggestions: Idaho, North California, Southern California, Utah, Montana, Arizona, Wisconsin, Glacier.



“The factory people can get on a plane and fly to the rally without regard to where it is located. Making it convenient for them is not my concern. They need to do what it takes to sell RV’s and talking to us is money well spent!!!! Conversely it’s not convenient for all the members in the Western half of the country to travel to WA or OR. Although we can certainly be appreciative, Chinook is not doing us a favor, we’re their customer.”

How do you feel about having a “memento” from every annual rally? 8 – YES 3 – NO

Nice touch, good idea. Reminder of good times and good friends. A treasure, especially magnets. Would like to have one from every rally. Sounds good - good idea. Fun reminders. Should be small and not too expensive. Don’t need this. Not necessary, but okay if not too expensive.

Mini-Rallies – How do you feel about this? Great idea. Sounds good. Would like to attend a mini in Arizona. Fine—good idea - great. Good idea – distance a factor. Spread responsibility and interest.

Would you be willing to host an annual rally? 4 – YES 4 – NO

Where? Southern California. Arizona/winter. Louisville, Colorado (Barry 10 minutes away). Ione, California with other members. Maybe in the future with a neighbor – more than one host would be easier.

Would you be willing to host a mini-rally? 5 – YES 1 – NO

Where? Richland, Washington. Ione, California (with enough time). Santa Barbara at Cachuma Lake.

Thoughts: Grand job – Club should pay for Rally Host’s site.* You set the bar high – good job. Golfers – please include. Well planned rally – enjoyed every day and event. Depending on time, I might be able to help. I wish we had an internet forum like Lazy-Daze RV owners. Rally chair should have assistant. Don’t plan for factory convenience. Priority should be interesting area.

* The Club does pay for the Rally Host(s) site(s) – a nice perk.

Thank you for responding to the questionnaire. It really helps the planning for future rallies. Please feel free to contact me regarding any other thoughts that come to you..Look forward to seeing you at some of our 2005 Rallies!



Please see the Attachment to this Newsletter. It has the latest news about upcoming Chinook RV Club Rallies. Also, it shows what we are planning for next year.

CB Davis, VP/Rallies Chinook RV Club, Western Region

MINI BLAZER



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: Fourty (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. [This mini-rally is, of course, pay-as-you-go.](#)

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 SanAntonio

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!

Special Places

By Marion & Phil Beautrow

We have traveled all over the USA, first in our 1989 (18 Plus) Chinook, and then in the present 1999 Concourse Model. Here are a few of the "special places" that we thought you might like to visit. We hope to tell you about others in future newsletters.

Washington DC

There are many sights to see and places to go in DC, but the world class Smithsonian Museums on the National Mall have drawn us back several times. If you visit DC stay at the *Cherry Hill RV Park* in College Park MD. You can find driving directions in one of the many directories that you already have! It's easy to locate, and is the best site convenient to many attractions. You don't want to get caught in the terrible traffic by driving into DC. This Park has many amenities and is costly (\$43/day). But, what are the alternatives? We stayed at the park for three days to explore Washington and vicinity.

Take your backpack with lunch, camera and water bottles, because this is going to be an all-day affair. You can purchase discounted fare coupons for the bus and Metro at the desk. A bus leaves from the front door and takes you directly to the College Park-Metro station. The Green Line has a stop near the Smithsonian, so you come up out of the ground and you are there.

The National Air and Space Museum is one of our favorites: the American History Museum is another. But, we can go on and on...so will you. The National Archives is nearby where you can view the Constitution and other important papers. Arlington National Cemetery requires a short metro transfer.





Gateway Arch, MO

If you are headed toward Saint Louis you must visit the Arch. There is a tram that takes you to the top. If you have a National Park "Passport" it will cost \$5 each. Arrive promptly at opening time to avoid the waiting lines. (9:00 a.m. in winter and 8:00 a.m. in summer). You will be awed by this magnificent structure. The Lewis and Clark exhibition on the ground floor is unique.

The Casino Queen RV Park directly across the Mississippi on Illinois side (East St. Louis, IL) is the place to stay. It's mainly asphalt, but clean. You take a shuttle bus to the their Casino, walk up to the train and take it across the river. It is a short walk to the Arch entrance.

When you are through visiting, walk back to the train. Go downtown and to the old Union Station. Expect a lot of walking, but there are some great sights. Here are some pictures including a panorama shot from the top which shows Busch Stadium and downtown. Excuse the glitch at the Old Courthouse, lower center.





Technical Tips

By John Turchan

As a continuation of my previous column I would like to share some suggestions for better maintenance of your Chinook:

- After you empty the black water tank and closing the drain valve fill with about 20 percent of fresh water. When you are in an RV park and hooked up to the sewer leave the flush valve closed. When you do drain it, it will flush out completely. Pour your dish water down the toilet. Dishwashing detergent will help keep the probes clean.
- If your RV is being stored at home and hooked up to 110v for lights etc. be sure to check the coach battery water level periodically. It will boil off slowly.
- Use single-ply toilet paper. The two major brands seem to be Scott and Thetford. Keep the toilet lid closed when not in use. You don't want to do tank diving.
- Be sure any shop working on your RV chassis has Factory test equipment. These modern systems require sophisticated equipment and competent technicians.
- Travel with only as much fresh water as you need. Remember water weighs 8.3 pounds per gallon and you could be carrying along a heavy load and a gas waster.
- Overloading the tires on your RV is probably the major cause of failure. As least once, have your loaded RV weighed on platform scales and determine the loading on each axle. Then see if the tire ratings are within tolerances.
- Consider filling your tires with Nitrogen for longer life. The gas will not expand or contract like air and once properly inflated the pressure will not change. Costco has installed units at their locations.

Please send any tips you may have for future columns to: wilnjon@bctonline.com or phone me at (503) 632-1936.



Up-to-date Coverage of Covers

By Barry Prentice

I thought I'd contribute a few tips for our Western Road Runner readers based upon recent experience with "covers" – both inside "bed covers" and outside "storage covers." We hope that, after reading what we have uncovered, you will feel that our coverage of the topic will help get you covered. Well, enough playing with words; here are some tidbits which we hope are helpful.

First, a great addition for the *inside* of your Coach. Last year, at the Death Valley Rally, fellow Chinook RV Club Members ***Diane and Scott Feck*** showed us their Hacksack "sleeping bag". In my opinion, the term sleeping bag is really a misnomer, as it does not accurately describe the quality and function of these "bedding ensembles". Anyway, if you have never seen one of these, I will resort to the metaphor of a sleeping bag to help describe ours. The *Hacksack* is similar to a large sleeping bag, but it looks like a quilt with nice big (never snag or catch) zippers down each side. The bottom is "sewn shut", so when the side zippers are un-zipped, the top and bottom halves can be laid out flat for easy access to the sheet, which is also one long piece of material, twice the depth of the *Hacksack*.

One side of the "quilt" is filled with DuPont® Dacron® Hollofil® insulating material, so that, when the weather is cold you can sleep with the insulated side on top for extra warmth. On the other hand, when the weather is warmer, you simply flip the Hacksack over and sleep with the extra padding *under* you and the un-insulated side over you. Inside, there is a continuous strip of Velcro sewn down each side of the top and bottom to retain a very nice bed sheet. That way, you can easily remove the sheet for washing without having to launder the whole *Hacksack* to get "clean sheets" once again.

Lena and I have found our *Hacksack* to be "just the ticket" for use in our Coach, because, as most of you know, unless you own a Summit with its own "permanent" bed, the rest of us usually have to "take up our bed" during the day stowing whatever bedding we had used the night before. In the case of our Glacier, we simply fold our *Hacksack* longwise with the pillows inside and stow the whole bundle behind the back of the sofa between it and the side wall of the Coach. It's out of sight during the day



and readily available when it comes time to bed down for the night.

The *Hacksack* is made right here in America (an unusual benefit these days), in Boise, Idaho. They come in several different patterns for the exterior and in sizes Twin, Full, Queen and King. We purchased a Queen sized model on our way through Boise last fall on our way back home to Colorado. To our knowledge, you can't get these at Camping World – their quality is far above some imports that you might find at the “big box” stores, but you can get a lot more information from their website www.hacksack-liesure.com, and you can order one from there or by calling Leisure Industries at 800-521-1876.

In our humble opinion, these are so exactly suited to our Chinook lifestyle, that every Chinook owner should own one! We haven't seen or heard of anything more appropriate, and for those of you who have felt it such a hassle to take up your bedding every morning and then put it back down in the evening, (we've heard of a few Chinook owners who actually leave their beds “made up” 24/7 when they are on the road!) your work is over – just get a *Hacksack*, and reclaim the inside of your coach during each day!

Maybe at our next Chinook Rally we can have “show and tell” with everyone sharing their new found experiences from being able to travel with their bed stowed during the day.

Next, I want to cover covers of a different sort – “storage covers.” When we returned from our trip to Maryland to help our daughter's family move from Omaha, we began the process of preparing our Coach for what we anticipated would be the longest period in storage of its entire life. At the time, we thought it could be up to four months. It turns out that it started on December 3rd and will end next week (February 14th). Anyway, knowing the harsh nature of our winter climate here in Colorado, I had set about obtaining a storage cover for it. Not knowing any better, I fell for a “Sale” advertised by Camping World for one of the ADCO covers that they sell, and carefully specified one for a Class C coach 23' to 26' long (for our 25' Glacier). Our son, Tom, helped me put it on, and we secured it according to the instructions that came with it.

Less than a month later, during one of my periodic visits to the storage lot where it is parked, I noticed that the cover had become torn in several areas, particularly around the bumpers. In addition, two of the grommets had pulled out of the tabs



that are used to lace the ends of the cover to remove any slack. I proceeded to replace the grommets and “lace” the cover differently to reduce any stress on them. At the same time, I determined that the cover was way too wide at the top, making the sides way too tall, so that in order to secure it even partially, I had to cinch the straps that pass under it so tightly that they drew the bottom of the cover clear *under* the coach.



Portrait of a Wounded Elephant

Initially, I wrote a letter to Camping World asking for advice. Their first response was totally inadequate, so I sent them an e-mail letter along with this picture of our Chinook Glacier - disguised as a wounded elephant.

Notice how the cover goes clear under the coach! I guess it provides great protection for the tires, but it doesn't do much for the service life of the cover when the wind gets under it and blows it around.

Anyway, right after I e-mailed Camping World, I e-mailed ADCO. They replied right away by phone and the lady from their Customer Service was very apologetic and expressed a genuine desire to help us out. She began by stating that they (ADCO) never represented that *any* of their off-the-shelf storage covers were tailored to fit what they consider to be “Class B+” coaches – i.e. Class C coaches with a streamlined nose and no bed above the cab – like our Chinooks. In short, she readily admitted that I should have been told (or Camping World's catalog should have informed any shopper) that the standard Class C cover was not cut to fit our shape of “Class C” coach.

After hearing that, I was better informed to deal with Camping World, and when they replied to my e-mail I persuaded them to agree to take back the misfit cover and refund my money.

So, what have I learned from all this? Well, several things:



1. I'm not aware that anyone makes an "off-the-shelf" cover that fits our Chinook coaches.

2. I'm told that at one time Chinook actually made custom covers for some of their Chinook coaches, but I've been recently informed that they do not have a cover for the Glacier or Summit, and they are not currently supplying any covers because they have been forced to seek a replacement from their former supplier of cover fabric.

3. If you call ADCO at 800-541-2326, they can put you in touch with one of their retailers closest to your home (they are like Chinook in that they don't sell direct to the public) who can help you order a *custom made* cover that will exactly fit your coach.

Another Alternative: According to **Phil Beautrow**, our illustrious Newsletter Editor, "Judy" represents several cover manufacturers and can set you up with a top quality custom cover made of the finest protective fabrics in several colors. You can call "Judy" at 888-778-1871, or contact her by e-mail at carbytes78@aol.com. She will supply you with a dimension sheet to fill in so the cover will be customized for your specific model and will give you a quote. The zipper door is a must and is included! The pictures below shows Phil's "Sunbrella" cover on his Concourse. He also had several ADCO experiences; now he is happy.

With that, I'll sign off 'til next time. I guess that pretty well covers it. We hope to see you at Pahrump for another "Terrible" time the end of March. Meanwhile, I guess I shouldn't quit my day job!



Western Road Runner



Is a publication of the Chinook RV Club

Club Officers—2005

Barry Prentice, President
Carol Skillings, Secretary
Bert Wall, Treasurer
Carole "CB" Davis, VP Rallys
Lena Prentice, VP Membership
Al Enriques, Member at Large

For those with internet access the newsletter is posted on the site shown below. This will save the Club a considerable sum for publishing and postage. For those without internet access, we can mail you a black-and-white printed copy upon request to the editor (the old ink slinger):

[Phil Beautrow](#)
120 Cedar Lane,
Santa Barbara, CA, 93108 –1729

Thanks to those who have contributed photos and experiences in the past. Please send me articles and photos for consideration in future issues.



We're on the Web:

http://chinookrv.com/camp_west_news.html

