



Western Road Runner



Is a publication of the Chinook RV Club



November 2004

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To the members

- Thanks for your support and attendance at the Rally.
- Please send your completed Rally questionnaire by E-mail or FAX back to Carole "CB" Davis as she wants to receive a consensus to planning future events.
- The annual dues of \$36 should be sent to the treasurer ASAP

September 2004 Rally Hood River

The Bridge RV Park in White Salmon, WA was first rate. (we saw and heard a few BN trains...) Tanja, Robin and Carl were gracious hosts. What a time we had. There were 28 coaches and 53 members attending.

Thanks to Carole "CB" Davis for the time and effort that she put into making this event so successful!!!

This was an opportunity to see how others fitted out their coaches. More importantly, we renewed acquaintances and met new friends for the first time. The tile flooring and neat storage spaces of the Grahams' rig was impressive. John Turchan held an impromptu sharing session on maintenance tips. His column is on page 7.

Thursday, Sept 9th a number of us took the "Fruit Loop" train trip. We were picked up

at the RV park in a comfortable bus which took us across the Columbia River to the train station in Hood River, OR. The interesting ride included a "switchback" for changing engine directions up a steep grade and a view of many fruit orchards. We arrived at the Parkdale station and were treated to a nice lunch.

Returning to the RV Park in early afternoon we gathered to hear Trail Wagons reps (Mike and Greg) talk about maintenance and troubleshooting. Many of their suggestions are in Turchan's column.

That evening we had a western BBQ that left nothing to be desired.

Friday, we boarded another luxury bus which picked us up and delivered us to the Maryhill Museum of Art. This was a unique and varied collection

Hood River Rally (Cont'd)

from the estate of Sam Hill a wealthy entrepreneur. A box lunch was provided.

The bus then took us to Stonehenge, a War memorial that Hill created to emulate the original in England.

Following a short stop we were taken to the Maryhill Winery for a tour and tasting. The host was very generous in offering a variety of wines. Some purchased bottles to take home. Willy Nelson was going to perform at this small place the following weekend. Thousands were expected. We wondered where all the cars would park.

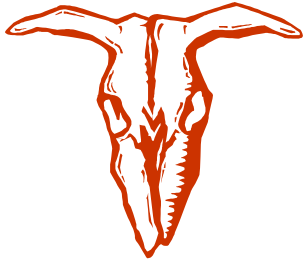
Dinner was on our own, and several made trips to the local eateries.

Saturday, Sept. 11th was a day of memory for the events of two years previous. Some of us walked about a mile up to Bingen, (*Bin-Jen*) and watched a small town memorial parade. Quite impressive!

That afternoon we were bussed back to the Oregon side of the river and were treated to a two-hour cruise. The captain, a colorful character did a real good job of explaining Lewis and Clarks travels and history of the Columbia River since the Indian days. There were a number of Indian fishing platforms along the Washington side banks. They dip-netted salmon at certain times of the year.

Following the cruise we had a salmon bake dinner with all the trimmings in the Marine Park Pavilion nearby. There was more than enough to eat and a lot of the leftovers; large chunks of salmon found their way into containers for future meals.

The first annual meeting followed dinner. Minutes of the



*"...we had a salmon bake
dinner with all the
trimmings..."*



meeting are included in this newsletter.

Sunday, Sept. 12th was a farewell to a wonderful event as we left for home and other places.

Minutes of the Sept. 11th Annual Meeting

After the day's activities on September 9th, we had a Board Meeting at Barry and Lena's Chinook. We discussed the agenda for our annual meeting to be held Saturday evening after our Salmon Dinner.

The First Annual meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on September 11, 2004 by President, Barry Prentice.

Al Enriquez had written a new song about the Hood River Rally, so he sang it, and then we all joined in.

Acceptance of the minutes of previous rallies and meetings was moved, seconded and passed.

Bert Wall then gave the treasurer's report; it was accepted, seconded and passed.

Next we heard from Phil Beautrow, who is in charge of our newsletter, The Western Road Runner. It is posted on the Internet on the ChinookRV website, or it can be sent in the mail for those without access to the Internet.

Barry made a clarification on the dues. The \$35 sent with an initial application is an



Application Fee. From then on the renewal dues will be \$36 due the 30th of September for the next year.

Next we discussed the name of our organization. We started out as the Chinook Camping Club – Western Region. We felt that we were not exactly a “camping” club, so we went out for suggestions for a new name for the Western Region. Some of the suggestions were Chinook Owners Club, Chinook RV Club, Chinook Owners RV Club, Chinook Friendship Club, and Chinook RV Owners Club. The motion was made to name the club the **Chinook RV Club** with our bylaws stating that one must be a Chinook RV **owner** to join and be a Member.

Paul Cominsky and Maxine Flohr, from the Chinook Factory joined us during the day, and they both addressed us at the meeting. Those who want photos of the 2003 Yakima Chinook Rally can contact Dana Danielson at the Chinook factory, and she will make them available.

Paul told us about the two new motorhomes being made by Chinook, the Eagle and the Maverick, which are less expensive models.

Members were asked to update their information for the directory, such as your street address, E-mail address, your Chinook model and year, and all of your telephone numbers.

It was also suggested that we make confirmation for the rally fees that we receive.

Next, it was time for election of Officers for next year. Barry opened the floor for nominations. There being none, he told the members that the present officers were willing to serve another year. The motion was then made and seconded that the same board members would serve another year.

Then Barry suggested we elect a nominating committee of four or five for next year. Their job is to submit names for officers to be voted on next year. Chosen were Wilson Elliot, Phil Beautrow, Maxine Flohr, Barbara Bakke and John Turchan.

Carol Skillings was asked to send a sympathy card to Earl and Joyce Ruby, who left early because of the death of her sister.

The best part of the evening was reserved for Carole “CB” Davis, Vice President of Rallies. She talked about this rally and future rallies. She thanked all for coming and making this such a good rally and the good friends we have become. She presented Paul and Maxine with a token from our rally, a hand painted saw and sent one back to Dana Danielson. She was asked about tipping our bus drivers, those who catered the meals, etc. and she said she took care of that. She suggested we pass the hat to give



a tip to Carl at the resort, who did so much in getting things ready for the rally.

Carol's goal is to get members to have mini rallies in their areas so members who may not be able to attend the annual rally or those in different parts of the country can attend close to where they live. Some of the members suggested Gilroy, CA. Tucson, AZ. Las Vegas, NV, the San Juan's, Oak Harbor, etc. Some thought the annual rally should be kept in the Washington-Oregon region, the reason being that we would be close to the factory in case we needed some work done on our motor homes. It was also suggested that we hold them in those areas every other year and somewhere else the other year. A big thank you to C.B. for a great rally and all the great work she did on the rally.

Our Club has been invited to the Rally in San Antonio, Texas in 2005. It will be a mini rally.

The difference between the annual rallies and the mini rallies was explained. Annual rallies are structured, with meals, tours, RV site reservations, tips, bus transportation, etc. included in the total price.

A mini rally is much more casual. You make your own reservations, go on tours you choose, eat where you want and basically pay your own way. Barry told about the mini rally in Indio at the FMCA rally. We went as a Chinook Club to the FMCA Rally, met in a certain place and went into the rally together so we would all be parked in the same area. We went to separate seminars and did different activities, but we were all together one evening where we went out to dinner and celebrated Carol Skilling's birthday.

The meeting was adjourned until we meet again at the next fun rally.



Treasurer's Report

CHINOOK R.V. CLUB BALANCE SHEET SEPT. 30, 2004

ASSETS:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	<u>\$5131.95</u>
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MEMBERSHIP EQUITY:

5131.95

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2004

INCOME:

MEMBER'S DUES	3146.00
RALLY FEES	<u>13580.00</u>
	16726.00

EXPENSES:

RALLY COSTS	10712.77
SUPPLIES	259.84
TELEPHONE	179.48
POSTAGE & DELIVERY	234.85
PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	191.11
BANK CHARGES	<u>8.00</u>
	<u>11586.05</u>

INCOME OVER EXPENSES:	<u>\$5139.95</u>
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Technical Tips

By John Turchan

Let me introduce myself to you fellow Chinook Owners (or payment makers as the case may be.) A writer I am not, but I am full of ideas and I like to “tweak” my Chinook.

First my Bio. I’m 68 years young and enjoying my age (most of the time!) I am a retiree from government work. Wife “Willie” and I live in Oregon City, OR. Our yard is large enough to accommodate a number of Chinooks and we have full-hookups; we enjoy company and visitors most anytime.

I love to “tinker” sometimes and fix, improve and once in a while destroy. Please give me your input if you have additional ideas for this column and comment on suggestions that I make.

Here are some of my suggestions and those of others which were shared at the September Rally:

- Install double coat hooks throughout the cabinets and walls.
- Install a wire rack under the kitchen sink and jar lid remover over it.
- Buy the current issue of “Next Exit” magazine at Camping World, it will lead you to many services.
- Buy the current issue of the Rand McNally Atlas at Wal*Mart. If it has “Wal*Mart price \$4.97” printed on the upper right corner of the cover it includes a directory of all the stores. You know the drill about parking there. Costco is another overnight parking alternative. They have a free national directory for the asking at any store.
- If your Dometic refrigerator has problems switching modes automatically, shuts off without warning, etc. The Control Board is at fault. It is the little black box located behind the outside refrigerator access door at the lower left. If you have basic mechanical/electrical skills you can change it out for a *Dinosaur Electronics Micro Model*. This is a factory recommendation by the way! It solves 95 % of the problems.
- The refrigerator is three-way: AC-DC-GAS. “DC” is a real energy hog and will run the batteries down quickly; use this only in an emergency. You should leave it on “GAS” while driving. There are plenty of safety features to prevent accidents.



When you connect to AC, it is set on AUTO, and fails to switch from GAS, the problem is the control board previously mentioned...change it!

- Consider a roof pod for additional storage. Thule and Yakima models are available.
- Inflate your tires to the cold psi shown on the drivers door sticker.
- The outside "AC" outlet near the refrigerator access door is GFI protected. If water gets into this it will shut off the refrigerator as well as the inside ac outlets. You will probably have a hard time discovering why the frig won't work on "AC." Make sure this is sealed properly and consider changing it and the cover to a fully weatherproof assembly. The factory installed outlet and cover leave a lot to be desired.
- Check and/or replace the sealant between the refrigerator wooden mount and the fiberglass body. You can check this out by opening the two fasteners and taking off the access door and seeing if there is separation inside. While you have the door off blow out the dirt and periodically clean out soot from the gas burner.
- Exercise your generator once a month for at least 20 minutes; if unable to do this use gas preservative available at auto parts stores. This will prevent an expensive repair if the carburetor gums up from non-use.
- Consider a "Sunbrella" cover for your rig if stored outdoors. In the long run it could save you money since it will protect all those areas that require waterproofing. The factory now sells them.
- Consider replacing the stock paper engine air filter with an oil-bath model.
- If your toilet seems to be leaking from the base, remove the shroud and tighten the three hold-down bolts. Road shaking will eventually loosen them.
- Check/replace the water heater anode.
- Put two small stick-on levels on the drivers door and dash. This will allow you to do the basic leveling on parking pads and save your wife a lot of trouble yelling at you from the outside.
- Check your coach batteries often for correct water levels. The surface should be touching the bottom of the guide. If you overfill, the water will boil out when it is fully charging; if you let it go dry...new battery. Use distilled water.

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

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Club Officers—2004

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](http://chinookrv.com/camp_west_news.html)

Photo Gallery













Maryhill

