

# The Road Runner

Is a publication of the Chinook RV Club



**MARCH  
2010**



## Club Officers 2009/2010

### President:

**Marta Newcomb Wall** martanw@msn.com

### V. P. Membership:

**Kelli Scheese** Kscheese@ConMet.com

### V. P. Rallies:

**Barbara Jensen** (626) 919-0751

### Secretary:

**Vera Raudman** Raudvera@AOL.com

### Treasurer:

**Bert Wall** baw012343@msn.com

### Member-At- Large:

**Jan Olmsted** janolm43@sbcglobal.net

### Immediate Past President:

**Jerry Earley** jearleycih@yahoo.com



**The way it was in the good old days!**

See page 5

### Webmaster:

**Dave Shehane:**  
webmaster@chinookrvclub.com

### Editor:

**Mike Froess**  
editormike@flash.net

### Historian:

**Carol Skillings**  
mamadogface@juno.com

### Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	2
VP Rallies Letter	3-4
Words of Wisdom	4
Letters to the Editor	5
History of Chinook	6

## UPCOMING RALLIES

**Pahrump , Nevada**

**March 25-27, 2010**

**Paso Robles, California**

**April 27-May 1, 2010**

**Breckenridge, Colorado**

**September 15-19, 2010**

**Moab, Utah**

**October 3-7, 2010**

**PURPOSE:** This Club (Chinook RV Club) exists to promote social, recreational and informational exchange activities that provide for the enjoyment and pleasurable use of all its members. Our club functions primarily in the western and central US, although it is open to qualified members from the Eastern club (Chinook Camping Club).

**DUES :** Our dues are \$35.00/year. Our fiscal and membership year is October 1 through September 30. Prompt payment not only helps Treasurer in budgeting expenses, but also helps the V.P.Membership in producing our Membership Directory. Please advise V.P.Membership of any changes in e-mail and mailing addresses.

## President's Message

First of all I would like to thank our VP of Membership, Kelli Scheese and her husband Jerry for getting the Membership Directory printed and in the mail in January. I know it is no small feat and we appreciate their effort.

It is so good to have an Editor again. I know we all like to get Michael's Roadrunner Newsletters. It is very informative and includes updates on our Rallies. Information is also available on our Web site: [www.chinookrvclub.com](http://www.chinookrvclub.com)

Speaking of Rallies, Barbara Jensen has been working hard organizing great new sites for Rallies and members in the area to host them. Bert and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends at our Rallies. I would like to encourage our members who haven't been able to attend a Rally in the past, to join us at a future Rally. We would love to meet you. We always seem to have an impromptu tech session, questions and answers from members who have had similar questions and have found answers or have good idea's.

I would like you to be thinking about our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally in September, at Tiger Run which is between Frisco and Breckenridge, Colorado. I would encourage you to take advantage of the offer to go 3 days ahead for \$69, for all 3 days, to acclimate to the elevation. Barry and Lena Prentice have put together a really fun time for us. It is a beautiful area.

Please welcome our two **newest members** and add them to your Directory:

Gary Waller	559 732-2030 (H)	Blair & Jean Younger	320 354-5691 (H)
31273 Road 132		11963 204 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	320 212-5591 (C)
Visalia, CA 93292	1976 18 Plus	New London, MN	320 894-6112 (C)
e-mail: <a href="mailto:wallerinventory@yahoo.com">wallerinventory@yahoo.com</a>		e-mail: <a href="mailto:jbyounger@gmail.com">jbyounger@gmail.com</a>	97 Concourse

**Please also add :**

Dick and Ann Sanders	435 688-1592 (H)
2916 Mountain Ledge Dr	602 418-4662 (C)
St George, UT 84790	
e-mail: <a href="mailto:dnasands60@yahoo.com">dnasands60@yahoo.com</a>	2004 Glacier

**Directory Corrections:**

<b>Franz</b> , Bill/Shona	e-mail address: <a href="mailto:sbfranz@Hotmail.com">sbfranz@Hotmail.com</a>
<b>Sebastain</b> , John/Pam	e-mail address: <a href="mailto:johnseb@pacbell.net">johnseb@pacbell.net</a>
<b>Shetland</b> , Bob/Debbie	home address: Mission Viejo
<b>Todd</b> , Barbara	e-mail address: <a href="mailto:btodd69570@aol.com">btodd69570@aol.com</a>

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our Rallies.  
Travel safely,

*Marta*

## From Rallies VP, Barbara Jensen

GREETINGS FELLOW CHINOOKERS !

A big thank you to all who have taken the time to complete and return the “Rally Survey”. Your comments and suggestions were great! We really appreciate the ideas for new areas to have rallies.

Our goal is to have more mini-rallies in more areas, so we will be in touch with more of you to get things going for 2011 !!

The Oregon coast was suggested most, with Sedona, West Canada, Yellowstone and National Parks following close behind. Seems a lot of you like the outdoors, hiking and just visiting. “Pot Lucks” are a also a favorite!

Thanks again for sending in the survey . We received over 50% of the surveys back, and we’re looking forward to hearing from the rest of you. So, IF you haven’t sent the Survey back, please do. It’s your club, and your input could make it better.

### RALLY UPDATES:

#### **Pahrump: March 25th - March 27, 2010.**

There will be approx 7 Chinooks at this mini-rally. Although our reservation period is now closed, if you want to attend, contact the Terrible’s Lakeside Casino and RV Resort directly at (888) 558-5253. Ask them for a site near #135. Festivities begin with attitude adjustment at 4:00PM at site #130. See you there.

#### **Paso Robles April 27th—April 30, 2010**

At this time there are 11 units committed, only 9 spots left. If you haven’t sent in reservations, you only have until **MARCH 22** to get them in. Deposit \$100. Total cost \$310 for 2

Arrive Tuesday, April 27. Wine Country RV Resort (805) 238-4560  
2500 Airport Road, Paso Robles, CA

6pm POT LUCK dinner in club house. Guest speaker, Shona, will be there to tell us about Paso Robles, and give us brochures regarding interesting places to go, and things to do.

Wednesday April 28

9:30 am Meet at club house to board vans to begin wine tasting tour.

1:00 pm Lunch at McPhees in Templeton (very famous and excellent restaurant)

2:00 pm Resume tour of wineries (until you’ve had enough)

Dinner: to be decided (either left over Pot Luck or restaurant in town)

Thursday April 29

9:30 am Meet at club house to board vans to go one mile to the famous Estrella War Birds Museum. Docents will guide us and answer questions. Lunch is included. You can return to the RV park when you want.

Friday April 30

Free day. You can go where ever you want, or just visit. We have unlimited use of their great club house, hot tub and pool.

6::00 pm Dinner in club house. Catered by Cahoots (well know caterer)

Saturday May 1. Check out time Noon

*Continued Page 4 : BARBARA SPEAKS*

**BARBARA SPEAKS** (Continued from page 3)

As stated above, there are only 9 spots left, so if you are going, you need to send in you \$100 deposit ASAP. The balance (\$210) is due by April 15. Checks to be made out to CHINOOK RV CLUB, and sent to:

Barbara Jensen 461 North Grand Avenue, Covina, CA 91724 Info: phone her @ (626) 919-0751

**TIGER RUN: September 15-19, 2010**

This is our annual rally. You really don't want to miss this fun packed annual rally. Don't forget to send in your deposit (\$150) by August 1, 2010. Total cost will be \$300 single, \$450 double. And don't forget about the three extra days for an additional \$68.

For more information: see Roadrunner December 2009 issue, page 9.

Deposit check made out to CHINOOK RV CLUB. Send to Barry Prentice, 710 Wildflower Drive, Longmont, CO 80501

**MOAB: October 3-7, 2010**

It's not too soon to send your reservations and check of \$100, Payable to CHINOOK RV CLUB to Ray & Linda Blackburn, 406 Depot Rd. Ione, CA 95640-9724. Deposit due September 1, 2010.

This year we will be in an RV park, close to town (you can walk there) with NO STICKERS ! Even if you don't have an off- road vehicle, there are lots of things to see and do there. Like hiking, rafting, golfing, shopping and driving to areas with great views, etc., etc. !

For more information: see Roadrunner December 2009 issue, page 9.

Hope to see you soon and often at our great rallies.

*Barbara*

**Words of Wisdom** (Don't blame me, I had to fill this space with something)

Sign seen in pub in Paso Robles:

- If you cheat, ..... cheat death
- If you fight, ..... may it be for your brother
- If you steal, ..... steal a woman's heart
- If you drink, ..... may you drink with me

**Stress:**

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while, and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on the burden, so before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow, Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can." So my friend, Put down anything that may be a burden to you right now. Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

**More**

- \* Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue .
- \* Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- \* Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- \* Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- \* When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- \* A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

## Letters to the Editor

I received an e-mail sent by one of our members, Scott Feck, with these two URL's. They are pictures of old motorhomes that he thought might be worth looking at. I thought they were very interesting so I'll pass them along. Thanks Scott. <http://home.comcast.net/~robmorg/oldmh/oldmh.htm>  
<http://www.gtamarketing.com/1937FordHousecar.html>

Our sister club, Chinook Camping Club, sent us these "quick tips" for RV exterior care. They add that these are just suggestions and to always try in a small area first to be sure it doesn't damage the finish. They came from "www.rvbasics.com".

- **Bugs and bird droppings on your paint**, grillwork and windshield? Saturate the area with spray cooking oil, let it sit for 10 minutes then wash the windshield as usual. To remove salt deposits from a painted metal RV exterior, wash with a solution of baking soda and warm water. For extra heavy stains, make a baking soda paste and rub on with a damp sponge. Rinse well. Wash your RV on a cloudy day or in the shade. Use warm but not hot water, as hot water can bleach paint.
- **Clean your RV from the top down** so that you're following the direction of gravity. If you can, clean the roof too so that dirt doesn't run down the sides during rain and heavy dew.
- **WD-40 serves as an alternative to commercial bug & tar remover** on the oily road buildup that accumulates on the lower panels of your RV. Wash the RV as usual after application.

- To make your tires look like new, scrub them clean with soap and water using a hard bristle brush, then apply self-polishing floor wax.
- **To clean tough spots on your windows**, wipe down with rubbing alcohol, allow to dry, then clean as usual.
- **Renew your windshield wiper blades** by cleaning with a low-abrasion scouring powder then wiping them with rubbing alcohol. Makes the wipers last longer and stops them from streaking.
- **A child's wax crayon**, close to the same color, makes an effective repair to tiny scratches on your paint. Rub the crayon over the scratch, then buff smooth with a clean cloth.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, that is it for this issue. Please send me something for the club readership. I'll take tips, suggestions, after all this is your club, and I'm just the editor. SO, send me something to edit !!!

*Mike Froess*

## HISTORY OF CHINOOK according to Woodalls website

*I found this site on Woodalls <http://www.woodalls.com/2004/04/chinook-rv-a-seamless-c-body-manufacturer/> when I was searching for Gary Lukehart. I was looking for pictures of old Chinooks for the front page of this newsletter. There is some information here that I didn't know, and don't know if it's accurate. I was intrigued by last couple of lines and thought it would be of interest to the club.—Editor Mike.*

Dan Lukehart, president of Trail Wagons Inc., dba Chinook RV, tells a story about a customer who left a paper cup full of coffee on the rear bumper of his new Chinook Concourse Class C motorhome and drove off. When he got home, Lukehart relates, the cup was still sitting on the bumper with coffee in it.

That story speaks volumes for the manufacturers of Chinook one-piece molded fiberglass minimotorhomes.

“We don’t have any other priorities other than making the most sound motorhome possible,” Lukehart said. “It’s expensive to do it that way, but that is what makes us a niche. Not everybody can afford everything that we build.”

Indeed, customers expect quality and top-line features from Chinook RV, which manufactures about 450 minimotorhomes annually with retail base prices from \$74,157 to \$167,131.

“We’ve failed at building an economy model,” Lukehart said. “That’s what controls our volume completely. There’s not an employee here who could build a midline vehicle. I’ve been asked to do that hundreds of times, and I ask how? Every time we try to do it, every time we try to design something out, somebody else (in Chinook management) puts it back in.” Chinook emphasizes the strength of its one-piece molded fiberglass construction.

“Our molds provide as fine a finish as you have on any car,” Lukehart said. “The whole thing involves as many as eight to 10 layers of fiberglass at the end of the process. It’s 3 or 4 inches thick at some points. We mold a lot of the openings, and we don’t have any flange-mounted doors. All that does away with having to install trim and caulking. Because it’s one piece, it has a lot of strength. It has no weak points and it provides a solid ride.”

Chinook, first produced in 1938 by Sy and Rose Mair in Orange County, Calif., is among the oldest U.S. brand names in the RV industry. “In 1938, they were just little old travel trailers and pickup campers and chassis mounts that went on a one-ton cab chassis,” Lukehart said.

In 1971, after Chinook had been merged and sold several times and moved to Yakima, Wash., Lukehart’s father, Gary, became president of the company, which at the time was owned by an investment group that took it public. When the investment group pulled out in 1975, Gary Lukehart left Chinook, which became idle, and formed Trail Wagons Inc. to build Class B van campers.

Gary Lukehart previously had owned Family Wagon Compact Equipment Co., which converted Chevrolet and Dodge vans into campers. He is restoring one of his original conversions, a 1961 Corvair, which he found at a convention of Corvair owners. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Trail Wagons converted Dodge, Chevrolet and Ford vans into Class B motorhomes.

“They weren’t just van campers, though,” Dan Lukehart said. “They were luxury travel vans that sold, basically, in the auto market.”

Chinook lay dormant until 1985, when Gary Lukehart purchased the remnants of the company and the Chinook brand name.

Trail Wagons eventually began to focus singularly on Chinook minimotorhomes and its one-piece fiberglass construction, which Gary Lukehart had implemented previously while at Chinook’s helm.

Chinook frequently has gone outside the RV arena to prove the point. Dan Lukehart set a motorhome land-speed record of 114 mph in 1998 at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, and in 2000 participated in the Alcan Winter Rally, a strenuous road rally from the Pacific Northwest to Alaska.

“We did it to prove that Chinooks aren’t just motorhomes and shouldn’t be stereotyped as being only for old people,” Lukehart said.

Always innovating, Chinook has built and shown macho-style off-road Class Cs, and most recently a minimotorhome with the look of GM’s Hummer.

“It’s a front-appearance package with a Hummer H2 nose on a Chevy cutaway chassis,” Lukehart said. “We’re not saying that it’s a Hummer, but it was fun to do. That’s what it’s all about: Dress it up and make it look nice.”