



TRAILBLAZER



NOTE: For best formatting results, click on the link in the upper right corner of this email that says "view this email in your browser." MAKE SURE YOU CLICK THE VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE or you will miss important info! If you don't see the officer list, you aren't at the end! Always open to feedback, email me at cnbreeding52@gmail.com
Nancy Breeding, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

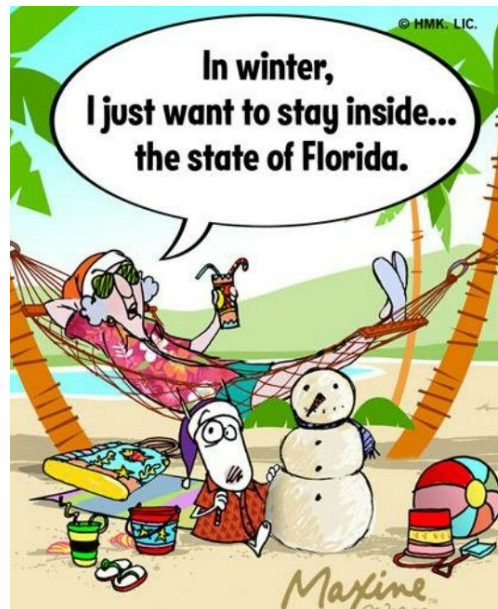
Hello Chinookers:

Thanksgiving is gone, Christmas is near and before you know it we will be at **Flamingo Lake RV Park**. I hope you have made your reservation. We are over 20 coaches and I still would love for us to have at least 30 for the rally. CALL TODAY!!! **Flamingo Lake RV Park, 904.766.0672.**

I am sure by now that you have received a call from a member of our Communications Committee. This Committee is an effort aimed at allowing us to stay in touch even when we are not at rallies. There has always been some communication but my hope is that by formalizing the effort we can keep up with each other more frequently. As your President I want us to improve the camaraderie, fellowship, and friendship that will make our club even more enjoyable. My thanks to those who volunteered to help with this project.

Please hold some good thoughts and prayers for those of our membership who are having or recovering from health issues. I hesitate to mention names for fear of leaving someone out but those I know of include: **Jim Stamper, B J Person, Tom Jackson, Fred Cummings, Mike Sloop and Cricket Jones.** If I left someone out please let me know.

We are also trying to complete a project that has had several false starts. That is the completion of our Club Cookbook. Sally Arnold is heading up this effort and would appreciate any recipes you can share. Food you have brought to rallies that was enjoyed by all or recipes you have found that are easy to prepare on the road. Send these items to her at sba@bellsouth.net.



Membership dues should be sent to Dottie Norris, 57 Downes Road, Underhill Vt. 05489.

When I talked with Dottie and Wayne last week they had 8 inches of snow and it was 17 degrees but the mail still gets through.

I wish for each of you the Merriest of Christmases, Happy Holidays and a Great New Year. Hope to see you in Jacksonville!!!!

Bob Gibson

The Prez



FALL RALLY WRAP-UP-Annual meeting

Branson, Missouri, September 25 – 30, 2017

What an outstanding time we had with the Chinook RV West Club in Branson Missouri! The weather was just about perfect, a little warm at first, but pleasant later. The setting was convenient to Branson activities, and a very nice campground. A HUGE thank you to hosts Jim and Marnie Weidmaier for providing transportation to the Branson area attractions, to the Branson Belle dinner cruise, Dixie Stampede, College of the Ozarks and shows with the rented vans! The Western club members also provided an assortment of breakfast foods, coffee and juice to start our days. And a Chinook wine raffle to help cover costs!



Highlights of the rally included our usual outstanding potluck supper, a very informative tech session (see highlights below), many walks to the nearby shopping center with its evening light show, trips to the College of the Ozarks for delicious food and tours, and even our own Gail Rebecca Williams almost beating the comedian at his game on the Branson Belle!

At the annual meeting, we gave out thanks to Mark McCluski for his years as president. Diane Cremens for her service on the nominating committee, elected Bob Gibson as the new president of the club, and thanked and reinstalled the other current officers: Gerry Rutter as vice president, membership; Dottie Norris, treasurer; and Debbie Person, secretary. Tara Burgess was not in attendance but had agreed to continue as vice president, rally. We also set up the nomination committee with Charles Breeding, Alvin Cantrell and



Cheryl Blackwell.

Other discussions centered on officer appreciation, spending surpluses, communications and projector purchase. For complete details, please refer to the minutes sent in the email update or available here:

[2017 Minutes](#)

[2017 Treasurer report](#)



We are very lucky to have such a great group of members in both clubs who share their expertise, are willing to step up in service, and who provide friendship and camaraderie at rallies and in many other ways during the year! [See rally photos>](#)



UPCOMING RALLIES



WINTER RALLY

Flamingo Lakes Jan 22 – 24. Holding rally sites starting Sunday Jan 21.

Regular rate is \$51 per night for pull through, \$57 per night for lakeside back in. Groups of 10 or more coaches get 20% discount, so rates for rally will be \$40.80 pull through and \$45.60 lakeside. Prices are based on 2017's season rate and may be subject to change.

Campground will offer group rate for the duration of stay, including arriving early or departing after Jan 24.

[Flamingo Lake RV Resort](#)

3640 Newcomb Rd

Jacksonville, FL 32218

Phone: (904) 766-0672

Toll Free: 800.782.4323

Hosted by Jim and Linda Stamper and Bob and Charmaine Gibson.

NEW! Plans are being made to use the new projector for sessions on club communications, travel apps and MORE!!! Also, Sally Arnold will be back with a new craft project. Sally's projects are fun

and attainable even for those of us who aren't crafty!

Flamingo Lake is a great park with a large meeting area, a cafe where we gather to socialize, and nice level well equipped RV sites. It is a great jumping off spot. Take a few days after to explore some of Florida's fun areas or beautiful state parks!

SPRING RALLY



The Spring Rally is a wonderful and unique experience and one that is a from our usual rallies. It is a bit further than we usually travel but I believe the experience will be worth the travel. For complete information, check out the flyer **Jim and Paulette Day** have put together. [Iowa Rally>](#)

The "official rally" will be held at the **Amana RV Park and Event Center** in Amana, Iowa. **May 4-7, 2018**. For reservations call: 319-622-7616; Rate \$37/night. Please let them know you are with the "Chinook Camping Club" as usual. HOSTS: **Jim & Paulette Day/Ed & Diane Cremens**.



IMPORTANT!!!!!! For the Spring pre-rally activity "Pella Tulip Time" you need to make reservations TODAY as the COE allows a six month window for campground reservations at this park and they go fast. A few members have already reserved, don't miss out! The COE (Corps of Engineer) parks are popular and with this being a special event time, you will be out of luck if you wait!

RESERVATION INFO:

[Reservation Reminder Flyer](#)

Make Reservations at: www.recreation.gov or call: [1-877-444-6777](tel:1-877-444-6777)

Campground: Howell Station Red Rock Lake campground - 1081 198th Pl, Pella, Iowa

Reserve in: Reserve in Lake Prairie Loop - PRAI sites 1-56 (This Keeps Chinookers together)

Reserve dates: Wed. May 3rd & Thurs. May 4th 2018

The US. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Red Rock Lake closest campground to Pella, Iowa is the [Howell Station Campground](#) just below Red Rock Dam which is 4.8 miles or about a 10 minute drive from Pella.

The cost for electric is \$20.00, with the Golden Age Access Passport or American the Beautiful Senior Access the cost is \$10.00. The card number must be provided at the time the reservation is made in order to receive the discount. I would suggest you arrive on Wednesday, May 3rd to setup and relax after traveling. Then on Thursday (first day, less crowd) walk around and enjoy Pella's Tulip Time. There are two parades on Thursday, an afternoon parade at 2:30 pm and a lighted evening parade at 8:30 pm. Get up leisurely on Friday and see more of Pella before you travel the 90 minutes to the Iowa Amana's Colonies for the Spring Rally.



SUMMER RALLY

DATES: 6/18/18-6/21/18

LOCATION: West Canada Creek Campsites

12275 State Route 28
Poland, NY 13431
Phone Local: [315-826-7390](tel:315-826-7390)
Phone Toll Free: [1-888-461-2267](tel:1-888-461-2267)
Fax: [315-826-5239](tel:315-826-5239)
Email: camp@westcanadacreekcampsites.com
<http://www.westcanadacreekcampsites.com/>

This is a small family campground is situated in the bend of a big creek right next to the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. There are lots of interesting things to do in the area or you can spend a day tubing around the bend and walking across the campground to do it again if you want! Check out their website for things to do.

Hosts: Dottie and Wayne Norris

RESERVATIONS: Please call the campground to reserve your spot: [1-888-461-2267](tel:1-888-461-2267)



FALL RALLY

Asheville East KOA, Asheville, NC October 1-4, 2018

More info upcoming.

Do you know of a campground that would be perfect for a rally? Do you have a suggestion about an area of the country to search? Would you like to host a rally? (It's not really that difficult, everyone pitches in.) Contact **T (Tara) Burgess** ccrallyvp@gmail.com or **Judy Boone** daydreamaussies@msn.com

CHINOOK SOLUTIONS

Sally Arnold shared a simple shower enlargement solution with us at the Fall Rally. She sent along a detailed description for the newsletter. Thanks, Sally! [Click here for a printout with photos>](#)

1. Materials are simple and inexpensive (a) original shower curtain (b) new longer shower curtain 72"x 84" (really could be next standard size shorter) (c) piece of metal strapping bendable (c) Command Hook (d) tape.
2. The curtain stores in the corner with the original curtain. The new curtain is longer so that it can be placed under (in my instance a teak platform Terry made) to later put the longer bottom of the curtain under. This could be anything like a shower mat or you could have a weight folded into it. I just tuck the long curtain into the towel bar when stored.



The curtains are arranged with back original curtain pulled over the medicine cabinet and commode. The longer front curtain is positioned across the front. You have to split the shower hooks between the two curtains and double up the curtain on each hook.

3. I fixed a flat piece of metal with a loop on one end and bent into a great semicircle to pull the curtain out into a semicircle shape. This piece of metal sits on the open door top hinge and the loop is placed on a command hook on the other side of the door. I selected a large enough command hook to hold the metal loop.

4. Position the front curtain over the semicircle tucking it inside the shower on the sides. You can turn your fan on with it pulling air in and it will blow the curtain up and out, giving more room in the shower. The shower can be inflated or not. When inflated with my 84" long shower curtain you get at least an additional 10+ inches of room in the shower. Additionally you can add a privacy curtain that will give you a simple dressing area. You will see the curtain tucked out of the way in the towel holder in the last picture. It is hung with a small tension rod at the top of the ceiling you can add a privacy curtain that will give you a simple dressing area. You will see the curtain tucked out of the way in the towel holder in the last picture. It is hung with a small tension rod at the top of the ceiling.



ANY SUGGESTIONS?



At the rallies, we hope to have some time for discussions of club business and ideas, but since not everyone attends the rallies (if you haven't attended, we hope to see you soon!) we want to make sure you are sharing your ideas, opinions, comments, issues and kudos with us! Please make sure to send along your thoughts and ideas to chinookcamping@icloud.com. The club is only as good as the members that contribute! Thanks for all you do!



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have 88 coaches registered.
Members in 30 states.
Cover 13 model years.

New Members:

Mike Huntington #425
Jane & Ben Gaebe #426
Marnie & Jim Weidmaier #427
Anna & Gary Matthews #428
Adriane Reese #429

Departed Members:

Gini & Paul Oneto #404

In addition to the Member and Rally location points for Google Maps, I created a location map for **RV campgrounds** that are listed on Recreation.gov.

The names of the sites are color coded for electricity. GREEN for 30 Amps, and YELLOW for 15 Amps (Yes, there are still a few locations with 15 amp only).

The map locations and other files can be found in my shared Dropbox folder.

The Dropbox address will be emailed to members after February 1st.

Remember dues are delinquent after December 1st.

EZ Member Directory App:

The EZ Member Directory app is based on our e-mail addresses.

If you change your email address, the app will generate a new password. Let me know, so your app will continue to work on your new address.

Each phone/device requires a separate email address.

Please let me know if you are adding a device, so I can program the new address into the app.

If you need your access code or assistance with the app, please send your questions to

ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com

I have tips and cord to repair your bolos, so bring them to a rally and I will repair them.

Thanks!

Gerry Rutter

ARE YOUR DUES OVERDUE?



MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO

"Chinook Camping Club" and mail to:

Chinook Camping Club

Dottie Norris

57 Downes Rd.

Underhill VT 05489

CLUB DUES OF \$35 PER COACH ARE DUE EACH YEAR
ON OCTOBER 1.

Dues are considered delinquent after December 1 and you will be removed from membership rolls February 1.

ORDER YOUR CHINOOK LOGO ITEMS NOW FOR JANUARY DELIVERY



Items available by order only
Please contact Eileen for current
pricing and sizes
chinook121@tampabay.rr.com

Polo and T-shirts available in
Men & Ladies sizes
Sweats and Vest are "unisex"



Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt not shown but now available!

ORDER BY DECEMBER 15.

Polo shirt with collar – Mens (BG7500) or Ladies (BG6500); Colors available Royal, White

T-shirts – Mens (GL200) – Royal, White, Ash Grey; Ladies (GL200L) – Royal, White

Crew Neck Pullover Sweatshirts (GL120) – Royal, White or Ash Grey (Unisex sizing)

Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt (GL186) – Royal, White, Ash Grey (Unisex sizing)

Fleece Vest (M985)– Royal – (Unisex sizing)

Ball Caps (KC8210S)– Royal – adjustable

Our items are ordered through www.stitchamerica.com. To see details about a certain item, enter the item number in the search field. We can purchase any item they carry, but have only two color options for our logo, Royal on light color items, White on dark color items. Any change in size of logo would require an additional set-up fee. Below are the prices as of October 27, 2017 and are always subject to slight increases. Sizes over XL, such as 2XL are charged \$2 additional per size increase.

Polos – \$15.75

T-shirts – \$8.75

Crew Neck Sweatshirt – \$15.40

Hooded, Zip Front Sweatshirt – \$23.75

Fleece Vest – \$22.50

Ball Cap – \$9.75

TIPS FROM THE TECH ROUNDTABLE

Thanks to Mark McCluski for the notes, and for all who participated!

Rear View Mirror -

Compass built into the rear view mirror is misdirecting. Is there a fix? Suggested trying the Yahoo group for an answer: there was recently a discussion there about the temperature sensor giving false readings. Some members suggested driving in a tight circle three times to reset. Parts to repair are unique and hard to replace, so the overall feeling was "good luck".

Water Heater--Important to drain the water heater periodically and to replace the sacrificial anode if its far gone. The water heater anode deteriorates by design. When installing be sure to get the threads started right: anode is weight-heavy on the inside. Use teflon tape for a tight seal.

Tires -

Check pressure regularly and maintain it at correct level. Devices discussed to add your own air during trips.

One way to keep tire pressure up during trips, use VIAir 300 portable compressor attaches to and runs off of runs off vehicle battery. Powerful draw so run engine while you use it or it will drain your battery in no time!

https://www.amazon.com/VIAIR-30033-300P-Portable-Compressor/dp/B000X9oYUO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1506525266&sr=8-1&keywords=viair+air+compressors+300

Another device discussed was a KOBALT Electric Portable Air Compressor.

<https://www.amazon.com/KOBALT-Electric-Portable-Compressor-Inflator/dp/B01DKKV8Q6> This one runs off 12V or 120V. Gayle Wroble describes it as "lady-friendly". Link is for an Amazon page, but members noted that Kobalt is a Lowes brand and may be cheaper there.

The customary discussion over tire pressure, and opinions varied as per usual. Most members running 60 or 65 PSI for Concours and Destinys. Glacier may need higher pressure.

RV Tires age out before they wear out. Some members replace them at 5 or 6 years, others say that is too long to wait: suggested changing every 3 years.

Spare tire; needs to be as good and as well maintained as the rest of your tires.

Discussion of brands of tires, with several suggestions offered. Terry Arnold said the Michelin LTX is the only tire for a Chinook.

Suggestion that it's wasting money to rotate tires on an RV: they will age out before they've had the road wear.

Discussion of rear tire valve extenders. Flexible stems have duration issues. Solid valve stems from Tire man require complex installation. Borg Stems are an alternative.

Tire pressure monitoring system discussed as a feature. Puts weight on valve stem: could cause wobble.

A couple of members talked about spot checking tire pressure by means of a 3 lb hammer.

Replacing the truck radio -

Crutchfield good source for after market replacement. Their customer service people are very good at assessing your needs over the phone. crutchfield.com

Refrigerator -

Dometic original equipment fridge boards are notorious for failing. Replacement boards from Dinosaur electronics are universally seen as the way to go when the original equipment fails.

<http://www.dinsaurelectronics.com>

Dump valves

Drainmaster electric valves were incorrectly installed by Chinook on models like the 2002 Destiny. They may stick, and there is no pull out flange alternative.

Gail Rebecca Williams replaced her manual Valterra valve with an electric one from Amazon. LOVES IT! https://www.amazon.com/Valterra-E1003VP-Valve-Electric-System/dp/B004RCXC1G/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1506527079&sr=8-1&keywords=rv+valves+electric+-macerator

Glacier knowledge--With fewer members owning Glaciers, the pool of knowledge is less deep than for smaller rigs. West coast members Woody Schramm (sp) and Dave Shehane (dshehane@gmail.com) were mentioned as good sources of info.

Fuel pumps and Gas Tanks

Fuel pump assemblies at this point are 17 years old on the newest of Chinooks. They will fail, and will not be cheap to replace. It will require replacing the entire gas tank. Replacement Ford gas tanks are no longer even being made: sources for replacement are rare. One proven reliable replacement is <http://gastankdepot.com/for-06a-ford-e-series-cutaway-fuel-tank-55-gallon-99-2010.html>

If someone tries to sell you an old Ford gas tank, **don't buy it. Ford gas tank BAD.**

Ford Fuel pump good. It is okay to buy a new fuel pump from Ford.

Fueling -

When the gas tank is hot its wise to start fueling slowly to allow vapors to escape if tank is low. After a few gallons can speed up and fill up normally. In hot weather the gas flow into the tank may interrupt itself if you start off too fast.

Spark plugs -

Spark plugs need to be torqued out carefully. Over time they will fuse in. To have engine work done on these units, go to a truck repair garage. Ford dealers can mess you up.

Critters in the Engine -

Fresh cab rodent repellant <https://www.amazon.com/Earthkind-Botanical-Rodent-Repellent-Pouches/dp/B00L236OMW> may help keep critters out of motor.

CHINOOK EASY EATS-COOKBOOK CALL!



We are trying to complete a Cookbook for the Chinook Camping Club and I have been asked to coordinate this project. If you have favorite recipes, family recipes, and camping recipes please send them to me at sba@bellsouth.net. I would love to get something from each one of you. Also, we all use special cooking machines and gadgets, I will be glad to add sections for you and you can write about why you love using the device in your Chinook, along with recipes you love. Thanks! Sally Arnold

CHICKEN BRUNSWICK STEW
contributed by Nancy Breeding

2 large onions, chopped
6 skinned and boned chicken breast halves
2 (15 oz) cans cream-style corn
1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
1 (12 oz) bottle chili sauce
1 (14.5 oz) can chicken broth



1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
2 to 4 tablespoons butter, cut up
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce



Place onion in a 4-5 quart slow cooker. Place chicken pieces on top of onion. Add corn, tomatoes, chili sauce, chicken broth, Worcestershire sauce, butter, vinegar, dry mustard, salt, pepper and hot pepper sauce. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or until chicken is tender. Remove cooked chicken, shred meat and return to stew.

From Recipes and Remembrances: The Sellers Family Cookbook by Sherri Madden.

NOTES: I have used this recipe for years, stovetop, with canned chicken, added lima beans, etc and it still turns out tasty. An easy winter warm-up!



SUNSHINE UPDATES

Do you know a member who is ill or recovering that needs some SUNSHINE?
Send the info to **Debbie Person** debper68@att.net

We are keeping **Jim Stamper, B J Person, Tom Jackson, Fred Cummings, Mike Sloop and Cricket Jones** in our thoughts and prayers.

CHINOOK CLUB AND TRAVEL RESOURCES



Sign up for the Winter rally in Florida in January! We will be sharing collective knowledge on travel and Chinook resources!

Many resources are available for Chinook travelers. Here are some to make sure you follow!

(I have uploaded this list to the Chinook RV Club website as well, go to the CCC Resources page and save a copy!)

Chinook Facebook groups:

Chinook Camping Club (closed members only group, request membership)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChinookCampingClub/>

I Love my Chinook --Public Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/140061510117/>

Web site: Chinook Camping Club <http://chinookrvclub.com/chinookeastclub.html>

Chinook Forums:

Chinook RV Owners Yahoo group [see instructions here on how to join](#)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ChinookRVOwners/info>

Chinook Forum <http://www.chinookrvforum.com/>

Photos from rallies: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chinookcampingclub/> Most of the photos are download protected, contact cnbreeding52@gmail.com for a login to download photos.

Parts suppliers list:

http://chinookrvclub.com/images/Parts_and_Service_Listings_Update_Feb_2017.pdf

Member lists: EZ Member directory app, contact Gerry Rutter for how to get access

ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com

Travel Blog Spot: set up by Sally Arnold to share information on campgrounds <http://chinooktravel.blogspot.com/>

Additional useful resources:

<https://www.overnightrvparking.com/> yearly fee, lots of good info on places to boondock, or park overnight.

Escapees RV Club <https://www.escapees.com/>

annual fee, also provides access to the Days End Directory for small fee

RVtravel.com website and newsletter

Harvest Hosts: small member fee, boondock at farms, wineries, museums <https://harvesthosts.com/>

Apps: Search your Android or IOS app store

RV Dump Sites

Allstays Camp and RV, small fee, worth every penny

Gas Buddy

More Facebook groups to follow: search in Facebook

Walmart & Casino RV Overnighting Across America

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/255277397995748/>

Roadtreking: The Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/roadtreking/>

Roadtreking <https://www.facebook.com/Roadtreking/>

(Both of the above are dedicated to small motorhome travel)



Do you have resources you consult for trips, maintenance and repair, general RV fun? Let us know!

Send it to editor at cnbreeding52@gmail.com



FALL RALLY PHOTOS

The [fall rally photos](http://www.flickr.com/photos/chinookcampingclub/) have been added to the Chinook Club Flickr site. These albums will not be searchable to the general public. The address is <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chinookcampingclub/> Each of the rallies has an album, click on albums to choose a particular rally. Thanks to **Ed Cremens** for taking the photos, and **Eileen Disbrow** for uploading the pictures.

The photos are not available to be downloaded unless you sign in. The login for the site will be in an email sent to members. To download you would click on the photo, and then click the download arrow in the lower right corner. Enjoy! Let me know if you have any questions about how to access them.
cnbreeding52@gmail.com

President
Bob Gibson

VP, Membership
Gerry Rutter

VP, Rally
T (Tara) Burgess
Judy Boone

**YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF
THE NEWSLETTER.**

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Thank you to the Webmaster for both
CRVC and CCC,
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for his time and talent