

# Western Road Runner



Is a publication of the Chinook RV Club (West)



March 2006

## Inside this issue:

### 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.
- The web link for the club is:  
[www.chinookrvclub.com](http://www.chinookrvclub.com)

## President's Corner

In this, the inaugural President's Corner Column, I would like to express my appreciation for those of you that have shown confidence in my ability to lead the Western Club during these trying times.

As you probably know the Chinook factory has closed due to financial difficulties. As a result, a major restructuring has occurred and many of the people we depended upon to solve our Chinook problems are no longer available to help us. The situation in Yakima caused the leadership of the Western Club to ponder the question, "Should we continue as a club?" I contacted Harry Bufkin, the President of the Eastern Club, to get his take on the situation. As it turns out, we have similar opinions regarding the status of the clubs, "That it is a social club of persons with like interests that happen to own Chinook RV's." Something wonderful resulted from that conversation. The two clubs have started to bond.

I'm excited about some new events:

Thanks to our illustrious Past President, Barry Prentice, a web page for both clubs has been set up where news can be viewed and applications for membership can be accessed. Go to [www.chinookrvclub.com](http://www.chinookrvclub.com) to see this great development that is expected to promote the club's) while saving \$;

A National Rally in 2008 is in the formative stages; and

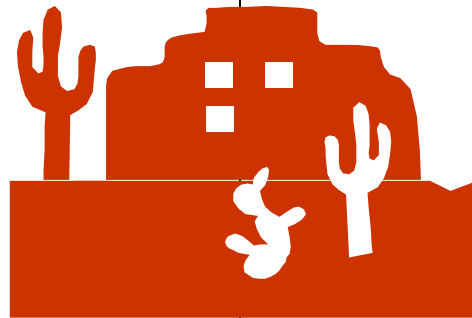
We are looking at the prospect of starting a Chinook section of the FMCA.

As you can see that we, **"Chinooker's," are alive and kicking.**

I encourage all of you to take an active role in your club, East or West, and share your abilities and knowledge. Please feel free to offer any suggestions; we need to rely upon each other for support, more than ever. **We NEED FRESH IDEAS!!!** I encourage you to join a committee and/or run for office.



In closing I would ask you all to keep Gary and Mary Lukehart in your thoughts and prayers and drop them a letter of encouragement. They are two wonderful people and deserve our support. Gary's e-mail address is [gary@transedge.com](mailto:gary@transedge.com) .





# 2006-07 Rallies

Please see the announcements on our  
Web site.....



# *Vintage Gallery*



70's Era



1973 18+



1973 18+



1978 Futura

Here are some samples from the past!



# *Vintage (cont'd)*



1973 Futura



Chinook April 2005

1989 18+



1988 Van



1990 18+

Do you have some photos to share? If so, please e-mail to the editor...thanks

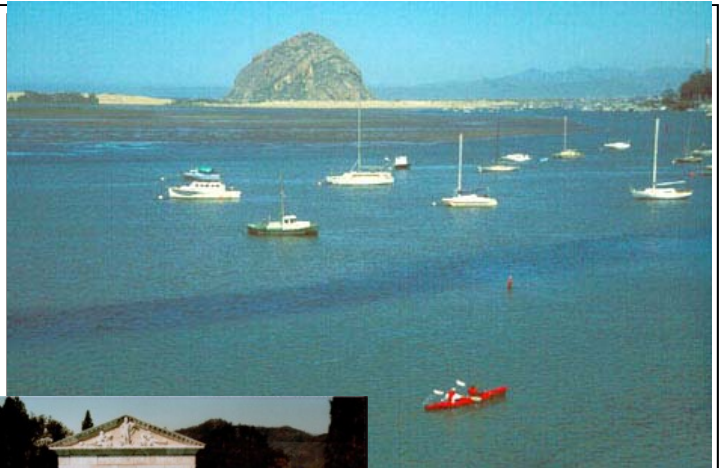
# Special Places

## Central California Coast

My wife and I live in Northern California and for the last several years we have taken a weekend trip to Morro Bay during the month of February. We stay one day at Morro Bay and then start up the coast.

The second night we stay at San Simeon State Park; the following day we like to stop at a point above San Simeon Hearst Castle and watch the Elephant Seals. It is their mating season and the bulls are quite aggressive. Access and viewing is easy. You stand approximately ten feet above and ten feet behind the animals. If you have never visited Hearst Castle, it is near the same location and worth the visit.

The third or fourth day, I would recommend continuing up the Coast to Santa Cruz, Ano Nuevos, for the Elephant Seal viewing. This is a reserve and requires you to be accompanied by State Park officials while you walk among the seals. A fee is charged and reservations (888-444-4445) are required. This is a great three/ four day trip if the weather permits with lots of photo opportunities. Take your time, there are many other sights to visit along the coast. Enjoy... *Bob Adler, Walnut Creek, CA. ('02 Destiny)*



## Yosemite Valley

This is probably the most scenic and beautiful places in the world.

In fact, people come from all over the world to see this famous National Park. It is "dry" camping. There are showers, picnic tables and fire rings provided. If you have the "Golden Age" card it will only cost you \$9 per day! Although there are many camping areas in the Park, we like the Valley.

Every few years we like to camp and ride our bicycles. There are three RV campgrounds: (1) *Lower Pines*, sits on the Merced River in the center of Valley. The tents and RVs are jammed pretty close. There are 60 sites. It is open April through October weather permitting. (2) *Upper Pines* is the closest trailhead to paradise. There are 238 sites. A dump station is provided. (So this is where you "lose your load" when you leave the valley.) It is open year-round. (3) *North Pines* **is our favorite**. A trail links to Mirror Lake. There are 80 sites. It is open April through September.

Now here's the deal. There is so much de-

mand for these sites that you have to reserve five-months in advance. A "window" for reservations opens up on the 15th of

each month. The maximum stay is seven days. The best way to start the process is to go to the internet, <http://reservations.nps.gov/> Walk your way through the various screens and you will see site maps and other information. You find a site and check on availability for your dates. If it is open you can proceed. You can also reserve by calling 800-436-7275 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST. The site with detailed camping infor-



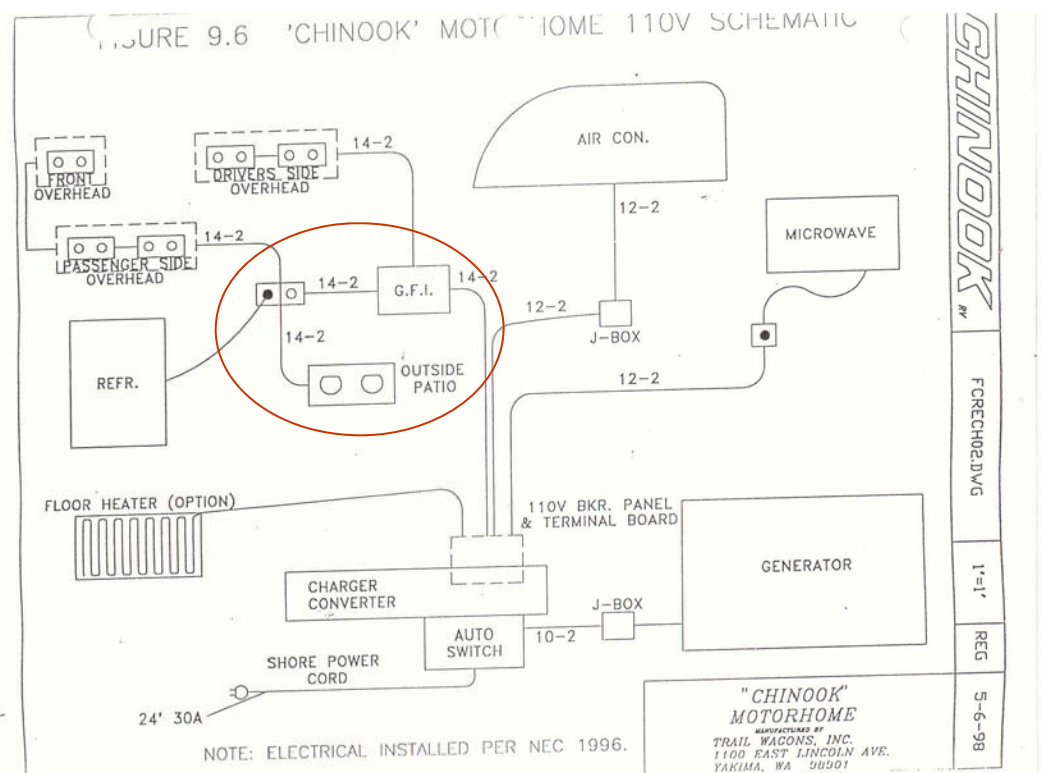
mation is: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm>. Phil Beautrow, Santa Barbara, CA. ('99 Concourse)

# Technical Tips

## Unexplained Electrical Failure !

You're plugged into 110 volts at your site. It is raining outside. Everything seems to be working fine. However, by chance, you notice the refrigerator light is off. Further, the overhead cabinet lights are off. You open the circuit breaker box and check; none are tripped. You go outside, open the vent in back of the refrigerator and check the plug. It is in place....what's wrong? This happened to our brand new '99 Concourse. You may have variations of the theme.

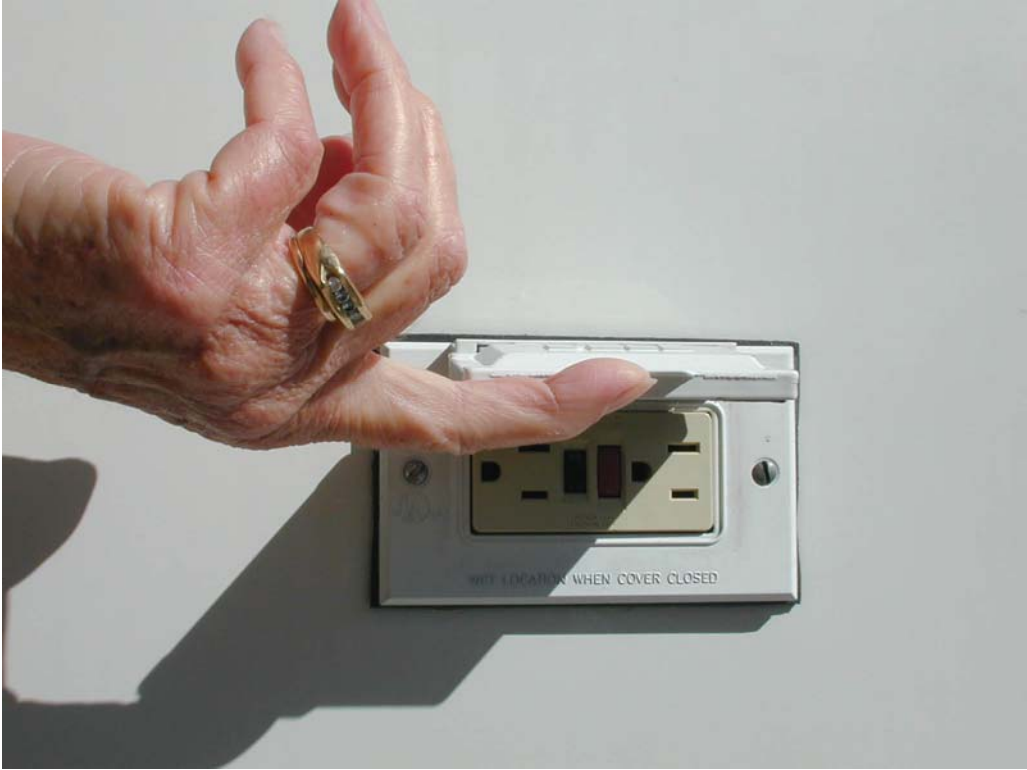
This exact scene unfolded for us and it took an electrician friend to troubleshoot the cause. He examines the electrical diagram and gets a clue to the problem. Look at this "bare bones" diagram that came with our coach. The red circle shows how the GFI controls the outside patio connector and other circuits.



When the waterproofing fails, moisture causes it to trip and shuts off various locations including the refrigerator.

The factory installed unit is a piece of junk! When you pull it out, you will wonder way corners were cut here. Buy a good GFI (BELL brand) with a weatherproof enclosure and spring-loaded lid. Then be sure and seal the edges. It will set you back about \$16 and give you peace of mind... *P. Beautrow*





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## Club Officers—2005/06

Jerry Earley, President  
Carol Skillings, Secretary  
Bert Wall, Treasurer  
Carole "CB" Davis, VP Rallies  
Lena Prentice, VP Membership  
Barry Prentice, Immediate Past President  
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):

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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. The Email address is in the Directory.



We're on the Web:

[www.chinookrvclub.com](http://www.chinookrvclub.com)

