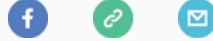




TRAILBLAZER



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! Always open to feedback, email me at cnbreeding52@gmail.com
Nancy Breeding, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sooner or later it had to happen: the siren call to pay more attention to other things in my life. I've decided not to stand for reelection this fall. I've had some really good times doing this, but lately it's felt like I've been out of step with the wishes of the membership, and when that happens it's time to step aside.

I'm looking forward to getting back to just plain old Chinooking, and hanging out with our friends in the Club for no reason other than good fellowship.

Thanks for the chance to contribute to our collective good. Time now to drive on under new leadership!

See you on the road.
Mark



SUMMER RALLY WRAP-UP

West Canada Creek Campground, Poland New York, June 2017
Although we pulled in just after 2:00 pm, the earliest check in time, we found about 4 rigs had already pulled in earlier in the day. Before you know it we had a respectable number of Chinooks in the house. It was hot and humid, so we gathered under the pine trees between the Arnold's and the Ruggiero's for a sit down and some catching up. The gathering broke up around five; some folks went for dinner, some for a swim. (Did I mention it was *hot*?). Small groups reconvened as the evening wore on. A small group of us went for ice cream at the Lil Red Caboose, right on the premises. We enjoyed a lot of good fellowship until the skies abruptly darkened and rain began to fall.

Monday, the first official day of the rally, started out with some pretty heavy rain. During lulls members made their way to the pavilion to clean it up for the festivities. An intrepid team of volunteers made a grocery run, and then we segued into a casual assembly, in the pavilion, out of the rain, as more members arrived. We were happy to welcome new members and first time rally attendees **Dave and Debbie Marks**.



This rally had no official hosts. Based on a member suggestion there was a sign up sheet of the tasks that needed doing; everyone was encouraged to sign up for as whatever job or jobs they felt comfortable doing. Of course, not signing up was an option too: no pressure! Even without thumbscrews, the list filled up. Where there were blank spaces our willing members rose to the task. No one was stressed out, and everything was getting done. The room was in fine shape for the customary meet-and-greet at 5:30.



Tuesday morning there was a club-provided breakfast of choose-your-own omelettes and sausage. After breakfast there was a 90 minute tech roundtable: detailed write-up to appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Following came a quick look at a few coaches. Members had free time in the afternoon while the board of officers met to discuss a lengthy agenda. There was considerable rain for a little while in the afternoon, but nothing continuous. Not a wash-out at all!



Dinner time arrived all too quickly (or not quickly enough: it depends on whether you were enjoying the afternoon off, or if you were a club officer). The pot luck is always a big hit with everyone, and this rally's was no exception. After dinner we played a round of "getting to know you too well", where members had to answer previously printed questions. We have too tighten up the rules on that game, though: only the first few people played it square, answering questions by the luck of the draw. Later players were cherry-picking the questions they wanted to answer.

A lively round of bingo followed. No-one planned on playing bingo, but the campground had quite the professional setup: how could we resist? While the game was in progress the campground owners happened by. When they saw we were playing they offered up a grand prize of a two-night stay for the winner! Congratulations **Charlie and Nancy Breeding** for filling in that Bingo card!

Wednesday morning continued a trend of cooler temperatures. We met for biscuits and gravy in the pavilion. After that folks were largely on their own for the day. It was a bit cold for tubing on the river or even a swim in the pool. Some people were off wandering around the area, and at least one person went fishin' in the crick. At around 4:45 people started to wander over for the cookout (scheduled to start at 5:30). There were hotdogs and hamburgers aplenty, as well as a host of side dishes. We wrapped the day up with a campfire and some great camaraderie.



Thursday morning was there before you knew it. There was a light breakfast. The board met one last time to tie up some loose ends from Tuesday's meeting. We agreed the rally was a success, so much so that we signed up to return to West Canada Creek next summer. This time we'll take advantage of a luau the campground offered to provide!

UPCOMING RALLIES



Branson East Meets West Joint Rally
BRANSON, MO September 25 - 30, 2017

Branson is an Ozark town in southwest Missouri known as a family vacation destination. Its 76 Country Boulevard is famously lined with theaters, which once hosted mostly country music performers but today present diverse entertainment. Also along the strip are the Marvel Cave, the Wild West-style Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner Attraction and Silver Dollar City, an 1800s-themed amusement park with live music.

LOCATION: Branson Lakeside RV Park, 300 South Boxcar Willie Drive, Branson, MO 65616 (located right on the White river, also called Lake Taneycomo - you can Trout fish from the edge of the park)

HOSTS: Jim and Marnie Weidmaier

SITES: 40 sites have been reserved. All are full at this time, but if you would like to come, let Jim know, as they expect some cancellations.

COST: The daily rate for the 5 days of the rally is \$26. If someone wants to come early or stay over the rate is \$35.36 per day, but if you stay 6 days the 7th is free.

RESERVATIONS: All inquiries and reservations should be directed to Jim at jmweid@att.net or [816-262-9638](tel:816-262-9638) to eliminate double booking or confusion. Contact Jim now to reserve your site. The cut-off date for signing up or going on the wait list is going to be July 15.

Check out all that's available in Branson:

<http://www.explorebranson.com/> (Once you've looked over the home page and "Exploring Branson" map, select the "Things to Do" link.)

IMPORTANT

IF you are planning to come before or to stay after the five days of the rally you need to make those arrangements through the campground, not through Jim. Extra days before and after the rally will be at the campground's regular rates. Not sure what sites you would get either. Again, speaking for myself, I'm keeping it simple: arriving on 9/25 and leaving on 9/30 is plenty of Branson for me. But if you need to speak to the campground, it is Branson Lakeside RV Park, 300 South Boxcar Willie Drive, Branson MO 65616. [\(417\) 334-2915](tel:417-334-2915). The name of the person you must speak to is Denise. Contact Info: James Weidmaier 19119 Hwy. 59 Country Club. Mo. 64505 [816-262-9638](tel:816-262-9638) or email him at jmweid@att.net



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, FL32218
Phone: [\(904\) 766-0672](tel:904-766-0672)
Toll Free: [800-782-4323](tel:800-782-4323)

There is no host for Flamingo Lakes. I placed the reservations on behalf of the Rally VP and I will bring the task sign-up sheets that worked really well at West Canada Creek. At present there is no one planning any activities or events.



SUMMER RALLY

DATES: 6/19/18-6/23/18

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.

COST: We are getting a 15% discount so our daily rate for the weekdays is \$30.60. Weekends would be 39.10 daily if you are coming early/staying late.

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

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

NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

From Diane Cremens: I would like to retire as Chair of the Nominating Committee; I have been doing it for way too long and think that someone else could do it much better. This is an elected position. We will be seeking nominations for various club positions, so please consider stepping up and serving, or nominating someone who would be perfect for the position! My email is dscremens@gmail.com. My phone number is [815-985-4612](tel:815-985-4612). Please leave a message and I will call you back promptly. Thank you for your considering serving our club as an officer.

See the descriptions of suggested duties for positions:

[President>](#)

[Secretary>](#)

[VP Rally>](#)

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Why come to a rally?

You've sent in your membership application, and paid your annual dues, but just haven't made it to a rally. Timing's not right, it's nowhere near where you want to go, and you just aren't sure about joining up with other people. Besides, you don't even know anyone there, so why should you go?

Because.....other Chinookers are a friendly bunch of people from all over the US. We love to meet new people who share at least one interest--traveling in a Chinook!

Because.....you can see what other people have done to their rigs, new storage systems, new interior improvements, flooring, upholstery, paint jobs, whatever!

Because.....you can get tips on great places to travel with the Chinook, campgrounds, parks, boondocking, routes, timing and more!

Because.....you can get tech tips, increase your Chinook knowledge base so you can better troubleshoot your vehicle.

Because.....you can enjoy great camaraderie and outstanding food with some terrific people!

So come along, pick out a rally close by, or farther away and use it as a jump off for a memorable trip!

We want to meet you!

CHINOOK ADVENTURES

EXCERPTS FROM A TRAVEL BLOG BY GAYLE WROBLE

ICE STORM OF 2009

These excerpts were taken from a blog I started, to chronicle the start of a new relationship between me and my newly acquired Chinook Concourse RV. I purchased it on Ebay, and flew out to Arizona to drive it home in the winter of 2009. I had some travel and camping experience from family trips, but

never owned or drove any type of motorhome. I arrived home with it the day before the "Ice Storm of 2009" hit Arkansas. As a woman traveling alone, I have to do everything myself, including dump the tanks. **I hope that my experiences will help to illustrate that anyone can do this!**

Sometimes it just takes willingness to step out of your comfort zone and plunge right in! (no pun intended)

The Trip Home With My New RV

It was such a relief to get my new RV home safely. The weather at home in northeast Arkansas had been cold, and it was expected to be below freezing for a few days at least at night, so I moved my car away from the house and backed the RV up the driveway and parked it so it was just a few steps from the back door of the motorhome to the back door of my house. This also allowed me to plug into the outlet on the outside of the house. It wasn't 30 amp, but I had been told that it would be enough to run the heat strip so I could keep the water tank and plumbing from freezing until I could get it winterized. I was tired and there wasn't any reason to unload the few things I had in it until tomorrow. I had to work the next day, so I locked it up and went in the house to rest up from my crazy trip. The weather report was calling for possible severe winter weather, so I set my alarm a little earlier just in case driving to work would be difficult. It proved to be impossible!

[READ THE REST OF THE STORY>](#)



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

Membership Report for the September 2017 newsletter.
We have 82 coaches registered.
We also have 1 associate member.
Members in 29 states.
Covers 13 model years.

New Members:
Ann & Jon Colson #424

I will soon be printing the membership directory for the Branson Rally.
Please review your information on the Membership Directory, and send any corrections, mismatches or updates to me at ChinookCampingClub@gmail.com
The directory can be found in my shared Dropbox folder.
Email me if you need the address.

EZ Member Directory App:

The EZ Member Directory app is based on our e-mail addresses.
I had tried adding additional addresses into the system, but this created a problem with clicking to launch on email programs.
Anyone with multiple addresses, will notice that they have been moved further down the page.
This is accessible within the app and can be edited by you.
Use the app to view your entry and click the crayon at the top of the screen.
We will use the "Info 3" field for additional addresses.

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.

Thank you
Gerry Rutter

DUES ARE DUE IN OCTOBER



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.

ORDER YOUR CHINOOK LOGO ITEMS NOW FOR FALL 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!

CLUB LOGO ITEM PRICING Prices as of March 2017 and are **subject to change**

KC Brushed Cotton Twill Cap – KC8210S – Royal \$9.75
Ladies Pique Polo – BG6500 – Royal/White \$15.75
Mens Pique Polo – BG7500 – Royal/White \$15.75
Ladies T-Shirt – GL200L – Royal/White \$8.75
Mens T-Shirt – GL200 – Royal/White \$8.40
Sweatshirt – GL120 – Royal \$15.60
Fleece Vest – M985 – Royal \$22.50
Hooded Zip Front Sweat – \$22.40
Tote Bag – UC8861 – Royal \$9.95
Add \$2 per size for each size larger than XL

TIPS FROM THE TECH ROUNDTABLE

Terry Arnold discussed steering stabilizers. Exposed springs (Roadmaster) you can see if something is wrong. Enclosed springs (Safe-T-Plus) stay cleaner. Recent experience confirmed high quality customer service from Roadmaster.

Q How many tries to get steering stabilizer adjusted? Do it right and only 1: have steering tires perfectly straight.

After market stabilizers make for a much better ride than Chinooks as originally equipped. Ride can be further helped by heavy duty anti sway stabilizers front and back. Never hurts to periodically make sure the alignment is correct too.

Mor-Ride suspensions have large rubber bushings that will split over time. If the split is under 3 inches, not a concern. More than 3 inches, replace (as per Mor-Ride). Replacing is a big job: involves removing back axle. The alternative is airbags.

Q The house radio back inside the coach has been a known source of automobile battery drainage. Unplug the harness if you need to test this as a source of power loss. Battery disconnects on both engine and cabin is the ultimate solution to phantom battery drainage.

Q Poor performance from over the air TV antenna. AV/Cable black box needs to be set to appropriate input. Also turn on amplifier on Winegard box under cabinet on drivers side: light will go on.

Q about alarm system. Only the person asking the question has an alarm system, so no one was able to help.

Q Is it bad to be continuously plugged in? Terry says it will boil batteries unless after market charger



system (charge wizard) installed. Source for the charger: bestconverter.com. Mark leaves his Chinook plugged in without ill effect, but Mark has AGM batteries. Mark also lives in the north, and Terry lives in the south.

Discussion about battery separators. **Dave Ruggiero** has a Smart Charge 200 amp battery separator, which is a better product than what most of us have.

Terry notes that Ebay is full of battery separators. We'd heard they were no longer available, but it seems that they are.

Q What is the best bike rack? **T. Burgess** has done extensive research. Swagman makes a solid product. Check etrailer.com. Beware of blocking headlights if mounting on front.

Quick n easy wash, discussed at an earlier rally, is a great product! Spray on with a spray bottle, wipe it down with a rag, voila: clean RV!

Q about Good Sam roadside Assistance or AAA RV. Concern that Good Sam would take you only to the nearest service provider, even if they don't offer the service you need. It pays to specify that you need the service to be for an RV.

If you ever need to be towed, the driveshaft must be disconnected. Insist!

CHINOOK EASY EATS

Prep	Cook	Ready In
15 m	55 m	1 h 10 m

Recipe By: Baron Brought to us by **Linda Stamper**

Ingredients

1/2 cup white sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
6 cups fresh blackberries
1/4 cup melted butter
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup melted butter



Directions

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly oil a 9x13-inch baking dish. Whisk 1/2 cup sugar with the cornstarch in a small bowl; set aside.

Place the blackberries into a mixing bowl, and drizzle with 1/4 cup of melted butter. Sprinkle with the cornstarch mixture, and toss to evenly coat. Spread the berries into the prepared baking dish. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, 1 1/2 cup sugar, baking powder, and salt until evenly blended. Stir in the milk, vanilla extract, and 1/4 cup melted butter until combined but still slightly lumpy. Pour the batter over the berries.

Bake in the preheated oven until the berries are tender and the crust is golden brown, 55 minutes to an hour.

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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 **Luanne Dennison, Nita Wilkinson, Evelyn Erb, Ginni Young Schenck,** and **Jan Shaffer** in our thoughts and prayers. And congratulations to Don and Jo Phillips on their 60th anniversary!

CHINOOK CLUB AND TRAVEL 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 from Mark McCluski)

<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](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ChinookRVOwners/info)

<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](http://chinookrvclub.com/images/Parts_and_Service_Listings_Update_Feb_2017.pdf)

[/Parts_and_Service_Listings_Update_Feb_2017.pdf](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



SUMMER RALLY PHOTOS

The [summer 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 **Mark McCluski** for taking the photos, and **Eileen Disbrow** for uploading the pictures. (Above photo is from spring; summer group photo didn't work out.)

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
Mark McCluski

VP, Membership
Gerry Rutter

VP, Rally
T (Tara) Burgess
Judy Boone

Treasurer
Dottie Norris

Secretary & Sunshine
Debbie Person

Newsletter Editor, Website
Coordinator
Nancy Breeding

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