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TRAILBLAZER



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#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello fellow members, It is hard to believe summer will be ending before long. We will once again gather together, this time at the Chincoteague Island KOA in Virginia, October 7-10!

Counting on seeing many of you and having a great time.We missed some of the familiar faces in Vermont, but what a nice rally. Thanks to Cathy Rubin for hosting, (quite a feat for a newbie) and she did an outstanding job. We acquired new member Larry Dolan and met the Mincey's for the first time. Members did a fantastic job welcoming all.

Older news, the changes to the club Bylaws were approved by the membership with over the 65% majority required. Thank you to all who participated in the vote.



It's an old tale, repeated many times over the years, but what can you do to help the club? We know many step up at the rally and assist in the success of these events. But, how else can you help? By serving on the Board. Friends we are not asking much, just that you consider it. Never should we become so complacent and depend on others thinking "they'll do it." Yes, they have and now it is your turn! It is a great way to steer the club into the future, and we have so many talented members. Our Nominating Chairman, Charlie Breeding is waiting to hear from you. Please contact him!

Make sure you get those reservations made for the coming rallies! Linda did a fantastic job with a new line-up for 2020! See you soon! Eileen

## SUMMER RALLY WRAP-UP

Food, crafts, tech share, socials. A good time was had by all!







Thanks to Cathy Rubin and all the Chinookers who helped!







## **UPCOMING RALLIES**

2019-20 UPCOMING RALLIES



October 7-10, 2019 Chincoteague KOA 6742 Maddox Blvd. Chincoteague Island, VA 23336

Chincoteague Island is a serene, yet fun filled, tourist destination. It is Virginia's only resort Island. Chincoteague is the gateway to the Virginia portion of Assateague Island, home of the famous Chincoteague Wild Ponies. Chincoteague offers a relaxed atmosphere and the beauty of unspoiled nature. Rates are \$59/night plus tax (Min 3 nights required for this rate) Deadline for reservations is Aug. 31, 2019. Call 757-336-3111 Ext. 1 for reservations. HOSTS: CCC Board



January 20-23, 2020 Live Oak Landing 229 Pitts Avenue Freeport, FL 32439 For reservations call 877-436-5063 Ask for Kathy

Live Oak Landing is surrounded by beautiful Live Oak trees on the Choctawhatchee River and is just minutes away from scenic Hwy 30A. With its serene and picturesque setting, it is truly a place everyone will enjoy. Located away from the crowds – north of Seaside and east of Destin. **Deadline to reserve a spot – 9/9/2019** 

Host: Nita Wilkinson



April 27-30, 2020 <u>Spring Lake RV Resort</u> 255 Fairview Dr.

Crossville, TN 38571 931-707-1414 Whether you're here to enjoy one of the many local golf courses, the Cumberland County Playhouse or just relax in our tranquil setting, we are sure you will enjoy this little slice of heaven! Deadline to reserve a spot 3/15/2020 HOST NEEDED



June 8-11, 2020 <u>Poncho's Pond</u> 5335 W. Wallace Lane

#### Ludington, MI 49431 888-308-6602 - Erica

The park is situated on 37 grassy acres. Located in the center of the park is a beautiful 3 acre fully stocked pond. With an indoor pool and hot tub, paddle boats, video game room, basketball courts, horse shoe pits, shuffle board courts, volleyball net and fitness center, Poncho Pond surely has something for everyone. Explore and visit beautiful Ludington on Lake Michigan or catch the SS Badger Car Ferry to Manitowac, Wisconsin (yes, you can take your Chinook on the Ferry).

Deadline to reserve a spot 5/1/2020 HOST NEEDED



October 12-15, 2020 <u>Misty Mountain Camp Resort</u> 56 Misty Mountain Road

#### Greenwood, VA

#### For reservations call 888-647-8900 ask for Karen

Misty Mountain Camp Resort offers a delightful, relaxing vacation at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains near historic Charlottesville, Virginia. Their website says Explore nature trails, splash in our pool, sit by the creek, fish in our pond, climb our hills, shoot hoops and spike the volleyball or pitch horseshoes, take a hayride, enjoy live music and dances, shop at the General Store, shoot pool and play video games, relax in solitude or join with new friends – the choice is yours and it's all at Misty Mountain Camp Resort!

Deadline to reserve a spot: 9/15/2020

**HELP WANTED:** 2021 RALLY SITES are in the works. Do you know of a campground or an area you would like to have a Rally? Email the Rally VP with ideas or suggestions and she will search for a possible site. Contact **Linda Henderson** at <u>richlinhen@aol.com</u> or 601/941-6234.

**RESOURCE:** <u>RALLY SITE QUICK CHECKLIST</u> Take this along when you stay at a campground during your travels. Would the campground work for a rally?

**RALLY HOSTS NEEDED:** Please consider hosting an upcoming Rally. From what we have seen in the past, you will have lots of help. Please contact our Rally VP Linda at richlinhen@aol.com or 601-941-6234 if you would be willing to host an upcoming rally.

## TRAVEL ATTRACTIONS

#### Activities Around Chincoteague Area

#### Assateague Lighthouse Climbs:

Days of operation change seasonally, call for the schedule. Climbs are available from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Lighthouse access is free. 757-336-3696

#### **Refuge Trek:**

Also offered by the Chincoteague Natural History Society (CNHA); Schedule varies so contact 757-336-3693 in advance (<u>www.piping-plover.org</u>)

CNHA provides bus transportation up their 7 mile Service Road for visitors wishing to view wildlife. Horses, white-tailed deer, sika elk and a variety of birds await on this road less traveled. \$14 pp.

#### Museum of Chincoteague Island:

See the one and only Misty and her foal Stormy! The museum tells the story of Chincoteague's history, from it's first inhabitants through the boom of the seafood industry and the creation of the fire department. Open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 AM - 5 PM Admission \$4

#### **Chincoteague Pony Centre:**

Gift shop and often view Chincoteague ponies. Check website (Google Chincoteague Pony Center) for pony information. Business hours Mon-Thur-Fri, Sat. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Sun: 11:00 AM – 4:00 pm; 757-336-2776

#### Assateague Island National Seashore:

This park is one of only 10 national seashores in America and best known as the home of the Chincoteague ponies, but there is much else to do and see. Stroll the beach, fish, crab or stop by the visitors center and pay



#### the ponies a visit! <u>Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge</u>:

This 14,000-acre refuge is the gateway to Assateague Island National Seashore and home to the famous Chincoteague ponies. You can hike, bike, fish or kayak. Climb the Assateague Lighthouse. Visit the visitors center to learn more.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** \*Pets are prohibited in the entire Virginia portion of Assateague Island, even in your car. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages nearly all of the land area on the Virginia portion of Assateague Island as <u>Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge</u>.



## CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND KOA RALLY & ANNUAL MEETING October 7-10, 2019 Chincoteague Island, VA – 757-336-3111, Ext. 1

## DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

Gerry has provided us with an "insider" look at Chincoteague Island. For example, you need to be able to communicate with the locals: CHINCOTEAGUE: The CHI in Chincoteague is pronounced the like CHI in Chicago (or in Chinook!) WOODER: We drink "wooder" from a glass ORSTERS: Served on the half shell EGGLE: The national bird (Sorry Philadelphia) WEGATABLES: What you might eat if you are a vegan SOURCASTIC: What you are if you make fun of how we talk You want to visit nearby Assateague Island National



Seashore. Assateague Island is a 37 mile long island along the coasts of Maryland and Virginia. Most of the Maryland district is managed by the National Park Service as Assateague Island National Seashore. America the Beautiful pass accepted.

In addition to the wild ponies, Chincoteague and Assateague are birdwatchers paradise!

\*\*Pets are prohibited in the entire Virginia portion of Assateague Island, even in your vehicle. A shuttle may provide transportation to our members from the KOA to Assateague.

In the KOA campground, kayaks, bikes and golf carts are available for rent. A view of the Assateague Lighthouse is a treat. In the area, local boat tours can be booked of Assateague and surrounding areas.

Don's Seafood will be catering our dinner, but if you are adventurous, head out and try the local treats at the Island Creamery to satisfy your sweet tooth.

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE WITH THE "CHINOOK CAMPING CLUB"

## **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 chinook121@tampabay.rr.com. The club is only as good as the members that contribute! Thanks for all you do!

# LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

#### from Charles Breeding

Our October rally will be here before we know it and it is time to start thinking about officers for next year. Linda Henderson is currently over-committed and will not be able to continue as the Rally VP. She will be greatly missed as she has done a fantastic job lining up rallies through 2020. The other officers are willing to continue to serve but are open to letting someone else have a turn. Got some computer skills? You could even take over doing this newsletter!

Job description summaries are on the web site <u>HERE</u>. All positions come with a lot of help, so don't be afraid to volunteer! We especially need suggestions for Rally VP. If you are willing to take on a position yourself or feel someone is a good candidate for any position, please contact me at <u>cbreeding50@gmail.com</u> or call me at 919-538-1273. Thanks!

Charlie

## **TECHNOLOGY THAT ENHANCES THE RIDE - Part 3**

by Mark McCluski

## Streaming

It doesn't matter if I'm boondocking or in a camp, at some point in the day I'm going to want to watch something. Many campgrounds offer cable. At home we got rid of cable several years ago because it utterly failed to satisfy, and campground cable feels no better. In fact, we often don't bother connecting the cable if the digital antenna can pull in anything: we're happier just to go with PBS and ME TV. Still, its nice to have all your favorites close to hand, and if you have a decent internet signal you can stream anything and everything.

When I'm planning a route I take note of places where I'm likely not to have data coverage. The app that helps me with that is called (drumroll please): **Coverage?** <u>https://www.rvmobileinternet.com/coverage/</u> It just shows what



kind of cellular signal you can expect anywhere on the road. It can be configured to show coverage for any or all of the big four cellular services. Kind of a one trick pony, but it does that trick pretty good.

Video streaming eats up data like nothing else you can do on your phone. Know what your cellular plan supports. Watching at low resolution uses 0.3 GB per hour. Medium (SD) Resolution uses 0.7 GB per hour. High (HD) uses 3 GB per hour. Ultra HD uses 7 GB per hour.

Most unlimited plans will throttle data speed after a certain point of use. Be aware of what that cut-off is and by how much you can expect to be throttled. Every carrier is different and their plans are a continually changing landscape! I was surprised to learn that you can still have a decent streaming experience if you have 3 to 5 mbps. If you only have 1.5 mbps or less you will have problems. Don't know the speed of your data stream? **Ookla** <u>https://www.ookla.com/consumer</u> is just one place to get software to test it.

So let's assume there's a strong data signal. There are apps aplenty to let you stream stuff to watch. If you have cable TV at home your cable company probably has an app that lets you take that service with you on the road. Cord-cutters like me can assemble a bunch of services like Hulu, Prime Video, HBO, and Netflix. (Yes, we watch too much TV). **PBS** has a nice app too, and if you're a paying supporter of PBS the app gives access to a huge back catalog of great programing. <u>https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/</u>. Your local public library may offer some streaming as well, free of charge when you enter your library card number. Our library in Teaneck subscribes to **Kanopy** <u>https://www.kanopy.com</u>. Another commonly found library-connected service is **Hoopla** <u>https://www.hoopladigital.com</u>. Check with your local library to see if they partner with one of these or somebody else.

We used to just plug an iPhone into the HDMI port of the TV in our Chinook. If your cellular plan limits hotspot use (or doesn't allow it at all) it's a good way to go. Or you could just watch on a tablet. Lots of people do.

Some cellular data plans let you use your phone as a hotspot to create your own little WiFi network. Or you can buy a separate hotspot with its own data plan to provide WiFi to other devices. If you have either of those options you can hook up your TV to a gadget like a **Roku**, a **Google Chromecast**, an **Amazon Firestick**, or an **Apple TV**. The gadget uses your hotspot to connect to the internet. For what it's worth, I've experimented with all these devices except for Google Chromecast. A Roku turned out to be the least problematic. Pour me a drink sometime and I'd be happy to elaborate.

You could also connect a streaming device to campground WiFi, but you really shouldn't unless the campground specifically says they offer high speed WiFi strong enough to support streaming. Right now most campground WiFi is only good enough for basic tasks like email and some web browsing. If the WiFi network is weak you will not only have a poor viewing experience, you could be slowing down the network for everyone in the park.

## Music (and Other Audio)

Streaming music on the road is problematic if your Chinook still has its original audio equipment. The good news is the hardware keeps getting better. We're on our second replacement dashboard radio and our first replacement radio in the back. Our first replacements just let us connect an iPhone by means of a USB cable.

Newer radios can do even more: our current dashboard unit works with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Boy, is that nice! Not only does it bring nice big touch screen buttons for music apps like Amazon Music, Apple



Music, Spotify and Pandora, there are similar buttons for podcasts, apps for specific radio stations, and audiobooks. Icing on the cake is Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze right on your dashboard. Oh, and my back up camera shows up there now too: way better resolution than the old screen I had in my visor.

Knowing what kind of unit to put into the Chinook can be daunting. I've had wonderful luck working with **Crutchfield** <u>https://www.crutchfield.com</u> for my RV and home audio. They will spend as much time as you like with you either on the phone or internet chat. They are knowledgable and will really listen to what your needs are. I'm thinking about talking to them about a dashboard cam.

One other way we play music in the back is through the TV. Remember that Roku device we use? There are apps available that play Amazon Music, Pandora, Spotify, Sirius XM, Tune-In, iHeart Radio and an abundance of channels with narrower focus (oldies, opera, country, even some old time radio show stations).

Yes, it's nice to enjoy the great outdoors, and reading is still a wonderful thing. If you're traveling for an extended period of time its nice to have options though.

## YOUR DUES will be due on October 1, 2019 for the next year

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



## **ORDER YOUR CHINOOK LOGO ITEMS**



Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt not shown but now available!

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 Tote Bag (UC8861) - Royal

Our items are ordered through <u>www.stitchamerica.com</u>. 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 June 2018 and are always subject to slight increases. Sizes over XL, such as 2XL are charged \$2 additional per size increase.

Polos - \$16 T-shirts - \$8.95 Crew Neck Sweatshirt - \$15.60 Hooded, Zip Front Sweatshirt - \$24.10 Fleece Vest - \$22.95 Ball Cap - \$10.10 Tote Bag - \$10.40

## CHINOOK EASY EATS-HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE COOKBOOK?

The cookbook is located under files on the Facebook site. If you have a recipe you want added email it to <u>sba@bellsouth.net</u> with Chinook Camping Club Cookbook in the subject line and I will add it. Thanks! Sally Arnold



## **SUNSHINE UPDATES**

Your Chinook family cares about all of its members. Please let Debbie Person know if any one of our members is in the hospital so a card can be sent! Contact **Debbie Person** via Facebook, **email** <u>debper68@att.net</u> or call 843-226-0531.



## CHINOOK CLUB COMMUNICATION

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

#### **Chinook Facebook groups:**

Chinook Camping Club (closed members only group, request membership) <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups</u> /<u>ChinookCampingClub/</u> Web site: Chinook Camping Club <u>http://chinookrvclub.com/chinookeastclub.html</u>

**Chinook Forums:** these are a gold mine for those who work on their own rigs. The members on here can answer about any question you have. Chinook RV Owners Yahoo group <u>see instructions here on how to join</u> <u>https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ChinookRVOwners/info</u> Chinook Forum http://www.chinookrvforum.com/

**Photos from rallies**: See the new information at the bottom of the newsletter.

Parts suppliers list: <a href="http://chinookrvclub.com/images/Parts">http://chinookrvclub.com/images/Parts</a> and Service Listings Update Feb 2017.pdf Travel Blog Spot: set up by Sally Arnold to share information on campgrounds <a href="http://chinooktravel.blogspot.com/">http://chinooktravel.blogspot.com/</a> Dropbox for Chinook Club: contains many information documents and instructions. <a href="http://goo.gl/8kcKHU">http://goo.gl/8kcKHU</a>

**RESOURCE:** <u>CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</u> Includes the link to the parts listing, and additional online resources.



Do you have resources you consult for trips, maintenance and repair, general RV fun? Let us know! Send it to editor at <a href="mailto:combreading52@gmail.com">combreading52@gmail.com</a>



#### **SUMMER RALLY PHOTOS**

**Gerry Rutter** has kindly undertaken the task of moving the photos to the Chinook Club's Google Drive. A round of applause for what was a daunting task to download and move the photos from many years of rallies!

Instructions for access: go to this link: <u>https://goo.gl/8kcKHU</u>

The index with the links is CHINOOK RALLY PHOTOS. Open the file and hover over the link. A short link opens, click on it. If you want to save a photo, right click and choose save photo. President

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

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