

The Chandler Report 2005 & 2006



2006 welcomed the birth of Cory Tate Chandler!

Special events in our family's life

May 2005 purchased our first travel trailer

November 2005 spent Thanksgiving with the kids

December 2005 Christmas with Mom & Dad in Oceanside

June 2006 six week trip & our first family vacation with Sean & Cheri

October 15th 2006 the birth of our grandson, Cory Tate Chandler

Happy holidays from our house to yours!

I promised myself I would not miss another year's Christmas letter. I started early, October 20th & I am still writing November 28th, so it's looking good for getting this out.

As to 2005, we made a few trips early in the year, which included Washington, Montana & Arizona. Then in April we bought a Komfort travel trailer. As Michael was having a few medical problems we did not head out until September & I am happy to

say the medical problems are all under control now.

Venturing out in the trailer took us as close as Fort Bragg & as far away as Washington & Montana. More on that follows.



Our 2005 Travels

In October 2004 we had a visit from long time Grass Valley days' friends, Robert & Kathy Chrestensen which was too short. When we realized retirement means you can just go, off we went to see them in February.

We headed north to Seattle. First it was over to Crater Lake where we actually "saw it," then a stop in Bend, Oregon to see Linda Burns, the FD's former secretary. Next stop was Port Orchard, Washington to see my sister Janet & husband Bert. A ferry ride took us over to Seattle for a stop, of course, at the original Starbucks at Pikes Market! Next visit was to see Aunt Lola & cousins, Jeanne & George, following

with a stop in Edmonds to see Robert & Kathy.

We decided to do the Olympic Peninsula heading home & were quite surprised to find snow. We stopped to see where Lewis & Clark stayed ... boy, they were a tough bunch ... walked Cannon Beach in Oregon, then over to see cousin Sheri in Roseburg.

March found us off to Montana as Scott Waldie was having a book signing in Twin Bridges for *Travers Corners the Final Chapters*. We just couldn't miss that!



Bo hangs out in his condo while Sugar Bear is ready for shopping at Camping World!



Bud, Michael & Sugar Bear in Patagonia, Arizona that is!

Continuing with 2005

April found us heading to Arizona for a visit with Michael's cousin Bud Holman in Nogales. We also stopped in to see Cal & Liz Holman in Scottsdale, then drove up to Flagstaff.

Sugar Bear was on meds so we opted out of staying at the Grand Canyon with Tom & Claudia Moore & instead drove in to spend the day with them. We completed the circle via California by stopping in Oceanside for a visit with Mom & Dad.

Word reached us in May that Michael's high school in El Cerrito, California was being torn down so off we went for one last look, along with high school buddy, Mike LaPonte & his wife Kathy.

The beginning of September we were off for our first trailer adventure heading again to

Oceanside for Mom's birthday.

Later in the month we went to Fort Bragg with trailer in tow. One reason was for Michael to meet one of his woodworking idols, James Krenov.

October found the trailer heading to Monterey & Laguna Seca Raceway where the Minis had their turn around the track. Sadly, we didn't take our Moke & Michael so wished we had it along!

The beginning of November it was a trip to Calistoga "just cause" & later off to Colorado for Thanksgiving with Sean & Cheri, heading home via Montana & a visit with Scott Waldie. I should inform you that the weather there can change dramatically at a moments notice! And no one slows down on icy freeways!

Christmas, once again, was spent in Oceanside with Mom & Dad.

On to the 2006 travels

In December we had arrived to Mom in the hospital so we were in Oceanside part of January too. Then Michael had some surgery in April with Mom doing the same a few days later, which meant part of April & May were spent at the beach. We decided it was a real hardship being out of the snow!

The end of June we packed up the trailer & headed out once again traveling first to Valley, Washington north of Spokane. We were on the way to my school friends' wedding in Troy, Montana & thought we would stop in Valley to see my cousin Stan & his wife Sandy.

Stan & Sandy have a beautiful place complete with a good size lake which Stan rowed us across so we could hike on the other side. The area around Valley is just incredible with green valleys & plenty of small lakes. I can see why they love it there.

Sugar Bear, who enjoys meeting Vets in other areas, tried out Chewelah & wasn't disappointed. Neither were we when the cheat seed in her ear was removed for a pittance compared to California!

From Valley we drove a few hours east through Sandpoint, Idaho to Troy which is on the Kootenai River. It was very strange to be amid such high mountain peaks & have such HOT temps! We stayed at a campground on the river, enjoyed the wedding & headed for Missoula.



November 2005 - The Chandler's at Garden of the Gods

More 2006



3 Bears at Stan & Sandy's



Yippee I get to fish!!!

Me out front ... as usual ... on the Madison

While in Missoula we drove down to Darby. You may remember one of our most favorite books is Travers Corners. It turns out that Darby was the model town for TC. It's a tiny town with quaint little shops & is situated on the Bitterroot River. Next we were off for a month in Ennis.

Sadly, our dear friend and author, Scott Waldie, of the Travers Trilogy passed away May 25th. We were happy to be near his home in Sheridan to help his wife Jane with his Celebration of Life that was held on the Woodson Ranch, along the Ruby River, that Scott loved so much.

We had such a good time in Ennis & met some super people. After a week I was ready to come home, sell the house & go full time RVing! Michael continues to talk me out of that one!

As you might have guessed there was some fishing involved & yours truly learned how to row a pontoon boat ... it's a good thing I work out with weights! Since we were there for July 4th we were able to do the BIG events in Ennis, the rodeo & parade.



Towards the end of our stay, we moved over to West Yellowstone to meet up with Sean & Cheri. This was our first family vacation together. We did all the touristy things but most of all got to introduce Sean to fly fishing! I can assure you he is totally outfitted!

We showed them all of our regular haunts, toured Yellowstone Park, visited Livingston, Bozeman & Island Park, Idaho where Cheri got to see the "desired" moose. One, which I will add, Sugie & I almost ran into!

Next year we hope to do another family trip staying in Ennis & fishing the Madison & probably the Ruby. I'm thinking Sean might like to learn that rowing technique, it's the best way to get to those fish.

Too soon, it was time to head for home but we weren't there long as it was time for the September birthday run to Oceanside for Mom's 90th & Michael's 61st ... oh my!



October 2006 & our BIG news!!!

A few day after returning, I got a phone call from Sean who promptly asked me if I was sitting down. It appears that all the while they were with us in West Yellowstone they were waiting to hear if they had been chosen to be adoptive parents. His "sit down Mom" news ... the birth mother had decided on Sean & Cheri!

The birth mother had not found prospective parents she liked & a mutual friend called the kids. The baby boy was due October 28th & they were busy trying to get all the paperwork & required classes done in short time. Low & behold little Cory Tate Chandler came a callin' October 15th weighing in at 7 lbs 6 oz.

Unfortunately, one background check was not sent back & to make a very long story short, they did not get to bring Cory home until the evening of the 26th, he had to go stay with a "cradle mom." The kids knew one that lived close by & she was able to request duty. That made it super for them as they were able to spend more time with Cory.

Saturday morning the 28th, Cory appeared to have a problem with his eye so it was off to Kaiser Clinic. Thanks to an observant nurse who noticed something wrong & put a monitor on Cory which found he was not getting enough oxygen. The ambulance was called & off he went to Children's Hospital.

Cory is missing one of his pulmonary arteries & a valve. They put in a shunt to help him out for now & he will undergo more surgery at about 6 months to give him an artery & valve. More surgeries will be needed as he grows but he seems to be a fighter & as you might guess, Grammie thinks he's cute as a button! We made a trip to Denver to meet Cory & we will return before his next surgery to have a bit of "at home" enjoyment before more hospital time. This will be around April but will depend on his growth.

Though Cory still has his feeding tube, he got to go home the day before Thanksgiving. Sean & Cheri have taken instruction on care & changing the tube. Sean called to say he's had his first visit to the pediatrician & he is gaining weight & doing well.

On the home front, we still aren't used to the fact that Michael is retired & it feels like any day vacation will be over. With so many projects to do & places to go, it's hard to believe there was ever time for work. The time flies by and Christmas always seems to arrive in a blink. To think, Sean turned 37 this year!!! The Mini Moke Registry is still going & I will be entering the 25th year of doing the newsletter. Even though I say it's time to stop, I haven't done it yet.

And so goes the Chandler Report. We do hope the years continue to be kind to you & yours & we wish you all the best!

The Chandler's
Michael, Sherry, Sugar Bear & Bo

