

#### Add ChickenStock Music Festival to Your Plans

STACEY QUIMBY, RV2AK FOUNDER & MAIN ADMIN

For one weekend every June in the tiny town of Chicken, Alaska (population 12) a music festival called ChickenStock takes over and if you love country bluegrass/folk music it is an event you should not miss. There are so many special things about ChickenStock but I think one of the main reasons why people return year after year is because you get lost in the music. As one of the band leaders said this year... "There are no cellphones and screens to distract you from the music." You are forced to unplug and feel the beat and next thing you know you are up and dancing like you are a teenager again.

As an RVer ChickenStock is an easy event to attend especially if you are proficient at boondocking. However here are some tips I would like to give to make your stay more enjoyable and to also give you a better idea on what to expect and of how it all works.



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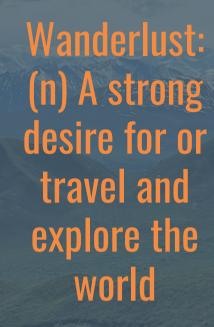
First tip: Like the <u>ChickenStock Music Festival Page</u> on Facebook. That is where they make all the announcements on when tickets will go on sale (which is around the New Year). Also know tickets sellout FAST! This year tickets were gone within hours of going on sale to the public. You see the previous year attendees get first dibs on tickets, so by the time tickets go on sale to the public tickets are extremely limited. Organizers cap the festival at around 1500 attendees because that is about what the town can handle. So act fast! Tickets and official information can be found at www.chickenstockmusicfest.com.

Second tip is plan to arrive early! The festival is in full swing from noon on Friday and runs thru Saturday night. To arrive early (before Thursday) you must reserve camping with Chicken Gold Camp in advance. You are permitted to come in anytime Thursday morning after 11am without reservations but you will have to pay \$20 for Thursday night. Friday and Saturday night is free camping with your festival tickets. We did this this year and it worked out perfectly. We actually came in on Wednesday, paid 2 nights for camping and used Thursday to explore Chicken before the festivities began.

Third tip bring extra cash to bribe the Parking Nazi. Yes, thats her name and she even has the upper lip stash to prove it. Flashing some extra greenbacks may help your parking situation because parking is TIGHT! Don't expect room between your slides and definitely don't expect a full patio space without shelling our some extra dough. This year Lisa (the Parking Nazi) parked 178 RV's on the festival grounds which is no small task. So yes plan to get to know your neighbors very intimately. Oh and one more word of wise... bring your earplugs. The "Panty Cannon" goes off from the ChickenStock Creek Saloon at all hours of the night.







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MAKE STORIES, NOT STOPS

Forth tip is to arrive completely prepared to boondock without services for the duration of your stay. There are no sewer dumps or fresh water fillups in Chicken. All services must be done in Tok or Dawson City prior to arrival and after departure. It is also pack in pack out for trash services. But while in Chicken know you have some options to eat out. ChickenStock always brings in several food trucks to keep you fed and happy as well as the Cafe across the street over at Downtown Chicken and the Chicken Creek Cafe. There is also no cell signal in Chicken but with Starlink and Hughes.net all the local businesses and vendors at ChickenStock do have wifi therefore your plastic will work while in town. Finally for those who enjoy adult beverages the festival brings in local brew and seltzers from Brewery's to enjoy as well as a full bar across the street at the Chicken Creek Saloon.

I will say ChickenStock is one of the most people friendly, kid friendly, and dog friendly events in Alaska. For one weekend we all come together as family and show our true Alaskan spirit and this is why we will keep going back. Next year we hope to host a RV2AK Meetup during the event so be sure to watch for more information in our RV2AK FB Group Page as we get closer to ChickenStock 2024 for more information.



Finally, find the best Chicken outfits and tutu's you can find and prepare to have the time of your life at your first ChickenStock! I promise you it will be one heck of a clucking good time.

UNOFFICIAL CHICKENSTOCK SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Merchandise Tent Opens
Food Trucks Open
1pm the Bands begin to play
50/50 Peep Drop Fundraiser goes on sale
7ish The Chicken Dance
Midnigh-ish music ends for the night.

#### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Free Tie Dye Shirt Making Activity
The 5k Fun Run
11:30am the Bands begin to play
3ish The Peep Drop 50/50 Fundraiser
The Chicken Dance
1am-ish the music ends.







CHICKENSTOCKMUSICFESTIVAL



Another year and another great RVing to Alaska Rendezvous is in the books!
This year our RVing to Alaska members came together at the Tolsona Wilderness Campground for a week of fun, food and friendship in the middle of the famous Copper River Basin from July 9th through the 13th, 2023!

This year we parked 54 RV's and had 1 Yurt rented with a total of 109 attendees, 7 of which were kids. Over the 4-day event we had a full catered meal from Patriot BBQ and a live band to get the party started on arrival day. We had 2 potlucks throughout the week, a guided group hike to the Tolsona Mud Volcano. We had nightly happy hours and campfires as well as a game night and we even showed a movie under the Sun with the popcorn machine popping all night. During the day folks could do as much or as little as they liked. We offered off-site excursions through Copper River Guides in Copper Center with 1/2 day Fishing trips, whitewater rafting and a scenic float. We also had a RV Home Show where we toured our fellow members RV's along with a make and take painting class where we painted the Big Dipper over an Alaskan forest. To say we had fun was an understatement.

As for the campground, it was the perfect setting for our group and we are very excited to say we will be back! So mark your calendars for July 21-25, 2024 for our 4th Annual Rendezvous at the River.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS
FOR SUPPORTING THE
2023 RVING TO ALASKA RENDEZVOUS AT THE RIVER RALLY:

The
BORN

THE
BORN

ALASKA HORSE

ALASKA HORSE

ALASKA HORSE

ALASKA HORSE

AK

OSnapPad\*

TRIVLYNX

## TO LEARN MORE VISIT: www.rvingtoalaska.com/rally





# WHAT IS IN THE NAME OF CHICKEN, AK? Chicken was settled by gold miners in the late 19th century. In 1902

Chicken was settled by gold miners in the late 19th century. In 1902 when the local post office was established, it was required to establish a community name. Due to the large number of ptarmigan in the area (Alaska's now State bird), ptarmigan was suggested as the official town name but because no one knew how to spell ptarmigan, "Chicken" was used instead.

#### VISIT THE PEDRO DREDGE

Have you wanted to get up and close with a gold dredge? Only a few are available to tour in the North and the Pedro Dredge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is easy to access while visiting Chicken. Located at the Chicken Gold Camp and Outpost. Tours are now offered daily throughout the summer season.

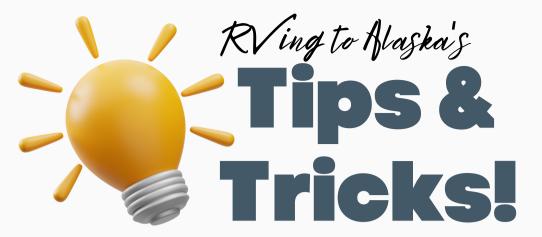
For more information visit Chicken Gold Camp & Outpost. www.chickengold.com

#### **Public Goldpanning Area**



Chicken today is still an active mining town and is the outpost for the 40 Mile mining district. If exploring the dirt trails outside of town be respectful of private property and mining claims. The only public gold panning recreation site in the area can be found at Jack Wade Creek which runs along the Taylor Highway a few miles north of Chicken, Alaska.

SIDE NOTE: Chicken is easily visited when driving the Top of the World Highway between Dawson City Yukon and Tok Alaska. Note the Alaska/Yukon border crossing north of Chicken is season and operates on limited hours, so plan ahead and know if the border is open or not or you will have a large detour if planning to cross the border and the border is closed.





#### **Keeping Tabs on Wildland Fires**

MADISON PRUIT, RV2AK SENIOR MODERATOR

While we hope that we won't see a lot of wildfires, you've got to realize that northern Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon are heavily forested. This time of year they start getting thunderstorms and lightening can spark a wildfire.

The folks up north are pretty good at managing those wildfires, but they sometimes occur close to one of the main roads causing a temporary closing of the road. So it's a pretty good idea to carry apps which will make it easy to monitor wildfires and road closures.

These are the apps that I use. Additionally the app, WeatherBug, is pretty good at following fires. The main apps are for following the road closures and fires are "511 Alaska", "BCHighways", "511 Alberta", "511 Yukon", "BC Wildfire", "Wildfire", and "FWAC". You should be able to download them from both the Apple Store as well as the Android Store.





#### **BLUE PLAN**









- ✓ Ideal for RVs, Truckers, or Rural Home
- ✓ North America Coverage (Canada, USA, Mexico)







GOOD EATS: TOK, ALASKA

# STACEY'S PICK Fast Eddy's



#### FAST EDDY'S

It's no secret that when you enter or exit Alaska a stop at <u>Fast Eddy's Restaurant</u> in Tok is a must! Located at mile 1313 of the Alaska Highway, it is the perfect place to stop, rest and have a meal before continuing down the highway. It is one of the first or last restaurants, depending on which direction you are traveling, for hundreds of miles between Haines Junction and Tok. The atmosphere is nothing fancy, the food not too expensive, and its just plain ole good homestyle cooking!

Honestly visiting here will give you a good representation on what to expect at most Alaskan local eateries... especially when not in a heavy tourist area! Fast Eddy's is famous for their salad bar, pizza, burgers and for me the fried mushrooms are the bomb! Below are a few pictures taken over the years as we always make our obligatory stop while in the Tok area.



# MORE FLAME LESS SMOKE

**SHOP MORE SAVE MORE** 

FLASH SALE \$20 OFF



#### THE SOURDOUGH CAFE

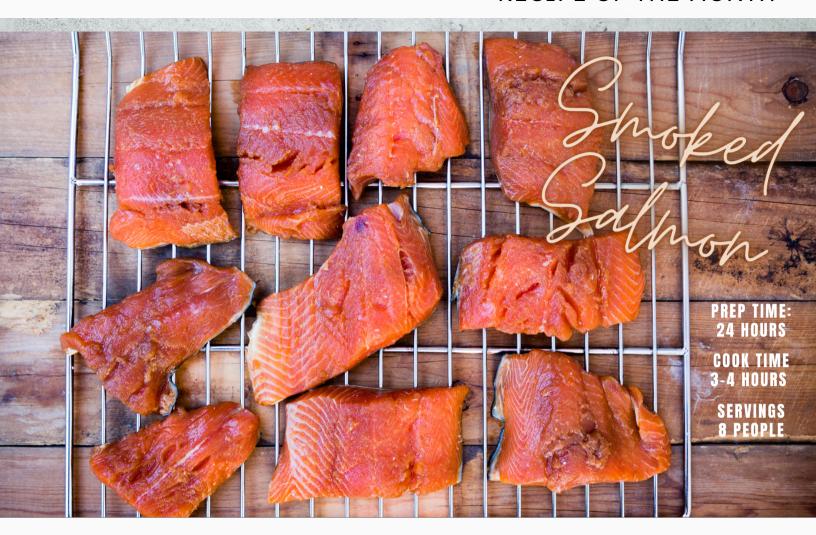




The Sourdough Cafe is conveniently located at the Sourdough Campground just one mile south on the Tok Cutoff. Breakfast is served daily 7am to 10am and lunch and dinner is available from 11am to 7pm, Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

A full menu can be found at <a href="https://www.sourdoughcampground.com/sourdough-cafe">www.sourdoughcampground.com/sourdough-cafe</a>

If you are a campground guest be sure to participate in the famous pancake toss each evening at the pavilion as you may be one of the lucky winners where breakfast is FREE. But if you are like us and are a BIG LOSER don't worry the food is worth paying for. This will all make sense if you participate so be sure to show up. Finally be sure to tell them RVing to Alaska sent you.



INGREDIENTS
CURING LIQUID:
2-3 LBS SALMON FILETS
1 CUP MAPLE SYRUP
1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR
1/3 CUP KOSHER SALT
ZEST OF ORANGE

MAPLE ORANGE GLAZE: 1/2 CUP MAPLE SYRUP 1/4 CUP ORANGE JUICE

MATERIALS

1 BAKING DISH

1 SMALL BOWL

1 COOKING RACK

1 COOKING SHEET

1 BASTING BRUSH

SMOKER

#### Instructions:

- 1.IN A GLASS BAKING DISH, COMBINE ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE CURING LIQUID AND STIR UNTIL THE SALT IS DISSOLVED. GENTLY SUBMERGE YOUR SALMON PORTIONS IN THE CURRING LIQUID, COVER, AND REFRIGERATE FOR 8-12 HOURS.IF FILETS ARE THIN, 8 HOURS SHOULD BE ENOUGH. THICKER FILETS WILL TAKE 12 HOURS.
- 2. REMOVE THE SALMON FROM THE CURRING LIQUID AND TRANSFER TO A COOKING RACK POSITIONED OVER A COOKING SHEET. PLACE THE SALMON IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR 8 HOURS, OR OVERNIGHT TO DEVELOP A PELLICLE.
- 3.IN A SMALL BOWL, COMBINE THE MAPLE SYRUP AND ORANGE JUICE AND SET ASIDE.
- 4. PREHEAT YOUR SMOKER TO 165-170 DEGREES F. PLACE THE SALMON ON THE GRATES SKIN SIDE DOWN AND SMOKE FOR 3-4 HOURS, OR UNTIL THE INTERNAL TEMPERATURE OF THE SALMON REACHES 145 DEGREES F. BRUSH YOUR SALMON WITH THE MAPLE/ORANGE JUICE GLAZE EVERY HOUR WHILE SMOKING.
- 5. HOT SMOKED SALMON CAN BE SERVED WARM OR COLD. SIMPLY FLAKE AND EAT.

THIS RECIPE IS STRAIGHT FROM GARY'S COLLECTION OF FAVORITE RECIPES TO MAKE WITH OUR FRESH CAUGHT OR FROZEN SALMON.

# MEET THE RV2AKTEAM



Gary is our lead Admin's husband and he is the one that who we would call the CEOE, Chief Engineer of EVERYTHING! He keeps us moving with all our maintenance needs with our fleet of fun as well as finds some of the amazing recipes we share as he is the cook in the family.

Gary's first experience of Alaska was when the two of them took a cruise to Alaska with his entire family. Four cruises to Alaska later was when they finally made the decision to RV to Alaska and the rest is history. If you ask Gary what he loves most about Alaska he will tell you the mountains and the Sea. Not many places in the world can you have towering mountains come crashing straight down to the sea. But in Alaska that is the norm.

Gary is the one that is most recognized when we are out and about due to our YouTube Channel because he is the face of our videos as Stacey is usually behind the camera shooting the scene. It's not uncommon to hear the familiar "Hi Gary" from a member while we are out enjoying Alaska. So if you see us about be sure to say hello.

Besides being the CEOE of RVing to Alaska, Gary enjoys tinkering around our homestead during the summer months or out riding his snowmachine in the winter. Oh and he LOVES bourbon. Can't forget the bourbon.

If you are interested in joining our awesome team of volunteers please reach out to us at support@rvingtoalaska.com.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I want to apologize as we missed the deadline of sending out a newsletter in July. It became very evident that a monthly newsletter in the height of summer was not achievable on our end with summer activities and our annual RVing to Alaska Rally event.

It has been decided that we will produce our newsletter on a bimonthly schedule to allow more time to bring you quality content over the year. This is more achievable and can still bring you great planning content for a future trip to Alaska.

With this we have included July events that have since come and gone in the last month. We felt they were still notable to share as you may want to add them to your plans in the future.

Again I apologize for our tardiness.

We thank you for your

understanding.

Sincerely,



# 4TH OF JULY & MT MARATHON RACE JULY 1-4, 2023 SEWARD. AK

Seward's Mount Marathon Race is regarded as one of the hardest short-distance mountain races in the world. It is the highlight of the 4th of July activities that can be found in Seward, Alaska. From festive floats in the yearly parade on Fourth Avenue to the midnight fireworks, there is something for everyone in Seward over the fourth of July!

#### 4TH OF JULY CAR LAUNCH JULY 4, 2023 GLACIERVIEW

Arnie's 4th of July in Glacier View is a unique and entertaining celebration. This is the home of the famous launching cars. Come on out and celebrate Independence Day with this one-of-a-kind celebration.

This is a day of Freedom, Family, Fun, Faith, and Friends. Food will NOT be provided with your entry ticket, however, there will be vendors and food trucks available for purchasing food.

#### HOMER PEONY CELEBRATION JULY 7-30, 2023 HOMER, AK

Come July, Homer, Alaska, comes alive with beautiful and fragrant peonies during the annual Homer Peony Celebration. Homer, dubbed "The City of Peonies," boasts 25 peony farms with ideal growing conditions that produce larger and more vibrant flowers. Visitors worldwide come to witness the stunning blooms at their peak and enjoy farm tours, art classes, gallery exhibitions, workshops, and self-guided tours.

#### GIRDWOOD FOREST FAIR JULY 7-9, 2023 GIRDWOOD

The Girdwood Forest Fair is a family fair featuring Alaskan artists, exotic foods and entertainers from all over Alaska, that has become an annual event in the resort town of Girdwood, Alaska located 36 miles south of Anchorage. Not pet friendly, dogs not allowed.

#### RV2AK RENDEZVOUS AT THE RIVER JULY 9-13, 2023 GLENNALLEN, AK

Join us for our first member meetup of the 2023 Season. JUNE 22nd in our little hometown of Houston at The Houston Lodge. This is located in the MatSu Valley, a half hour north of Wasilla or an hour south of Talkeetna. We will be holding similar meetups throughout the summer so stay tuned for future announcements for more meetups. Time: 5pm to 8pm. Location: 16966 W Parks Highway, Houston, AK.

### GOLDEN DAYS JULY 15, 2023 FAIRBANKS

Since 1952 Fairbanks has celebrated its founding with a series of activities in July known as Golden Days. Golden Days boasts exciting events for all ages, including the biggest parade in Alaska, a street fair, and a rubber duckie race along the Chena river among many other fun activities.

# TENANA VALLEY STATE FAIR JULY 28-AUG 6, 2023 FAIRBANKS

This annual fair is a community gathering point featuring family fun for all, including livestock, games, rides, an amusement park, horse shows, art and crafts, competitive exhibits, quilt shows, giant cabbages, contests and special events, and two outdoor stages with free entertainment daily. You will also enjoy a spectacular fireworks display to close out our last day of the fair!!!

#### ALYESKA BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL AUG 12-13 GIRDWOOD

JAugust in Alaska means there's still plenty of summer left. One of the best ways to get outside and spend time picking blueberries, celebrating blueberries and being surrounded by like-minded blueberry enthusiasts in the Chugach Mountains! This event offers vendors, live music, pie-eating contest, kid zone, and of course, berry picking! Please leave your dog at home. Location: Alyeska Day Lodge Base Area.

#### GOLD RUSH DAYS AUG 2-6 VALDEZ, AZ

The Valdez Gold Rush Days are an annual 5-day celebration honoring the past, present, and future of Valdez, Alaska. It is hosted by a non-profit organization of local volunteers. Every year money is donated to a variety of local charities and organizations, especially to those focused on children and the future of Valdez.

#### SALMONFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL AUG 4-6, 2023 NINILCHIK, AK

This 3-day extravaganza includes 60+ bands, four stages including the new ARCHES Amphitheater, a daily children's program, and over a hundred vendors showcasing Alaska's top food, art, and brews. The festival's salmon roots thrive along the 'Salmon Causeway' where educators, scientists and activists offer opportunities to learn, engage and take action to protect wild salmon and the habitat on which the iconic species depends for its survival.

#### KENAI PENISULA FAIR AUG 11-13, 2023 NINILCHIK, AK

Connecting the Greater Kenai Peninsula ~ providing a fun-filled, entertaining, educational and safe environment for the community to come together in part or in whole by means of the Kenai Peninsula Fair and other community events.

# SEWARD SALMON DERBY AUG 18-SEPT 4, 2023 SEWARD

The Seward Silver Salmon Derby is a long-time family favorite for Alaskans and visitors alike. The annual competition brings anglers to Resurrection Bay each August in a bid to bring in the largest silver salmon. There are 13 prizes for catching a tagged fish including \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000. There are seven chances to win \$1,000. There are also three sponsored tags that will grow in value each year the tag is not caught.

#### ALASKA STATE FAIR AUG 18 - SEPT 4, 2023 PALMER

Nestled in the heart of the Chugach Mountains, in the fertile Matanuska-Susitna Valley, the Alaska State Fairgrounds are just an hour north of Anchorage, Each fall, the State Fair provides the perfect setting for Alaska's last blast of summer, and is a showcase of Alaska's uniqueness and beauty and home of an abundance of diverse vendors, food to please every palate, rides, concerts. acrobats. animals. exceptional educational exhibits, recordsetting giant vegetables and beautiful flower gardens..

#### HOUSTON FOUNDERS DAY AUG 19, 2023 HOUSTON, AK

The tiny town of Houston triples its population (all the way up to 6,000!) during this one-day family-friendly blowout on the third Saturday in August. And the best part is that everything's free! Kids' games and bouncy rooms, dunk tanks, fishing ponds, slides, and a BBQ...it's all covered by the folks of Houston. Location: Mile 57.5 Parks Highway, Houston, AK.

#### ALYESKA CLIMBATHON SEPT 9, 2023 GIRDWOOD, AK

The Alyeska Climbathon is a multilap, all day event held on the North Face Hiking Trail at Alyeska Ski Resort. Participants ascend the approximately 2.5 mile hiking trail that gains 2,000 vertical feet from the Hotel Alyeska to the top terminal of the Alyeska Aerial Tram. Participants descend the tram and repeat over and over. Over the course of 10 hours, participants lap the trail as many times as physically possible. It is a non timed event.

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More info coming soon at: www.RV2AKrally.com









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