

# HTC Newsletter

Issue 45 Volume 1 January 2018



Hello to all HTC members,

Hope everyone is well and had a great holiday season. It's hard to believe 2017 is now history. Time seems to go by so fast anymore. I hope 2018 will be great for everyone. Karen and I are staying home in Illinois this winter. We have obligations that will keep us here. Hopefully we can do some traveling after the 2018 rally.

Speaking of the rally I hope everyone is making their plans to attend. Bill and Barb will be our wagon masters and are working hard to make this rally a great time for all who come. The rally will be September 11th - September 15th at White River Campground. The campground is located at 11299 E. 234th St. in Cicero, Indiana. Merle Young and Evelyn Albertson live close by and plan on attending, and will be helping Bill and Barb with the planning. I talked with Evelyn and she said this will be a more simple rally held in a campground. The campground has a lake and there is a river running along the campground, so bring your kayaks and fishing poles. Each campground site has a fire ring.

Evelyn is trying to arrange pontoon boat rides, but not sure yet. Planning and work on the activities are still in the early stages. I'm sure you will not be disappointed. Start making your plans now. Bring a friend or (new member) and lets have some fun.

That's all for now. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the rally.

Safe travels,

Mark

## A Note from Roland

The Mesa Lunch Bunch Chapter had their monthly get together at the Iron Works Country Club in Glendale, Arizona. One of our favorite places because of the good service and good food. The event took place on Thursday, July 6th. We missed Jim B. and a few others that were not there, maybe because of the heat of 108 degrees. We had a great time and good discussions. Those in attendance were: Clark Bostwick, Ed and Jane Crawford, John Gilbertson, Roland, Carrol, and Jenny Winters. If you are ever in our neighborhood come and have lunch with us.



I want to mention we have a new newsletter editor since our rally in Texas. We had to find someone to publish our newsletter since Teresa Bartz stepped down after six years of outstanding service to our club. We are very grateful that Will Robinson volunteered to do that job and his first newsletter was November and it looked great. Thanks Will.

Take Care,

Roland Winters Jr.



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BEFORE  
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PROGRAM

## Member Travel Notes - Will

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you a great 2018.

I would like to encourage members to feel free to send travel stories/articles to the editor to be included in the HTC newsletter. Stories about campgrounds, your accessible RV or trailer, accessibility adaptations, mini-rallies, travel experiences: current or historical would make for fine articles. Shine a light on opportunities to see and experience our world. Certainly many members have valuable experience to share. So with this thought in mind, here is an article on our most recent travels.

Since the Kerrville Texas rally in October we along with Jack and Joan Lindhorst rolled south about three-hundred and fifty miles to Port Isabel and over the Queen Isabella Causeway to spend two months with snow birding "Winter Texans" at Isla Blanca County Park in the city of South Padre Island. South Padre Island is located on Padre Island on the Gulf of Mexico, and at 113 miles long is the longest barrier island in the world. Being a barrier island the land is flat and sandy with palm trees blowing in the breeze. We arrived in early November to blue skies and temperatures in the 70s and 80s.

Isla Blanca County Park is at the south tip of the island with scenic views of the bordering waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Laguna Madre, and the Brazos Santiago Pass connecting the laguna with the gulf. Isla Blanca is a large RV park with more than six hundred RV sites amongst green grass and palms. Our full hookup site was level with a cement picnic area. Walk a hundred yards or so and you are looking at water. We rolled on the sidewalks along the sandy beach taking in views of the beach, kite boarders, shore birds, and tourists wading into the ocean. Along the Brazos Santiago Pass we had lunch at the picnic tables; there accessible paths and a road provided views of fishing boats heading to and from the gulf.

An accessible public boardwalk fishing pier on the Padre Island side of the causeway was a great platform for casting a line into the Laguna Madre's blue green waters while watching pelicans, gulls, and osprey fly over the lagoon. We caught and released two catfish and several small perch. There is also a pier at Pirates Landing on the Port Isabel side of the causeway where you can fish for a fee. Sea turtles nest on Padre Island, and one afternoon we visited a turtle rehab facility known as Sea Turtle Inc where we watched Atlantic Green, Kemp's Ridley, and Loggerhead turtles swim in large tanks. Here the turtles are cared for optimistically to be released back into their natural saltwater habitat.



South Padre Island is a resort town so there were plenty of restaurants to choose from when we did dine out. We can recommend the following: Gabriella's Italian Grill and Pizzeria on South Padre Island where we enjoyed fresh bread, salad, and the pepperoni and Soprano pizzas, Los Tortugos Seafood Market in Port Isabel for great fish'n chips, and Pier 19 for breakfast, omelets and coffee with a view of Laguna Madre. If you drive to Brownsville about twenty-five miles away; Fish King has great fish tacos, fish'n chips, and seafood soup. For groceries we shopped at the HEB and Walmart across the causeway in Port Isabel, about 3 miles from the park.

Although the weather in November was mostly in the 70s and 80s, in December the temperatures dropped into the 40s to 70s influenced by an arctic cold front. Per the locals this has been a much colder Winter season. If you're looking for a warmer Winter location to camp at, Isla Blanca County Park is worth considering. Of note, the county is beginning a multi-million dollar renovation of the park which will make Isla Blanca even better in the future.

Best Regards and Happy Travels,

—Will

### Future Events

2018 Rally on September 11 thru 15 at the White River Campground in Cicero, Indiana. Wagon masters Bill and Barb Gratzke.

Newsletter Submissions: Please submit material for inclusion in the newsletter to the editor William Robinson at email address WillR2288@GMail. If possible send submission material two weeks prior to the quarterly publication month (Jan, April, July, Oct). If you need to send submission material via USPS paper mail, call Will at 425-889-0183 for mailing address and coordinating receipt of paper mail.

Advertising: \$100 for full page; \$50 for 1/2 page; 1/4 page \$35; 1/8 page \$20. Members can place free ads in the newsletter (see Buy/Sell section).

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