

HTC Newsletter

Issue 45 Volume 2 April 2018



Hello HTC members,

Hope all is well with everyone. Karen and I are doing fine here in Illinois. It has been a long and cold Winter. I'm so glad to see summer almost here. I for one can't wait to get out of the house and start camping and traveling again.



By now everyone should have received information about our 2018 rally. If you did not receive the information please contact the wagon master Bill Gratzke or co. wagon master Evelyn Albertson now and they will mail one out to you. The rally will be held this year September 11th-15th at White River campground, 11299 E. 234th Street, Cicero, Indiana 46034. You can call 317-770-4430 to make reservations. Sites are limited so please do so as soon as possible. The sites will be held for us only until July 1st then any unreserved sites will be let go to the public. All the information can be found at the HTC web site and on Facebook. I hope we have the best turn out ever. I was told that Meryl Young and Evelyn Albertson will be at the rally. That alone will make this rally special. It is always great to see old friends and make new ones. Lets all make plans to come and have a great time.

Also I would like to mention that there will be a mini rally July 20th - 22nd held at Seven Feathers RV Resort. The resort is off of I-5 at 325 Quintioosa Blvd in Canyonville, OR 97417. To make reservations call 541 839-3599. For more information call Brad Bartz or Don Bonney.

I do have sad news to share. We lost a great friend and member. CH Miller passed away. CH was our Eastern director. He was a fun, well loved and caring member. He will be missed by all. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Thats all for now.

Safe Travels,

Mark Neurohr

2018 HANDICAPPED TRAVEL CLUB NATIONAL RALLY
SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2018 (TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY)
DEPART ON SUNDAY PRIOR 12pm CHECKOUT TIME

White River Campground

www.whiterivercampground@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

11299E. 234th Street Cicero IN. 43034 (317) 770-4430

This year's Rally in Central Indiana is near two long-time member's home. I would like to dedicate this Rally to them. Over the years, they have camped at this campground, and I visited it a few years ago. We will be able to use the indoor rec room and/or the outdoor pavilion along with the campground firepit. The amenities at the campground are back to the basics, but I'm confident we will have an enjoyable time.

Rates and Reservations

Booking your sites will be up to you. The rates are \$32.10 per night (if paid by check or cash) and \$33.74 (if paid via credit card). First night's payment is required to complete your reservation, the rest due upon arrival. Kris Cage, the campground manager, would like to have your site reservations as soon as possible. After July 1, 2018 the park will place any unreserved sites back into their inventory. This is a very popular park in the fall and she is already setting up waiting lists. HTC has 20 full hookup sites reserved near each other.

The park is owned and operated by Hamilton County and closed for the winter until April 13, 2018. The office is open all year (Mon-Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm EST.)

Make your reservation early to ensure you will have a site.

Your rally fee of \$15.00 per person will cover morning coffee and doughnuts, games and prizes, food, and entertainment. Please be prepared to contribute a side dish for a pot luck and bring item(s) for the silent auction. Rally schedule and activities will be available upon arrival. If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Bill Gratzke @ 305 987-5329.

Customary things we do at the rally

If you haven't attended a rally, here are some things we normally do. On the first day at 1pm we have our opening welcoming ceremony, meet and greet, and discuss the week's schedule. Each morning coffee, fruit and doughnuts are furnished by the Club.

Other events include: entertainment, wheelchair races on a level road surface, group picture while wearing HTC gear, group campfire and/or games, group meal(s) and poker run. 50/50 raffle, silent auction and mock-horse races which help defray the costs of the rally. A free day is planned to allow for sightseeing or whatever you would like.

Our rally is a gathering of like-minded people that want to explore our abilities and visit with old friends and make new friends. If you choose to allow others to see how your rig is modified, time is set aside for you to show your rig to others. On the last day of the rally we have our Annual General Meeting where we discuss HTC business and hold elections as needed for offices within the group. We then have the results of the raffles, games, races, and other fun stuff.

ALTERNATE LODGING & SHOPPING

The campground is about 6 to 10 miles away from lodging and shopping in the town of Noblesville, IN. Cicero IN. is about 4 miles from the campground. Cicero is a quaint town with shops and restaurants.

2018 HTC RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

FOR WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND

11299 E 24th Street Cicero IN 46034. Phone # 317-770-4430

Make your reservations directly with campground as soon as possible.

The Club has designated 20 sites for this Rally, at the rate of \$32.10 per night, cash or check plus a \$1.64 processing fee for credit card usage. The rally sites will be held until July 1, 2018. After that date unreserved sites will be placed back into the campground inventory for their use. Your reservation with the Campground must include one (1) night's payment with the remainder due upon arrival. This campground is a very desirable spot in the Fall and it fills up rapidly, so please don't miss out on a fun 2018 HTC Rally. Return this completed form with your check no later than July 1, 2018.

Yes____, I plan to attend the 2018 Handicapped Travel Club Rally,
September 11-15 departing before checkout on Sunday the 16th.

Name(s)

Rally fee: \$15.00 per person X _____ persons = \$_____

My check for \$_____ is enclosed

Make checks payable to Evelyn Albertson and mail to:

Evelyn Albertson 15392 Meredith Meadows Dr. W. Noblesville IN. 46060

If your plans change and you cannot attend, the rally registration fee will be refunded. Check with campground about their cancellation policy.

If you have questions or require special accommodations please call wagon-master Bill Gratzke 305 987-5329.

Please give us your cell number and email address in case we need to contact you while you are traveling to the Rally. CELL NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Non-campers, motels and hotels are available in nearby communities.

Mesa Lunch Bunch - Notes from Roland (Due to on the road general delivery challenges the following Mesa Lunch Bunch information also includes May, August, and September of 2017.)

The Mesa Lunch Bunch chapter had their May get together on the 4th at the Iron Works Country Club in Glendale, Arizona. We had a good crowd, and a good time and conversation. Those in attendance were: Clark Bostwick, Ed and Jane Crawford, Roland, Carrol, and Jenny Winters. We meet on the 1st Thursday of every month so if you are in the area come break bread with us.



The Mesa Lunch Bunch chapter had their August get together on the 3rd at the Iron Works Country Club in Glendale. We had a small group because of vacations and doctors appointments, but had good time, and discussions about the upcoming national rally in Kerrville, Texas. Those in attendance were: Jim Bly and his aid Lisa, Clark, Roland, Carrol, and Jennifer Winters. We meet on the 1st Thursday of every month so if you are in the area come break bread with us.

The Mesa Lunch Bunch chapter had their monthly get together on Thursday, September, 7th at the Black Bear Restaurant in Gilbert, Arizona and we had good turnout. The conversation was mostly about the rally next month, and it looks like four members from this group will be at the rally. Those attending the luncheon were: Clark Bostwick, John Gilbertsen, Ed and Jane Crawford, Roland, Carrol, Jennifer, and Nancy Winters. See you next month in Texas.



The local chapter of HTC, Mesa Lunch Bunch had their monthly luncheon and get together on Thursday, October 5th at the Iron Works Country Club, one of our favorite places to go because of the good food and great service with our own room. We had a good group and a lot of discussion about the upcoming rally in Kerrville, Texas. Clark and Carol are going to go and also Roland, Carrol, and Jenny Winters so we will report back. Those in attendance were: Jim Bly and his caregiver Lisa, Roland, Carrol, and Jenny Winters, Ed and Jane Crawford, Leon and Pat Schwalbe. When next in Arizona come have lunch with us.

Take Care. Roland Winters Jr.

Mini-Rally in Indio, CA - Note from Ed Pearson

Don and Sharon Bonney stopped by our winter quarters in Indio, CA, in January. We ate, drank, saw some movies at the Palm Springs Film Festival, and talked about how much we all enjoyed the fellowship our club affords. We figured we should mention we hosted a mini rally. All's well in the west so far this year, and we're looking forward to seeing a lot of HTC folks in Indiana in September.



An Accessible RV - Jim and Janet Walgren

Thanks to Jim Walgren for this article on the Walgren's wheelchair accessible RV.

Hello HTC Members,

I've owned four RV's in the last thirty years. Each RV was modified a little differently based on my functional needs and most importantly, the budget. In the early 90's my wife and I went on several campouts in real backwoods fashion, using a tent. Tent camping frankly was a struggle transferring to the air mattress on the ground from my wheelchair. After a discussion with a friend we set out to modify our first RV, a pop-up camper. The modifications included widening the entry doorway and building a false floor to pop my manual wheelchair on to, to ease transfers to the bed. That first modified pop-up camper started a progression of RVs and upgrades for us.



We are now in our 36' 2002 Four Winds Infinity Class A motorhome. The unit was designed from the chassis up to accommodate a wheelchair. Four Winds offered a wheelchair-modified motorhome during the early 2000's, and these RVs can still be found on the open market. The Four Winds are built on a Ford Workhorse chassis and include a UVL wheelchair lift, roll-in shower and raised bathroom sink. The unit that I purchased was from a gentleman who was located in California. When I first called on the unit it was sold, but he called back a few weeks later as it had become



available, so I bought it. I knew I was going to need a few more modifications, so I had a RV tech lined up to do interior modifications. The first order of business was to gut the bedroom except for one closet, twin bed and upper storage. The bed could not be removed because there was an electric converter under it. I am 6' 7" tall and need a big bed thus the twin was expanded to run the full width of the RV to give me plenty of leg room. The bed is wider to make it a queen size frame. Since my wife is no longer able to transfer me, I had a Hoyer type swimming pool lift mounted on the floor to pick me up from my wheelchair and swing me over to the bed. I used a lift marketed for swimming pools to help keep the cost down. The base of the lift is a surface mount for the pool lift. The frame underneath the floor was beefed up to support the weight of transfers. We also upgraded the TV's to LED flat screens and replaced the old carpet with more durable laminate flooring.



Lift Floor Mount



Lift Arm

We have enjoyed many miles in our motorhome and having the accessible setup when traveling is really convenient. Once we get to our destination we no longer have worries about the hotel rooms working for us.

Let the good times roll!

Jim and Janet Wallgren

Travel Update - Tom and Pat Gutzke

Hi, Everyone.

We sure had a great time in Kerrville!

We left home October 10th heading to Kerrville with many stops along the way. Our first was visiting with Mark and Karen in Ottawa, IL. The major stops heading to Texas after Illinois was Pahasuka, Oklahoma to see The Mercantile, a restored building from 1910 that was a General Store. It is now owned by Ladd and Ree Drummond. Ree is the "star" of the Food Network's Pioneer Woman cooking show. There is a campground just a couple of miles outside of town. We had lunch at The Mercantile and Tom got to talk with Ladd for a few minutes.

Our other main stop was in Waco, Texas at "The Silos". The complex is owned by Chip and Joanna Gaines of the HGTV Network's Fixer Upper program and was a very interesting place to see. Since their show started five years ago tourism has climbed from 400,000 visitors a year to around 1.5 million visiting Waco each year.

Our next stop was, of course, the Club Rally at Kerrville, Texas where we had a great time. It was nice to learn some new card games and meet new people. We hope everyone can make it to Indiana in September.

From Texas we headed on a sightseeing trip to Mesa, Arizona. We got to spend time with the Winters family and Clark Bostwick while there. Our main purpose of being in Mesa was to take a Hawaiian Airlines flight to Hawai'i for our 50th wedding anniversary. We had seen parts of all 49 continental states so it was time to do #50. We spent seven nights on Oahu, 5 nights on Maui and 5 nights on The Big Island - Hawai'i. It was really the trip of a lifetime for us. We were apprehensive about the 7-hour flight from Phoenix to Honolulu and the return however the Hawaiian Airlines people were way beyond what we expected in our level of care and treatment. We would recommend them in a heartbeat.



Sunset from Coconut Island looking west at Hilo Bay



Kiluaea Volcano shortly after Sunset.
(That is not just an orange glow from the lava on the

After returning to Phoenix / Mesa we headed east to Sebring, Florida, arriving December 29th. January weather was normal for the most part in the upper 60s but February has been 10-15 degrees above normal. Daytime highs have been 79-85 degrees with lows in the upper 60s. We leave Sebring March 1st with stops at Lady Lake, Florida to visit RV friends and two firefighters I used to work with, Savannah, Georgia with reservations at Paula Deen's Lady and Sons Restaurant, Anderson, South Carolina and, finally, near our 2018 Rally location visiting high school friends in Muncie, Indiana located northeast of Indianapolis. Then its back to the upper-midwest weather in suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We hope everyone has had a very enjoyable winter season and we hope to see you in September.

Tom and Pat Gutzke

Future Events

2018 Mini-rally on July 20th thru 22nd at Seven Feathers RV Resort in Canyonville, OR. The RV resort is conveniently located off of I-5 at 325 Quintioosa Blvd in Canyonville, OR 97417. Call Seven Feathers at 541 839-3599 to make your site reservations. Currently 6 sites are allocated to HTC. Discounts offered for Good Sam and Seven Feathers Players Club. If you have questions contact Brad Bartz at 206 849-2009 or Don Bonney at 925 237-6308.

2018 Rally on September 11 thru 15 at the White River Campground in Cicero, Indiana. Wagon masters Bill and Barb Gratzke. If you have questions contact Bill Gratzke at 305 987-5329.

New Members

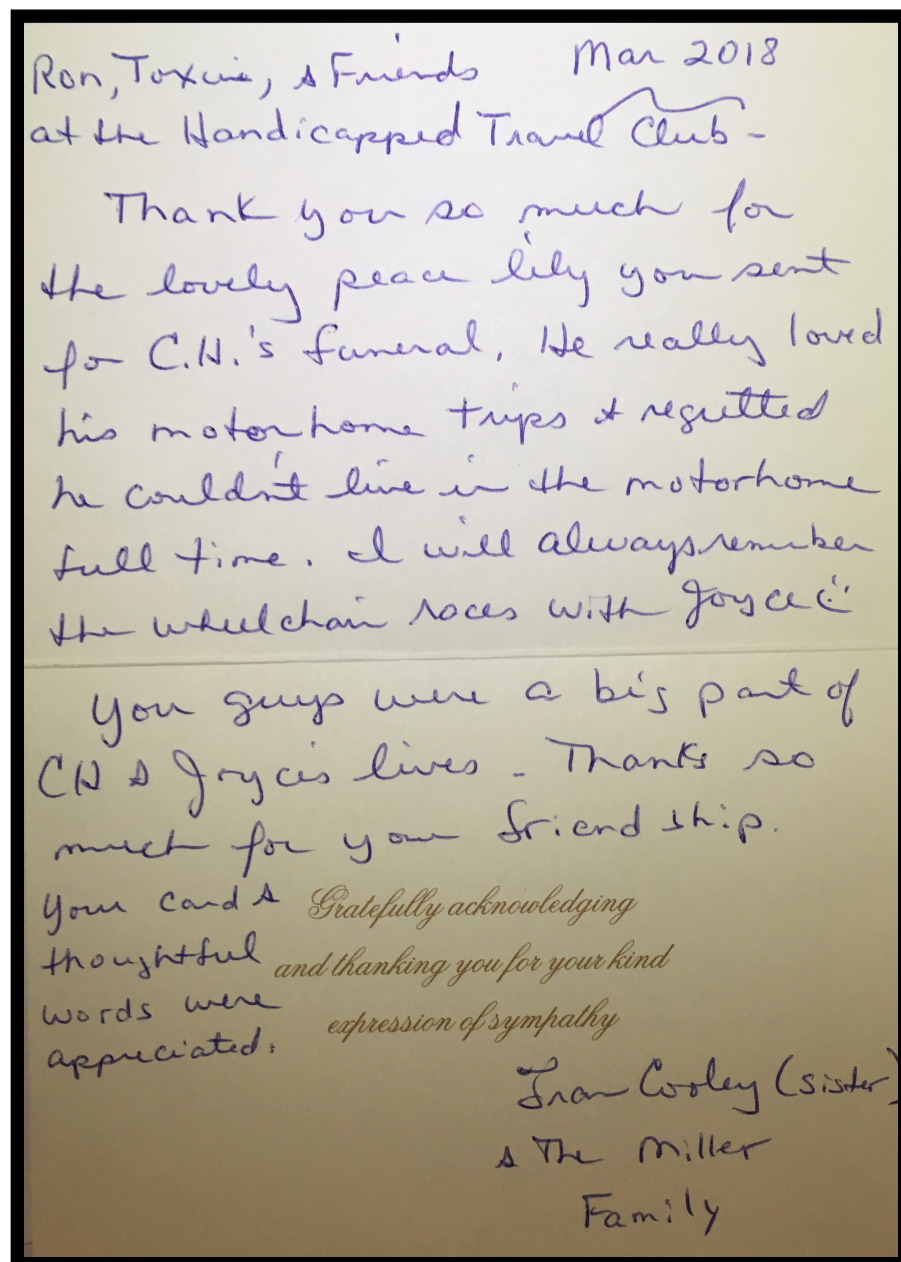
John and Navrya Elliott Alexandria, VA

Remembrances

Patrick Kenneally, 63, died Wednesday, February, 28 2018 in Grass Valley CA. Patrick served as HTC's newsletter editor for several years. Starting in 1998, he brought the newsletter into the modern age of publishing.

Patrick was a partial quadriplegic who was active in HTC until recent years, traveling in his wheelchair-lift-equipped Play-Mor trailer, with special emphasis on Baja California. He had a background in real estate and business endeavors and for years was active in promoting community rehabilitation services.

C. H. Miller, 75, passed away on Monday, February 5th. He and his late wife were a long time members of HTC. C. H. lived in Darlington, SC, and was our Eastern director. The following is a card from the Miller family.





ABILITY CENTER'S **TRY BEFORE YOU BUY PROGRAM**

UNSURE ABOUT PURCHASING A WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN?

The best way to help find the answer is to rent one for a weekend. Ability Center will put the rental fees for a wheelchair accessible van toward the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van*.

It's Simple:

- Rent a van from any Ability Center locations; we have both short term and long term availability**
- If you decide to purchase a van from us within 90 days of your rental, we will reimburse you up to \$500 towards the purchase of your van. We have over 200 used and new vans available to choose from!

The vans in our rental fleet are fully powered side-entry lowered floor minivans between 1-2 years old.

We have over 30 vans in our rental fleet between our 13 locations:

California: San Diego, Long Beach, Orange County, Inland Empire, San Luis Obispo, Fresno and Sacramento

Arizona: Phoenix and Tucson

Nevada: Las Vegas

Oregon: Portland and Eugene



Moving Your Life Forward

*Up to \$500 **Based on availability

**Over 200
used &
new vans
available
to choose
from!**

www.AbilityCenter.com

800-242-4111

Purchase a van from  **ABILITY CENTER**

\$500

Receive a
reimbursement
towards the
your van purchase.

Terms and conditions: Purchase must be made within 90 days of rental

**TRY  BEFORE
YOU BUY!
PROGRAM**

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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