

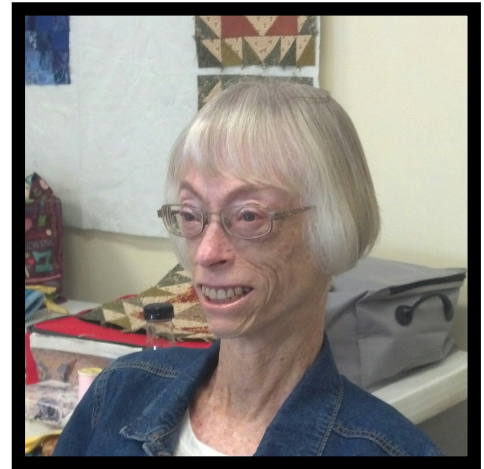
# HTC Newsletter

Issue 45 Volume 4 October 2018



Hello All HTC Members,

Our annual rally is over and most of us are back home with many memories of rain and floods, potlucks, bon fires and more. A highlight for me—I was elected President of the Handicapped Travel Club. My husband Don, and I have been members since 1998 and we each held several board positions over the years. I look forward to working with everyone this year to further our goal of “Get Out and Live”. This is “our” club and we are open to member’s ideas and suggestions. Please contact me if you have thoughts to share, questions to ask, improvements to be made, etc. ([sdbonney@yahoo.com](mailto:sdbonney@yahoo.com) or 925-437-9847).



At the Annual Meeting, topics arose which we will address throughout the year. These include more visibility and on-line coordination with national disability groups to increase our membership, to coordinate possible joint activities, and to share information. Secondly, we will simplify elections and clarify terms of office in the bylaws. We will study the possibility of digitizing the yearly albums from now on. Improvement is needed in the “care and feeding” of potential new members. Follow up would help people to connect with us and we will pursue this with regional directors. Some people have volunteered to assist with these issues already. The next newsletter will update progress on these issues, and hopefully, include reports from members who are working in these areas.

Brad and Teresa Bartz, Rally Wagon Masters, selected Columbia Sun RV Resort in Kennewick, Washington, as the rally site for 2019 scheduled for August 19-23. The site sounds fantastic. They will share more information as it becomes available.

My thanks to Mark Neurhor for his three years as president and for his love of HTC and all of us. He and Karen served us well.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bonney

## Rally Wagon Master Report by Bill Gratzke

I guess we can call the 2018 HTC Annual Rally the “Rally that was a surprise.”

I was notified 3 days before the rally was to start at White River Campground that there had been so much rain off of the remnants of Hurricane Gordon that there were predictions the White River would flood its banks and the campground for our rally.

So, with the help of other HTC members, we all started looking for an alternate campground that was wheelchair accessible and could meet our needs for all our events. We really lucked out when we found the New Lisbon Family campground located about an hour away from the White River campground and where the management bent over backwards to accommodate us.

We were blindsided by the weather, as in fact the White River did flood its banks. Fortunately days of rain cleared up and the weather was perfect for the 6 days of our rally. Also, some members were tormented by RV mechanical problems and illnesses which caused some no shows at the rally. In spite of all the obstacles, we were all impressed by the helpfulness and ingenuity of our members and the management at the original and alternate rally campgrounds to make for an enjoyable rally.

The excellent plans my co-wagon masters, Evelyn and Merle who lived nearby the campground had made for the rally were modified and the alternate plans were executed perfectly. The caterers and entertainers all agreed to accommodate for the extra distance. Everyone in attendance owes them a pat on the back for a job well done. Although we had to scramble, once again our members proved that we can have a great time whenever we get together.

## Tips Sharing at HTC Annual Rally

Members shared tips during a seminar at the New Lisbon Family Campground in Straughn, Indiana on Saturday, September 15, 2018 which was moderated and written up here by Barbara Gratzke. Topics discussed were related to RVs and travel for people with disabilities, as well as other subjects that might assist in sustaining or improving their RV'ing lifestyle.

(Information below may not be entirely accurate and may not work for everyone. Please research on your own to determine if information might be of assistance to you).

### Cell Phone and Internet

- Two members purchased the Wilson Electronics Sleek 4g Kit a cell phone signal booster which has helped them considerably on many occasions when the cell signal was weak. One purchased in 2015 on Amazon for \$113 and other member in 2017 for \$129.
- Another member put a marine antenna on the roof of his RV to act as a wifi repeater to boost a weak wifi signal. i.e., at a campground. He said it works for about a mile distance.
- Cell phone apps found helpful to find RV overnighting and repair
  - Ultimate Campgrounds – Lists over 34,000 public campgrounds in US and Canada for tent and/or RV's (cost or boon-docking availability listed).
  - AllStays Camp & RV
  - RV Parks
  - 4RoadService
  - Walmart Overnight
  - Camp Where
- Cell phone apps found helpful when traveling
  - GasBuddy
  - Trip Advisor
  - Yelp
  - ScopeLocal
  - RV dump
- Websites found useful for campground reviews
  - [www.rvparkreviews.com](http://www.rvparkreviews.com)
  - [www.campendium.com](http://www.campendium.com)

### Assistive devices helpful to make every day living tasks easier

- Pop Sockets useful to attach to the back of cell phone to more easily hold the phone.

- Dysem Non-slip material roll (member purchased on Amazon) found to be inexpensive and useful for purposes such as:
  - Stopping papers from moving on a surface while writing one handed.
  - Preventing keyboard from sliding.
  - Use a under a pillow to keep it in place.
  - Under a plate or cutting board to prevent movement while cutting or eating.
  - Under rugs so they don't move.
- Walk Easy Foldable Crutches that member puts in a net bag hanging under wheelchair seat; when seated the crutches can be pulled out of net bag from the front of the chair. [www.walkeasy.com](http://www.walkeasy.com) or call 900-441-2904.
- Nu-Products Sturdy combo shower and commode chair that fits in a small suitcase. Member has used for over 20 years. Can add wheels, back and arms and adjust height from 18" to 24". Fits over any toilet too by adjusting height as needed. [www.nuprodx.com](http://www.nuprodx.com)
- The SmartDrive is a revolutionary new power assist *device*. Member attaches to his ridged frame manual wheelchair and the device assists him in wheeling with a lot less effort. He says device is lightweight and easy to install, simply attaches onto the back of his chair. [www.max-mobility.com/smartdrive/](http://www.max-mobility.com/smartdrive/)
- Free Wheel wheelchair attachment - whether you have a rigid frame or a folding wheelchair, the FreeWheel casters are lifted off the ground, turning your chair into a 3-wheeler, so you simply roll over any obstacle: curbs, dirt trails, grass, gravel, snow, and sand. [www.gofreewheel.com/](http://www.gofreewheel.com/)

### Electronic Devices

- Plantronics Voyager 5200 - Bluetooth Headset - A member found this headset comfortable on their ear and is hands free with caller being announced, and being able to call out by voice. Instead of plugging in the headset to recharge, a separate cradle can be purchased to just set the headset on.
- Logitech Wireless Trackball M570 - A member really liked this trackball. The ball is located on the side for thumb use, and a scroll wheel forward for finger use to scroll pages. [Logitech Wireless Trackball M570](http://Logitech Wireless Trackball M570)

### Health Insurance Info

A member who has Medicare Part B just had physical therapy 3X a week, plus a home health aide 3X a week for 2 hours for the 5 months before they left on their current 4 month RV trip. Medicare Part B paid 100% of the cost of this for them. Her home healthcare agency explained that Medicare Part B would pay for P.T. and O.T. in home 3X week and for a home health aide up to 7 days a week for 1-2 hours.

Member related her experience of:

- Finding a home healthcare agency that understood how to bill Medicare for this service and having them come to her home so they could document that she met requirements to be able to qualify for their services. (if you can drive a car, you cannot qualify)
- Then sorting through the people the agency sent to find the therapists and aides she thought worked best for her.
- Had to have the doctor write periodic prescriptions with the right wording that met criteria.
- Was told that there is no income requirement or need to improve physically to continue for a year.
- She suggested P.T. to exercise muscles as possible and massage, stretching and range of motion for better blood circulation and alleviating pain and assisting with mobility.

For more information here is link that explains benefit now available as result of a Supreme Court decision. [www.medicare.gov/coverage/home-health-services.html](http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/home-health-services.html)

Facebook groups that members found beneficial: ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

- Handicap Travel Club
- Life in a Wheelchair
- Internet for RV'ers & Cruisers
- RV tips
- RV fun stuff
- Accessible Travel Club
- Camping with Disabilities or Chronic Illness
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida

Medical Issues - Bladder

- Female Urinal by Medical Action Industries was found very beneficial lying down or sitting up. Purchased last month on Amazon for \$6.52.
- A member's Home Healthcare nurse told her that catheterization can now be done through your belly button. Packaged sterile tubes are used each time and can easily be inserted through your belly button to go into bottle or even the toilet. Nurse had two patients that had this and she thought worked very well.  
[www.newmobility.com/2010/08/the-mitrofanoff-procedure](http://www.newmobility.com/2010/08/the-mitrofanoff-procedure)  
[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

Many members used

- Youtube in order to follow a video to get instructions to do things such as: exercises, how to use Internet or cell phone, installing, or getting others opinions on products).
- Amazon used to purchase items and have sent to specific campgrounds as they traveled.

## Future Events

2019 July 12 to 14

HTC Western Mini Rally

Merrill, Oregon

The HTC western mini rally will take place at the Lost River Bluegrass Festival in Merrill, Oregon on the second weekend of July. Merrill is located southeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon, just above the California line. Also in the general area are Crater Lake and the Lava Beds National Monument.

The handicapped camping area is near the stage and the organizers can give us a group area and can arrange for 15 amp power for those who need to power O2 generators or C-PAP machines. We need to give them a week or two notice of how many rigs we will have attending. It is possible that the festival area will be open to campers as early as Monday, July 8. The festival website is [lostriverfestival.com](http://lostriverfestival.com) for more information.

If you will be in the area in July, plan to join us. Please RSVP to Don Bonney at 925-237-6308 by the end of June.

2019 August 19 to 23 HTC Annual Rally

Kennewick, Washington

The 2019 HTC Annual Rally will take place at the Columbia Sun RV Resort in Kennewick, Washington on August 19th to the 23rd. The resort is located in southeastern Washington; exit# 109 from I-82. Resort is about 5 miles from the Columbia River which is the fourth-largest river in the United States, and is the river navigated by the Lewis and Clark Expedition back in 1805 when exploring the western United States. All RV sites are full hookups with 20,30,50 amp service. The resort website is <http://columbiasunrvresort.com/>.

Rally wagon master is Teresa Bartz (425) 408-0813. Please mark your calendars, more information to follow.

## New Members - Welcome!

Yasuteru and Yasuko Endo  
Mark and Margie Goeken  
Jeff and Karen Edney  
Thomas, Janet, Eric Higbie

Toronto, Canada  
Denver, Colorado  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## Notes

Merle Young would like to share his blog where you will find information on Merle and his sister Evelyn's RV travels over the years. <http://wheelindowntheroad.blogspot.com/>



## RESOURCES FOR RVERS WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities who enjoy leisure travel may find a motorhome to be a good option. Below is a sampling of resources that may be helpful. Please note that the list is not comprehensive.

### MANUFACTURERS

A number of manufacturers produce motorhomes that are equipped for people with disabilities. Depending on the manufacturer, features may include a wheelchair lift; an extra-wide entrance and interior aisles; lower kitchen countertops and cabinets; a roll-in shower; roll-under sinks; a raised toilet with assist bars; a hand-operated throttle and brake controls; and height-adjusted controls, light switches, outlets, and drawers.

- **Born Free Motorcoach** offers a line of customizable motorhomes called Mobility RVs. (515) 332-3755; [www.bornfreerv.com/mobility-rv](http://www.bornfreerv.com/mobility-rv).

- **Coach House Inc.** can customize its motorhomes to meet the needs of people with disabilities. (800) 235-0984; [www.coachhouserv.com](http://www.coachhouserv.com).

- **Foretravel Motorcoach** builds handicapped-accessible motorhomes on a special-order basis. (800) 955-6226; [www.foretravel.com](http://www.foretravel.com).

- **Newell Coach Corp.** can custom-build motorhomes that range from partially to fully accessible. (888) 363-9355; [www.newellcoach.com](http://www.newellcoach.com).

- **Newmar Corporation** offers three wheelchair-friendly Type A motorhomes: the Dutch Star 4311 and Ventana 4311 are diesel-powered; the Canyon Star 3911 is gas-powered. (800) 731-8300; [www.newmarcorp.com/mobility](http://www.newmarcorp.com/mobility).

- **Prevost Car** works with converter partners that can customize Prevost motorhomes to accommodate people with disabilities. For information about Prevost motorhomes, visit [www.prevostrcar.com](http://www.prevostrcar.com). The converter partners are Emerald Luxury Coaches (888-675-8612; [www.emeraldluxurycoaches.com](http://www.emeraldluxurycoaches.com)); Featherlite Coaches (757-923-3374; [www.featherlitecoaches.com](http://www.featherlitecoaches.com)); Liberty Coach Inc. (800-554-9877; [www.libertycoach.com](http://www.libertycoach.com)); Marathon Coach Inc. (800-234-9991; [www.marathoncoach.com](http://www.marathoncoach.com)).

- com); and Millennium Luxury Coaches (877-322-0190; [www.millenniumluxurycoaches.com](http://www.millenniumluxurycoaches.com)).

- **Roadtrek** can outfit its motorhomes to accommodate people with disabilities. (888) 825-2772; [www.roadtrek.com](http://www.roadtrek.com).

- **ShowHauler** motorhomes, built on truck chassis, can be specially outfitted for people with disabilities. (574) 825-6764; [www.showhauler.com](http://www.showhauler.com).

- **Winnebago Industries** uses the term "Ability Equipped" to label its motorhomes that have been outfitted to meet the needs of people with disabilities. (800) 492-9135; [www.winnebagoind.com](http://www.winnebagoind.com) (enter "ability equipped" in the search box).

### RETROFITS

Some shops will retrofit RVs with various accessibility features for people with disabilities.

- **Amazing Creations** focuses on interior modifications. (541) 556-0501; [www.amazingcreationsrv.com](http://www.amazingcreationsrv.com).

- **Classic Coach Works** can make a variety of modifications. (386) 944-9716; [www.classiccoachworks.com](http://www.classiccoachworks.com).

- **Coach Supply Direct** can install lifts for people with disabilities as well as do interior modifications. (800) 589-7251; [www.coachsupplydirect.com](http://www.coachsupplydirect.com).

- **Creative Mobile Interiors** can customize motorhomes with lifts, special grab handles, accessible lavatories, and other features for people with disabilities. (866) 204-8264; [www.creativemobileinteriors.com](http://www.creativemobileinteriors.com).

- **Dave & LJ's RV Interior Design** can do remodeling work, such as flooring, counters, and doorways, to improve access. (360) 225-7700; [www.daveandljs.com](http://www.daveandljs.com).

- **Drive-Master** installs mobility equipment, such as wheelchair lifts, and modifies motorhomes to make them accessible. (973) 808-9709; [www.drive-mastermobility.com](http://www.drive-mastermobility.com).

- **Duncan RV Repair** can equip a motorhome with a variety of accessibility features. (888) 738-6226; [www.duncanrvrepair.com](http://www.duncanrvrepair.com).

- **Master Tech RV Services** installs

wheelchair lifts and outfits motorhomes with other accessibility equipment. (866) 895-4556; [www.mastertechrv.com](http://www.mastertechrv.com).

- **Olympia Luxury Coaches** can install lift systems and make interior modifications to improve access. (615) 280-1278; [www.olympialuxurycoaches.com](http://www.olympialuxurycoaches.com).

- **Pro Custom Inc.** can customize motorhomes with a variety of accessibility options. (574) 217-0399; [www.procustominc.com](http://www.procustominc.com).

- **RV Décor** can equip RVs with wheelchair lifts, roll-in showers, custom flooring, roll-under sinks, and more. (928) 550-7010; [www.rvdecor.com](http://www.rvdecor.com).

- **S&S Mobility Products** offers the RV Handicapped Lift by Coach Lift. (480) 456-5438; [www.coachlift.com/rv-lift](http://www.coachlift.com/rv-lift).

- **Smoky Mountain Coach Works** can install a variety of handicapped-accessible equipment. (865) 446-0888; [www.smokymountaincoachworks.com](http://www.smokymountaincoachworks.com).

- **Texas Custom Coach** can customize motorhomes for disability access. (888) 761-4225; [www.texascustomcoach.com](http://www.texascustomcoach.com).

### ORGANIZATIONS

- **The Handicapped Travel Club Inc.** was formed in Arcata, California, in 1973 to encourage people with a wide range of disabilities to travel. The club, which has about 200 members, is open to people with and without disabilities. Members receive a newsletter and can attend an annual rally that rotates among different locations. "Our club is almost like a big family," president Mark Neurohr said. Dues are \$15 the first year and \$10 a year thereafter. For information, visit [www.handicappedtravelclub.com](http://www.handicappedtravelclub.com).

- **The RVing Accessibility Group**, based in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, is a nonprofit educational organization that provides training focused on helping the RV and campground industries comply with accessibility standards for people with disabilities. The organization also serves as a resource for people with disabilities by publishing information about accessible RV campgrounds. For information, call (970) 903-7442 or visit [www.rvingaccessibility.org](http://www.rvingaccessibility.org). **FMC**





## 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](http://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



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