

# HTC Newsletter

Issue 50 Volume 2 April 2023



Hello HTC Members,

To start off I want to say that I miss seeing everybody. Get Out and Live, sometimes easier said than done. For most of us there seems to be obstacles that get in our way or at least it appears to be that way.

Let me explain something to you, yes, we are the Handicapped Travel Club and for several of us that includes an RV. To be clear, just because our big once a year gathering is an RV Rally that does not exclude anyone from taking part.

We have Members who once had an RV who no longer travel that way, we have members who have never had an RV, we even have members who prefer to rough it and tent camp. Everyone is welcome no matter how you travel or where you prefer to lay your head. Everyone is considered and there are always motels and other lodging options close by the rally site. The Wagon Master always makes sure there are sights and activities close by that are wheelchair friendly.

Please do not think that just because you don't sink your life savings (considering you even have one) into a house on wheels that you are not welcome. We welcome anyone with an interest in overcoming obstacles and traveling in any way that works for them, so GET OUT AND LIVE!

Hope to see you all in Arizona in October.

Please contact me if you have thoughts to share, questions to ask, improvements to be made, etc. ([President@handicappedtravelclub.com](mailto:President@handicappedtravelclub.com) or 719 510-7737).

Sincerely,

Loretta Spotts



2023 HTC Annual Rally  
Friday, October 20 thru Tuesday, October 24  
Location: White Tank Mountain Regional Park in Waddell, Arizona



The location for the 2023 HTC Rally is White Tank Mountain Regional Park, a few miles west of Surprise Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix. A beautiful natural desert landscape with Saguaro, Palo Verde, and views of the mountains to the west. In the evening there are views of Phoenix city lights to the east. The immense parkland is home to: Deer, Javelina, Desert Tortoise, Cottontail Rabbit, Bobcats, Coyote, and many birds: Greater Roadrunner, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Anna's Hummingbird, and Gilded Flicker.

The highest peak above the campground is over 4,000 feet elevation, the campground near the mountain base is around 1,000 feet or so. This is a beautiful landscape amidst nature in sunshine and an abundance of warmth. Weather expected to be sunny; historical average highs in the 80s in October.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park: <https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/white-tank-mountain-regional-park/>

The five days of the rally start on Friday, October 20, thru Tuesday, October 24, with Goodbyes on the morning of Wednesday, October 25.

The rally events will take place at the Group Camping Area. We have already reserved the Group Camping Area which has enough room for 25+ RVs for the five days of the rally. Next to this dry camping area is a large, smooth rolling flat cement pad with two Ramada's each with four picnic tables. The picnic tables are where we will be gathering during the day and into the evenings, nearby is a cement fire ring where we can have our evening campfire. The wheelchair races will take place on the private paved entry road where there is plenty of space. Each group of picnic tables has six electric outlets for coffee and appliance purposes. The area for the RVs is dry camping, hard packed, desert dirt and fairly flat; very roll-able. Next to the parking is an ADA restroom with a rollin shower, also nearby a potable water spigot.

We need a minimum of five RVs to dry camp in the Group Camping Area, we already have three so far. It would be great to have ten dry campers ... if that works well. If you would like a site in the Group Camping Area let us know so we can allocate you camping space.

If you need water and electric hookups there is also the Family Camping Area with 30+ individual camp sites with water and electric. This park loop is a few hundred paces down the main park road from the Group Camping Area. There is a dump station near the entrance to the park loop (see photo on next page).



# White Tank Mountain Regional Park

Group Camping Area  
(Fire pit, Ramadas left, ADA restroom lower)



Two Ramadas



Top - Group Camping Area  
Lower - Family Camping Area Loop



The primary park road is "White Tank Mountain Road". The park entrance is a few miles south, outside this photo.

To get to the Family Camping Area, take White Tank Mountain Road, then turn left on "W Valley Vista Drive". Loop lower on photo.

The following camping sites in the Family Camping Area are back-in **camping sites**, over 45 feet in length, and flat: **D1, D3, D8, D9, D11, D14, D24, D31, D37**. (See the campground website for individual campsite details and photos. The pull thru sites did not appear to be as accessible, considering wheelchair lifts, etc.)

The Group Camping Area is just a short drive further up White Tank Mountain Road from the Family Camping Area, turn left on "W Open Sky Way". Top of photo.

## 2023 Handicapped Travel Club (HTC) Rally - Registration

Rally starts 3pm, Friday, October 20th thru Tuesday, October 24th

White Tank Mountain Regional Park  
20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road in Waddell, AZ 85355

Please email your Rally Registration before July 1, 2023 or contact wagon masters, Will and Jessie at email address wagonmaster@handicappedtravelclub.com or call 425 889-0183. Even if you are considering coming let us know so we can plan accordingly.

Group Camping Area sites are at the daily rate of: \$22.00 per night for dry camping  
Family Camping Area sites are at the daily rate of: \$32.00 per night for water and electricity  
If lodging at a motel, park entry fee per vehicle: \$7.00 per day

Park Fees: <https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/fees/>

A). If you will be camping in the Group Camping Area for the five days of the rally only you do not need to make a reservation with the campground; the Group Camping Area is already booked for HTC for the five days of the rally. When you arrive at the campground entry booth, let them know you are with HTC and will be camping in the Group Camping Area. You will pay your park fee of \$22 per night; \$110 for 5 nights.

B). If you will be camping at the Family Camping Area in an individual campsite, you will need to book the campsite reservation and make payment for your campsite using the Reservation System for Maricopa County Parks and Recreation.

**You can reserve your campsite 6 months prior to your arrival date. Each day opens for reservation booking at 6 a.m. Arizona time.**

Examples: If arriving on October 20th then the first day you can book your Family Camping Area reservation is on **April 20, 2023** at 6 a.m. If arriving for the rally early, on October 18th, then the first day you can book your reservation would be **April 18, 2023.**

Reservation System: <https://www.maricopacountyparks.org/>

This is a popular campground and fills up rapidly, so please don't miss out on the 2023 HTC Rally.

Other scenarios: If you are arriving prior to the first day of the rally, and/or staying beyond the last day of the rally camping at the Family Camping Area, and you will also be camping at the Group Camping Area for the five days of the rally, then you will need to do both processes A) and B).

### **Names of those Attending Rally:**

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Rally Fee: \$25.00 per Person X \_\_\_\_\_ Persons = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make cash payment for your Rally Fee to wagon masters at the rally on October 20, 2023.

**Please Specify                      Camping Area(s):**

Group Camping Area     Family Camping Area     Both Group Camping and Family Camping

For questions or need to require special accommodations contact the wagon masters.

Please provide your cell numbers and email address in case we need to contact you while you are traveling to the rally or need to notify you of any changes.

Cell Numbers: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For non RVer's. there are many motels, hotels available nearby in Surprise, AZ and Phoenix, AZ.

Please bring your own comfortable camping chair for socializing and sitting around the campfire in the evenings. Do not forget needed medical supplies and prescription medications.

## Remembrances



### **Clark Bostwick**      May 20, 1946 - January 12, 2023

Clark A. Bostwick (76) former resident of Plummer, Idaho and most recently a resident of Sun City, Arizona passed away at his home on January 12, 2023. He was born to Jerome "Earl" and Lottie Bostwick on May 20, 1946, in Spokane, Washington. Clark grew up in Plummer and graduated from Plummer High School with the class of 1964.

Following high school, Clark went to work in the woods. Some of his various employers were Hanson Logging out of Chewelah, WA and Zirbel Trucking. He was a skilled logger, heavy equipment operator, truck driver and farmer. As a heavy equipment operator, Clark's safety belt broke, and he fell out onto one of the concrete stabilizers which left him a wheel chair user for the rest of his life. Clark spent time living in the communities of Spokane, Plummer, Rathdrum, Chino Valley, and Arizona before making his permanent home in Sun City, Arizona.

Clark was an avid outdoorsman, who loved to hunt, fish, camp, and spend time with horses. He especially liked hot rods and muscle cars. A lover of life and experiences, he was a longtime member of the Handicap Travel Club, a national travel club founded in 1973 to help disabled folks see the world, and he enjoyed traveling and wanting to see the world. His travels from the West Coast to the East Coast of the United States were memories he treasured. Equally he enjoyed when family would come and visit him. Clark was loved by many and brought joy wherever he went and to all that he met. His smile and joy for life will be missed dearly. He leaves us with his motto, "I have got a lot of life to live and I'm going to live it."

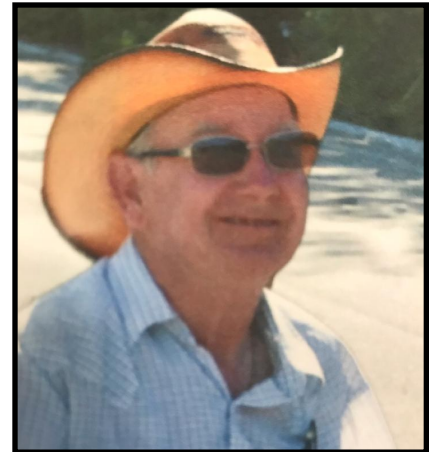
Clark is survived by his children Jefferey Bostwick, Heather Bostwick, Louis Feltmann, and Anna Sue Houston; grandchildren Ashlee Elizabeth, Aspyn, and Emory; nieces and nephew Cynthia Burke, Steve Bostwick, Marilyn Bostwick; and all his traveling companions in the Handicapped Travel Club (HTC). He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers Jerome Bostwick and Ray Bostwick.

A funeral service was held on January 26 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Hodge Funeral Home in St. Maries, ID. Interment services followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Plummer, ID with a gathering of family and friends after services at the Gateway Café in Plummer, ID. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Handicap Travel Club c/o the treasurer, Brad Bartz, 19827 NE 189th St, Woodinville, Washington, 98077-5918.

Clark was not only a fellow member to me, but a close friend, my family and I miss him terribly.

Good bye Clark.

Roland



## **Doris Renfro Brown Gragg**

June 17, 1921 - June 19, 2021

To all our fellow HTC Members,

As most of you know the last founding member of the Handicap Travel Club died in June 2021. Doris Renfro Gragg was 100 years old. Doris and her first husband Holly Renfro were one of the couples who started HTC in 1973. Doris was the first historian until she turned the albums over to me in 1999. The enclosed article was written by Doris's niece Pat Oakes who lives in Austin, Texas.

Roland Winters Jr.



**1921**

### **HTC Founder History**

My Aunt Doris Brown Renfro Gragg was born on June 17, 1921 and died on June 19, 2021 — living 100 years and two days.

By the time she was a year or two old, her mother knew there was something the matter with her left hip and leg. It was finally determined that she had a type of hip dysplasia and the ball and socket joint was not fully formed. As a young child she had a number of surgeries at the Children's Hospital Boston which meant long periods of time away from her mother (who was working and taking care of the other children). She wore very uncomfortable casts on her legs for months at a time. One thing she did to pass the time in the hospital was to work on arts and crafts, something she enjoyed for the rest of her life. Ultimately, they were unable to fix the problem with her hip and she compensated the rest of her life.



**1969** Holly & Doris

Doris Brown was the youngest of six children born within eight years — all near Hanson, Massachusetts. Her eldest brother, Harold, died in 1922. Her mother Ruby left her husband and, as a single woman, raised the children by herself — a remarkable achievement at that time. She was an entrepreneur, raised prize-winning gladiolas, ran a chicken farm in Massachusetts, and eventually, when she moved to California, sold Avon products and raised rabbits. Aunt Doris got a lot of her spunk and energy from her mother!

Aunt Doris joined her mother in California in 1946 riding the Greyhound bus across the country. She had no children, but she remain close to her 15 nieces and nephews.

She and Holly Renfro (who had been a newspaper man in Kansas) met at a get together for handicapped folks in California. He had become a paraplegic after a motorcycle accident in his late 50s. They married in 1967 and remained so until his death in 1987. They bought their first RV in 1968. They loved the RV life and made many friends along the way. Aunt Doris often said that she and Holly had seen the outside of almost every important building in the U.S. They were overjoyed with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. They were among the founders of the Handicapped Travel Club in Arcata, California in 1973, and Aunt Doris was the last one left of the five disabled couples who founded the organization. She served in several capacities but most notably as historian of the group. Her scrapbooks are a treasure trove of information. She and Holly were also members of the Thousand Trails Club and the Good Sam Club.



**1973** Holly & Doris and their Star Trek Mini Motorhome

After Holly's death in 1987, Aunt Doris kept busy with activities in Kerrville, Texas where she at Holly lived and also kept up a pretty busy travel schedule.

In the mid-1990s she met a man and his wheelchair-bound wife at a rally. They all had a good visit and she learned that John, and Annapolis graduate, was a retired Navy Captain who had served on Admiral Nimitz's staff at the end of WWII. Nimitz was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, only a short drive from Kerrville. Several years later, John Gragg (1907–2003) reached out to Aunt Doris after the death of his wife. He was lonely, remembered her, and gave her a call. After a brief courtship, they married and for their honeymoon Aunt Doris, at age 79, drove them in a new RV to visit John's family in California.

She was absolutely determined to make it to 100 in spite of a fall in early May 2021. All the staff at her nursing home were coming by her room to cheer her on as it was clear she was hanging on by sheer willpower. The words that come to my mind or as I remember my Aunt Doris are: intrepid, adventurous, determined, curious, a recorder of history for family and others in her mini scrapbooks, inspirational, and a lover of arts and crafts.

Thank you to Roland Winters who encouraged me to write this memoir of my Aunt Doris for the HTC newsletter. You all do great work!

### **32 Years of RV Travel:**

1. 1968 16' Aristocrat trailer towed with 1964 Buick
2. 1971 20' Star Trek Mini Motorhome
3. 1979 24' Silver Streak Trailer and Chevy Van 1 Ton
4. 1987 American Clipper Mini Motorhome
5. 1992 16' Scamper Trailer and GMC Safari Van
6. 1996 Winnebago Mini on a Toyota Chassis
7. 1997 Falcon Ram Conversion
8. 1999 27' Fourwinds Mini and Chevrolet



**1991** Parasailing

**Message from our Treasurer:**

Hopefully, you've received your dues reminder for 2023 in the mail. You can also pay online using one of the methods listed at <https://handicappedtravelclub.com/member-dues/> For those that have already paid, a huge thank you for supporting the club!

**Escapee's Escapade:**

Several of us (Don and Sharon Bonney, Rick Robinson and Doris Bell, Teresa and Brad Bartz) all attended the Escapee's Escapade in Tucson AZ, <https://escapade.escapees.com/>

It's a very large event, there were over 800 RVs at the fairgrounds. They had several seminars and vendor displays. Everything was generally accessible. They could have made a few improvements here or there but overall, we had a good time. During the event we were approached by several other RVer's to asking about accessible RVing. Rick and Doris gave a tour of their Newmar and lift and then we introduced them to HTC.

The next Escapade is in Rock Springs, Wyoming - June 16-21, 2024.

<https://escapade.escapees.com/faqs/future-escapade-dates/>

Maybe we can get a few more from HTC at their Rock Spring rally and we'll really show them how to have a good time.





## Future Events

Monthly on 3rd Wednesday

### Monthly Zoom Meetings

Online/Virtual

The monthly zoom meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday every month at 4:00 PM pacific time/7:00 PM eastern. Be sure to adjust for your local time zone:

4:00 pm PST

5:00 pm MST

6:00 pm CST

7:00 pm EST

You should have been receiving an email from [BradBartz@hotmail.com](mailto:BradBartz@hotmail.com) the Monday before the zoom meeting with the connection information. It's the same each month. If you're not receiving the monthly reminders, please email [BradBartz@hotmail.com](mailto:BradBartz@hotmail.com)

2023 April 21, 22

### HTC Western Mini Rally

Kit Fox RV Park

The Annual West Coast Mini Rally will take place at Kit Fox RV Park in Patterson, California on April 21st and 22nd; goodbyes on the 23rd. The park is just off I-5 about 30 miles south of Stockton. The rate is \$37 per night, Don Bonney will collect on arrival; call or email Don Bonney to make reservations. Non-members are welcome, come check us out.

Watch our web site for any updates <https://handicappedtravelclub.com/>

Don Bonney

Sdbonney3@yahoo.com

925-237-6308

2023 October 20 thru 24

### HTC Annual Rally

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

The 2023 HTC Annual Rally will be held at White Tank Mountain Regional Park in Waddell, Arizona. The rally starts on October 20th, through the 24th; with goodbyes on the 25th. The campground, a beautiful natural desert landscape is located to the west of Surprise Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix. We hope you're planning to attend. Rally information starts on page 2 of this newsletter.

The first day you can book your electric Family Camping Area campsite reservation is six months prior to your arrival date. October 20th, is about 6 months away. So if planning to arrive on the 19th, the first day would be **April 19th** at 6 AM in the morning; Arizona time. If arriving on October 20, then book on **April 20, etc.** The campground is popular, so to get a site, book your reservation as soon as possible. The following camping sites in the Family Camping Area are back-in camping sites, over 45 feet in length, and flat: **D1, D3, D8, D9, D11, D14, D24, D31, D37**. (See the campground website for individual campsite details and photos. The pull thru sites did not appear to be as accessible, considering wheelchair lifts, etc.)

If dry camping in the Group Camping Area you do not need to make a reservation with the campground.

Rally Wagon Masters are Will and Jessie (425) 889-0183.

Note from Roland Winters: Any HTC Member who plans on going to the 2023 HTC Annual Rally in Arizona and needs a place to stay, the Winters have a complementary room for two. Has private bathroom, and if you need a roll-in shower we have one also. First come, first serve. Call Roland Winters Jr. at 623 594-5952. We are about 5 to 10 miles from the White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

## **New Members - Welcome!**

|                   |          |                           |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Robert            | Kidwell  |                           |
| Sam               | Scribner | New Smyrna Beach, Florida |
| Kevin             | Rabbett  | Lake Havasu City, Arizona |
| Jane              | Forsythe |                           |
| Christine         | Xavier   | Brighton, Colorado        |
| Gregory           | Smith    | San Angelo, Texas         |
| Wendy and Michael | Fragale  | Oswego, NY                |

## **Advertisements:**

Quantum Power Wheelchair for sale, \$250 (Cost new, over \$28,000) Great buy. Excellent condition (See photo) with cushion and battery charger.

Call Roland Winters Jr. at 623 594-5952.

If interested, Roland can deliver the wheelchair at the HTC Annual Rally.



Newsletter Submissions: Please submit material for inclusion in the newsletter to the editor William Robinson at email address [Editor@handicappedtravelclub.com](mailto:Editor@handicappedtravelclub.com). If possible, send submission materials in two weeks prior to the quarterly publication months, which are: January, April, July, October. 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.

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