

# HTC Newsletter

Issue 53 Volume 3 July 2026



For fun and fellowship

Hello Fellow Handicapped Travel Club Members!

Well, the holidays are behind us. Our garden is planted so hopefully we'll have some homegrown vegetables to eat healthy.

With sadness, I would like to say a fond farewell to our amazing friend and very long time Handicapped Travel Club member Ed Pearson. Ed held many offices in our club, and was one of the members who really enhanced and fortified our club. There isn't anyone who doesn't remember Ed for his constantly optimistic and cheerful personality. He was a true pleasure to know. We send his wife Bonnie our love. Ed will not be forgotten, but sorely missed.

I would like to applaud Bill Zhang, our Eastern Area Director, for his huge help in representing our club at the national Escapees event in Maine. Bill had to host our booth in the Birds of a Feather ROW alone. This is usually handled by three couples who rotate duties throughout the show time. I am so grateful to Bill for his dedication to our club.

We're looking forward to our national rally in Bakersfield, October 11-15, 2026. Please sign up early, especially if planning to stay in a hotel rather than at the Orange Grove RV park.

Our plans include lots of traditional and some new activities. We'll have some great speakers, field trips, and demonstrations. Our entertainer, Wild Bill is a real classic, and a wonderful man. Lots of planning has been done, now we just need YOU to make the event meaningful and memorable.

The registration form will be here in the newsletter, and on our website [handicappedtravelclub.com](http://handicappedtravelclub.com). Feel free to phone us for any more information (925) 989-2330. We'd like you to start setting aside silent auction items to bring. Please save your nickels, dimes, and quarters for the games at the rally, and plan for a couple of simple pot luck items to contribute.

Please be thinking about becoming Wagon Master for our 2027 National Rally. We need to plan ahead; materials, and supplies will be sent home with our new Wagon Master from the Bakersfield event.

Barbara and I have been doing local travels. We're keeping the motorhome going, and in great shape.

Please remember to reach out to other HTC members. Keeping your roster handy makes it easier to call folks in your area, meet up when traveling, camping, or, arrange lunch dates. All of us in the



club are ambassadors, who can make someone's day. We're all facing health challenges, and this connection makes life better in many ways. Our new members need to know that we're a supportive, caring group. Once they've joined our club, it's important to make them aware of our spirit for adventure and assistance.

Our monthly ZOOM calls are also a great opportunity to connect. So few folks are participating. Brad Bartz conducts the meetings, and sends many reminder emails, with a convenient link to the meeting. This is a comfortable, welcoming way to interact with our friendly and fun group. Please join us each third Wednesday of the month. 4:00 Pacific time, adjust accordingly for your time zone.

We all have problems, but we're here to help each other GOAL; Get Out and Live. Our RV's can be adapted in creative ways to make our traveling days more enjoyable. Our members have experience and tips to share. Just reach out and ask; you'll be surprised with the results.

Cheers,

Giancarlo Cuciz

HTC President

[gjcuciz@att.net](mailto:gjcuciz@att.net)

925) 989-8666

### **Handicapped Travel Club - California Luncheon**

On Tuesday June 9, 2026 our Northern California members gathered together for a lunch.

Sadly, we recently lost our friend Ed Pearson. His wife Bonnie couldn't join us, as she accompanied her daughter to Oregon for a visit.

Patricia Zelienski, Sharon and Don Bonney, Giancarlo and Barbara Cuciz (and our dog Cookie) and our special guests, new members Delia and Dan Garcia were in attendance.

We enjoyed lunch at a waterfront restaurant called Garlic Brothers in Stockton, California. It was a real treat to see each other, and to welcome our new members Delia and Dan into our club.

Planning to get together again for a campout and future lunches.

We're always looking for more folks to join us, and will continue to reach out to you all in our area to make you feel welcome.

Barbara and Giancarlo Cuciz

# 2026 Handicapped Travel Club (HTC) Rally Registration

October 11 to October 15.

## Orange Grove RV Park

1452 S. Edison Bakersfield, CA 93307

Rally starts on Sunday, October 11 and ends Thursday, October 15. Departure time is Friday morning at 11:00 October 16 unless prior arrangements made to arrive earlier, or stay longer (\$55/night) payable to Orange Grove RV Park on arrival at RV park. We will reserve your site, no need to call the RV park.

Guests are welcome and need not be HTC members.

### **DEADLINE TO REGISTER: August 30, 2026**

(Late registration is OK, but nightly rate approximately \$75/night, and RV likely not parked with group.)

### **Wagon Masters: Giancarlo and Barbara Cuciz**

**925-989-2330**

[GJCuciz@att.net](mailto:GJCuciz@att.net)

**Name(s) of those attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your contact information** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**RV Year/Make/Length:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of your Arrival:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of your Departure:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Rally fee is \$35/person, payable in cash to Wagon Masters at rally.**

Rally Fee: \$35.00 per Persons X \_\_\_\_\_ Total Rally Fee = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Example. For two people, \$35 X 2 persons equals \$70.

To attend the Rally, **Please send Rally Registration** to Giancarlo and Barbara Cuciz at [GJCuciz@att.net](mailto:GJCuciz@att.net).

Giancarlo and Barbara Cuciz

16551 Los Positas Way

Tracy, CA 95304

**Please bring:** Coins for games, **Silent auction items**, bring one dinner item for potluck dinner evening, and bring one appetizer item for appetizer evening.

## **Message from our Treasurer**

HTC has a special interest group within the Escapees RV Club.

Details can be found on the HTC Club website at <https://handicappedtravelclub.com/escapees/>.

## **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).

## **HTC 2026 Annual Rally**

### **Bakersfield, California**

October 11th - 15th

Our 2026 HTC Annual Rally will be October 11-15 at the [Orange Grove RV Park](#) in Bakersfield, California. Bakersfield is an agricultural area with oil field, Basque, and railroad history.

We're excited to be your wagon Masters, and want to provide a chance to reunite, celebrate our club, and enjoy our traditional plus some new activities.

The RV park will extend the rally rate of \$55/night to our group, including any early arrivals or late departure dates. We will need a final roster of those coming by August 30, 2026. After August 30, you're welcome to sign up but nightly rate will be about \$75/ night, and you may not be parked with our group.

RESERVATIONS for RV Park will be done by WAGON MASTERS. Once the registration sheet is provided and completed, we'll notify the RV park. You'll pay them upon arrival.

Rally fee will be \$35/person, also payable upon arrival.

Non HTC guests are most welcome.

Orange Grove RV park provides a big Western themed meeting room, wood stove, full kitchen, swimming pool, very clean and accessible bathrooms and laundry. All sites are full hook up, pull through. Propane, and RV wash area, dog parks are available.

There are hotels 2 miles from the park. Airport is 12 miles away, hosting American and United airlines.

Please save the date and come join the fun. This yearly rally is a real treat, and gives us a chance to enjoy each other in person.

More information to follow, with updates via the zoom meetings and through the newsletter.

Barbara and Giancarlo Cuciz, your Wagon Masters

**925-989-2330**

[GJCuciz@att.net](mailto:GJCuciz@att.net)

## **New Members - Welcome!**

Dan Garcia

Elk Grove, CA

Don & Debbie Ritthaler

Saint Helens, OR

Ron & Cece Wroblewski

Hondo, TX

Susan Hirschfield & Jean Rizzo

Leominster, MA

## Rememberances

**Edward Andrew Pearson**      January 6, 1933 - May 3, 2026

"Poppa Ed" lived a remarkable 93 years, shaped by resilience, curiosity, and a deep connection to people. Born in Genoa, Nebraska in 1933, he remained a Husker fan for life, always tied to the family farm and returning one last time at age 90.

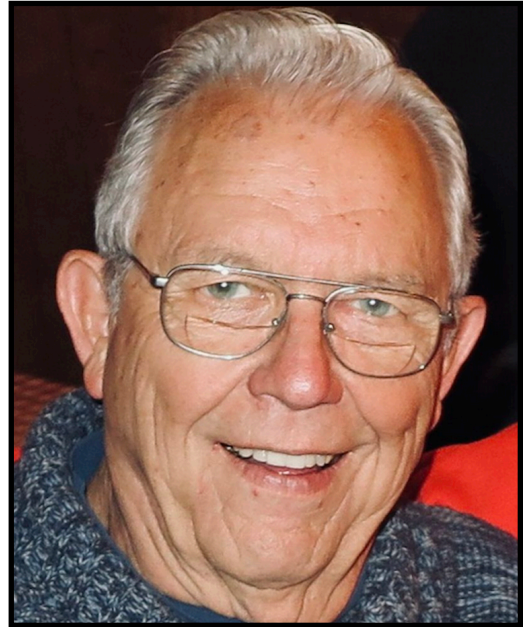
After surviving polio as a teenager, he moved west to build a full and independent life on his own terms-never limited by circumstance and never defined by his wheelchair.

Ed enjoyed a meaningful career for the State of California Department of Water Resources.

He raised two children, deeply loved his four grandchildren, and shared more than 40 years of marriage with his first wife before her death. Later in life, he found happiness again, spending his final 16 years married to his partner Bonnie who shared his Nebraska roots.

He valued people above all else, forged deep friendships everywhere he went, and was known for a kindness and generosity that asked for nothing in return-leaving everyone feeling better for having known him.

He lived independently to the end, passing peacefully at home, just as he wanted -calling the shots, with no regrets, and leaving behind a life well lived and a world made better by his presence.



<https://www.sacramentofuneralandcremation.com/obituaries/edward-pearson>

# A Traveling Trail Story

by Ed and Bonnie Pearson

(HTC Archives 2019)

Looks like I'm the oldest traveling member, so I can get away with embellishing stuff a little now that 25 years have gone by since I joined the group.

I joined in 1992. I think it was hoping to find a wheelchair accessible RV. That didn't happen through the club, but I did find a used Class C in Florida that put my wife Colleen and I on the road. Colleen used a wheelchair due to polio, and I was using a chair most of the time after a lifetime of crutches, so accessibility was a must. Our first rally was in 1994 at Chula Vista RV south of San Diego. A great place next to the yacht harbor and my all-time favorite, but it's now being taken over by the County for fancier use.



Our next rally was in the Chicago area in 1996. The rally was good, not least because Mandy and Gretchen Wenzel joined us as new members. The bad news was that the officers resigned and those of us left over wondered if this was the end of the road. Merle Young, bless his Hoosier heart, volunteered to be President and Colleen took over a merged Secretary-Treasurer function. We struggled financially, using the annual rally as a fundraiser, taking in enough money from games to keep us afloat. Times have changed for the better since then because as you know we now actually have a CD on file and money in the treasury. From the pit of despair to comfortable functionality. Now all we need is new members.

I followed Merle as President and Mandy and Mike Drew moved us on into the future. And of course Roland Winters has been an effective and hardworking President for several years, and various club members have stepped up to keep us on track.

Colleen and I put on rallies in 1998 and 2001 in Indio, California and a mini-rally in Sacramento around that time that included one of the original members of the club: Red Glasco, who lived in Sacramento and was an ardent club member. I visited him and he was proud to show me a pile of newsletters in the corner that he had saved since the club's beginning. His daughter said the club had been a highlight of his life. We are carrying on a disabled RV tradition to be proud of. Keep it up!

Speaking of newsletters, a little story here... We put our Class C on the market, and a guy named Patrick Kenneally came to look at it, but it didn't fit his needs, so he ordered a Play-Mor handicapped-equipped trailer. As it turns out, we did too, so we each had a 1997 travel trailer. Patrick joined the club and eventually became our newsletter editor. Patrick has now passed on, but his travel trailer lives on. Our Play-Mor died but Patrick's trailer was alive because his girlfriend at the time didn't like to travel and he was happy to sell it to us. Is that a happy or sad story? Anyway, Patrick left us last year, and we celebrate his memory and his trailer as well.

Newsletter Submissions: Please submit material for the newsletter to the editor William Robinson at email address: Editor@handicappedtravelclub.com.

If possible, send submission materials by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Quarterly publication months are: January, April, July, October.

Business Advertising: \$100 for full page; \$50 for 1/2 page; 1/4 page \$35; 1/8 page \$20.

This newsletter is published by the Handicapped Travel Club.

Copyright © 2026 Handicapped Travel Club, all rights reserved



**For fun and fellowship**