

January/February 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 1



From the President in Sunny Denver (NO SNOW)-

After a trip through Foley Alabama where the members of the Executive Board meet and reviewed last year and dealt with some of it's problems. Then we moved on to 2010 and talked about the upcoming seasons issues. I don't want to give an impression that we didn't take time to play because we did. Each Tues. night we went to a park about 7 miles away to attend a Bluegrass concert, for \$5.00 we hear about 2 hours of music had refreshments and were given a train ride through the woods that was all decorated for Christmas. (Each Tue it was a different group) We also did the flea market thing and lot of shopping with not a lot of buying. One of the highlights of the Foley area is the Train layouts at the city museum. It is all run by volunteers, and I placed it on my must see again list.

Then it was off to Uncertain Texas to help Herman repair a badly leaning sea wall on his property. If someone asks me where Uncertain is I always tell them that "I am note sure". Really it is a few miles west of Shreve's Port, LA on Caddo Lake. The area has been plagued with floods and high water all winter. Only 2 years ago they were complaining that the water was so low that they couldn't get to some of the good fishing areas. We got the job done and I moved on to Denver, CO to install a new kitchen in my son's house.

Now I would like to ask each of you to do something for me? Would you please go to where ever your planning calendar is and mark the following 3 days? The third Sat in April, June and August. These are the dates of the Campground Planning Committee meetings as set in our By-Laws Article X (10) paragraph G. This is where all planning for the season is done and recorded. Each chapter and the MAL's have a say in what will be done and how it will be done at each campground. Each Chapter and the MAL's are to appoint a member to attend this meeting and represent its members. The Campground Director will plan the agenda and run the meeting. Anyone may attend this meeting and have input. However when it is time to vote only the members of this board are to vote (chapter and MAL's appointed representatives) the outcome of each issue or vote is to be recorded in the meeting minutes that are to be forwarded to the TTCM Secretary for the records. If for whatever reason no minutes are received by the Sec, there must not have been a meting and nothing that was discussed at this meeting is valid to be done. If this board voted to do something or not to do something the only way that can be changed is at the next meeting of the planning committee.

Before I close this letter I would like to ask you to do one other thing for me? We have 3 ladies that go above and way beyond for the members of TTCM. They spend countless hours doing numerous tasks for TTCM and they receive lots of flack from members who sometimes do not know all of the facts that led up to why we are doing something the way they say it should be done. If you feel you can do the job easier or better I think that your name should be on the next election ballot.

The next time you see Sharon Westerhouse, Sec., Kathy Rollenhagen, Treas., or Debbie Steenbergh, Editor of the TTCM Newsletter. All three of them are doing a great job for you and the rest of our members. I know that they would enjoy a few words of thanks from the Members

we are attempting to serve. I can tell them that they are doing a fine job, but it will mean more if it comes from you.

That is all for now, I have a kitchen to build.

Dick Hamlin
006/012

From the Secretary's Desk-

It's time for the Chapter to send me their officers list for 2010. I will need the addresses of you presidents so your Chapter can receive reports, agenda, etc. for the May officers meeting at Bellevue this spring.

I have the officers for some of the Chapters. I'm in need of: Double Dozen, Duneland Winnies, Grand Valley and Restless Ones. You can e-mail me at tandsfourfun@hotmail.com or send your response to me at PO Box 336, Olivet, MI 49076.

The new by-laws are included in this issue of the newsletter. That will be your copy of the by-laws. I will have extras if they are needed but hope that all of you will keep them in a convenient place for reference. I will also have copies of the campground rules available at the May officers meeting.

If they are needed for the Campground Planning Committee meeting in April the directors can make copies but you should all have a copy as they were published in the September or October Newsletter.

The Chapters have done very well about getting a copy of their incorporation papers to me for filing. I have all but two now. As of this writing, I am still waiting for Grand Valley and Duneland Winnies. 2009 will be due in October of this year and I will remind the Chapters later in the fall to send a copy to me when they renew.

Several members have written to advise me that they will no longer be members due to health, death of a spouse, selling their units and a few were because of the negative letters in the newsletter. So, as you can see in my membership article our membership is low. I have thoughts on this matter but feel that this is not the place to tell them.

I wish you all a great new camping season at our campgrounds. We have much to be proud of. TTCM has come a long way and the members have accomplished so much over the 40 plus years. If our founding fathers could see what we have now, they would be very proud.

Be careful people that we don't destroy ourselves and lose it all.

Sharon Westerhouse, Secretary

Members Not Paid For 2010-

#103A	Adams, Ray & Cindy	RR
#4601	Barber, John & Dreama	MAL
#4375	Barber, Neal	MAL
#4674	Barcroft, John	MAL
#102A	Cole, Todd & Krystine	RR
#4680	Cronk, Rob & Michelle	MAL
#4596	Davidson, Eugene & Joyce	?
#3970	DeVore, Kerry & Alyce	DD
#4615	Dexter, Jim & Mary Ellen	MAL
#4204	Dobos, Tim & Beatrice	MAL

#4673	Dutcher, Jack & Lois	MAL
#4625	English, James & Lenore	MAL
#4512	Felimonik, David & Janet	DD
#4661	Freeze, Brad	MAL
#4216	Gerke, David & Denise	DD
#2524	Hale, Ronals & Judy	GV
#4679	Jasniewski, John & Pamela	DLW
#4627	Joling, Jeff & Linda	GV
#4638	LeBouf, William & Rhonda	MAL
#4554	Loscher, Dan & Michelle	DD
#4550	Lohman, Roger & Cassandra	?
#4296	Love, Dan & Judy	MAL
#4194	Makepeace, Kenneth & Christine	GV
#4647	Matthews, Garth & Holly	MAL
#4511	May, Russ & Christine	DD
#4668	McCarthy, Diane	DD
#4514	McCombs Jr., John	DD
#3662	Miller, Joyce	MAL
#3021	Murrie Jr., Deral & Sherry	HC
#4473	O'Hare, David & Lisa	MAL
#4493	Packer Jr., Russell & Melissa	HC
#4607	Parent, Troy & Theresa	MAL
#4602	Parsons, Jerry & Carol	MAL
#4434	Patton, Darrell & Sally	MAL
#4645	Peacock, Dennis & Kristi	MAL
#5004	Potts, Tom & Darlene	HW
#4406	Ray, Jim & Sharyln	MAL
#4185	Rehkopf, Miles & Vesta	MAL
#4094	Roberts, Mike & Mary	HC
#4678	Rowse, Tim & Beth	MAL
#0183	Seegert, Jim & Dianne	RR
#4539	Silsbee, Michael & Bonnie	MAL
#4056	Smith, William & Donna	GA
#4263	Spencer, Elwood & Gloria	RO
#4659	Tizer, Daniel & Judy	MAL
#4277	Tupper, Harold & Dorothy	MAL
#4491	Warners, Tom & Ruth	GV
#4614	Westphal, Dwayne & Nickey	DLW
#3689	Whitaker, William & Judith	MAL
#0359	Wilson, Gary Lee	MAL
#4467	Zielinski, Stanley & Tina	MAL
#4684	Van Veelen, John & Ruth	MAL
#4683	Gildersleeve, Bob & Glenna	MAL

These members need to include the \$10.00 reinstatement fee along with their dues of \$25.00 for a total of \$35.00 if they choose to re-join TTCM for 2010 as dues were due by December 31, 2009.

This will be the last newsletter that they will receive because the newsletter editor will receive a new updated mailing list for 2010 in February and these names will be dropped from the roster unless they have renewed for 2010.

If they are in your Chapter or you know any of them, please encourage them to renew right away. As of this writing we have 263 members.

Treasurers Report-

TTCM ended 2009 with a loss of \$2,428.55.

Our total income was \$55,494.32 of which \$2,391.00 was quest camping. Our quest camping was down \$1,670.00 from 2008 due to our temporary membership. However, the Federal Gov't only allows each campground \$500.00. Hesperia was \$744.00 but Bellevue was at \$1,667.00. I do not know at this time what our Federal Tax will be as everything is at the accountant. With our income up 34.2% from 2008 we may need to look at this again.

Our expenses were also up from 2008. They were \$57,922.87 up 47.5%. Utilities were a big factor, they were up 37.6%. All members should be thinking about this and discussing with your chapter what TTCM can do to help some of this. I know all families have had to adjust family finances and I feel we as a club should also.

Please let your chapter presidents know what you feel so proper decisions can be made at the May meeting.

Kathleen (Kathy) Rollenhagen

Please keep in your prayers-

Long time member (TTCM # 2892) Connie Schragg passed away January 13, 2010. She will be missed by many.



News from the North-

Storage cabinet for Hesperia office is ready for pick up-

Gene Conklin shows off the cabinet that he built for our Hesperia Campground office. It will be picked up and taken to Hesperia on the Board of Directors meeting weekend at our Bellevue Campground. That meeting will be on the first Sat in May. The doors and hardware are included Gene left them off until the cabinet is stained or painted. FYI-Gene and Harriett Conklin are members of HAPPY CAMPERS and volunteered to be the very first Campground Directors and Treasurer for our Bellevue Campground and held the position for many years. They were replaced by John and Kathy Schultz.





News from the South-

Bellevue Campground opening is the 17th of April. Come help get the campground ready for the season. We'll need help with tables, rec hall, getting things set up for camping. The planning committee will also meet on Saturday of opening weekend at 10:00 AM. Please have your Chapter reps attend.

If you want wood to burn in your campfires, May 8th is scheduled for all to come and cut wood. If no one shows, there will be no wood for the campfires this year.

The garage sale is scheduled for the 3rd weekend of June. We will start setting up after the close of memorial weekend. You can bring your items anytime after opening.

Tom & I have decided that we will be following the new campground rules. We will be doing STOP/PAY and GO. When you come into the campground to camp, you will stop at the property tender - pay your camping fees - then go to your site. Paying on Sunday when you leave causes too much confusion for the property tenders. All campgrounds that we have ever gone too require you to pay before you park. It has been working great at Hesperia and there should be no problem why it can't work at Bellevue too.

Just a reminder for those who have golf carts in use at the campgrounds, be sure to have your insurance updated for 2010.
See you at opening.

Herm & Tom, Bellevue Directors

To the General Membership-

As members of TTCM, we take pride in the fact that we are part of an organization run by the members, for the members, and for friendly fellowship with other people who like to camp. However, the reality of the situation is that we feel disconnected from TTCM. Please let us explain why.

We feel the need to state our minds relative to the November/December newsletter. More specifically, we feel the need to comment on a few points made in that newsletter.

#1: In the letter from our president, Dick Hamlin, on page two, the last sentence stated, *"So to you who won't take the time to call someone to find out what is right before you run your jaw. Why not try chewing gum?"*. We interpret this as meaning that we are encouraged to call a fellow member to "find out what's true". We would like to know how to go about doing this exactly. We all know who is in our chapter, and we all know the campground phone numbers. However, members do not get a "General Membership" roster. Chapter presidents do, but as many other members, we do not see our chapter president during the winter months.

#2: We saw many references to this club being a "family organization". We do not feel that it is. We feel it is a retirement community. It is run by retirees, and catered toward retirees. And not just any retirees; those who love to gossip and complain about people who are different than they are. Perhaps at one time (1980?) TTCM was family oriented. Perhaps that's because those who are retired now were at the point in their lives where we are now. We hear a lot of talk about "the good 'ol days", and remembering how things were, and how we should all go back to the way things were. We feel that the reality of the situation is that instead we should all conform to the whims and wishes of a select few retirees.

#3: We have an issue with the last line of the General Membership minutes. The secretary stated some things were said that she didn't feel was important to repeat. We feel that deciding what's important and what's not is not part of the secretarial responsibilities.

In our first two years' membership at TTCM, we property tended, and offered our assistance. We felt discouraged at the time, and haven't really been as involved with TTCM since. It's been about 4 years. It seems now that whenever someone else tries to help, they are told no or otherwise discouraged. They are told they don't have the time to volunteer or the experience required. In addition, as a family with young children, we have been rebuffed many times about using things donated to the club for use by all.

For example, someone generously donated an inflatable water slide to the Bellevue campground. It is currently kept in a locked cabinet. We were told we couldn't set it up. Really?!? As parents of two young children, we suspect we have more experience with things like this than others believe we do! Another good example is the popcorn machine. We've been told we cannot use it. Again ... really?!? Danielle pops over 300 bags on the exact same machine at our children's elementary school every single Friday of every single school week. We get the impression that some of the retirees feel people younger than they are too young to set up, operate, or maintain the machine.

We have been relatively patient and have not spoken our minds throughout our membership. But we feel like we can not do this now. We feel ourselves and other families like us are the future of TTCM. We would love to help the club, but constantly feel discouraged from doing so. It's what we want to do. And just because we are different does not automatically mean we can not try to treat each other like equals. Generational gaps are only widened by focusing on differences.

Lastly, we feel rumors could be reduced or stopped completely if the board was more open and shared things with the membership. The suspension is a great example. Since we were never given an "official" reason with details, of course we are going to talk about it, speculate about it, and we are left to come to our own conclusions about it. At this point, no reason was given. So people will fill in the blanks themselves. You cannot fault people for that.

Best wishes in 2010.

Sincerely,
Myles & Danielle Dexter #4570

Double Dozen Chapter

Attention All TTCM Members-

Because both of our Campgrounds are licensed with the State of Michigan we must follow all of the rules. One of them is that there is to be No Hunting or loaded weapons on a State licensed Campground. I will attempt to get a copy of the rules so that they can be posted at both of our properties.

This fall I walked each campground extensively just to see what was going on. At Bellevue I found a tree stand over looking an area of the swamp that is back behind the big hill. I think I know who it belongs to and will look into it in the spring. At Hesperia I found a deer blind set up behind the Rec Hall. Lefty and I have talked about this and he is going to look into the matter.

All I am attempting to do is warn you what the state rules are and that if you are caught hunting on our campground you could loose your hunting license and there is nothing any member of TTCM can do to help you out of your jam.

006



From the Editor-

The next newsletter will be the March/April Newsletter which will be sent out the beginning of March. If you would like an article in the March/April Newsletter please submit them to me by March 31.

If you are receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to start receiving it by email please send me an email with your name and email address.

You can mail newsletter articles to: Debbie Steenbergh, 28231 Lorenz, Madison Heights, MI 48071.

Or you can email them to: dsteenbergh@aol.com

Debbie Steenbergh
28231 Lorenz
Madison Heights, MI 48071



President:
Dick Hamlin
2288 Dorothea Road
Berkley, MI 48072
(248)877-6304
Double0636@aol.com

Vice President:
Bill Rollenhagen
PO BOX 115
Copemish, MI 49625
(231)378-4563
brollenhagen@aol.com

Secretary:
Sharon Westerhouse
PO BOX 336
Olivet, MI 49076
(517) 285-4111
tandsfourfun@hotmail.com

Treasurer:
Kathleen Rollenhagen
PO BOX 115
Copemish, MI 49625
(231)378-4563
brollenhagen@aol.com

Senior Advisor:
Don Westphal
439 Johnson Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(231) 773-9501
westwarn@sbcglobal.net

Reporter:
Ruth Heimann
3367 Reginald Dr
Muskegon, MI 49444

Editor:
Debbie Steenbergh
28231 Lorenz
Madison Heights, MI 48071
(248)930-6897
dsteenbergh@aol.com

Bellevue Director:
Tom W/Herman H
7418 Baseline Rd
Bellevue, MI 49021

Hesperia Director:
Phillip McGahan
400 E Michigan Ave
Hesperia, MI 49421
(231)854-1404

Bellevue Campground: 7418 W Baseline Hwy., Bellevue, MI 48021 (269)763-3551
*From I-69/I-94, north on I-69, exit #48. Go west on M-78, approx. 2 miles. South on Ionia Rd. to West Baseline Rd. East to 16th. Turn left at stop sign and follow for ¼ mile.

Hesperia Campground: 6777 M-20, Hesperia, MI 49421 (231)854-9913
*From Hesperia, head 3.5 miles west on M-20.
*From White Cloud, West 16.5 miles on M-20, campground on south side.

Please visit out associate members:

M&M Camping Center Inc.
2960 W Jefferson
Trenton, MI 48183

Caswell & Company
260 S Dexter St
Ionia, MI 48846