

March/April 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 2



From the President-

Well it looks as if we are going to survive another winter. By the time you receive this I will have completed the kitchen at my son's house and returned to Michigan. It was nice to have my sister (Dar) make the return trip from Denver with me; she had never made a cross country coach trip before. We stopped at all of the neat places and I even got her to go up in the arch at St. Louis. It was sure nice to have her along on the trip.

Spring is here. Both of our campgrounds will open on the weekend of April 16/17/18. Each Director is responsible for scheduling what work is to be done. He is also responsible for taking the water samples and getting them to the Health Dept. to be tested and approved. We are not allowed to use any water from our water system until this is done. As of this date (March 28) I have not received anything from Hesperia as to their plans for the summer.

There is to be a Campground Planning Committee meeting at 2:00 PM on Sat. of opening weekend. This is where the Director shares what ever he feels needs to be done at each campground and the members also get an opportunity to input things they feel should be done. Each item is voted on and recorded in the minutes, these minutes are to be taken to the Board of Directors meeting for approval and funding. If this committee voted not to do something this year but put it off until next year that is the way it should be done, no person or group of members can override the vote of this committee except the committee itself or the Board of Directors.

You all saw the reports from our Sec. and Treas. Our dues renewal is down for this year. We also had a negative cash flow for last year. There are reasons for both items, however it means that we all will have to watch closer as to what we do and spend.

I look forward to seeing each of you this summer. If you have a problem or question would you please call any one of our officers and get the right answer. All of the phone numbers and web address are listed here.

If your unit is parked on a site at either campground you have until April 25th to move it off of the site. Any unit on a site after April 25th will be charged on site storage charges. There are a couple of units that owe for on site storage from last year. You must pay for on site storage until the campground closes, not until the last time you used your unit. If you feel this should be changed have your Pres bring it up at the Board of Directors meeting in May.

Next month when I have more time I would like to tell you all about my \$930.00 per month campsite in Denver.

Dick Hamlin
President, TTCM



From the Secretary's Desk-

Reminder to the Directors as they officiate over their planning committee meeting in April:

Please take written minutes of your meeting for filing with the TTCM Secretary. According to our By-Laws, you must have written minutes of your meeting to record any items that were voted upon to make your projects official. Some projects have been discussed, voted upon, put into motion with no written minutes stating that all agreed to do the project.

Only the Chapter representative is allowed to vote on any business. The meetings are open to anyone but only the representative is allowed to vote when the vote is called. Please make sure that I have a copy of your minutes. This is good business policy especially if we need to refer to any projects down the line.

Thank you,
Sharon Westerhouse, Secretary

Treasurers Report-

As was stated at last years May meeting, last spring Bill and I went to the Board of Review regarding Hesperia's taxes. As you may know a lot of assessments were lowered this year but Hesperia's state equalized value was lowered 18,200. This was correcting our acreage to match what was stated from the survey that was done in 2008 at Hesperia.

Kathleen (Kathy) Rollenhagen

From the Newsletter Editor-

The last several newsletters have been filled with too many negative articles. I have been printing these articles because that is what I thought the members wanted and I too thought the members had a right to voice their opinions and concerns. But enough is enough!! I am still receiving them and I am done, I am not printing anymore of them. The purpose of sending out a monthly newsletter is to keep the members informed about upcoming and past events at the campgrounds that is the type of newsletter you will be receiving from now on. I have enjoyed my time as newsletter editor but these past several months it has been difficult to sit down and put the newsletter together because of all the negativity that was being put into it. I enjoy camping, I enjoy our camping club, I enjoy camping at our campgrounds and I enjoy the company of all the members in our club. The camping season is too short we need to be thankful for what we have. We are a family camping club we need to start acting like one. You are not going to get along with everyone all the time and you are not going to agree with things others do all the time, that is life. If there is anyone who disagrees with my decision and wants to take over the position of newsletter editor feel free to give me a call.

Debbie Steenbergh

Also, I have to apologize to Ruth Heimann, she sent me a couple articles that should have been printed in the December newsletters but they were unfortunately overlooked because of all the other articles that I received. I have printed them in this newsletter.

Sad News-

Please keep in your prayers the families of the following members-
Dick Bonter #4582, Happy Wanderer, Husband of Carol, passed away October 12th, 2009.
Mary Roberts #4094, Happy Campers, Daughter of Gene & Harriett Conklin passed February 25, 2010.



News from the North-

I'm sitting here at my typewriter (computer is on the fritz) and looking wistfully out the window, thinking that soon the leaves will all be off the trees. Where has the summer gone? The leaves are in full color here and at Hesperia. I was there this past week and I had my rig winterized and stored there for the winter. What a blessing that I didn't have to have it towed home this year. Dick Pulsifer and a few others are storing theirs also. I noticed that the windows are boarded up in the clubhouse and the older picnic tables are leaning up against the trees in the campground. Lefty McGahan said the campground would be closed by the end of this week. It's always sad to see a camping season come to an end and we always wonder if we'll be back next year. Our campground director has done a wonderful job, keeping everything in order and everyone happy. Let's hope that next year everyone abides by the rules and both campgrounds are in accord. We need to be thinking of more ways to attract younger families into our membership. Maybe we need to be thinking less about rustic and think more about modern. Let's have our campground committee get their heads together, do a little research, find out what's attracting people to other campgrounds. It may cost a little more, but it would be worth the effort. Nuff said!!!

Ruth Heimann 3412



News from the South-

We need to make a correction to our article last month. We stated that the planning committee meeting would be at 10:00 AM on Saturday the 17th of April. Correction: the time of the meeting is **2:00 PM on Saturday**. All are welcome to attend but only the Chapter representatives are allowed to vote.

A reminder of the wood cutting weekend that is scheduled for May 8th. We need a good group to cut wood for the campground. If we don't get enough to cut wood, then the Directors will just cut enough wood for the club house alone and there will be none for the chapter campfires. So, if you come, please bring your saws, if you have them.

Also, we would like to remind those who have units on site at this time that you have until April 25th to move your units to summer storage. At that time, if still on site, you will start accumulating daily fees.

According to our by-laws any outside group of 6 or more **MUST** be temporary members to use the campgrounds. This was voted upon by the membership and saves us money at tax time. So, if you host a group at any time be aware of this policy.

We would like to ask all Chapters to clean your area before you leave the campground. Trash belongs in the garbage not in the fire barrels or fire pits. The lawn mowers have a hard time with bottle caps and the property tenders shouldn't have to pick up trash before they can mow or clean out barrels before putting them away.

Remember that we are doing **STOP-PAY-AND GO** this year. If you come into the campground late at night you can come to the property tender and pay the next morning. We are trying to make it easier for the property tenders. Speaking of such, we need you to commit to a week this summer for property tending. If you can only take money and answer the phone or dump garbage; that would help as there is always folks to mow and week whip. We would appreciate your help this summer.

We are looking forward to a good camping year. Come and enjoy your campground with us.
Herman Hazard & Tom Westerhouse
Co-Directors

It's Garage Sale Time Again -

It is time for each of us to start to look for things that we can bring to either of our campgrounds for our annual garage sales. The proceeds from this sale can be used for whatever the members who worked to raise the money agree to do. This is where the money came from for the kitchen at Bellevue. So ask everyone you know to help you get stuff for the sale. WE always have more customers than stuff to sell.

TTCM Summer Trip to Somewhere-

I plan to host a caravan trip to where ever the majority of the group wants to go. Because we don't know where it is we will be going we won't be able to make reservation I have to limit the trip to the first 10 people who call me and are serious about joining the fun. We could go to see Santa Claus or The Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. How about the WWII Museum or maybe Kings Island? We will meet at Bellevue of Fri July 30th to plan where ever we might be going so far I have 3 units so there is room for 7 more. Talk about it, we will have a good time; we will find time for a desert pot-luck.

Dick Hamlin

Happy Wanderers-

Just a little news to bring those who haven't been with us up-to-date. Our last two rallies have not been well attended. The Spaghetti Rally only had about twelve units, but we had plenty to eat, and some to take home. It always tastes better after it sets a few days anyway. The weather was rainy and cold, so that didn't help either. I decided that if I do it next year, I might do it in the warm weather months. Some of our campers might be those who just like to camp when it is warm. I'd like that too, but old Mother Nature has to have her own way.

Happy Wanderers had their election of officers at this rally. The by-laws were changed, so that officers elected now are in office for two years instead of one. It will be nice for our president not to have to look for a nominating committee every year. The same slate stayed in office and were re-elected. Ray Hall is President, Bill Carpenter is Vice President, Ruth Heimann is Secretary and Joyce Carpenter is Treasurer.

The Halloween Rally was poorly attended. There were only about twelve units and only about twelve kids to Trick or Treat. I guess that we need to advertize in the TTCM Newsletter and try to put a little more zip into it. Dick Pulsifer had the best decorated trailer, but George Ferguson (and ole) had a pretty good one, too. We played bingo and the kids sure had a good time. Ole Ferguson missed a bingo on the full cover and George Lakatos didn't win again. Joyce Carpenter won a game.

We cleaned all of Happy Wanderers stuff out of the refrigerators, whoever wanted it, took it. It's always sad when we think that the season is over, but there's always the next season to look forward to and the opening of the campground. Happy Wanderers are having a Winter Outing at the Golden Corral on Dec. 5th and 5 PM. There will be a notice sent out. We hope to see you there.

On a sad note, we learned that a Happy Wanderer has passed away. Dick Bonter #4582, husband of Carol, passed away on October 12th and received Christian burial of October 16th. Our prayers go out to the family.

That's all for now, hope to see you in the Spring!!

Ruth Heimann #3412



Presidents answer to letter written by Miles and Danielle Dexter-

In paragraph 1 you stated that you did not have a list of phone numbers. If you were to turn your newsletter over and on the back page there is a list of each officer's phone number and web address printed each month.

#2 You and your wife feel that we are not a family organization and run by a select retirees, I would like to remind you that these retirees were elected by the membership into office. You also had the same opportunity to be an officer. All you had to do was to submit your resume and get enough members who would be willing to vote for you. All the board is attempting to do is to follow our By-Laws, obtain and keep minutes to all meetings, only do what the membership approves to be done. Plus to meet all of the requirements set forth by the State of Michigan and the IRS for a 501-c-7 non profit org. I would very much like to see younger members involved. However in today's world no one wants to be involved. Every one wants to take and no one wants to give.

#3 If something concerned you that much you as a member have every right to go up to her after any meeting and ask for an explanation I am sure that she would have told you what you wanted to know. She is very good at what she does but she can't read minds.

#4 You stated that you were rebuffed many times about using items donated by others. You did not state what it was you wanted to use or who it was who told you could not use an item. I have spoken with each of the current officers of TTCM and asked them this question. "Since you took office has either Miles or Danielle Dexter came to you and asked to use something or anything about TTCM" No one answered yes!! During the pig roast Tom and Herman walked through your area and asked parents if they would like to have the water slide put up? Some said no, it was too cold. Others said yes put it up and they did. It was up all weekend and enjoyed by many. When the weekend was over no one offered to put it away, it was done by the retirees. You asked about the waterslide, it was donated by the DUNELAND WINNIES after they were host chapter of the All American Rally a few years ago. It is in a wooden box in the store room of the rec hall that is never locked and the box has never been locked since I became President. I would like to ask you, "Who told you that you could not use it?" All we ask is that who ever puts it up makes sure that it is taken down and put away and that it is dry before it is put away.

You made a statement that you were told that you "could not use the popcorn machine", who told you that? When I asked the campground directors, they told me that they had not talked with you about the popcorn machine, FYI we attempt to keep bags of microwave popcorn in the drawer next to the microwave so that members can have some hot popcorn with out having to spend the time to clean up the popcorn machine. Anyone can use the machine if they have a need for a lot of popcorn. If they use it, they must clean it up right when they are done not the next morning.

#5 You stated that "The Board needs to be more open" All of the TTCM meetings are open to all members. However no one bother to come, it seems to me that more people would rather complain about something rather than participate in planning and doing it. The CGPC meetings are set by our By-Laws. They are the third Sat of April, June and Aug. They are open to every one; however at times we can not get all of the chapter reps to attend. Members are invited and have input, however only the chapter reps have the vote, each chapter gets one vote. If your chapter were to appoint you to that position you then would be in a position to know what was going on and report it back to your chapter members who didn't take time to attend the meeting. You said that the suspension of a member is a good example of the board not communicating with the membership. A letter and pictures titled THE REST OF THE STORY was sent to all members who had paid their 2010 dues. At the time the letter was sent your dues had not been received. When we received your check for dues a copy of the letter was sent to you just like every other member in good standing.

In closing I would encourage each of you that if you hear of something that bothers you or you don't think it is right to call any one of your officers and get an answer. Over the past winter I have had one phone call from a member asking a question and one e-mail. That I answered a few days later because I was building a kitchen and didn't turn the computer on. All officers' phone numbers are listed on the back of this newsletter.

Dick Hamlin
President, TTCM

The Story of T.T.C.M.-----Travel Trailer of the Midwest

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

TTCM

TTCM is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Michigan. It was formed in 1983 to serve the individual trailerites and the travel trailer industry as a whole, including owners and manufacturers. It was in December of 1963m when George Smith and Clete McKenzie were officers of a local trailer club in Michigan, and decided something should be done on a large scale to have more communication and more effectiveness in fighting local restrictive legislation.

Campgrounds were also becoming more crowded and a larger group could more effectively use such places as fairgrounds, etc, for outings and rallies. They took it from there and formed TTCM with the first chapter, or club, in Monroe, Michigan called the river Raisin Club. Next came Blossomland Club in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Others followed with speed once work got around of the new organization. Articles of incorporation were filed on February 19, 1964.

The first officers of TTCM were: President, Clete McKenzie: Vice President, George Smith: Secretary, Mrs. June Smith: Treasurer, Mrs. Mable McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie served for two years and then retired with Mr. Smith taking over, Mr. Clarence Keene was elected President in 1966, and in April of 1969 was re-elected for another two year term. The Smith's decided to retire in 1969, and officers and board directors were elected in the spring elections or 1969. The new Chairman of the Board was Carl Anderson. The table of organization of TTCM listed several Vice Presidents, Field Directors, assistants to the secretary and treasurer, and a full board of directors from the membership. At the 1968 annual rally, the George Smith's and the Clete McKenzie's were honored by TTCM with a plaque and lifetime membership in the organization in recognition for their services and devotion to the cause of TTCM over these many years.

MEMBERSHIP AND CLUBS

In the early years TTCM had 33 clubs (now called Chapters) that incorporated under TTCM, and more than 2,000 member families in several states which equaled some 7,000 individuals. The largest Chapter was the Happy Wanderers of Muskegon and Grand Valley of Grand Rapids. The smallest Chapter was the Shiawasee Vagabonds of Owosso. The greatest concentration of members was in Michigan's southeastern and western parts. As the membership increased, TTCM helped in forming new chapters through its many field directors in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

Many members remained Members-at-Large. Dues were \$4.00 a year with part of the dues going into the land fund for use in the purchase and development of land for free use by members during the year. Several years later, TTCM already owned such land and had developed same in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan near Strong's Corner, three acres at Gladwin, Michigan and 85 acres in Hesperia, Michigan. Strong's Corner property and the Gladwin property were later sold as further development was deemed not profitable. Part of the dues money went into the land fund for the development and maintenance of the property at Hesperia, Michigan which is for the use of our members.

As of 1973, in just 10 short years Michigan had the largest representation of members and chapters of any state with over 1,200 member families and some 28 Chapters. There was also a

unit in Ontario, Canada, making TTCM truly international in scope of operations. Every year around labor Day, the member families and Chapters gathered together to enjoy a weekend of fun and activities at the annual All-America Rally. The rallies were held in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana where the greatest number of members were located.

SUMMARY

TTCM is an organization that has gone through many changes over the past 45 years. Although our member families are now 312, we still remain an organization of youngsters, teens, and oldsters and gear our activities for the benefits of the whole family. The distinctive red and white decal and black numbers that we display with pride identifies us from all others.

Our purpose hasn't changed from day one: to promote family travel trailering, pick-up camping, RVing of any kind, and assisting in forming new Chapters, establishing an official club publication, educating our members to support the various conservation projects in their states, and to urge all of our members to become more knowledgeable in these matters and to educate the non-trailerist to the fellowship and enjoyment of trailoring.

TTCM is slowly making a comeback. We have more to offer now than in the early days as we have two beautiful campgrounds with water and electric and buildings. If we had that in the early days, wow!!!! We have members in 6 states and are blessed with a good mixture of young and older people, with kids and teens in between, the TTCM motto has always been **"For A Fuller Life – Go The Travel Trailer Way."** We've just seemed to forget that. It is the people that make TTCM such a wonderful organization, yes, indeed, for a fuller and newer way of life – Go The TTCM Way.....

Compiles from records of Steven Bogdon
Director of Public Relations of TTCM, 1973
Written by:
Sharon Westerhouse
TTCM Secretary



From the Editor-

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

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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