



T.T.C.M



June 2015

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Since 1963

From Around the Campfire

It's camping season, and the weather is getting nicer, so let's get out and enjoy camping with our friends and family.

The May meeting went well. We, as a club have some big challenges in the future. How do we save our club and keep camping fees at the current rate, to do this we need to increase the membership, we also need to support both campgrounds by having your chapter outings in both places. As a group we need to work together to increase membership, perhaps put together a web site in a camping blog or webpage, take out an ad in a camping magazine, or talk up the campgrounds have to offer. I have heard that our campgrounds have nothing offer; no pool, no flush toilet, or showers, however I say let's make up our own fun and amenities; I'm open to any suggestions. Send me a little note on what you think our campgrounds have to offer. Tell me why you joined TTCM originally, I would like to know. It is so important that we all work together to increase the membership or camping fees will go up to cover the expenses of taxes, utilities, and fuel, and equipment, it's the price of doing business, let's work to try and keep what we have work so hard to build prosperous. On Memorial weekend we have the pig roast at Bellevue; Double Dozen is the hosting chapter. At this time we have about 140 people.

Everyone enjoyed the camp at Bellevue. We had a great time. Thank you Double Dozen, also the wood you're enjoying this weekend is because of the camp girl's wood cutting team Thank you Christen May for hosting.

Roger M. Vogel
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Voice of the Vice

Memorial Day outing at Bellevue was, again, a great success. Herm and crew had the place in shape, Double Dozen did their magic with the food, and the Auction raised enough money to bring back the Pointn' Fingers band next year. This is possible due to participation in the auction and the efforts of Sharon Westphal who gathers and organizes everything for the auction.

We all know that Memorial weekend is the kick off to a busy summer and if you weren't aware of the friendly competition between our campgrounds here it is. In an effort to help out food pantries in Hesperia and Bellevue we are asking that 1 non-perishable food item be donated for each night you camp. Bellevue filled a large box last weekend and we will post results as they come in.

June 13 is the date for this year's campfire pizza cook off at Bellevue. The only rule is that your pie must be cooked on the campfire. Last year's winner was Darlene Owens with a loaded baked potato pizza.

The float down at Hesperia is over the 4th of July weekend and it is always fun. Come join us and see how much fun it is for yourself.

The AAR is coming together and the art work for the shirts looks great, it looks like the Titans, our Teen chapter, are going to handle food, Double Dozen is on board with running the casino, and Blossomland has got the kids games under control. Duneland Winnies will be building the Pirate ship on the playground we hope everyone can join us.

Daryl



NEEDED!!

Bellevue campground needs someone to step up and run the annual garage sale. This can be a big money maker but we need someone to step up and run it! If you are interested or have questions, please see Herm Hazard!



Please remember if you have something to publish in the newsletter to have it to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date.

I am always in need of news! This is your newsletter so please let me know what you would let to share with your fellow members!

Business from Bellevue

The weather man said it was going to rain over Memorial Weekend, but he was wrong and we had nice weather.

I think everyone here had a great time and the roasted pig was succulent.

The Double Dozen ladies have out done themselves with such a great dinner. After dinner there was an auction, with Daryl Westphal as the auctioneer, which raised over \$1,100.00 to pay expenses and the band.

Sunday morning the Restless Ones served pancakes and sausage. In the afternoon we had an ice cream social and for supper the Duneland Winnies served their famous taters. At 7:00pm a handful of members got together to play bingo. We had 53 units and over 200 people camping over Memorial Weekend!

We had several guests on the grounds and it was good to see the smiling faces on all the kids that were here having a good time – our future is the kids and we need to do more for them so they will come back.

The Duneland Winnies are making plans to build a pirate ship on the playground for the kids to play on when their parents/grandparents bring them camping. If you want to watch it being build or even join in on the building come on out.

Make plans to be here camping on the third weekend of the month so you can join your fellow campers for a potluck dinner and celebrate anyone having a birthday that month.

If you don't have plans for 4th of July come join us at Bellevue – I have heard there will be day trips planned so all you have to do is be here.

Hope to see you all around the campground!

Herm & Bill

Calendar of Events

June 12th – 14th – Annual Pizza Cookoff – Bellevue

June 20th – Planning Committee Meeting

June 20th – Potluck dinner – 5pm - Bellevue

June 22nd – 27th – Sewing Bee – Hesperia

July 4th – Fun in the Sun – Hesperia (see article for more information)

July 18th – Potluck dinner – 5pm – Bellevue

August 15th – Potluck dinner - 5pm - Bellevue

Sept. 4th – 7th – All American Rally - Bellevue

Sept. 21st – 26th – Sewing Bee - Hesperia

4th of July Weekend

Attention Campers: Join the Double Dozen in Hesperia for FUN in the SUN.

The Double Dozen is once again planning the annual tubing, kayaking or canoeing weekend. You choose your mode of transportation. We will caravan from Hesperia Campground to Vic's Canoe in Grant, Michigan. On Saturday, July 4th, we will be leaving Vic's Canoe at 11 am to hit the water for a 3 hour river trip.

The rental costs are the same as last year.

Tubes \$10.00

Canoe or Tandem Kayaks \$36.00

Solo Kayaks \$25.00

Rafts 4 person \$60.00

4-5 person \$75.00

6-8 person \$90.00



If you plan on bringing your own tube then you just need a space on the bus. I can check out that costs (if we do not work out other transportation)

Please place your reservation by June 20, 2015 with a \$10.00 deposit. I can be reached at 734-270-2077 (leave a message) or call or text my cell phone 734-770-8693 and, of course, email at

mullinselderlaw@gmail.com.

If the river is not your thing . . . we are planning a potluck picnic at the beach for Friday, July 3, 2015

Since it is July 4th weekend, I believe Hesperia has an event downtown that includes Fireworks at night.

This is in addition to whatever the fun group in Hesperia has put together.

Fun should be had by all. Hope to see you there.

Tina M. Mullins, Double Dozen

May Potluck Dinner

The first monthly potluck dinner at Bellevue was small but we had amazing food. We had about 14 people come out! The food ranged from watermelon, which was so yummy, to meatballs and pot roast. We even had asparagus wrapped in bacon! That was AMAZING! Thank you to all that came and hope to see more in June!



The executive board meeting at Hesperia Saturday, May 2, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Vogel with the TTCM secretary present to conduct meeting.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag was taken by those present.

Roll Call: Members not present, BL, DD, HH, RR and teen advisor, all other officers and chapter presidents were here.

Secretary's correspondence: Received phone call and E-Mails on what changes are going to be brought up at this meeting. Two chapters have not sent in their non-profit forms River Raisin and the Teen Chapter.

Secretaries mistake in the minutes on the All American meeting: There is one change that the sum of money given to the All-American was \$1500.00 not \$1200.00. A motion by George Behler that we accept the minutes as published 2nd by Gene Kowatch Discussion None Motion carried.

Treasure report: Brenda gave a report on the status of TTCM we received \$35,167.92 from the tree sales without this income we would have been \$2000.00 in the hole. The chapter presidents were given copies of the treasures report to take back to their members. At the present time we have 213 members and 5 associate members that is 8 less than last year. She has opened a savings account for ear marked funds to keep those funds separate so they would not count in the fifty thousand that we have to maintain in our TTCM savings account. She was given a big thank you for doing a good job by the members present.

Vice President Report: Brick sales are still going on, remember that 50% of those funds collected go to special funds for upcoming projects. The DLW are raising all the funds for a Pirate ship for the playground at Bellevue. They have a 50 inch TV that they are selling tickets on and the drawing will be held at the Memorial Day weekend at Bellevue.

Hesperia Directors report: They cut down a tree that was a safety issue. Lefty contacted DOT on highway pickup that takes place 3 times a year. They provide all the things we need to do it along with a safety film that we must view before doing it. A motion by Sherry Murrie that we do this and 2nd by Gene Kowatch after discussion. Motion passed. He said they will have another fish fry the 22nd of August and would like to have reservations in advance for this meal. They will get 2 new screen doors that need replaced at a cost of \$121.45 each. They will refinish the solid doors that need it. The big tractor was repaired. They will take it back each year for a checkup which is a maintenance issue. They will look into updating 50 amp sites. Steve has worked on the stove and it is working now. He said that the stove is old and parts are hard to find. It was discussed that they may just put in an

exhaust fan, George Behler will look into this. Motion to accept this report was by George Behler and 2nd by Gene Kowatch motion carried.

Bellevue Directors report: Herm said they need something better than a golf cart for use in the park something like a John Deere Gator, a used one would be alright. A motion by Gene Kowatch to give them a loan from the mother club to be paid back in three years with a \$5000.00 cap and seconded by Bill Oats. Discussion took place and the vote was in favor of the motion with one no vote. They will put off the electric down to the band area this time. There was a tree that needed to be taken down that cost \$500.00 it was a safety issue. No one has come forward to run the garage sale so it is doubtful they will have one. The old Sears tractor was the first one purchased for Bellevue and it is no longer useful. Someone has offered to buy it for \$40.00 it was agreed to sell it to him. The upper circle electric needs to be looked at because it has aluminum wire and they have had trouble in the past. The pop machine no longer works. Herm will look for a replacement. The campground will have a potluck dinner the third Saturday of the month all are welcome. Motion to accept the report by Gene Kowatch and 2nd by George Behler. No discussion motion carried.

MAL report: Chuck Dickenson said his group has been working on an election hand book and is almost done with it. A suggestion that we put the finale draft on the web site.

Standing committees: Darly Westphal said the three clubs running this year's All-American rally are DLW, BL, DD. He asked that they be given seed money of \$1500.00 for this event. A motion to give seed money by Gene Kowatch and 2nd by George Behler, Discussion none Motion passed.

Membership: proposed membership drive incentive as follows: TTCM members who recruit at least 2 new members between January 1st and December 31st will have their dues waved for the following year.

New members will be either a person or couple who have never been a member, or a former member who has not renewed for a minimum of 2 full years. All members are eligible including campground directors. Sherry Murrie made a motion to do this and it was 2nd by Dwayne Westphal after discussion the vote was in favor of the motion. Motion passed

Veteran's free weekend expired this year. Discussion on keeping it permanent, this can be used only on, one weekend a year by that veteran. George Behler said we owe the veterans

so much. He made a motion that we make it permanent, 2nd by Scott Bouwman, Motion passed.

Optional membership fees: Proposed change in annual membership fee: Members will have the option of paying for multiple years. Maximum of 3yrs. If dues are increased the member will not be charged the difference. No refund policy. After discussion Sherry Murrie made a motion for the proposed change 2nd by Scott Bouwman, Motion passed.

Donation for food bank at both campgrounds: A competition between both campgrounds, that when you come to stay you will bring one item for each night's stay, any non perishable food item that's not out of date. This is optional. The results will be at the All-American rally in the fall.

Old Business: Brenda said it was asked during an audit how the campground directors set up the charge accounts. The campground directors are responsible for setting up and maintaining who can charge to them and making sure that these accounts are paid monthly.

Dick Hamlin said the brick for the RV hall of fame is in place and showed pictures of it. A thank you for Dick on doing this.

New Business: Permanent sites must be maintained by those who use them this was brought up before.

George Behler asked about the quilt that chapters made a couple years ago. Sherry Murrie said she had a lot of bad things happen this year with passing of her father but she will get it for this year's All-American. Nancy Hellman said the ladies at the sewing bee could finish it. Sherry said she will have it done. Leo will make a frame for it when it is done.

News editor wishes to be paid \$25.00 for mileage per newsletter instead of the free weekend of camping. She will pay for camping when used. Much discussion on the high cost of the newsletter the E-Mails have started to fall off. A suggestion that members pick them up at the campgrounds or send postage to the editor, this will be brought up at the membership meeting in the fall. There was a motion that we pay the editor \$25.00 for 9 trips to the printer at a cost of \$225.00 this was made by Gene Kowatch and 2nd by George Behler, motion carried.

Discussion on getting TTCM to be a Passport park. This was brought up to help see if we can get more members to join TTCM. The cost of those that use it would be the \$12.00 we all pay as members they would only be able to stay 2 weeks a year. There would be block

out days such as holidays and the All American event. Bill Oats will look into all the details to join Passport. A motion by Bill Oats that we join. 2nd by Gene Kowatch, motion passed: This could change after Bill investigates Pass Port to see what involves TTCM in cost.

President Roger Vogel said they would look at getting cell phones for Bellevue. He also asked that the presidents of all the chapters take back the following to their members: looking at the cost of putting in showers and flush toilets at both camp grounds in the near future.

Roger was told that the news editor computer was not working. Brenda asked if we bought insurance on it. This computer is fairly new. Roger told Sherry Murrie to have Melissa bring it to Roger and he would have it looked at.

The \$50,000.00 that is on hold will be looked at the membership meeting in the fall.

Treasure Brenda Hilderbrandt said we have a new supplier for badges and rockers: (Dr. Hook) the cost for them would be \$6.00 each. She also said that the maintenance fund for both campgrounds is \$2,500.

President thanked those that set up the meal.

Motion to adjourn by George Behler and 2nd by Gene Kowatch, motion passed.

There were 30 people at this meeting that lasted around 3 hours.

Leo Fitzpatrick Secretary

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TRAVEL TRAILER CLUB OF THE MIDWEST
Since 1963

Don't forget to visit www.tcm.org

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From I-69/I-94 – north on I-69, Exit 48. Go west on M-78, approx 2 miles. South Ionia Road to W. Baseline Rd. East to 16 Mile Road. Turn left at Stop sign and follow for ¼ mile. Campground on the left.

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 the south side.