



Home of the AmTryke

# THE BUCCANEER LONGVIEW AMBUCS

We meet  
Each Thursday at Noon  
Heritage Room of  
1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist  
400 N. Fredonia St.  
Longview, Texas

P. O. Box 3092 - Longview, Texas 75606-3092

May 14, 2015

[www.longviewambucs.com](http://www.longviewambucs.com)

EDITOR: Don Esch, 903-291-0888

**Presiding:** Doug Fouse  
**Prayer** Robert Lee  
**Pledge** Mike Tomanio

### ROLL CALL

**Members: 40**

**Guests: 0**

**Speakers: 2**

**Drawings: \$71** John Durst  
**Attendance: \$153** Jeff Thorpe

### Board Meetings

- ➔ Wednesday May 20th ⚡  
5:30PM @ World HQ's
- ➔ District Board Meeting ⚡  
Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>  
6PM @ World HQ's

### Golf Tournament

September 18<sup>th</sup> (new date)

Co-Chairs **Tommy Knight** and **Chad Hinton** remind you to keep looking for \$100 Hole Sponsors, and \$500 4-man team applications. Contact Tommy with leads for larger sponsors NOW, to get names on banners.

**A ballot of upcoming officers is included in this newsletter. See page 2. You may write in other candidates if you wish. Vote for your choice.**

### Breaking News!

*The installation banquet for new officers will be June 4<sup>th</sup>, a Thursday evening, at Jerald's, which is located downtown. Admission is \$25 per person. Turn in your ballots to Randy Rose, and indicate your preference of food, that being chicken, steak, or salmon.*

### Ramp it up!

We built 2 last Saturday, one for a former Ambucs member Jim Webb, and the other for an 11-year old boy in Mt. Enterprise. Next ramp build is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Safety Item!

Billy H. and Allen Lizza shook their heads in disgust because Paul Herring cut the power cord on the wood router during a recent ramp build. Don Esch volunteered to repair the cord.

### National Ambucs Convention

It will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi this year. It will be kid/family friendly, so bring your wife or significant other. It will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October.

**Mobility Bash  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Amtryke News – Steve Rogers reported that he had ordered 2 more units for display, and that he noticed 2 kids on the national waiting list for an Amtryke. They live in Tyler and in Jasper, so he needs help delivering these units. Let him know if you have a vehicle in which you can transport these to their recipients.



**Carey Higgenbotham**

Mr. Higgenbotham is the VP of Combat Warriors. They serve active & retired Special Services servicemen who have lost limbs in the line of duty. The Longview chapter is the only one in Texas, and it was birthed by the original Wounded

Warriors organization in Wake Forest, North Carolina. Their mission statement is "To honor and support, financially and emotionally, the commitment and courage of our combat veterans". A not for profit 501c(3) organization, they minister to all branches of servicemen by planning hunting trips, and supplying them with the clothing, guns, and equipment to hunt wild turkey, hogs, ducks, and also plan fishing outings. These trips usually last 3 days.

Combat Warriors plan the trip for these men, including transportation to the nearest airport, airfare to and from the destination, pickup at the Gregg County Airport, hunting clothes & equipment, and guns & ammo from Academy. The national supplier for Academy has also donated rifles, and other equipment free-of-charge. Of course, all meals are prepared for them during the expedition by volunteers as well. Upon conclusion of the hunt, these men are transported back to the airport for their flight home.

Carey explained what an emotionally moving time it is for these wounded warriors as they bond with fellow amputees. These men are hardened lead slinging soldiers. Many times, they feel depressed and socially inadequate due to their injuries, making some even consider suicide. Some of them are retired, and some are on active duty, wearing pseudo names, due to the highly sensitive nature of their special operations.

At first, they usually have difficulty opening up to others, but during the course of the trip, they develop a feeling of accomplishment and establish an emotional connection with their teammates.

Mr. Higgenbotham recalled one particular soldier who was withdrawn, but after killing a small deer he became excited and enthused over his accomplishment. He became so thrilled, that his body began to shake with excitement. Remember, these men never or rarely have a chance to get out of their residence to do anything outside, much less in the great outdoors.

Doug Fouse shared that he had served as a hunting guide for Wounded Warriors last year, and he stated it was one of the most rewarding things he has ever done in his life.

Carey explained that Mr. Satterwhite and up to 27 other land owners gladly donate their land free-of-charge to these heroes.

These soldiers don't have to worry about accommodations, transportation, or special retrofitted equipment because Wounded Warriors supplies all of this at no cost to them or their families.

Carey spoke of one triple amputee named John Mason who was with the hunting expedition last year. He explained that officer Mason was the finest man he had ever met. He spoke of John's incredible attitude and zest for

life. Mr. Mason truly inspires everyone he meets to rise above their circumstances, and not let their loss of limbs stop them from truly living life to it's fullest.

Carey also explained that they desire to launch a scholarship program for the children and spouses of wounded/deceased veterans, so that their kids can pursue their college education.

Mr. Higgenbotham concluded his remarks by once again asking for a financial contribution to Wounded Warriors from Ambucs.



## **T-Bone Walker Blues Fest**

June 5th – 6th

This year, our club will again run the beer booths. And, we've already cleared \$5k from sponsors! Get your free tickets from Duke Owen. We need help that Friday morning setting up tents. Beer booth shifts are 4 -8 and 8 – midnight on Friday and Noon – 4, 4 – 8, and 8 – midnight on Saturday.

So, plan to help set-up, work and/or tear down. Any way you can participate will be fun and benefit the club....and you'll hear some great blues music.



