



Home of the AmTryke



We meet
Each Thursday at Noon
in the Heritage Room of
1st United Methodist
Church
400 N. Fredonia St.
Longview, Texas 75601

THE BOCCANEER

LONGVIEW AMBUCS

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

February 23, 2017

www.longviewambucs.com

EDITOR: Don Esch, 903-291-0888

Presiding: Chapin Miller
Prayer: Charlie McGregor
Pledge: Tim Hood
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**Members:** 36  
**Guests:** None  
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Attendance: \$37 Ken Hartley
50/50: \$41 Paul Herring
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**Future Speakers -**  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bryan Partee**  
**CEO of Boys & Girls Club**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup> - Tim Hood**  
**½ Marathon Chairman**

club that helps students with state & national conferences. McAlister's will donate 10% of their gross sales to this worthy cause. Show up and support this.

Steve Rogers said that a Mineola family will be visiting next Thursday who have a 9-year old son who will receive an AmTryke. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Herring recently delivered 2 AmTrykes to Willis Knight Hospital in Shreveport.

Billy H. reported that the Big Hat club fishing tournament is coming up March 25th. There will be no door prizes this year, and another party is doing the cooking this year. Come and enjoy, and if you want, camp out. Billy also suggested to the President that we duplicate Rotary's efforts of picking up trash along the roadways. Joel Johnson suggested that we contact Rotary to be assigned an area to clean.

**\$1,000** was recently donated to Ambucs by Network Communications!

Joel Johnson reported that he has Rotary Club bash tickets available at \$100 a piece which admits 2 people for an all-you-can-eat

catfish dinner. It will be March 18th with a luck-of-the-draw, giving away a 2012 Chevy Camaro. Please see Joel if you want a ticket. Their goal is to raise funds to eliminate polio. The serum has eradicated polio in most every country, except Pakistan and Afghanistan, which have not yet been touched. Joel also reported that because of their fund raising efforts, a hospital was built in Guatemala and Honduras, fresh water wells have been dug with water piping ran to homes and businesses, and that electrical lines have been ran to rural areas.

**Speaker Cheryl Thomas**  
**Physical Therapist at Van ISD**  
Cheryl has been a therapist for 21 years and actively works with kids and adults, ages 3 – 21. Mrs. Thomas uses water therapy and core workouts regularly with students, and worked in pediatrics prior to working for Van ISD.

She regularly works with people who have spinal bifida, palsy, and other physical disabilities. She teaches them to move and sit up, which enhances their ability to learn in the classroom. She also teaches basic life skills and grooming habits which helps their social and classroom skills.

### Club News:

Birthdays and Anniversaries - Charlie McGregor will be 82 February 27th, and Dave Dean's birthday is February 25<sup>th</sup>. Luke Ethridge is celebrating his 6th year wedding anniversary.

### **Ramps**

Billy reported that 2 ramps were built last Saturday with 1 In Henderson & 1 in Longview. Only 8 people went. We need more people to show up, as we have a spring backlog of ramps to build. Kevin Ingram ran his first crew Saturday, and he mentioned it was a team effort. On February 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 10pm, McAlister's Deli is hosting a fundraiser for the Kilgore College Physical Therapy

Cheryl spoke of the Van tornado that struck in 2015, which totally destroyed her building and damaged other buildings on the campus. Fortunately, she evacuated her building before the twister hit. She said that the AmTrykes were in another building and left intact. She is looking forward to the completion of the new school and using the new facilities.

She passed around pictures of some of her students who absolutely love their AmTrykes.

Due to HIPPA laws, she is prohibited from releasing their names, but said the AmTrykes are very popular with her students, and they sometimes fight over who gets to ride them. She works with a boy with seizures and left side paralysis, strengthening his core and right arm. While he hates to work out, he loves his AmTryke, and it is his reward for completing the work out. Mrs. Thomas also serves a boy who has autism, and a paralyzed left side.

She is taking home another AmTryke today, due to high demand at school. Cheryl mentioned that low level autistic kids sometimes fight over who gets to ride the AmTryke, which prompted a 2<sup>nd</sup> unit, and now a 3<sup>rd</sup> Tryke today which will be used daily at recess. The students that ride the AmTrykes through the halls to their classes sound their coming with horns and bells. So, everyone knows they are coming and move out of the way.

She said that 2 of her autism students are non-verbal, but that they are able to express clearly when they want to ride the AmTryke. One kid was

overweight, and a computer geek, who doesn't like to work out, but has lost 30-40 pounds riding it.

They will soon be having a non-sanctioned Special Olympics with baseball, assisted walking competition, and due to the popularity of the AmTryke, are adding a riding competition. Her job is to help her kids in school, but more importantly in life. This is her area of service to help kids and families with disabilities.

Mrs. Thomas mentioned a Bible passage from Ephesians 2 that says we are God's handiwork, and that God has prepared good works in advance for us to do. She praised and thanked Ambucs members for our good works which have blessed so many people over the years.

Cheryl serves 17 direct care students. Every 2 years, her license renews and she has to complete continuing education for renewal.



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Check these dates out, going to send sign-up sheets to Kilgore and Panola.. Please respond with an OK or changes that need to be made.

March 4th - Ramp Build  
March 18th - 1/2 Marathon  
March 25<sup>th</sup> Fishing Tournament  
April 1st - Ramp Build  
April 15th - Ramp Build  
April 29th - Ramp Build  
May 13th - Ramp Build  
May 27th - Ramp Build  
June 10th - Ramp Build  
June 24th - Ramp Build

All ramp & work days start @ 7:00 at Butcher Shop, 7:45 at World Headquarters

Tighten your belt, mark your calendars!

Let's do this Longview Ambucs, Kicking Butt!

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Steve and Diane Rogers