



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

March 2, 2017

www.longviewambucs.com

EDITOR: Don Esch, 903-291-0888

Presiding:	Chapin Miller
Prayer:	James White
Pledge:	Dick Allen
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<b>Members:</b> 39	<b>Guests:</b> 7
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Attendance: \$42	David McWhorter
50/50: \$50	Tommy Knight
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<b>Future Speakers -</b>	
<b>March 9th Tim Hood – ½ Marathon</b>	
<b>March 16th Chapin Miller Bus. Mtg.</b>	

### Club News:

Kevin Ingram said that 3 ramps will be built this Saturday, with 1 being the replacement of a temporary ramp, and 2 more new ramps. Be at Butcher shop at 7:00, & HQ's 7:45.

Steve Rogers had 6 guests today - a family from Mineola pictured here, to whom was given an AmTryke!



Michael Tubb showed us pictures and videos of AmTrykes being given away by various club members, including some that James White gave away. If you have pictures or video of your Tryke presentations, send them to Mike, and he will show them at a future date.

James White said the fishing tournament is March 25th, with Wendy's chili as the meal, relieving us of that duty. He also said that Enbridge sent a check for \$500 for this event.

Danny Lee encouraged us to bring more guests so we can continue to serve the community effectively.

There is a need for an email distributor director to replace Jack Crawford. This duty entails receiving the newsletter from the writers (Don Esch, Michael Tubb, and Chad Hinton), and distributing it to club members and interested recipients thru an emailed distribution list.

Longview ISD invited us on April 20 from 5 - 7:00 to their health fair to display what we do. We accept.

Tim Hood said the ½ Marathon is 15 days away. Next week he will speak about it and assign helpers. He has yard signs for you to distribute advertising this event.



**Boys & Girls Club of Harrison County Executive Director Ryan**

### Partee

Ryan Partee has been with the Boys & Girls Club for 13 years. He discussed 2 things – the perception of the club, and the merger with ISD's.

Nationally, the Boys & Girls Club was originally founded by nuns to stop boys from smoking and playing pool. It wasn't until 1990 that girls were added to the organization.

Mr. Partee said that the general perception is that the Boys & Girls Club is just a babysitting and gym activities organization. He said it is much more than that. Not only to they provide a place to go after school and constructive activities in which to engage, they also supply

food because these kids often go hungry at night and on weekends. The facilitators assist the kids with homework, and physical activity time. They stress development of character, leadership, a love for art, career development, and physical activity. 100% of kids pass each grade level in school. Ryan said that he knew of only 1 boy who did not graduate high school since he (Ryan) had been the Executive Director.

Mr. Partee said that poverty in Jefferson, Hallsville, and surrounding communities is rampant, with some families' annual income only being \$8,500 to \$9,000. However, he said the program is not just for poor kids, but for some kids who either have wealthy absentee parents, or kids who just don't know where their parents are altogether.

He said the typical problems encountered with these kids mostly centers around underage drinking.

Mr. Partee also said that teen pregnancy is a big problem.

Ryan said that due to iPhone technology, this lack of activity is making kids overweight and lazy.

There are also few safe places in which a young boy or girl can go after school. The Boys & Girls Club supplies a sense of belonging in a safe and supporting environment, with food, and mental and physical activities.

He stated that effective January 1st, a merger of school boards with the board of the Boys & Girls Club began.

He said that they serve 202 miles of area, including Marshall, Hallsville, Jefferson, Elysian Fields, Mt.

Pleasant, Longview, and Gladewater.

For example, he said that in the Waskom ISD, they serve 70 kids, which is 30% of the school population. In bigger cities such as NYC, it is about 2%.

They have a goal of 34 sites, and have an annual operating budget of \$2.5M. Mr. Partee said that the board

of governors is responsible for taking care of the sites, and allocating funds for such. Each location does an event to raise money. As an example they have what is called the Kid's Fund, with \$25 monthly donations – an affordable option for many individuals and families to support.

Ryan said that the kids in the program print T-shirts which cost \$5 each to make, which teaches the kids a skill and a strong work ethic. They cleared \$300K profit last year from the sale of T-shirts. There is a 19 to 1 ratio of staff to kids. Typically, school teachers are known to volunteer and make a little extra money working with the kids in the Boys & Girls Club.



## 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 25th 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