



We meet
Each Thursday at Noon
You are welcome
to join us.

Home of the AmTryke

THE BOCCANEER LONGVIEW AMBUCS

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

June 7, 2018

www.longviewambucs.com

EDITOR: Don Esch, 903-291-0888

Presiding:	James White
Prayer:	Steve Warner
Pledge:	Jack Crawford
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<b>Members:</b>	36
<b>Guests:</b>	16 - nurses/family of AmTryke recipients
<b>Guest Name:</b>	<b>Guert of:</b>
Kieler Soape	Al Bingham
Robert Monsivias	Nick Bowen
Ronnie Gray	Dave Dean
Gene Anderson	" "
grandson of Goettle	Albert Goettle
son of Garza	Mike Garza
<b>Speakers:</b>	2
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Attendance:	\$595 carryover
50/50	\$44 Duke Owens
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### Golf Tournament

Tommy Knight reported that we made apx. \$8K. He thanked all who helped, including Doug, Chad, and Tom. Tommy said there were 24 teams; 80 players. Because of it, David Cooley signed up again as annual sponsor. Tommy also thanked Allen and Harry who did some double duty.

### National Conference

It will be Oct. 3rd-6th at the Peppermint Hotel Resort in Reno NV. Number is 866-821-9996.

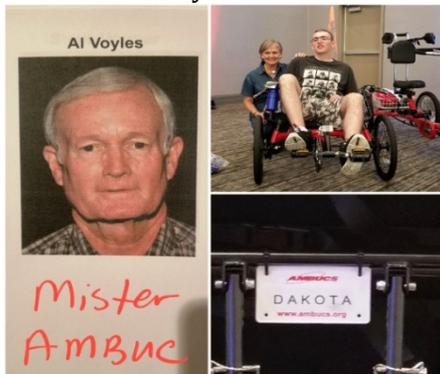
years on June 16, Albert Goettle 23 on June 10, Jack Crawford 64 years on June 12. 65th year is sapphire, so Jack needs start saving today!



See Al Bingham to order your T-Shirt.

### Club News

Linda Voyles sent a thank you card for giving away an AmTryke in memory of Al Voyles. 24 year old Dakota Montgomery received it; the grandson of Al's hospice sitter Mary Tower.



Jack Crawford receives 15-year award.

### Ramps

Billy said be at HQ Saturday at 7:30.

### Anniversaries

June 7th, Mark Winnery 34 years, Robert Lee 5 years, Randy Andrews 45 years on June 8, Dick Allen 45



Officers Ron Duncan, Alan Whitlock

Mr. Duncan & Alan Whitlock serve on the Police Outreach Services Team (POST) that was activated 1-1-18 at the behest of Mayor Mack after a study was conducted of the homeless population in 2017. POST works with other entities to identify and provide housing, food, shelter, and transportation for the homeless in Longview. They work with other charities, i.e., Hwy 80 Rescue, Salvation Army, Hope, Partners in Prevention, etc.

For these officers, there are no set work hours, but flex hours to help the homeless folks. The homeless are a big problem, although we generally don't see them except for the occasional beggar at intersections.

Officers Duncan and Witlock take a new & novel approach by talking to homeless people in camps and becoming their friends. The homeless need place to stay and a job, so the officers give them advice and options to help them. These two officers share/receive ideas with the Houston PD, and Tyler PD. They share their learning with any other PD that is interested.

Typical homeless camps are unseen on unmaintained/unimproved property that have tall trees/foliage, and are generally concentrated near businesses and waterways. Here, they can solicit money, and wash/relieve themselves. Typical camps contain pests, rodents, standing water, hazardous chemicals, and rotting food. Some camps actually have furniture. The homeless also tend to congregate around city parks, i.e., Magrill, Lear, and McWhorter Park where they can obtain food from garbage containers.

Code Enforcement contacts property owners to clear and clean up the land where the homeless are camped. Recently, Wal-mart on the south side of town was cited for

having a homeless population on their wooded acreage, and they obtained a bush hog, clearing it immediately. Police post a 48-hour eviction notice at the campsites.

Once evicted, many just move another 100 yards away. The POST talks with the homeless and gives out phone numbers and info on services that are available to them. Many of the homeless don't like the rules and discipline required at mission facilities, so the advice dispensed is not always heeded.

82% of the homeless are not from Longview, but typically from other states such as Arkansas, Florida, or New Mexico. Most are white males over 35, and most learned about Longview thru social media.

Conventional police enforcement takes the homeless person to jail but POST doesn't. POST establishes trust with them by being social and giving them info. Ron and Alan do not wear traditional police clothing, but dress more casually with a t-shirt and casual pants.

If after repeated attempts to reform the homeless person, if the judge wants to jail them, officers Duncan and Whitlock often recommend community service instead. Sometimes, this restores their faith in themselves when they help others who are suffering.

Repeat offenders' names are stored in a database. Contrary to what we may think, some of the homeless population are indeed educated and capable people. However, due to life events, they can't seem to break the poverty and/or victim mindset.

The officers stressed that one needs an ID to get a job, but most don't have it. So, the POST officers help the homeless obtain an ID at the Department of Public Safety, and then work with staffing agencies to place them in a job. For these individuals, restoring the

work ethic in their lives creates a new sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

### ***2 of the AmTryke Recipients Today Are Below:***



***These kids absolutely loved their new AmTrykes!***

### **Meeting Place**

It was suggested that we continue to meet at the Hilton for now. Joe **Joe Knox Add-On**

There is a dog safety class for kids 12 and under if anyone wants to bring their kids out for a few min. to listen. It's at the Village Shopping Center; class starts about noon and they will give away two scooters from a drawing for the kids that show up.