

We had high points and low points at our August 17th gathering, the low being that only two of our original members were able to attend with their respective spouses. However a high point was that we welcomed our newest member, Mary whose last name ironically is Newcomer. Mary has IBM, lives in Fort Walton Beach and works in Niceville as a Physical Therapist. I am thrilled to meet Mary and have her join our group because she is the only other Niceville resident I have met who has Myositis. WELCOME MARY!

The second good point was our speaker Donna Reyher and her husband Keith of Davis Travel & Tours, Bluewater Bay, who shared some wonderful stories about adventures they have experienced and travel tips for those of us with mobility restrictions like Donna's MS. Some highlights of their presentation:

- Worst travel problems involve dealing with results of those who falsely claim handicap status and thereby reduce availability of privileges for legitimate travelers.
- Most important tip: When flying with your scooter chair, ride it to the gate where it can be gate-checked, **at no**

extra charge, and available at your destination when you deplane! Be sure to discuss the type of battery on your scooter with the airline as the regulations differ depending upon type.

- Ask for specifics about a *separate box* of items for your scooter that can also be checked free.
- If you are taking a wheelchair, include in the above box the *foot rests* which are often detached and lost during air travel.
- Other items to include in the box are repair items for a walker if bringing it along, such as extra bolts, nuts, tape and tennis balls for sliders and the necessary tools to apply them.
- On cruises handicap equipped cabins are often few in number so book as early as possible and be very specific about your needs. Advise cruise companies of your restrictions and needs to be accommodated on port tours as well as aboard the vessel. Front seats can be reserved, in your name, for motor coaches etc.
- Some European trips are not too handicap friendly due to age – cobblestones, narrow doorways, old baths etc. Be very specific inquiring about details of modes of travel and accommodations.
- The Tauck family Tour Co. **in Wilton**, **CT**, is her favorite for meeting her mobility needs on trips they have made in the past.

Donna shared with us about her large family excursion to China a few years ago. Naturally one of the highlights of the trip was going to visit THE GREAT WALL and Donna arranged for them to walk on it the first day of their trip. Though she did not explain exactly how it happened, she said she managed to fall off of the Wall and badly damage her ankle to the point she had to leave the country and fly home, leaving her parents, reluctantly in charge of the remainder of the trip. I'm not sure she is proud of having the moniker of "one who fell off The Great Wall" but it certainly is a unique story.

Another great thing Donna brought to the meeting was information about the new Zinger scooter they purchased for her. It has changed her life when they travel by car because it is compact enough to fit into and maneuver in tight places like an antique store in north GA that she had only seen the front sections of previously. The building was so large that she tired quickly getting around using only her walker. They recently made a trip to GA to view the eclipse and while there, returned to the store that for Donna, had previously held mysteries of "what treasures are in the back sections?" This trip she spent a couple of hours happily meandering around all over the building using her Zinger. At 42 lbs with battery and folded dimensions of 36"L x 25"W x 10"H it easily fits in the trunk of a car. (They have not flown with it yet.)

IT HAS BEEN AWARDED FOUR U.S. PATENTS

Invented in Virginia, the Zinger is no ordinary travel scooter. Its two-lever control system, quick folding frame, and swing-away foot plate are all revolutionary to the mobility industry.

Zinger travel scooter on the web at: Zingerchair.com

Brochures will be available at the Conference at our table Sep 7th

TMA Conference

Sep 7-10

TMA will be live streaming sessions from our Annual Patient Conference. On Saturday, September 9, four sessions from the Conference can be viewed live over the internet. The times and topics are below. If you live in the Central or Eastern time zones, remember that the times below are Pacific Standard Time:

9:00 am <u>Reports from TMA's Medical</u> Advisory Board

11:00 am <u>Questions & Answers - Inclusion</u> <u>Body Myositis</u>

2:00 pm Discovery, Understanding, and Progress in Myositis Research

3:30 pm Promising Research in Inclusion Body Myositis

To view any of these sessions, find the link on TMA's homepage that will be posted on Saturday, September 9.

If any of the sessions are not started exactly at the time indicated, please be patient and be assured that the session will begin shortly.

NWF Panhandle KIT next meeting: We're not sure who will be going from our group to San Diego but David and I are and will bring back as much information as possible to share with the group at our next meeting tentatively planed for <u>Saturday the 18th of</u> <u>November</u> at a restaurant <u>in Pensacola</u>. Stay tuned for updates.

Madge Chambers, KIT leader

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Two Zingers fit in this tiny Mini Cooper with ease.



The Zinger can turn on a-dime. In your home, a restaurant, a store, maneuverability is what makes the Zinger great. Bit Two Lever Control System is actually fain to drive, Just as the dot liwor tractor have given why the moders "Zeo Liver" moves, maneuverability is the reason. Note that the Zinger does require both hands to operate.



FREEDOM TO JOIN THE PARTY ONLY THE ZINGER CAN PULL UP TO A TABLE OR DESK

u drive a scooter, you'll have to leave tside the restaurant, get to your table out it, and worry that it's still there 1 you leave.







Overall Weight





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Foot Plate W x H	10.25 (260) x 2.75 (70) H from floor
Maximum User Weight	250 pounds (113Kg)
Speed Low Range	0-1 mph (1.6 Km/h) for indoors on smooth floors
Speed Medium Range	0-3 Mph (5 Km/h) for outdoors walking pace
Speed High Range	0-6 Mph (9.5 Km/h) for hill climbing or mowed grass
Reverse	0-1 Mph (1.6 Km/h)
Range	8 Miles (13 Km) flat straight course, 5-6 mile typical outdoor use
Maximum Incline	10 Degrees (ADA compliant wheelchair ramps are 5" max)
Turning Radius	24 in. (610 mm)
Motor	brushed DC 36V, 250W, 7A
Battery	36V, 6.6 AH, 240 watt-hour, Lithium-ion 4 Lbs (t.8Kg) high quality cells
Charger	2.1A, Automatic, InputI00-240V, charge time 4 hours or less
Steering/Braking System	Two Lever Controls (bard steel on tire brake / hard steel knurled roller on tire drive)
Frame	6061 Aluminum and Nylon Composite
Front Wheels	6 inch non-marking solid
Rear Wheels	9 inch non-marking pneumatic (40P51 / 2.88AR / 275kPa)
Anti-Tip Wheels	50mm PU solid

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