



The **Mobility Minute**
Summer Issue 2006

NEW JERSEY:

2303 Wallace Boulevard
Cinnaminson, New Jersey 08077
856-829-9449
Fax 856-829-4402
800-850-8267
Rentals 800-862-7475

5105 Route 33/34 (Wall)
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727
732-919-1444
Fax 732-919-0256
800-221-0034

82 Midland Avenue
Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663
Fax 973-546-1706
888-467-4376

NEW YORK:

500 Central Avenue
Bethpage, New York 11714
516-938-5207
Fax 516-938-5263
866-524-8267

501 Concord Avenue
Mamaroneck, New York 10543
914-835-8267
Fax 914-835-8279
866-999-8268

PENNSYLVANIA:

925 South Trooper Road
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403
610-666-9100
Fax 610-666-9102
800-784-8267
Rentals 800-862-7475

6475 Ruch Road
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18017
610-837-0707
Fax 610-837-4933
888-837-6630
Rentals 800-862-7475

AVM Expands Into Northern New Jersey!

Accessible Vans and Mobility is proud to announce the addition of Fun Truck'n of Saddle Brook, New Jersey to the AVM alliance. With this new addition we are able to broaden our accessible sales and service coverage area to include northern New Jersey and Rockland county New York. The newest AVM location offers a wide range of accessible vehicles, wheelchair lifts and adaptive driving aids, as well as the highest quality service and repair.



AVM/Fun Truck'n is located at 82 Midland Ave. in Saddle Brook, in the heart of northern New Jersey, just 30 minutes from Manhattan.

The Saddle Brook location is operated by Al Ackerman, who brings with him over twenty five years of experience in the accessible vehicle industry. Al states that "by enlarging the AVM coverage area into northern New Jersey we will be able to provide high quality mobility products and service to even more consumers".

For more information on the Saddle Brook location, or to speak with a sales representative, please contact Al Ackerman, President, or Rob Rice, Sales Coordinator, at 888-467-4376

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New Saddle Brook NJ AVM Location Offers Accessible Vehicle Rentals



AVM is proud to announce that the new Saddle Brook, New Jersey location will be offering accessible vehicles for daily, weekly or even monthly basis. AVM offers a complete fleet of adaptive vehicle rentals that will fit your unique needs and situation. Whether you are looking to accommodate a visitor, fill a gap during a repair, attend a special event or even take an extended trip, AVM can help! Our typical rates are:

— Daily: —

- \$125.00 for one day with 100 free miles
- \$110.00 per day (2 days) with 200 free miles
- \$99.00 per day (3-6 days) with 100 free miles/daily

— Weekly: —

\$630.00 per week with 700 free miles

— Monthly: —

\$1,895.00 per month with 2,000 free miles

Pick-up and delivery are available and significant discounts apply to longer-term rentals. Prices above do not include applicable sales taxes, passenger car rental taxes and/or Transportation Assistance Fund Charges. Delivery and pick-up fees based on location. Daily and weekly charge of \$.25 per mile over 100 miles per day (maximum of 2,000 miles per month.) Monthly mileage charge of \$.25 per mile over 2,000 miles per month. Prices are subject to change without notice. Please contact one of our rental associates for more information and to determine van rental availability. Renter responsible for insurance on vehicle. Insurance information must be verifiable. Rentals not currently available in all locations.

Sunline Coach Website Correction

In the Winter 2006 issue of Mobility Minute we incorrectly listed the website address for Sunline Coach. The correct website address is: www.advancerv.com. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Enter to Win a \$50 Gas Card – Send Us Your E-Mail Address to Be Entered Into A Drawing!

With the rising cost of gas affecting everyone's wallet – AVM wants to help by giving you an opportunity to enter to win a \$50 Gas Card. If you send an e-mail to contact@AVMVANS.com, between now and September 1, 2006, we'll enter you into the drawing.* In addition to the chance to win a \$50 gas card, you'll also become a part of a group of individuals who will receive e-mail updates on upcoming AVM events, open houses and pricing specials.

Please be sure to include your name, complete address and telephone number. Any e-mails sent without this information will be disqualified.

So, take advantage of this unique opportunity and e-mail us today at contact@AVMVANS.com!!

*One winner will receive one \$50 gas card. Must be 18 years of age or older to enter. Winner will be notified before 9/15/06. Please contact an AVM representative for complete details.



The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund – Providing a Resource to Families in the State of New Jersey

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund was established by legislation to provide financial assistance for families whose children experienced an illness or condition which is not otherwise covered by insurance or State/Federal programs. The Fund is intended to assist in preserving a family's ability to cope with the responsibilities which accompany a child's significant health problems.

The child must have been age 21 years or younger at the time expenses were incurred. Incurred medical expenses – not otherwise covered – must exceed 10 percent of family income, plus 15 percent of any excess income over \$100,000.

The child's parents or legal guardian are required to have been New Jersey residents for at least 3 months immediately preceding the date of application. The following expenses will be considered and may be eligible for payment/reimbursement if found to be reasonable:

- Transportation for Child's Medical Care
- Home Health Care
- Specialized Pediatric Ambulatory Care
- Care in Acute or Specialized Hospitals
- Physician Care in All Settings
- Pharmaceuticals

The Fund is collected from an annual surcharge of \$1 per employee levied on all employers who are subject to the New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Law.

Assistance to families generally takes the form of payments to providers or vendors from whom the family has incurred expenses. Families are asked to participate in developing a Fund Distribution Plan. Families may re-apply for assistance annually.

For more information, please contact the

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission

at 800-335-FUND or <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/catill/cicrf1.html>

Braun Introduces the New Scion xB Rampvan

The Braun Corporation is introducing the new Scion xB Rampvan. The sharp lines and styling of the Scion combined with the reasonable price and great gas mileage are quickly drawing attention to this new vehicle. The Scion xB is less than 13 feet long and only 69 inches tall, but don't let the small size fool you! The Braun Corporation picked it for a Rampvan conversion because inside it is roomy enough to accommodate a wheelchair and have 50 inches of headroom after the floor is lowered.



The Scion Rampvan conversion also includes a power rear door, power rear ramp, remote control, interior switches and a wheelchair tie-down. A load-leveling air suspension causes the van to kneel. Options include magnetic entry and driver or passenger power transfer seat base. The Scion Rampvan cannot be driven from a wheelchair.

For more information on the new Scion xB Rampvan, please contact an AVM Sales Representative.

Back-Tracker® Offers Back-Up Safety and Security for Your Accessible Vehicle

The BackTracker® uses ultrasonic sonar technology to detect objects behind your vehicle. Warning beeps let you know that there is an obstacle behind



you. The beeps speed up as you get closer, allowing you to judge distances and avoid accidents. Reversing accidents range from the annoying, to the costly, to the unthinkable. But when you have a BackTracker®, you back up with confidence. Parallel parking becomes a breeze, and paint scratches from backing into parking barriers become a thing of the past. Most importantly, backing up becomes a whole lot safer.



Please contact an AVM Sales Representative for more information on the Back-Tracker® product.

Just a Reminder

Should You Ever Need It – 24 Hour Emergency Service is Available at All AVM Service Locations!

We've mentioned it in the past – but felt it was important to mention again – for your safety and peace of mind! AVM offers its customers whose vehicles break down outside of normal hours the option of contacting us to speak with a service technician. We can also provide you a ride home and arrange for towing and traling if needed. Your vehicle will then be scheduled for servicing during normal business hours. Standard charges will apply.

If you need to reach one of our locations for emergency service, please dial that location's regular phone number (listed on the front cover of this newsletter).

The voice recording at each location will prompt you on how to contact a technician for emergency assistance.

Standard charges will apply for towing and traling & an hour labor charge will also apply. Please contact an AVM representative for more information.

AVM's Own Al Ackerman: NHRA Racing Champion

Did you know? In between running the Saddle Brook office of Accessible Vans and Mobility, Al Ackerman is also an accomplished National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Racing Champion. Al began drag racing in 1964. Since then, he has been a multi-time winner and/or runner-up at both divisional and national races held throughout the country. In fact, in 2004, Al was a Northeast Division One Champion and a #1 Qualifier at the US Nationals in the Competition Eliminator field!! Al's team is known as 1320 Racing and is a two-car team. For more information on NHRA racing, or to follow Al's team – please visit www.nhral.com.



Caption and photo

United Spinal Jets Quad Rugby Team Makes an Appearance at the 2006 Abilities Expo in Edison, NJ

Members of the United Spinal Jets quad rugby team – co-sponsored by the United Spinal Association and the New York Jets NFL football team – presented exhibition games at the 2006 Abilities Expo in Edison, New Jersey, April 22nd and 23rd. Quad rugby, a Paralympian sport, is a variation of rugby played by quadriplegics in specially-adapted wheelchairs. The United Spinal Jets' appearance at the Expo was made possible by both the United Spinal Association and Accessible Vans & Mobility.



Members of the United Spinal Jets Participate in an Exhibition Game at the 2006 Abilities Expo.



Special thanks to Jennifer M. Rodriguez, Public Affairs Officer – United Spinal Association for assistance both with the writing and the photographs for this article.

LEFT: Members of the United Spinal Jets and the Accessible Vans and Mobility Staff at the 2006 Abilities Expo.

Spotlight On: Natalie Pelletier – An Extraordinary Special Olympian

Every time that you pick up a copy of the AVM newsletter, you're seeing the graphic design talents of Dennis Pelletier. Dennis lives and works in Maine, and has shared his many talents with AVM for many years.

Dennis and Alice are the proud parents of Natalie; their thirteen-year-old, autistic daughter and extraordinary Special Olympian. Natalie is a very happy, very mellow young lady who loves to swim and be actively involved in her community. A seventh grader at Yarmouth Middle School, Natalie competed for the fifth time this past January in the Special Olympics Maine Winter Games.

More than 1,000 athletes from more than 70 Maine communities met at Sugarloaf Ski Resort in Carabassett Valley to compete in speed skating, figure skating, Nordic events, alpine events, downhill, slalom, giant slalom, and snowshoeing events.

Natalie won a Gold medal in the 25 meter Junior Class event of snowshoeing and a Bronze medal in the 50 meter Junior Class event!!!

The Special Olympics began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver saw a need for some type of sports program for people with developmental disabilities. Soldiers Field was the site of the first Special Olympics games and included nearly 200 athletes from the USA and Canada. In 1970, the very first Winter Special Olympics was held on Kiwanis ski slope in Gorham, Maine. As a result of the success of this first Winter Special Olympics, 80 countries now offer a Winter Special Olympics program.

Our congratulations go to Natalie on her Gold and Bronze medals and our thanks go to Dennis for all of his hard work!!



Why Is It Important to Maintain Your Accessible Vehicle?

When it comes to owning and operating any vehicle, proper maintenance is necessary to ensure safe, trouble-free operation. Proper inspection and maintenance helps reduce the number of costly repairs to your vehicle. In order to help make the process of maintaining your accessible vehicle more convenient, AVM offers its customers:



- Low Cost Service Rentals
- Courtesy Shuttle Service (within 10 miles)*
- Extended Warranty Programs
- Acceptance of most major credit cards, cash and personal checks for payment

AVM recommends the following basic maintenance schedule for your accessible vehicle:

Lowered Floor Minivan

- Four weeks or 100 cycles (Clean and lube as needed)
- Six months
- One Year
- Annual Service thereafter

Full-Size Vans

- Four weeks or 100 cycles (Clean and lube as needed)
- Six months
- One Year
- Annual Service thereafter

Hand Controls

- Annual service (We recommend initial service after 30 days and then annually thereafter)

EMC Driving Controls & Secondary Controls

- Semi-Annual Service (We recommend initial service after 30 days and then twice a year thereafter)

Left-Foot Gas Pedals/Pedal Extenders

- Annual Service

Transfer Seats

- Annual Service

Please note that not all services are available at all locations. Please call for more information, User is responsible to keep vehicle and equipment clean, maintained and free from debris accumulation. Users should notify their local dealer of any conditions or failures of equipment immediately.



SAVE 40% OFF an AVM Service Check!

Regularly \$174.95

- Complete lift Check-Out and Tune-up
- Lubricate at all recommended points
- Realign, tune and adjust lift, ramp and door system
- Perform any warranty service or repair

Note: This service does not include parts unless they are covered under warranty. We will get your approval before performing any service that won't be covered by the base price of the service.

Offer expires 8/31/06 and cannot be combined with any other offers.

7 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

NEW JERSEY:

Cinnaminson, NJ Farmingdale, NJ Saddle Brook, NJ
800-850-8267 800-221-0034 888-467-4376

NEW YORK:

Bethpage, NY Mamaroneck, NY
866-524-8267 866-999-8268

PENNSYLVANIA:

Norristown, PA Bethlehem, PA
800-784-8267 888-837-6630

www.AVMVANS.com

*Not all services available at all locations.

On The Road With AVM ...

Where We've Been Recently And Where You Can Catch Us Next!

AVM participates in many conferences and Expos throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania every year. Our goal is to reach out to as many people as possible to keep them updated on our products and services.

From April 21st-23rd, AVM exhibited at the **2006 Abilities Expo in Edison, New Jersey**. The three-day event attracted consumers from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and surrounding states. AVM had their entire sales staff (from all locations) as well as over 20 vehicles on-site for people to see, ask questions on and purchase if they desired. AVM also sponsored the Quad Rugby Team, who held exhibition games at the show, with t-shirts (see related article on page 4). In addition, AVM held daily contests giving away prizes ranging from Visa Gift Cards to a 32" Flatscreen TV!

On May 30, 2006, AVM exhibited at the **United Spinal Association's Spinal Cord Disability Awareness Day, held in Vanderbilt Hall at Grand Central Terminal in New York City, New York**. The all-day event was free to the public and provided a convenient forum to meet and interact with dozens of knowledgeable disability advocates, health care practitioners and assistive technology experts.

In the coming months, AVM will participating in the following events:

2006 Home & Lifestyle Expo

Montgomery Mall, North Wales, PA

September 15 - 17, 2006

Senior Expo

Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center, Drexel Hill, PA

October 18, 2006

Please contact your local AVM for more information on any of these upcoming events.

Spotlight On:

Planning Ahead for Your Summer Vacation?

Check Out These Information Resources ...



With winter behind us, and thoughts of the dog days of summer ahead, our minds start to wander to sun, fun and vacations!!!



As you start to make your summer plans, it's good to know that there are a wealth of resources available to you on the Internet to use in making your preparations. We've compiled a brief listing of some of the sites that we've found to assist with topics such as accessible airline travel, accessible hotels, accessible cruises/resort packages, travel insurance and more.

We hope that these resources are helpful to you and that you enjoy your summer plans!

www.disabilitytravel.com

www.access-able.com

www.makoa.org

www.geocities.com/heartland/6295

www.flying-with-disability.org

Please note that AVM is not affiliated with any of the sites listed above. We recommend that you always use caution when making your travel plans and work only with reputable companies and organizations. If you have recommendations on other helpful sites, please share them with us, so that we can pass them on to our readers in future issues of Mobility Minute. You can e-mail us at contact@AVMVANS.com.

Ask Pete Zarba

Peter Zarba
Sales Manager
AVM JBussani



"I'm a Veteran. Can I have my vehicle modified by the VA?"

You're in luck! The Veterans Administration has several ways to financially assist with vehicle modifications, scooter lifts and/or turning seats. If you use a wheelchair/scooter as your primary means of mobility you can quickly be enrolled in the VA Health-care system.

Mobility-impaired veterans are classified into two categories – SERVICE CONNECTED and NON-SERVICE CONNECTED. If your disability was diagnosed while you were in the service you are service connected. Service connected veterans are entitled to a one-time \$11,000 auto grant, reimbursement for some factory options, vehicle modifications for entry and primary driving equipment like hand controls. The total VA payment can reach over \$25,000. Your salesperson can help you complete the required VA Forms 21-4502 and 10-1394. Don't forget! A veteran can have two modified vehicles and they can be replaced every four years. Non-service connected veterans are those who were



diagnosed after they were discharged from the military. Coverage includes vehicle modifications such as lowered floors (minivans) and wheelchair lock downs. Knowing

your rights as a non-service connected veteran can reduce your out-of-pocket expense by over \$10,000.

Even if you were in WWII and just started using a wheelchair/scooter we can help. Our knowledgeable salespeople can get you started with the VA and keep you on the road to independence. We at Accessible Vans and Mobility appreciate all American Veterans for their service to our country and look forward to assisting you in the future.

If you have a question for "Ask Pete Zarba", please send Pete an e-mail at pzarba@avm.com.

Can a Honda Odyssey be modified and what are your thoughts on it?

Over the years I have had countless numbers of people ask me if we can make the Honda Odyssey wheelchair-accessible. While in the past the answer was "no", we are pleased to say that now that answer will be "yes"!!

Vantage Mobility will be offering the accessible minivan through select VMI dealers with EX, EX-L and Touring trim packages at the end of this year. The production of these vehicles will be limited at first but VMI's Terry Miller assured me that "we will ramp up production quickly to support our dealers". As with all newly introduced vehicles your NMEDA dealer will take a hard look at this product line and guide you through the purchase process.

Let's take a look at some features that make the Odyssey a great platform for conversion. Consumer Reports Magazine rates the Odyssey as a top-pick minivan for its style and safety. The Odyssey offers traction control and full side-curtain air bags. The engine is a unique and spirited 244HP, 3.5L, 24 valves with VCM (variable cylinder management). Cylinders are deactivated using the I-VTEC system to improve fuel economy. Variable-assist power rack-and-pinion steering provides a precise road feel with sensitized modification possible through your mobility dealer. Other popular options include rearview cameras and GPS navigation.



Wheelchair accessibility is what we at AVM are all about and the Odyssey will help keep us all busy! Compared to the Toyota Sienna the extra 8 inches of floor length (3 inches at the "C" pillar) will be an improvement. A modified Odyssey features an 8.5 degree ramp angle and a true 5.5 inches of ground clearance. In addition, it boasts 66 inch panel-to-panel width and 58.5 inches of headroom (.5 inches less with moon roof option). Independent double wishbone rear suspension will soften the ride for people in wheelchairs that ride in the middle location. Our factory-trained technicians will have an LCD on-board diagnostic system to speed you on your way when visiting for service.

Enjoy your summer and be sure to contact your local AVM dealer before you buy any Honda vehicle.

*For the Best Price, Selection
and Service Choose*



***Check Out Our New & Improved
AVM Website!!***

AVM has spent significant time updating their website to provide you with better, more detailed information! From new and pre-owned vehicles available for sale, to information on rentals and more . . . check out www.AVMVANS.com today!!

