

RPG Trailer

Presentation Speaking Notes

**Hello everyone, my name is Hawke
Robinson, and I'm here to discuss**

The Goal of the RPG Trailer:

**To create a means of providing,
accessible, Therapeutic Recreation
services, to clients in under-served or
un-served areas,
including rural locations.**

RPG Trailer

Presentation Speaking Notes

Introduction Page 1

Hawke Robinson

- Registered Recreational Therapist with the Washington State Department of Health
 - Working toward CTRS
 - Primary Investigator (researcher) for The RPG Research Project
 - President of RPG Therapeutics LLC
- Founder & Facilitator of the Spokane American Sign Language Study Group since 2006
- Mental Health First Aid Certified
 - Full time single father of 3 kids

RPG Trailer

Presentation Speaking Notes

Introduction Page 2

A member of:

- WSTRA
- PNTRA
- ATRA

Back in the early 90s was:

- Certified Nursing Assistant &
- LPN Trainee at Doxie Hatch Medical Center,
- Habilitation Therapist at Hillcrest Care Center for people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

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Interdisciplinary EWU Student
Recreation Therapy, Music Therapy,
Neuroscience & Research Psychology

Originally from California, and did the “Silicon Valley dot com thing”, worked with Fortune 1,000 and Fortune 500 companies.

My Information Security research published by the
SANS Institute

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Retired in 2003 from computer science and chief technology officer to focus on raising my kids, but work toward TR & Research psych when kids grown.

Also a musician under the name “Synthetic Zen”, and some acting background in stage, videos, and online Internet movies & series.

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Spoke at WSTRA a few times, and PNWTRA last year, as well as WorldCon.

I am the “Accessibility Advocate” for the annual Spocon Convention.

Just came back this weekend from PNTRA.

Will be presenting at WSTRA this May 6th in Bellingham. Who will be there?

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In October 2015 was on HBO's VICE Media.
October 2016 on KREM2 News & Northwest Cable
News.

Based on TR methodologies to achieve therapeutic
& educational goals, I have also been using role-
playing games as an intervention modality in all
formats: tabletop, live-action, computer-based, and
solo books.

See research papers, videos, & articles on the
website: www.rpgresearch.com

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Also doing various music-based activities, including drum circles.

Believe it or not, this all ties in with what we're doing in TR and MT:

Providing recreation therapy and music therapy based services for free to under-served and un-served populations and locations.

The Challenges - 1

When volunteering at various locations such as Saint Luke's rehab, Rockwood, and many others, constant challenges with facilities resources.

The Challenges - 2

For drum circles, noise was a problem.

For tabletop RPGs, space for more than an hour or so an ongoing problem competing with PT, OT, ST, Zumba, etc.

The Challenges - 3

When running experiments at my offices, community locations, and facilities, hauling so many books and equipment was onerous.

The Challenges - 4

Public locations like game stores, community colleges, libraries, often had many complications, uncomfortable, unfriendly, unsafe, judgmental looks for those with obvious disabilities, etc.

The Challenges - 5

Many older buildings can get around having to comply with ADA, and even some that try, do very poor job, even with new buildings, for example at The Kendall Yards “Spark Center”.

The Challenges - 6

The Wheelchair Friendly RPG Trailer is intended to address these and many other issues.

See the FAQs section on the website:
www.rpgtrailer.com for the full list.

The Proposed Solution - 1

Since about 2012, rough idea for a mobile facility.

Since early 2014, clear idea for building the “perfect” wheelchair FRIENDLY trailer, and have it fully designed.

See floorplans and video simulation flythrough on the RPG Trailer website.

Bureaucratic Hurdles – 1

Labor & Industries, insurances, business licensing, and much more.

Too long a topic for today's class, but happy to provide details after class to anyone curious about the details.

Just a very short focus on the L&I challenges follows...

Bureaucratic Hurdles – 2

Not allowed to do myself. Have to pay state certified shop.

Many months, and thousands of dollars for approval process, before the thousands in construction costs by certified shop.

Company in Arizona, only one in country specialized in wheelchair friendly RVs, 18+ month process and thousands of dollars for approval by WA state, because not a large manufacturer with a “sweetheart deal”.

Not giving up, have to do in longer stages.

A Partial Implementation - 1

This, the RPG Trailer Mark 1, is not yet that envisioned “perfect solution”, but it is a great leap in the right direction.

The more ideal version is the “Mark 2”.

A Partial Implementation - 2

People often ask why not “just” add a wheelchair lift.

A: Expensive & heavy

B: Very slow, okay for just one person, but loading and unloading a whole group, use up a lot of time.

We typically run groups of 4 to 6 people.

A Partial Implementation - 3

The Mark 1 can handle 3-4 people in wheelchairs around tabletop based activities like board games, role-playing games, etc. inside the trailer.

For drum circles, can handle a few more people.

If turn ramp into patio mode, around 8-10 people.

With side awning, can extend reach to another dozen people if the weather allows.

A Partial Implementation - 4

RPG Bus is in the works, hopefully live by this summer, in time for MDA Summer camp.

Need to Know - 1

Most RVs are NOT wheelchair accessible.

A few can widen the side door, maybe ADA bathroom at best.

Self-powered RVs can only use lifts not ramps, because far too tall, has to be a trailer for ramp.

Need to Know - 2

Can't use a regular RV, floors usually not sturdy enough for heavier electric wheelchairs (400-700+ lbs!)

RVs usually not wide enough activity space for groups.

Toy Hauler has heavier duty floor design, and large “garage area” perfect for group activities.

2 hitch options: Travel Trailer (this), or “Fifth Wheel”.

Tour - 1

Start with ramp closed, but ready to drop, then drop it in ramp mode to demonstrate ease. Later show patio mode.

Ride height of the trailer (around 24") = angle of the ramp = only manually assisted ingress/egress wheelchairs for now. Mark II much lower ride height ~17" or less.

Ramp extension from MDA coming, for electric wheelchairs, soon.

Tour - 2

Notes on grip tape, proper shoes, and wet weather.

Note the folding couches, and how they flip out of the way.

Start with seats down, and have people sit in them quickly for comfort (get cozy!).

Attached ramp barely meets vehicle ingress/egress ADA angles for manually assisted, but too steep for office, home, or electric.

Ramp extension will help it meet ADA angles for all but home requirements.

Tour - 3

Flip sofas out of the way, and now have everyone practice assisting each other in a wheelchair, ingress/egress on the ramp into the “garage” area.

Do this in groups of 3 to 5 as wheelchairs allow.

Let them try to figure out the best way, and allow Professor Messina to comment on the caveats of different approaches.

Tour - 4

Notes on grip tape, proper shoes, and wet weather.

Note the folding couches, and how they flip out of the way.

Start with seats down, and have people sit in them quickly for comfort (get cozy!).

Tour – 5 – Features/Pros

Self contained TR facility for a wide range of activities.

Can bring TR & MT services to clients in under-served or un-served areas, especially rural locations.

Can supplement existing facilities that have limited interior activity space.

Save a fortune on facility & hotel costs.

Tour – 6 – Features/Pros

Does require a vehicle strong enough to pull, and gas mileage takes a hit, I am getting 7 MPG overall, but if handle in a scheduled “circuit”, the savings in facility and hotel costs, more than make up the gas costs.

Tour – 7 – Features/Pros

Thousands of RV “Resorts” all over North America.

Walmart parking lots welcome RVers.

Plugin electrical power at many locations, including hospitals I discovered this week!

Tour – 8 – Features/Pros

This prototype cost me over \$40,000, out of pocket, with about \$2,500 down, plus a few thousand in modifications.

The monthly payments for this are LESS THAN my monthly office costs were.

I can “go where the work is”, rather than be limited to one geographic area. Potentially anywhere in North America!

Tour – 9 – Mk1 Mods – No L&I

Planned modifications that do not require L&I:

- Wedge to level out slope in back of garage.
- Adding extra grip tape as needed.
- Adding padding and caution tape to bookshelves by side entry door.
- 2 ceiling mounted tables.
- Extension ramp
- Patio enclosure

Tour – 10 – Mk1 Mods – Need L&I

Possible modifications that do require L&I:

- Widen side door for wheelchair access.
- Change bathroom layout so at least door and toilet are wheelchair friendly, probably can't do much about shower in this trailer, only in Mark II does it offer roll-in shower.
- Possibly (though probably too expensive), remove/move kitchenette to make larger garage, more likely save up for Mark II.

Tour – 11 – Mk1 Cons / Mk2 Pros

Kitchenette in the way. Out of the way in Mark II, means at least additional 2-3+ wheelchairs.

Sliders in Mark II, means another additional 2+ wheelchairs, plus less “cozy” for those there, more room for their chair backpacks and many other things they like to hang off the back of the chairs for their convenience, that would be squished against the wall otherwise.

Tour – 12 – Mk1 Cons / Mk2 Pros

Side entrance, not wide enough for wheelchair, would have to carry person out (or they crawl) in emergency (humiliation).

Mark II resolves, though would need a second narrow ramp added too.

Bathroom, too small door and bathroom, Mark II addresses wonderfully.

Tour – 13 – Mk1 Cons / Mk2 Pros

Sinks and light switches not wheelchair accessible.

Not a problem for the services we are providing, but the company addresses this in their RVs if desired, just worth noting.

Tour – 14 – Mk1 Cons / Mk2 Pros

Compared to the Mark I, th Mark II could handle twice as large a tabletop group, and about 50% larger “circle” groups without a table.

It will also be much easier ingress/egress without ramp extension, due to much lower ride height and thus decreased ramp angle.

Tour – 15 – Mk1 Cons / Mk2 Pros

If enough time (doubtful), demonstrate Patio Mode with walls and gate, and optional enclosure. Explain where ramp extension would go at gate. Show gate is child safety.

Volunteer Sign Up – Column 1

We have many other facilities and people needing volunteers to help provide TR and related services.

If you want to be a part of this, sign up for the RPG Therapeutics LLC column.

Our partners/clients include many other organizations, facilities, and individuals. The list is constantly growing.

Put check mark in column for each area you are interested in volunteering for.

Volunteer Sign Up – Column 2

Example: Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp: July 15-22 in Rathdrum Idaho. We are running drum circle, LARP, and tabletop activities the 18th and 20th, around 30 campers plus each has aide, need all the volunteers we can get. MDA would gladly have you for whole time.

We will need you to attend 2 training sessions, 4 hours each, in the months before the camp, to prepare you.

Everyone must pass MDA volunteer background check, submitted at least 90 days before camp.

Volunteer Sign Up – Column 3

Or sign up to either work as a volunteer, or as a participant in future RPG Research Project studies.