

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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AUGUST 2010

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

The big event for July was the AMBUCS™ National Conference held in Naples, Florida, on July 7 -11. The weather was hot and humid but it was in Bloomington too. We had three Cornbelt members in attendance.

The week started off on Wednesday night with the Buccaneer's Bash themed dinner/dance. This was a time to renew friendships and meet new AMBUCS™. Our members came in costume.



Thursday afternoon was a three hour General Session. This included the roll call of chapters, Blue Chip Awards, speakers, and candidate speeches. In the evening was the Foundation Dinner for those eligible to attend.

Friday morning was the Big Hat Breakfast and Auction, which I was able to attend for the first time. Our chapter item was some barbeque tools we bought for \$50, and they sold for \$200. A lot of money was raised during the auction. The auction was followed by the AMBUCS™ Foundation Program. It featured inspirational guest speakers, therapists, awards, and the Central Region Caucus, run by our own Al Bedell, Central Region Director. Greg Ferris, National President-elect, and Rick Kerr, candidate for National President-elect made appearances.



Saturday was a full day of activities. At 7:00 am was the 5th Annual Trek for Trykes Walk-a-Thon to raise money for AmTrykes®. It was flowed by the 7th Annual AmTryke® Rodeo/Open House. During these two hours, 40 kids received their new AmTrykes®, sponsor by AMBUCS™ Chapters. We also sponsored one – see the AmTryke® article.

After lunch was a 2-½ hour General Business session, with national voting, awards, and a special tribute to AMBUCS™ winning the \$50,000 from the Pepsi Refresh



Program. In the evening was the President's Dinner (Unleash the Beast, Cliff Bauerle, outgoing National President). Following the formal dinner was the installation of officers, and remarks by the new National President, Greg Ferris from the Decatur Chapter.

By some strange set of circumstances, Vicky and I were seated at a front table with the National Big Hat President, National Big Hat Treasurer, National Big Hat President-elect, and two former National Big Hat Presidents. A good time was had by all.

The 2011 National Conference will be July 20-23 in Memphis, Tennessee, within driving distance. Please consider attending next year's national conference. The club does help with some expenses if you do attend.

As for the home front, the July lunch meeting was cancelled because of conflicts with the national conference and vacations, etc. For the August 4th meeting, we hope to have the District Governor Dr Jeff Dill as a guest speaker. Hope you all can attend. As for ramps, we removed one for reuse, and built two ramps on Ramp Saturday the 17th. We still have ramps to build on our waiting list. Please consider volunteering in the future, and bring a friend!

October 5th is the annual Parenting and Disabilities Expo, for which we have been a participating sponsor for several years. We need members to help man our table for two hours at the Bloomington High School. Contact me if you can serve.

October/November is Branding Time where the emphasis is on adding new members. Watch for info on a membership contest coming soon. Our membership has been declining – help keep us active by finding new members.

We have had a good start to the 2010/2011 year – let's keep up the good work of "providing mobility and independence for people with disabilities".

Denny



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, August 21, 2010
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, August 4, 2010
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...

Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We participated in three ramp projects in July... by recycling one ramp in Normal... to another location in Bloomington and building a ramp in Bloomington.

We had built a ramp several years ago in Normal... and the family had contacted us to recycle the ramp. We took off railing, removed decking, and loaded up sections of ramp in pick-up trucks (Thanks, Duane and Lloyd) and took them across town... all in one evening. Yes, even the AMBUCS™ are goin' green!



On Saturday, we started at Ms. Knackstedt's home... and built a 38 ft. ramp from a pile of lumber sitting in the driveway. It was hot and muggy... but the smiles were plenty at the end of the project as we got Mrs. Knackstedt out on the top platform for our picture! Her granddaughter watched our progress the whole time and made sure we did a good job. (Anyone have an AMBUCS™ application handy?)



Then, we couldn't leave Mr. Tom Craig stuck in his home... so we over to Tom's home in Bloomington and re-assembled the re-cycled ramp at his home. Not so much decking to put on... as the sections were already built... but the railing was fun! We've got skilled labor with all our volunteers working as a team and got a ramp done for Mr. Craig, as well. He was very appreciative and told us several times how thankful he was for our services... and the fact that he can finally get out of his home safely! That's what it's all about...



We've got more ramps for August... so watch your e-mail. We continue to get requests for ramps this summer... and we will continue to build ramps on the third Saturday of the month. We will also build ramps in the evenings to accommodate everyone's schedule during the summer. If you have participated in our ramp projects, you know the power of that smile or the "thank-you" at the end of the project. If you have not had that opportunity, pick a date and come and join us... we would love to have your help! As always, the lumber is provided... so all you have to do is bring your own smiles! Give me a call if you have any questions.. and see ya' at the ramps!

See ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie
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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

Did you know you can now receive your monthly copy of the Cornbelt Buc-etin via email? *Save a tree*, and save *Cornbelt AMBUCS™* the first-class postage...and get your monthly copy online! Just send Jerry an email at JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com.

AmTrykes®

Cornbelt did not provide any AmTrykes® locally during the first quarter. We need the members to get the word out that we have trykes!



We did give one away at the AmTryke® Rodeo at the National Conference in Naples. A total of 40 AmTrykes® were donated during the rodeo on Saturday morning. It was a well-organized and well-attended event. There were six "stations" that were used to fit the recipient to the tryke. Each station had a therapist, and a mechanic (Al Bedell was one). There were two Spanish translators who helped with the language differences. They needed more translators so Vicky Strauss volunteered to help with translation. Way to go Vicky! She said she had a fantastic time, and is now psyched

about AmTrykes® and AMBUCS™.

Our chapter gave an AM-12 to a little girl, Jade Iglesias Rodriquez. She appeared to really enjoy her new tryke.



Cornbelt AMBUCS™ has provided AmTrykes® to children with Spina Bifida and recently built a ramp for a young girl with this disorder. I will also be speaking at their chapter meeting in September. The Spina Bifida Association of Illinois is having their Walk and Roll-A-Thon on Sunday September 19th. Please see the attached flyer. If anyone is interested in walking please contact Al Bedell at alambucs@aol.com or (309) 826-0405.

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

Central IL Memorial WALK AND ROLL-A-THON Sunday September 19 3mi/5K

**Constitution trail in Bloomington at Tipton Trails North Shelter off
College Ave.**

**Registration at 11:30
Walk Begins at 12:00 noon**

Tshirt and lunch for all participants

**For Further Information/Registration Contact:
www.sbail.org/bloomington-walk.html**

**Lynn Grabher Bradtke - 309-452-9937
or
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