

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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DECEMBER 2010

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

What! It's December already!! The AMBUCS™ year is half gone already. We ONLY built two ramps in November. See "Bill Buchie's Babbles..." for more information on our November ramp building. Our AmTryke® give aways are jumping. And to think that only a couple of years ago, we could not find kids to give them to. See Al's "AmTrykes®" article for more details.

Hockey Social – Our Prairie Thunder Hockey social on Wednesday, November 15, 2010, was a success. We had 16



people in attendance. Unfortunately the Thunder lost to the Sundogs in a shootout. The chapter provided some snacks, and the view from the suite was great. And Vicky Strauss recruited a new member! A good time was had by all.

Fall Branding - October/November was Fall Branding time when all AMBUCS™ everywhere gear-up to find new members. At this time, it looks like Cornbelt recruited SEVEN new members!! Way to go!!

Socials - We are planning a post Christmas social for January. This will feature a "re-gifting" gift exchange, as opposed to a "white elephant" gift exchange. Details will be coming out in the near future. We also hope to have an Extreme football social, and our second Cornbelters baseball game in the future.

National Conference – The AMBUCS™ National Conference for 2011 is July 20-23 in Memphis, TN. This is within driving distance. If you have never attended the National Conference before, consider this opportunity to attend. It is a good chance to meet AMBUCS™ from all over the country, attend some great training sessions, and have fun in Memphis.



In the first half of the year we have built 17 wheelchair ramps, and have given away 8 AmTrykes®, including 1 at the National Rodeo, and one to the Easter Seals Demo Site in Bloomington, and recruited 7 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, December 18, 2010
Time: 7:15 a.m.
Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, January 5, 2010
Time: Noon
Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...

Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We got a couple more ramps completed during the month of November. On a Friday afternoon, we actually took a ramp apart, beefed up the frames, replaced all the decking, and left the residents with a "refurbished" ramp. The ramp at the home, run by the local United Cerebral Palsy organization, was in pretty bad shape... but after our crew left... it was in great shape... and much safer for all the folks who use the ramp everyday! Thanks, AMBUCS™!



We also had quite a crew on our regular Saturday ramp-building day this month. We started with a huge pile of lumber around 8:00a.m. and ended up with a fine looking ramp around 11:00a.m. that morning! We built over 35 ft. of ramp with two platforms and finished it off with nice looking ballisters... all before noon... with Ms. Adams looking on in amazement from down the street at her friend's home. She came down to see the final product and told us that this ramp will enable her mother to come home for the holidays!... what a gift! We had quite a crew of AMBUCS™ and Diversity Project students... all working together... what a beautiful sight. I think the students got quite a workout and also got to see what teamwork is all about, as well. We really do make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities in this community.





We've got a few more ramps on the books... so let's hope the weather holds a little longer. We can always use an extra pair of hands on the ramp-building days. We can also use your donations \$\$... so we can keep our tools, equipment, and our trailer rolling throughout the year. I'll be sending out a Christmas e-mail "wish list"... in case Santa wants to help us in our ramp-building efforts in the future. Ultimately, it's all of you volunteers... letting people know about our club and working together... to make an impact in our community... one ramp at a time. Thanks for all you do! Enjoy the holidays... and see ya' at the ramps!

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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.



Notes from Al...

AmTrykes®

After an exciting October with three AmTrykes® to Easter Seals Cornbelt Ambucs™ continued to provide kids with their own bikes. It began with an AmTryke® assembly one Sunday afternoon in my garage. Denny, Don and Vicky found out just how much fun it was to assemble the bikes. They did great and we only had to take a few parts off and move them around. The challenge was assembling our first hand cycle which turned out to be fairly easy except for one part. However, after checking the online assembly instructions the last part went on very easy the next morning. Here are a few pictures

illustrating just how much fun you can have putting a bicycle together. Now we know why the Santa and the elves are so tired on December 26th.



After finishing the assembly on the 1424 Community Cruiser (hand cycle) it was delivered to Reming. She was very excited and pleased to now have a bike she could ride with her family. This is the beautiful young girl we build a ramp for last summer along the side of their house. If you notice her sister was a little excited too as Reming rode the bike around Bloomington Junior High School. I am not sure if you can tell from the picture below but it was raining very hard that day and Reming insisted she was going to ride her bike home and put it in the garage herself. Not sure her dad really liked this idea as he was the one selected to walk or run along with her. We also want to thank her parents for making a nice financial donation so we can provide bikes to additional children.



Then the next day we delivered a 1420 ProSeries AmTryke® to TJ at Normal West. We have been working with TJ's family for several months to determine when it would be right for TJ to receive his bike. TJ was quite excited and was riding his new red bike all around the gym with his other class mates. We do not have a definite commitment but there is a good chance the school will be purchasing a bike for use with other students. TJ will keep his bike at the school until next spring when the weather becomes more conducive to riding his bike outdoors. Here are a couple pictures of TJ and his new bike.



Again this year the Fairbury Mason's purchased an AmTyrke® for a child in Fairbury. Jamie at Easter Seals was willing to help evaluate the child and determine the best bike and accessories for Gavin. The bike was presented on November 30 at the school and Gavin's entire class was there along with several Masons for the presentation. Unfortunately Gavin was very tired and did not ride the bike near as well as

he did at Easter Seals when Jamie made the bike adjustments. Here are a few pictures from the presentation.





As you can see Cornbelt has been very active in providing independence to children in our communities. We already have one bike to give to Raymond School and another to a lovely child in McLean in December. We have one more child but it will most likely be after the first of the year before we order her bike.

As usual thanks for all your help and continue to let Don, Vicky or me know if you become aware of any child or adult who could benefit from an AmTryke®.

Al Bedell