

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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JANUARY 2010

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

December was another busy month for the Cornbelt chapter. Despite some cold weather and snow, we built four wheelchair ramps in December. See Bill's Ramp Article. We also gave away two more AmTrykes® in December. See Alan's Amtryke® article.

We had our second social of the current AMBUCS™ year. It was a Christmas Party, with buffet dinner, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange. It was well-attended and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Dan Bedell and Larry Turilli (the Social Committee) for organizing this event.

February is National AMBUCS™ Visibility Month. There are lots of scorecard points available, so we hope to be very "visible" in February. More info in next month's column.

It is time for scholarship activity. On January 18th, the National Scholarship Application Website is open. In addition to giving scholarships to deserving applicants, we also sponsor them for a national scholarship. Pete Hettinger is our Scholarship Committee Chairman again this year. If you know a therapy student (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, or Hearing Audiology) who is in their junior/senior year in a bachelor's degree program, or a graduate program leading to a master's or doctoral degree, send them to Pete.

We are now into the second decade of the 21st century. We have been a chapter since 1982. With your help, we will continue to build wheelchair ramps, give away AmTrykes®, and award scholarships, well into this century.



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, February 20, 2010
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...

Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We had a great month for ramp-building...and wrapped up the year with four more ramps in December! Mrs. Ross was pleased her husband could come home from the hospital to his newly renovated home, with a new ramp in his garage. Yep--it was a little cold--but nice to work inside for a change, right ?



We also built a small ramp for Mrs. Koch, who lives over by Miller Park. I think she was pretty happy she could finally get in and out of her home, and the family didn't have to "thump" her down those steps anymore! We got her ramp done just before the snow started to fly that weekend, which leads me to the final two ramps, built on Saturday, with the snow starting to fly and the cold temperatures wearing on our dedicated volunteers. Mr. Don Palmiter was thrilled to have his ramp—finally--and was very thankful for the efforts of our ramp-builders that day. Don had been counting the days and patiently waiting, and we didn't disappoint him when he got to see a beautiful ramp off his front porch...just in time for some Christmas shopping, I'm sure! Our other ramp that Saturday was for Mrs. Carolyn Duguid, who did not have a way in and out of her home until we showed up that morning to build her a large platform and a ramp down the side of her home. We had to tell her to take it easy on that maiden voyage--as the ice

and snow started to pile up just as we were finishing her ramp! We added quite a few smiles during the month of December and it's because of folks like YOU that we're able to keep building ramps in this community.



We'll let Mother Nature have her fun for a while, and then we'll start up with our ramp building in the next month. AMBUCS™ National Visibility Month is February, so I'll planning to build a ramp on Saturday, February 20th (with Mother Nature's approval, of course), so keep your eyes peeled for the e-mail announcements in the future. Until then, enjoy the weather and keep smiling!!!--our ramp recipients are!

Bill

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®

We finished the year with giving two AmTrykes® away in December.

The first one was a Happy Navigator to Luke at Easter Seals. Luke tried the toddler but was having too many distractions with both the pedals and the hand cranks so we were able to find a Happy Navigator in Northwest Arkansas. Yes, Connie came through for us again as the Happy Navigator is no longer

available from National, and this one works much better for Luke than the current version. Also, Connie delivered the bike to Bloomington and gave us a nice discount.

Also, it wasn't until I was delivering the bike that I realize Luke was the grandson of a very close friend. I had mentioned the bike to him while he was in the hospital recovering from a back surgery. Luke's mother asked me if I knew Luke's grandfather and I said "yes", and I was on my way to pick him up for lunch. So Luke's grandparents were able to see the pictures of Luke on his new AmTryke® prior to Luke's dad. Also, our chapter received a very generous donation from Luke's grandparents to allow us to continue to help other children.



In November, when we presented AmTrykes® to Mike Wallace's two boys, we did not know how much he appreciated the bikes and what his next steps would be. It was only a couple weeks later that he called to ask what it would take to sponsor another child in school with his two boys. Due to Mike's fast work, the Tarbolton Masonic Lodge #351 was able to provide an AmTryke® to a lovely young girl in Chenoa. A presentation was scheduled at Ellie's school with several people but due to December shipment delays, the bike did not arrive on time. However, Mike used one of his boys' bikes for the presentation. Fortunately, Ellie's bike was received on December 22nd and was delivered to her on Christmas Eve.

As you can see from the pictures Ellie was quite surprised and is looking forward to getting to ride her own bike.



Please continue to let us know when you become aware of a child or adult who could benefit from a therapeutic bike.

Al Bedell
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