

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: Dennis Strauss
Vice President:
Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Turilli
Sergeant At Arms: Jerry Wyrick

Bill McHie, At-Large Board Member
Greg Beneze, At-Large Board Member
Pete Hettinger, At-Large Board Member
Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member
Dan Bedell, At-Large Board Member

JUNE/JULY 2009



THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Well, it's an **AMBUCS™** new year. This is my first column as the new Cornbelt AMBUCS™ President.

2008-2009 Recap

We have had another good year under Dan's leadership. Some of the highlights for the year:

- We built 21 ramps with approximately 2,000 volunteer hours.
- We gave away three AmTrykes® to deserving youngsters.
- We gave three scholarships at our installation banquet worth \$5,000 (details below).
- We hosted our District's Spring Conference in April.
- We raised over \$1,200 at our Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, which we shared equally with the McLean County Diversity Group.
- We partnered with the Parenting and Disability Expo in October.
- Al Bedell was elected District Governor for the Central District.

- We earned club awards at the Fall Conference for: Community Service, Newsletter, Visibility, and Public Relations.
- For the 2007-2008 year, Larry Turilli received the AMBUC of the Year Award, and Greg Beneze received the Project Manager of the Year Award, at the District level.

Installation Banquet Highlights

Three people were awarded scholarships at our Installation Banquet in May. In addition to the money, they each receive a Friends Membership, and a framed Certificate of Achievement.

- **Thomas Walker** is a Speech and Hearing Science student at University of Illinois – Champaign. He received a \$500 scholarship.
- **Elise Voth** is in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. She received a \$1,500 scholarship.
- **Samantha Wiechman** is a Physical Therapy student at the University of Iowa. She is receiving the **Don Huber Memorial Scholarship** for \$3,000.

There were three club awards awarded at the Installation Banquet in May:

- **Larry Turilli** received the **Project Manager of the Year Award**, primarily for his work on the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser.
- **Bill McHie** received the **AMBUC of the Year Award**, for his dedication and leadership in our ramp building projects.
- **Brian Burcham** received the **Don Huber Spirit Award** for his work and leadership building ramps.

From Bill McHie: Brian has "led the ramp building" or "been the crew boss" on four or five ramps this past year... along with attending most of our ramp building projects this past year, as well. Brian has been involved with the ramp committee in making recommendations for tools, ramp designs, and most recently got us on a list for a secure location for our trailer... so that more members of the ramp committee can be involved in future ramps. Brian has always stepped up to take a leadership role with our ramp projects and is very competent in his ramp building skills and coordination of our projects. He takes on our projects with a smile and shows that positive attitude towards our many volunteers and ramp recipients. I think Don Huber would have been proud to work alongside Brian... knowing that the ideals of our organization and the reputation of our local club continues in this community...with Brian's help.



Huber Family at Installation Banquet



Dan Bedell at Installation Banquet



Larry receiving Project Manager of the Year



Brian receiving Don Huber Spirit Award



Dean Wiechman receiving scholarship check for his daughter, Samantha

2009-2010 Goals

In the new year, we will continue to strive for excellence in all we do. We will continue to build wheelchair ramps, find opportunities to give away AmTrykes®, and find deserving students for scholarships.

I recently e-mailed the Committee Sign-up sheet out to current members. With your participation, we can continue our past successes. The committees are listed below:

- **Membership** - inspire members to recruit, retain existing members.
- **Information and Public Relations** - responsible for getting speakers for monthly meetings, assisting with our publications, identifying ways for our club to be more visible, notifying National of our activities.
- **Social** - ensure that all AMBUCS™ events are fun and entertaining. Responsible for organizing, promoting, and conducting socials. Note: We need to have at least two Big Hat members on this committee.
- **Ramp** - responsible for obtaining and evaluating the information on potential ramp candidates to determine if the individual meets our criteria and the priority. In addition, this committee is responsible for obtaining the building permits and submitting the necessary reports to National on our ramp activity.
- **AmTryke®** - finding and distributing AmTrykes® to individuals in need
- **Scholarship** – Determine scholarship recipients from candidates submitted
- **Financial** - responsible for assisting the treasurer when deemed necessary and recommending fundraising projects to the membership for approval.

It is truly an honor to be the President of the Cornbelt Chapter of AMBUCS™. With everyone's help we will continue to "Create Mobility and Independence for People with Disabilities" in McLean County.



Outgoing President Dan Bedell SAYS:

After two short years, it's time for me to step aside as your president. Over the last two years, we've built dozens of ramps, given away a few AmTrykes® and awarded thousands of scholarship dollars to deserving recipients. We've also strengthened friendships and added new members to our club. Moving forward, let's do what we can to assist our new president (Dennis Strauss) to grow our club and help even more people in and around McLean County. By the way. . . we still need someone to serve as vice-president. I've signed up for two committees and I hope you can do the same (or at least sign up for one committee). The more we actively participate, the better our club will be.

I look forward to working alongside each of you at the upcoming ramps and visiting with you at the meetings and socials (yes, we will have socials this year – anyone want to join me on the Social Committee?).



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, July 18, 2009
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, August 5, 2009
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...

Yep, we did build a ramp in February and managed to get a nice day between all the snow storms... so Brandon Major could come home. He's the young high school student you read about in the paper... who was run over by a van... and is now returning home... thanks to Jerry and Bill and quite a few local electricians who wants to help build a ramp for this young man and his family. We even had Dan Brady stop by to thank us for our efforts! Too bad we couldn't get any lights attached to the ramp that day... anyone know some good electricians? Hey, they did a great job and I'll try to add their names to our volunteer list in the future!



And In March, Kathy Atkins was smilin' from ear to ear!... and was thrilled to be able to get in and out of her home... after the AMBUCS™ and our volunteers did their magic on Saturday. Megan joined us for her first ramp and Cameron and Malik are working towards "veteran status" with their extra efforts, as well. We had a beautiful day and finished a rather large ramp in record time, again. It sure is nice to be a part of something that truly makes a difference in someone else's life... for the simple pleasure of getting out of your own home! Thanks to all who helped!... you folks truly make a difference... and it is truly appreciated!



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.

And yep, we built another ramp in March! Rita Green was smilin' and thanked us for building her ramp on Saturday, March 21st, in LeRoy. We didn't have to fight the weather... we just put up a ramp and enjoyed the day. We had some new faces along with students from the Diversity Program again. Thanks to everyone that helped... we really made a difference for Rita... and allowed her to get safely in and out of her home, now.



Thanks to everyone that continues to come out and help us. We really have a great time... and if you would like to be a part of our ramp-building, just let me know... I'll add ya' to the list! No experience needed... just a good sense of humor!

Thanks, again and I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

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Notes from Al...

Did you think we were out of the AmTrykes® business?

Well, I was being to wonder if it was just me or was our community so fortunate we did not have needy children or adults or did Ms. Connie do magnificent job when she was chairing our AmTryke® projects. Maybe it's a little of each, but our AmTryke® program still active in McLean County.

We provided a new AM12 to Logan Jarvrin a few weeks ago and he and his family were extremely excited. As you can see from the pictures, Logan's younger brother sure likes to push Logan on the new AmTryke®. Logan lives on a cul-de-sac so he has great space to ride his new red AmTrykes®. Logan referred through SPICE, and his therapist feels the bike will provide Logan with great benefits.

I am also working with Kory at Easter Seals with another child on an AM-12 and he is trying out one of the older style bikes we had in stock. If it works, we will be ordering the new bike for him soon.

Also, through the local United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) unit, we have another potential bike for a 6 year old boy. He was evaluated for an AmTryke® on June 1 at our Demo Site at Easter Seals. I still need to develop additional information on the young man and work with his therapist to have the assessment completed to determine which bike will best suit the child's needs.

I will also be traveling to AMBUCS™ National Headquarters in High Point, NC in June to select the AMBUCS™ Therapist of the Year and to determine the extremely lucky students who will receive National AMBUCS™ scholarships. In 3 days we will physically review over 1,000 scholarship applications and award over \$150,000 in scholarships. We will not know the exact dollar amount until we get there and find out how the investments did this year, plus how much Living Endowment money was designated for scholarships.

This is a lot of work, but nothing in comparison to the work most therapists complete at school or in their clinics. Many past National Therapist Scholarship recipients are now AMBUCS™ members or involved with AmTryke® programs in their communities.

As always, we are looking for children or adults who could benefit from an AmTryke®. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who might benefit from one of our bikes. The new catalogue is available on the National Website.

Thanks again for all your help and keep sending me the referrals.

Alan Bedell

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