

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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NOVEMBER 2013

THE PREZ SEZ...



Kay and I headed South right after the Big Hat new member orientation social and didn't return until the last week of October. While we were gone, I followed AMBUCS™ activity and I marveled at all that took place in October. Between ramps and trykes, Cornbelt was quite active. It was "almost" enough to

make me return home early to join in the fun. It is not difficult to be proud of the Cornbelt Chapter. Keep up the great work.

Big Hat New Member Orientation & Social

The Cornbelt Big Hat group hosted new members to an orientation and social at Al Bedell's house on October 2. We had a good crowd with most of the new members in attendance. Each one received an AMBUCT™ hat of their own. I hope their next hat will be a "Big Hat".



New member profile

Suja Karuppaswamy became our newest AMBUCT™ at the Big Hat Orientation and Social in early October. Suja has been at State Farm Insurance for 7 years and is a web analyst. She received her masters degree in Management Information Systems from U of I Springfield in 1996. Suja loves dogs and has two of her own. She enjoys camping, hiking, biking and just being with people. She also enjoys reading and movies (but not horror movies). Suja likes spending time with her family; two nieces in New Jersey, two nephews in Michigan, and two nephews in India. I was also happy to hear that Suja is a McLean County master gardener. I could sure use some advice on my veggie garden which happens to be her favorite type of gardening. Suja, welcome to the AMBUCT™ family.



Al Bedell an Extraordinary Ordinary Man

Several AMBUCS™ joined in the celebration of our very own Al Bedell receiving one of this year's Extraordinary Ordinary Man Awards at the Awards Dinner sponsored by the Colaborative Solutions Institute. Al was recognized for his leadership and selfless community service. What a wonderful award for a wonderful man! Congratulations Al.



Fall Branding Contest

October and November are the months when AMBUCS™ are encouraged to invite new members into the group. Sooooo . . . the Big Hats are challenging the other Cornbelt members to a membership contest. The group with the least amount of new members will serve the winners at the next social. Game on! Go get ‘em. (Stay tuned for information on the social.) Need an application form? Go to www.ambucs.org or click on this link: <http://www.ambucs.org/assets/MemberResources/Forms/126.pdf>

Dick Lang

Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013
 Time: 7:00 a.m.
 Place: Shannon’s Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 6, 2013
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical’s Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We built 5 ramps in October! We've been busy.. Mother Nature has been kind to us.. and 5 families have ramp at their homes.. thanks to all of you!

Our first ramp was built for the Moffit family. Mrs. Moffit had been in the hospital and was released to come home.. but did not have a ramp. We solved that dilemma for the family and built a 22 ft. ramp at their home near Miller Park. Thanks to our AMBUCS™ volunteers, Mrs. Moffit can easily get in and out of her home, now.





Our second ramp was built for Mrs. Whittier in Bloomington. Mrs. Whittier had been living at a nursing home for a very long time and wanted to be able to return to her own home.. but without a ramp.. it was impossible. Our AMBUCS™ volunteers got together one afternoon and built a great looking ramp.. and Mrs. Whittier is now living at her own home again. Her family was thrilled with the ramp, how nice it looks, and how quickly we were able to complete the project. Thanks, again, AMBUCS™!



Our third ramp was built for the Thomas family in Normal on a Saturday morning. Although we started out with plans for a simple 30 ft. ramp that morning, we used composite decking materials at the homeowners request.. and finished the project around 3:00p.m. that afternoon. Our Diversity scholars worked diligently with our AMBUCS™ volunteers and the Thomas family was very pleased with the results.. a fine looking ramp for their daughter. Extra points to all our helpers that day!.. we got it done!



Our fourth ramp was inside a garage in Bloomington.. for Mr. McNamara's wife.. who recently had surgery and will be in a wheelchair for quite some time. We utilized some ramp sections from Dennis Wentworth (Thanks, Dennis!) and added some more materials to complete a small ramp for Mrs. McNamara in one evening. Nice job, AMBUCS™!



For our final ramp project in October, there were only a few AMBUCS™ volunteers present at the project.. and we were trying NOT to help too much! Rose lives on Summit Street.. and needed a way to get in and out of her home. One of the Diversity Scholars, Dhruva, is about to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout.. and wanted to build a ramp for his Eagle Scout project. Dhruva met with Rose and her family, came up with the site plan, got the building permit, ordered the lumber, organized the crews, and made sure that all the scouts understand a "1:12 pitch", too. I'm sure you have seen Dhruva at our ramp projects in the past as he has been building ramps with us for several years. His experience and his leadership was quite evident that day.. as we all stood back and watched Rose make her "maiden voyage" down her new ramp that Saturday morning. Nice job, Dhruva! The scouts built a beautiful ramp.. and there were plenty of smiles to go around that day.



We still have a few ramps "on the books" so watch your e-mail for future ramp projects. I'm sure Mother Nature will catch up to us at some point... but in the meantime, we'll keep doing what we do best.. making homes accessible for folks in our community. Thanks to all our volunteers.. and I'll see ya' at the next ramp!

Bill McHie

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org. When the newsletter is posted I send a link to everyone's email address so they can click on the link to take them directly to the newsletter. So to get your link sent to you, please email Jerry your email address at JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com.



Notes From Al...



AmTrykes®

October was National AmTryke® Month and Cornbelt participated.

We began the month with our October AmTryke® Month bike. By ordering and giving a bike away in October we were given a \$75.00 discount on one bike in October.

The 1412 Pro Series bike was presented to Denton at Easter Seals. Several family members were present along with his physical therapist, Jillian McGriff from Easter Seals, to watch Denton take his first ride on his new bike. Denton was ready to go almost before we could finish the final adjustments on the bike. As you can see from the pictures Denton is quite active and fell in love with his new shiny red bike. It was hard to get him to stop riding the bike in the parking lot so the family could take the bike home.



Cornbelt continued with October being National AmTryke® month by presenting a bike to Mitchell. Mitchell is currently not being seen at Easter Seals but his former therapist Jamie Fifarek recommended and helped with the final adjustments for Mitchell on his new 2700 series bike. This was a bike donated to Cornbelt by a family we previously built a ramp for about two years ago in Normal. Mitchell liked his new bike and caught on really fast to the bike and especially the hand brake. That was very important as this bike does not have the coaster brake often available with the 2700 series bikes. Please take a look at him, his family and therapist on the bike in the pictures below:





Yes, it was a busy month but we were not completely done. Cornbelt also assembled and delivered a bike to the Pontiac area for a high school student. He received a 1520 pro series bike, which is like the 1420 but has rear steering and braking for the person helping him with the bike. This bike was purchased by the Pontiac Masonic Lodge. The actual bike presentation was made at a later date by the Masons and the school physical therapist, Tom Ladeairous.

As usual please continue to send me your referrals and we will try to make sure every child has a bike to ride.

Thanks.

Al Bedell
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