

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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DECEMBER 2015

THE PREZ SEZ...



Happy Holidays fellow AMBUCS™. This is a busy time of year for everyone, and it's great to see Cornbelt busy and spreading our own brand of Holiday Cheer right through the season. In this newsletter you'll see stories about ramp and Amtryke® gifts to children young and old; hear

about a new group of AMBUCS™ elves from Morris, IL.; new ways to help serve our community; and more.

Thanks for everything you do for our club and for the people we serve throughout the year.

Have a great Holiday Season.

LT

Branding Contest Update

It's Official! This year's Branding Time was the most successful that we're ever had! We brought **FIVE** new members into our Cornbelt fold. We've never done that before. Congratulations to our new members, and to all our 'old' ones for making this Branding Time such a success.

The Pekin AMBUCS club also had a successful Branding Time, adding two new members, but adding five new members gives us the win in our Branding Contest with them. That also means we get to stay home this winter while the Pekin folks travel here for our joint hockey game social. Go Thunder! Bill Hamann will be working with the Pekin Chapter to pick a date and make arrangements for the evening.



Here are the names of our new members; Jan Klee, Marcia Hammerstrand, J Balmer, Doug Michael and Ed Monahan. When you see them at a ramp or at lunch or anywhere else, make sure you welcome them aboard. I'm really excited that they've decided to join us and help us with the great work we do.

New Community Service Activities

As our club grows, so does our capacity to serve our community. We'll continue the good work we've always done (ramps, Amtrykes® and scholarships), but we'll also be scheduling some new activities and doing some things as a club that we haven't in the past. For example, we'll be helping the Salvation Army this year by ringing bells for them during the Holidays. This winter we'll spend an evening at the Midwest Food Bank packaging meals. We'd like to extend our reach in the community and do 4 or 5 short projects or small events like these each year. We'll get details on these activities and others out through email as we get them finalized. If you have any suggestions for projects or would like to help in any way with the planning or coordination for any projects, please let me know. This would be a great way to serve your club. You can reach me through email at lgturil@yahoo.com or by phone any time at 309-287-3898 with suggestions or to volunteer.

New Club Building

The Grundy Area AMBUCS™ Chapter of AMBUCS™ has been chartered in Morris, IL. Al and I have been working with a motivated group of therapists there, and they were granted a charter last month. It's exciting to see the team work towards providing their first Amtrykes®. Hopefully you'll get to meet some of them at Spring Conference this year.

LT

Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, December 19, 2015
 Time: 7:00 a.m.
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, January 6, 2016
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

**Bill Buchie's Babbles...**

Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We've been busy! We got four ramps done in November! Thanks to everyone who came out to help us!

We started out in Colfax building a ramp for Ms. Ruby Michael. As you know, we received a donation of a ramp from the Bean family. We took the donated ramp sections out to Colfax and finished the ramp "in the moonlight" to the delight of everyone, including Ms. Michael! We had plenty of volunteers that night and plenty of smiles to go around, as well. Thanks, AMBUCS™!





Next, we removed a 15 year old ramp and built a new ramp for Ms. Yoder in Normal. Her "original ramp" was built for her mother over 15 years ago and now she is the recipient of a new ramp, as well. Nice work, AMBUCS™!





Then, we got a call from Mr. Farber who needed a small ramp in his garage for his wife. A little shorter than our last two ramps but just as important. A few hours on one evening and look what we can do! Good looking ramp, AMBUCS™!



An eagle scout candidate, Nathan, contacted me wanting to build a ramp as his "project". "Sure, I said" and when he got into all the details, designing the ramp, getting the permits, ordering lumber, organizing volunteers, he got a great look at what it takes to build a ramp for someone start to finish. Oh did I mention his first building date was the Saturday we got a few inches of snow! Yep, Nathan organized a couple more building dates and Mr. Lancaster got a great looking ramp! Well done, Nathan, and you can join us anytime with skills like that!





The weather will soon start to change yet there are still folks that need our help so I'll keep you posted on future ramps. Thanks to everyone who has helped us this year and I'll see ya' at a future ramp!

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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®

Yes, the holiday season is upon us and it begun big time in November for Cornbelt AMBUCS™.

First, Bill Fulton from the Danville chapter said he was having troubles sleeping at night with so many children on the National AMBUCS™ Wish List. So he started a challenge to take kids off the wish list and in time to have their bikes by Christmas. AMBUCS™ across the county jumped on this challenge and raised over \$115,000 and yes Cornbelt members were part of the program. That is what AMBUCS™ can do when we put our shoulders together.

On the 13th of November Cornbelt AMBUCS™ presented Naomi with her new 1410 series Amtryke®. The 1410 Amtryke® replaces the Oceana. As you can see it is foot power and has regular handle bars. Naomi had been riding an older version of the Oceana while she waited on the new bike to arrive. She was a little shy at first but started riding the bike all around Easter Seals as soon as I left the room. You can see her beautiful smile in the pictures below.





It was only a few days later we were able to present Dusti with her new 1420 Pro Series bike. Dusti lives in Atlanta but sees her therapist in Lincoln so her bike was presented at Lincoln Memorial Hospital rehab clinic. Her younger brother received an Amtryke® a few years ago from the Springfield chapter. Dusti's mother was so proud on how much the Amtryke® helped her son and is looking forward to the opportunity for the entire family to ride together. We were able to change the rear gear on this bike to allow Dusti the ability to coast as soon as she demonstrated the ability to break on her own.

As you can see from the two pictures below Dusti and her therapist were really enjoying the bike. I wish you also could have seen the smile on mom's face. I think we might get that request for new tires for this bike as I think she will be riding all over Atlanta.



I was out of town for a few weeks and upon my return Cornbelt was able to present our first bike to a disabled veteran on November 24th. We found out about Russel through the Danville chapter that is now working closely with the Illiana Health Care Center at the Danville VA Hospital. Russell's therapist recommended the bike to allow Russell to get more exercise and outside activity. I think the pictures below clearly illustrate how pleased Russell is with his new bike.





Unfortunately, when we took the bike for a test run that afternoon we had the bike in the highest gear and tried to start riding up a hill. This was too much stress and we broke the chain. However, we still were able to fit Russell on the bike and the chain was repaired quickly. Russell was riding his new bike the next afternoon after returning from his therapy session in Danville.



Since Country Financial has provided Cornbelt AMBUCS™ with financial support for a few years we asked them to attend our first bike presentation of a Disabled Veteran. They brought a few from their Military Support Group to see Russel get his new bike. They were all pleased and asked how they can help in the future. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

As of now we do not have anyone on our waiting list so I am not sure we will be wrapping a big red bow on a bike in December. However, if you know someone who could benefit from an Amtryke® please send us their contact information. We can often get bikes pretty quick as the holidays get close.

Thanks again for all you help and Merry Christmas.

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Check out what our neighboring AMBUCS™ club is doing. Here is the link to the Pekin club's newsletter: <http://www.pekinAMBUCS.org/newsletter.html>