

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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JULY 2016

THE PREZ SEZ...



Hello all,

June was a busy month for Cornbelt AMBUCS™. We had our installation banquet, assembled and presented quite a few Amtrykes®, built a ramp, and donated some time to the Midwest Food Bank. Please read about these events, upcoming activities, and some interesting changes to a State Farm charitable contribution match program in this month's newsletter.

I look forward to a great year. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, ideas, and the like. My mobile number is 309-826-4718 and my email address is william.hamann@gmail.com.

It's a great day to be an AMBUCS!!!

Regards,
Bill

Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, July 16, 2016
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 3, 2016
Time: Noon
Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We're off to a good start this year. We only built one ramp in June, but we've got several more in the planning stages and I'm sure there is plenty of opportunities this summer to get involved in our ramp-building program.

Here's an example of just how easy a ramp can be built. We showed up at Mr. Damschroder's house in Bloomington one evening, took a perfectly good pile of lumber and turned it into a 24 foot ramp for their family, so his wife can have access to their back yard. They were very pleased with the results and we were proud of the fact that we've helped another family to have access to their home. Nice work, AMBUCS!



I've got several ramps in the planning stages so I'll keep you posted on upcoming ramp-building opportunities.

Thanks to all our volunteers and I'll see you at a future ramp!

Bill McHie

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Be sure to check us out on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS

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.



The therapeutic tricycle for children with disabilities

Notes From Al...



Amtrykes®

June was a busy Amtryke month for Cornbelt AMBUCS. After assembling the bikes ordered as a result of Central Region Spring Conference we were able to deliver most of the bikes.

After we assembled all the bikes we presented our newest member, Gregory Gastelum, with his new JT 2300. Greg is a veteran and unable to ride a conventional bike due to the nature of his back injuries. He was very pleased with the bike. Unfortunately along with no pictures of the bikes being assembled that evening we did not get a picture of Greg on his new bike.

Only few days later we were able to connect with Hunter, his therapist and family at Easter Seals. As you can see from the picture Hunter really enjoyed riding his new 1410 Amtryke. This is the new style for our early intervention bike. Also, you will note, Hunter's legs are very short but we were able to make the necessary adaptations to allow the bike to work well for Hunter. He was leaving later that morning and was looking forward to riding his new bike all around Chicago. I hope the family was able to keep up with him.



Our next trip was to McLean to replace Joey's bike. Joey has grown and now needs the 1420 XL. The 1420 XL is significantly longer than the 1420 and will allow room for Joey's growth in the future. Joey is a strong young man who loves to ride his bike on the streets of McLean. So if you are on the North side of McLean watch for Joey's smiling face on his new bike. This is Joey's third Amtryke. The first one was delivered on December 23rd. I hope you can see the joy in Joey's face in the picture below.



Our next bike recipient was Miles at Bloomington Junior High School. Miles was ready to go before we could be all the straps tightened. Miles has worked with Karen Klein, Therapist, for several years and Karen is so good to work with on getting the right bikes for the kids she works with through the school system. I think Miles just might wear the solid rubber tires off his bike.



Later that day we were at Easter Seals to deliver bikes to Camden and Brayden. Jillian McGriff, Easter Seals therapist, was great at getting the twins on their bikes. Camden and Brayden were born several weeks early and both have cerebral palsy. Brayden bike worked very well but we have a few more adaptations we need to be performed prior to Camden being able to successfully ride his bike. The additional parts have been ordered and we will make the adjustments soon. The following picture is Brayden on his new Amtryke!



The following picture is Camden on his new Amtryke with Jillian McGriff, the Easter Seals Therapist and an assistant from Easter Seals.



We have one more bike to present but Thomas has been on vacation and out of town for a couple weeks. I am sure we will get his JT 2300 soon. Watch for a picture of Thomas next month.

As usual please continue to send me the contact information for anyone that can benefit from an Amtryke.

Thanks!
Al Bedell
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Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 826-0405

Donate

The Cornbelt AMBUCS website has been updated with a “Donate” page. This provides new ways for people to donate to us. It provides the USPS address to mail a check, and more importantly, the ability to donate via credit card or PayPal. The money goes to a PayPal account and is then transferred to our Charity checking account. The cost is 2.2% of the donation plus \$0.30 per transaction. Example, for a \$100 donation, we receive \$97.50.

The “Donate” button is on most pages, and is a menu option. We also have a card reader that attaches to a smart phone so we can receive donations at events, when appropriate. It is now easy to donate to Cornbelt AMBUCS – spread the word!

Volunteer Activities

We have created a new committee whose charge will be to organize quarterly volunteer activities. The committee consists of Marcia Hammerstrand and Kay Lang. The committee will soon be looking at a third quarter activity. If you know of an organization that could benefit from our chapter's assistance, and would like us to pursue it, feel free to contact Marcia at mshammer@a5.com.

The 2016 second quarter volunteer activity is now history. On June 20, a group of 17 Ambucs and family members spent two hours at the Midwest Foodbank in Bloomington. We had quite a task in front of us, but our crew was up for it! We bagged, sealed, and boxed almost one and a half tons of sausage toppings for pizzas! But wait, that was not all! We then helped sort several palettes of canned vegetables, fruits, beans, tomatoes, etc.

The foodbank was started in 2003, by a family trying to help others in need, and now serves over 240 food banks. It also assists with disaster relief as needed, and participates in the backpack program in the schools. We had a great evening, had fun doing it, and our assistance was greatly appreciated!







Thanks,

Marcia Hammerstrand

State Farm Grant and Matching Gift Programs

State Farm has done a phenomenal job over the years in giving back to the community. And, as many current & past State Farmers know, there are a couple of ways that State Farm partners w/employees & retirees to do just that.

Through the Good Neighbor Grant & Matching Gift programs, State Farm will either match your donation of funds or provide a grant to those qualified organizations that you contribute volunteer time to. As of July 1st of this year there are some updates to those programs that I urge you to look into.

State Farm Companies Foundation is expanding the Matching Gift Program to not only include qualified non-profits, but to allow for participation to more than one organization. Matching gifts to US colleges & Universities will not exceed \$3000 per calendar year & non-profit matches will not exceed \$1500 over the same time frame. More information is available, including eligibility requirements @ www.cybergrants.com/statefarm/gives. You will need your Associate ID/Agent code to log in.

The Good Neighbor Grant Program awards a \$500 grant on behalf of each associate who volunteers a minimum of 40 hours per calendar year to an eligible non-profit. For more information and/or to create a grant request go to www.easymatch.com/statefarmgive and again, you will need your Associate ID/Agent Code.

J. Balmer

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>