

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member
Dan Bedell, At-Large Board Member



DECEMBER 2009

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

November was again a productive month for the Cornbelt Chapter. In addition to giving away five more AmTrykes® (see Alan's column), we built three wheelchair ramps.

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, we built two ramps for veterans in need. It was a sunny day and we built them in record time. Both ramp builds were covered by a reporter from The Pantagraph (see photo). On our regular ramp build on the third Saturday of the month, we built another ramp. Again, we had good weather for this late in November.

Photo from Nov 12 Pantagraph

We had our first social of the year on Nov 12. The chapter provided the pizza and pop, at Monical's Pizza. In addition to chapter members, current National President Greg Ferris and his wife, Jan, also attended. Good food, good conversation and good friends.

At our November lunch meeting, we again had a guest speaker. Shirley Ryan, who heads up the Mom N Me Camp, spoke to us about their mission. They take kids to visit their moms who are in prison. They also provide fun activities for the rest of the day at a camp by Lake Bloomington.



A Christmas Social is being planned for December – details to follow soon.

Ramp requests continue to come in through our website, phone calls and personal referrals. We will continue to build ramps, weather permitting, throughout the winter.

February is AMBUCS™ Visibility month. Let's start planning now for ways to make AMBUCS™ more visible in the community.

I am also looking for someone to serve as Vice President of our chapter, who will replace me after my term as President is over. Contact me if you are interested.



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, December 19, 2009
Time: 7:15 a.m.
Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Time: Noon
Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

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.



Bill Buchie's Babbles...

We built three ramps in November... and had a great time doing it! It's not often we get recognized in the newspaper... but we got a picture of one of our ramp recipients in the newspaper and some information about our club published along with it... and a very nice "thanks you" letter to the editor, as well. We built two ramps on Veterans Day... for two veterans and Mr. Tewell and Mr. Rainwater were very happy with our efforts. What a great way to tell them thank you for their service to our country! I think we had extra help from State Farm staff at the morning ramp... along with extra help from the US Postal service at both ramps... and our diversity project helpers were right there with us all day, too... so thanks to all who helped!



We also built a ramp on Saturday, November 21st for John Raney... and were able to "re-cycle" some materials from his previous ramp. We've been "goin' green" for many years... and will continue to do so whenever we can. We had plenty of help for John's ramp, including the diversity project volunteers, and were able to give John a safe, stable ramp that was quite an improvement over his previous ramp. John was not planning on us finishing the ramp so soon... but eventually got out to see us and take that

"maiden voyage" down his new ramp. Below is a picture of his old ramp and the new ramp we built plus a couple of pictures of the crew.



We have had a great ramp-building season and we're still planning to build ramps this winter, depending on the weather, of course. We want to thank the Diversity Project students for "partnering" with us, learning some carpentry skills, learning about people with disabilities...and even learning some math skills out on the jobs...but if you see the volunteers, be sure to thank them, too...as the AMBUCS™ are the proud recipients of two new circular saws...courtesy of the Diversity Project! Thanks! So for November, I think we added at least three more smiles for three ramp recipients...and if you're smiling as you read this... just imagine what it's like in person! We've got more ramps planned for December...so watch your e-mail...and give me a call if you want to be added to the list. We would love to have you participate... and see what it's like. If anyone would like more information about our ramp projects, or how to participate, or just needs a little encouragement to show up at a ramp project...give me a call!

I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

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Notes from Al...

October AmTrykes®

This has been an outstanding month for Cornbelt AMBUCS™ and AmTrykes®. It began with six therapists attending Cornbelt's first AmTryke® therapist training session. Joe Copeland, AMBUCS™ Executive Director, performed the training at the Holiday Inn and had all the current bikes with him. After the forty-five minute training session, the therapists assisted in evaluating ten beautiful children for their own therapeutic bicycles. It was overwhelming, seeing all the kids and observing the therapists working so patiently and diligently with the kids. They were able to evaluate and find a suitable bike for every child. Unfortunately, these were demonstration bikes and the special children were not able to leave with their bikes that night.

The great news is our budget allowed us to order the seven new bikes and make the necessary adjustment to three bikes previously returned to Cornbelt AMBUCS™. The new bikes were received, and six were delivered during National AmTryke® month. Due to scheduling conflicts with the therapists and parents, we have four bikes yet to be delivered in November.

I wish all Cornbelt members could have seen the joy in the kid's eyes I experienced when these special, beautiful children saw their own bikes for the first time. They were so excited and the smiles on their faces said it all. A few of these children were more excited than we would be winning the lottery! Due to your help and support, we make a difference in their lives.

On the next page are pictures of the bikes and the children with their bikes that were given in October. Let me assure you the pictures do not display the joy expressed by these kids when they received their bikes. Please continue to let us know when we can help a child. Let me know if you have questions





November AmTrykes®

In November, Cornbelt AMBUCS™ continued to be very active with AmTrykes®. We delivered the last four bikes to the children identified at the InService conducted by Joe Copeland in late September. The delay was necessary to make sure we had all the right accessories and to get the one bike Northwest Arkansas made us such a good deal on for one of the brothers getting bikes. We also collected almost \$2,500 in personal donations to Cornbelt AMBUCS™ to help us fund the bikes given away in October and November.

Attached are a few pictures of the special children receiving their bikes. I still get a large lump in my throat with each bike we deliver and I wish more of you could see the pleasure in their eyes and faces when they realize they are getting their own bike. It is almost as good as watching the maiden voyage down the wheelchair ramp.

We are currently working to find a bike for a child at the Baby Fold, a child at Easter Seals and a child in Fairbury. The father of the two boys who received bikes in November is very active in getting the bike for the child in Fairbury and has secured the funds for the bike. We are waiting for the therapist to complete the evaluation forms and letting us know which bikes are needed. Hopefully they can be ordered and delivered by Christmas.

Thanks again for all your assistance and continue to send me the names and information for potential AmTrykes®.

Alan Bedell
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