# **CORNBELT BUC-ETIN**



Creating Mobility and Independence For People With Disabilities

President: Marcia Hammerstrand

Vice President: Al Bedell Secretary: Vicky Strauss Treasurer: Dennis Strauss

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# **January 2019**

# THE PREZ SEZ...



Happy new year, fellow AMBUCS™! Wow, I cannot believe it is 2019 already! Hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season.

Looking back to 2018, Cornbelt had a great year! We did lots of good, as we built several ramps and Amtrykes®, gave away those trykes to deserving riders, granted scholarships, and did community service. Thanks to all of you for everything you did, and continue to do! We also had a few activities just for fun. Hope you enjoyed those, as well.

In December we had fun with the Salvation Army bell ringing, as we tried to stay warm. I think we were concentrating so much on staying warm, that I have only one picture of proof of that activity! We also had an enjoyable dinner at Shannon's afterwards. I have attached a picture of that dinner, also. We will probably do it again next Christmas, so if you missed it, you can look forward to the next time.





Here are a few upcoming events to put on your calendar:

- the regifting party on January 9, at Al and Dee's. Dinner at 6, followed by the gift exchange.
- we will have a speaker from Marcfirst at the February monthly meeting, on Feb. 6. Let's give them a good reception.
- Cornbelt will host a session for therapists on March 9. This is not an event for the general membership, but we may be called upon to assist. We will let you know, as we get closer to the date.
- the pancake breakfast, which is a major fundraiser for Cornbelt, will be back in 2019. This will be held on March 30, at the Evangelical Free Church. As we get closer to the date, details will be communicated, as to how you can participate.
- the Central Illinois AMBUCS chapter will host Cornbelt AMBUCS for a Peoria Rivermen hockey game, preceded by pizza at a local restaurant. The Central Illinois chapter is still working on the date, so I will communicate details once they have been worked out. Let's try to give a good showing at this event. This is the result of the branding contest we were involved with, and it will be a good opportunity to mingle with a neighboring AMBUCS chapter.

Well, I think that is all I have, for now. Hope to see each of you at an upcoming Cornbelt AMBUCS event!

It is a great day to be an AMBUC!

Marcia

Marcia Hammerstrand mshammer@a5.com 309/287-8458

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Next Saturday Event**

When: Saturday, January 19, 2019

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Shannon's Restaurant

# **Next Noon Meeting**

When: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Time: Noon

Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



# Bill BucHie's Babbles...



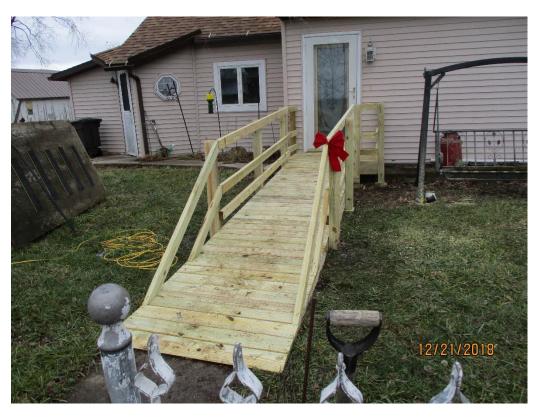
Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We ended the year with two ramps "off the books" and no snow to bother us! Our first ramp was built in Normal for the Corbett family. Mr. Corbett has not been out of his home for many months and his wife was very pleased with the ramp we built for them. She sent a very nice card to thank all of us for our work and included a donation to our club, as well! As you can see from the pictures, we had plenty of help (which means plenty of us standing around watching Dennis build that first ramp section.. Thanks, Dennis!). A great looking ramp and a great crew building a 30 ft. ramp that day. Thanks, everyone!





The second ramp was built in Stanford, Illinois for Mr. Alexander. His son called and said they had a small ramp that was not in good shape, which means they had a 6 ft. piece of plywood and needed a 16 ft. ramp! We had a ramp platform that fit perfectly so a 16 ft. ramp was added and as you can see, Mr. Alexander got a new ramp for Christmas! The family was very pleased with the ramp and Mr. Alexander is able to get in and out of his home safely.





Thanks to all of our volunteers who came out to help with our projects this year.. braving the rain, the extreme heat (remember that one?), and the cold weather. We have certainly made a difference in the lives of many families in our community and because of your efforts, they all have access to their homes.

I am revising our e-mail list of volunteers and I will be sending out an e-mail after the first of the year to make sure that everyone is included on our "ramp-building list" that wants to be. As we go through the winter months, we may not be building as many ramps but I'll certainly send out a notice if we have any requests we can fulfill.

Thanks, again for your willingness to help and I'm looking forward to another productive year in our ramp-building program.

Happy New Year!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 824-9844 (cell)

Be sure to check us out on Facebook. Go to <a href="https://www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS">www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS</a>

## **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 <a href="mailto:jwyrick300@ctechinternet.com">jwyrick300@ctechinternet.com</a>.





### **Amtrykes®**

Yes, December was a great month to be a member of Cornbelt Ambucs.

We began by giving an Amtryke away to a very nice young man at Tri-Valley Senior High School. This was another Amtryke recommended by Dorene, the school therapist connected with Spice. Aaron was so excited and we had a difficult time holding him back while finishing all the adjustments. I was happy to see a few Cornbelt members were able to share in the fun of seeing Aaron's smile as he rode his own special Amtryke all around the gym.





Our next presentation took a little extra effort to get everyone in the same place at the right time. You see, we were presenting three bikes at once at Olympia North Elementary School in Danvers. The presentation was scheduled for 8 am right after the parents brought their child to school that morning. Thanks to the several Ambucs who were there early to help carry in the bikes after the busses left and with the presentations. Special thanks to Dick and J for adjusting the front forks on the two AM-16 Amtrykes.

As you can see from the group picture, the school principal was very excited to see the three kiddos receiving their Amtrykes. He thanked us so much for the bikes and what we do to help his kiddos.



Lewis previously was riding am AM-10 which was returned to us for another child to ride in the future. He progressed and has grown into a new 1412 ProSeries. This bike will allow him plenty of room for growth for at least a couple years. I am not sure the following picture truly captures how excited Lewis was with his new bike and I could tell his Dad was really enjoying the rear steering option.



Savannah was so precious. She was very quiet and waiting patiently for us to get her new AM-16 ready. I wanted to bring her home with me but I don't think her parents would have allow that to happen. As you can see from the pictures below Savannah was really loving her new red Amtryke.





The third little kiddos, Ian, was so excited. You can see he, the one with his hands up in the air, wanted to ride rather than be in the picture by the Christmas tree with the other two children. The second picture shows us checking the bike fitting before we allowed Ian to take off with his new Amtryke.





Thanks to all the members and others who have helped support our Amtryke mission during 2018. It was a great year and I hope 2019 is even better. Please continue to send me the contact information for anyone who might benefit from one of our tremendous Amtykes.

Al Bedell 2802 Hendrix Rd Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 826-0405

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