

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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**April 2019**

**THE PREZ SEZ...**



Wow! Cornbelt had quite the exciting month of March! Besides building several ramps, which you can read about in Bill's article, we also held or participated in several other events:

March 9 - trained 27 therapists in evaluating and fitting recipients for Amtrykes®. This was quite an event, and we received good comments from those in attendance. You can read more about it in J.'s article elsewhere in the newsletter.

March 23 - participated in a big event at Harmony Park. We built two handicapped-accessible picnic tables while there, as well as provided an information table for attendees of the event. Harmony Park is the first park in Bloomington/Normal where children of all abilities can play together, so this fits pretty well with AMBUCS™' mission.

March 30 - served more than 200 hungry people at our pancake breakfast! This is Cornbelt's major fundraiser of the year. The food was provided by and prepared by Steve and Shannon of Shannon's Five-Star restaurant. While I was helping in the kitchen, they told me that 2009 was the first year they started doing this for Cornbelt, so it has been a nice partnership for 10 years!

Also during March, Cornbelt was mentioned in the Bloomington *Pantagraph* twice, was discussed on some local radio stations, and received mention on social media! I would say this was a pretty good month of visibility for Cornbelt AMBUCS! Thanks to all of you who helped with these events.

Another way to share the story of AMBUCS, is to spread the word about the AMBUCS scholarships. You will find a link on Cornbelt's website. Students must be enrolled in an accredited graduate-level program for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, or hearing audiology. The last day to apply is May 5. We would love to have a few more scholarship recipients from the local area, so please keep this in mind, if you are made aware of a student who might qualify.

Now with March behind us, we have April and May to look forward to. I know there will be ramps to build, but we also have some community events coming up. The Red Cross Sound the Alarm event is coming up on April 27. If you have not yet committed to participate, you can still sign up. Please let me know if you plan to be there. We are also working on a couple more events that will be funded by Thrivent. We will have details on these once we work out the plans. On May 7, we will hold an information booth at the Be Content Senior Expo, once again. An email was recently sent on this event.

Another April event you have been hearing us talk about is the AMBUCS Central Region Conference, which is April 12/13. There is still time to sign up. Sounds like they have lots of great things planned.

Please also mark your calendar for the Cornbelt AMBUCS installation banquet on May 29, which will be held at Baxter's. This is the event where the officers for the new year will be sworn in, we will give a wrap-up of this past year's events, and we will award some scholarships. It is a great way to wrap up the year, so we hope to see you there.

Until next time....shoulders together!

Marcia

Marcia Hammerstrand  
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## Upcoming Events

### Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, April 20, 2019

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Shannon's Restaurant

### Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Time: Noon

Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



## Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We were busy in March.. building 5 ramps for families that needed some help to make their homes accessible. Here's some pictures to show you some of our work and what we can do when we have a great group of volunteers that want to help!

Our first ramp was in a garage in Bloomington.. for a gentleman that was planning for his wife to come home soon. Nice looking ramp!



Our second ramp was built in Bloomington for a veteran who needed to be able to get in and out of his home. We utilized ramp sections from a ramp that was donated back to us.. along with new materials supplied by the City of Bloomington. He was very happy with the results.. thanks to all of you!





Our third ramp was built in a garage in Bloomington, as well. This family is providing care for their mother, who has moved in with them.. so they needed a ramp. We utilized a donated metal ramp and built a small platform to end up with a ramp so the family has easy access to their home. Nice work!



Our fourth ramp was built in Ellsworth. This family has quite a network of helpers.. and they contacted us to help build a ramp for their mother. We worked along side of family members, friends, and our own volunteers to build over 45 feet of ramp that day. We were treated to a great lunch, too. Nice way to make a home accessible.. and have some fun, too! Thanks everyone!





Our fifth ramp was built in rural Bloomington to help this family in making their home accessible. A little sunshine and a good-looking ramp!





We've been getting quite a few requests for ramps now that the weather has changed. I'll keep you posted on new projects as they become available. Thanks for your willingness to help us in making homes accessible in our community.

I'll see ya' at the next one!  
 Bill McHie  
 Ph: (309) 824-9844 (cell)

Be sure to check us out on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS](http://www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS)

### **Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery**

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://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](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).



### **Notes From Al...**



### **Amtrykes®**

Last month saw quite a bit of Amtryke activity. As a result of the Therapist Training on March 9<sup>th</sup> Cornbelt had request for two Amtrykes. The Cornbelt Board agreed to purchase one new 1420 XL Pro Series Amtryke for Rex. Rex was returning his current 1416 Pro Series bike which was a perfect match for the bike for Ethan.

Ethan and Rex received their new bikes at the Ambucs Pancake breakfast on March 30<sup>th</sup>. They both loved their new bikes very much. The rear steering parts for Rex's bike are on back order but he was able to ride the bike without any troubles around the tables at the breakfast. The people attending the breakfast loved seeing Ethan and Rex riding their bikes.

This was Ethan's third Amtryke and yes, his previous bikes are being used by other kiddos now or in the near future. Ethan loved his bike and he loved riding it around the Mid West Foodbank at the Therapist Training. He reminded everyone that this is where his grandpa volunteers.

Ethan was so thrilled with his new bike that he rode it at his Boy Scout meeting and as they walked around. The other Boy Scouts were quite impressed with Ethan's new Amtryke. Here are a couple pictures Ethan's mom sent us. I guess they all wanted to help him with the rear steering. How nice is that?





With our increased exposure in March we understand there are a few more Amtryke request coming in the next few months so please stay tuned.

As usual, please continue to send me the contact information for anyone who might benefit from one of our wonderful bikes.

Thanks.

**Al Bedell**  
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## Therapists Training

On March 9<sup>th</sup> Cornbelt Ambucs hosted an Amtryke Evaluation & Fitting Training session. The event was held at the Midwest Food Bank w/ 27 therapists from 5 states in attendance. Ashley Schilling led the session with assistance from Al Bedell, Donna Carlton-Vish & others. Many of the therapists commented on not only an awesome session, but were surprised at what a great facility the Food Bank was for the event. Vicki Strauss worked with a local Subway store to provide lunch.

The session included working through the evaluation guidelines with examples, demonstrations of the various Trykes available as well as the options for seating & controls and a demo of an eval prior to hands on breakouts. Therapists then worked in teams to evaluate potential recipients & recommend a solution. Each team then received the recommended Tryke, fitted the recipient & followed with a test drive to determine if they had chosen the best solution. They were then graded on the entire process. One of those recipients was actually something of a ringer; he already had a Tryke & he & his family brought it in for an adjustment. After his eval his team recommended a larger tryke with a different handlebar configuration & he received his new Tryke at the Pancake Breakfast. Besides gaining valuable insight, the therapist also received certification hours for continuing education credit.

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>