

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: Al Bedell
Vice President: Vicky Strauss
Secretary: Marcia hammerstrand
Treasurer: Dennis Strauss
Sergeant At Arms: William Hamann
Website: www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org

Bill McHie, At-Large Board Member
Pete Hettinger, At-Large Board Member
Dennis Wentworth, At-Large Board Member
William Hamann, At-Large Board Member



August 2020

THE PREZ SEZ...



Hello AMBUCS™

July was a very interesting and active month for Cornbelt Ambucs. We started the month with a lunch and learn monthly meeting at our home since we could not meet at Monicals. Everyone brought their own lunch and lawn chairs. This provided us the opportunity to visit together in person while observing safe distancing.

Marcia coordinated two community service events at Habitat for Humanity. A few members worked two afternoons for a couple hours. We priced the items for the store that were donated earlier that day. It was like preparing for a large garage sale. Even though it was a small crew our efforts were appreciated.

Our ramp building has been slowed significantly due to Covid 19. Please read Bill's comments this month. Hopefully, we will be able to start building ramps soon.

Our Amtryke activity was very busy. We have given 5 Amtrykes away in the last month and have two requests to be filled August. Most of the Amtrykes were either out of our inventory at little or no cost to our chapter. See my comments later in the Amtryke section.

On August 11th, our Regional Director, Larry Turilli, held a virtual Central Region Conference. Some great national news was provided by Jay Laurens, Ambucs' Chief Executive Officer, and Jessica Wall, Ambucs' Chief Operating Officer. Don't forget Cornbelt Ambucs is the host chapter for the 2021 Central Region Conference on April 24th and 25th at the Holiday Inn and Suites across from the airport. Please reserve this weekend on your calendars.

Alan Bedell
Cornbelt President
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Meet Your Cornbelt Ambucs Board

Each month we will be highlighting a Cornbelt AMBUCS Board Member. I thought we should start with the member who has been a Cornbelt member the longest.

Let's get to know **Bill McHie**

Bill joined Cornbelt Ambucs almost 30 years ago. This was only 6 years after marrying his lovely wife, Betty. They have one son, Willy, who lives in Wisconsin. Willy used to help us build a few ramps when he lived at home. Bill retired from the State of Illinois and now works at the Wentworth Farms and also as a volunteer semi driver for the Midwest Food Bank.

After holding almost every Cornbelt office, Bill has been an at large board member for several years. Bill is our Ramp Chairperson handling ramps from the initial contact to the finished product through when the paper work is completed. During his 30 plus years Bill has completed over 700 ramps. This was only possible with assistance from the membership.

One of Bill's best AMBUCS memories is how and when he was recruited by Don Huber. I doubt Don asked Bill if he wanted to join. Don just clearly told Bill he was joining and to get involved. . . Which he has done very well. Bill still enjoys taking the pictures of the person's first trip down the ramp after each ramp build and explaining the tail light guarantee to the home owner.

Bill is very proud of the many years of community activity he has provided and helped provide independence and mobility to several hundred McLean County residents. Thanks Bill for all you have done for us. It is because of you and our ramps that Cornbelt is known as the ramp building club.

Upcoming Events

Next Saturday Event

When: Cancelled

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Time: Noon

Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

Notes From Bill...



Ramps

Hey, all you ramp builders –

Another month has passed and we have continued to receive referrals but have not been able to build ramps due to the lack of materials available to us. I have been in contact with Alexander Lumber on a regular basis and as soon as treated lumber becomes available, we will schedule some ramp-building projects. In the meantime, we will continue to keep in touch with folks who have contacted us for ramps. We will also keep you informed of future ramp-building opportunities as soon as they become available, too!

On the positive side, we did get to build one ramp this past month in Colfax! Yippee! The homeowner had some material available to him and we were able to connect a 16ft. ramp to his front porch. He was very pleased with our work and we were pleased to be able to help!





Be safe.. take care of yourself and others.. and I'll be in touch in the near future. Thanks!

Bill McHie
Ph: (309) 824-9844

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.

Notes From Al...



Amtrykes®

Even with the Covid 19 virus, July was one of the most active Amtryke months in several years.

First we provided two Tadpole Amtrykes plus a used 1416 Pro Series Amtryke to the Thunder Adaptive Cycling non-profit organization in Towanda. Tim Kirk started this group, and he organizes rides almost every Wednesday and Sunday evening in different communities. Tim has traveled many miles finding the bikes for the riders. We worked with the National office and were able to get two Tadpole bikes through the Veteran's grant program. We were only responsible for paying for the shipping. For additional information on Thunder Adaptive Cycling, please check out their website.

As you can see from the picture below, riders from all ages are participating in their rides. Also, there are several different style bikes being used by the riders. Most of the bikes are significantly lighter than ours but also significantly more expensive.



Later we were able to provide another bike from our inventory. We provided Anya with her 1420 Pro Series Amtryke on July 23rd at SPICE. When Anya started treatment at SPICE 2 years ago, she was unable to walk. Once she got on the bike we knew it would be difficult to keep up with her. Anya is a lovely 11 year old girl and was so excited to get to ride a bike. She looks forward to being able to ride with her two sisters and parents in the near future. The Pantagraph was at the bike presentation and included two wonderful pictures the next day on page 3 and mentioned Cornbelt Ambucs in the write up...

Here is a picture of Anya and her immediate family:



We also provided another Tadpole to an individual who wanted to buy one of our bikes to ride. They paid 100% of the cost plus the freight. They benefit from the bike and we get some additional exposure.

Later in the month we received requests for two additional Amtrykes. Luckily we had both in storage and the bikes will be provided in early August. Look for pictures in next month's newsletter.

As usual, please continue to forward the contact information for anyone who may benefit from one of our wonderful therapeutic bikes.

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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>