

## Amtryke Road Rally

The GCC AMBUCS and the C-U Elks Lodge, hosted an Amtryke Road Rally for children who had previously received Amtrykes from GCC and the Elks. Member Larry Windingland's idea was to set up an indoor track for the kids with various stations for them to enjoy while they rode. The Elks, who have sponsored several Amtrykes, donated their banquet room for the event. Co-chair, Renae' Strawbridge, helped setup and arrange the event, along with other GCC members.



The stations around the track included a Gas station where riders could fill their tanks; a Wash station where the Amtrykes could be cleaned; a Rumble area where riders could run over bubble wrap; and finally the favorite of all the riders, the Brick Bash station. At the Brick station, AMBUCS and helpers would pile up cardboard "bricks" for the riders to run into and knock down. What, fun! The theme for the day was super heroes so Captain America made an appearance and there were balloons and triangle flags around the track.

Nine children and their families stopped by the event to enjoy the fun and most of the GCC AMBUCS members were in attendance. There was snack food and drinks, plus games, crayons, soap bubbles, and matchbox cars on the tables, and superhero capes for the children and their sibs. We also had therapists at the event so that Amtrykes could be adjusted if needed or put on the list for replacement. Two more children were fitted with Amtrykes and one took home a trike from our District trailer.

GCC AMBUCS plans to make this an annual event. Not only do the kids have fun, the parents get to sit and relax for a few minutes. The AMBUCS and Elks have the fun of seeing these children enjoy the gifts we've given them. Great job, everyone!

[Road Rally Movie](#)

(Bottom three photos by Renae' Strawbridge)



## Calendar

May 12—First ramp build

May 23 — Bike Day at Weaver Park, Urbana

May 24— Awards and Installation Banquet

June 18—Charity Golf Outing

September 22 — Scarecrow Festival

October 3-6—AMBUCS National Conference, Reno, NV



# Spring Central Region Conference

*The* Central Region Spring Conference was held in Carmel, IN, on April 27th and 28th. It was hosted by the Indy Chapter with help by the members from Danville. Donna Carlton-Vish was the event chair and put on a great conference!

Friday was the golf outing with dinner at Carter's Play Place, pictured at right. Carter's is the brainchild and passion, of AMBUCS member Adam Meents. He started Carter's to help his son and others like him, have a fun experience while



improving some areas of their challenges. *"At Carter's Play Place we are passionately striving to provide an adaptive and dynamic play environment that is inclusive for kids of all abilities."* There are toys and equipment everywhere on a huge blue mat. Some of the features are a steel swing apparatus, a 40' zip line with a crash pad, and a climbing apparatus. The place is supported by use fees, grants, and a charity called Carter's Crew. This is the only place of it's kind and it's gaining national attention for it's innovation. Adam credits his membership in AMBUCS as helping motivate him and his wife to create this wonderful place and he proudly displays the Indy Chapter AMBUCS logo along with the Carter's logo, (at left).



We thank Adam for hosting us and telling us all about his wonderful place! To find out more about Carter's go to: <http://www.cartersplayplace.com>

**Saturday** started the business meetings and information sessions. Donna Carlton-Vish opened the conference and we heard an update of National news from Past National President, Eric Oschwald and National President Elect, Randy Cloud. Highlights:

- Ten full time staff are now employed at the Resource Center
- Still takes 6 months to get an Amtryke from ordering to the Chapter; be patient
- Six new Chapters since April 2017; now 158 Chapters in 35 states
- The Living Endowment Fund is now called Scholarships for Therapists
- New tag line for the AMBUCS logo: "Adaptive Trykes for Amazing People"
- Costs increasing for Amtrykes but may be offset by a lower shipping cost deal in the works
- Trikes with no breaks will come standard with rear-steer
- New model coming out, Am1020 which will be smaller than the Am1024
- National has stopped using the capital "T" in the word Amtryke

*The* guys also talked about the upcoming National Conference in Reno, NV, October 3-6, at the Peppermill Resort in Reno ( <http://peppermillreno.com> ) National has been at the Peppermill before and they really wanted us back. There will be three room rates to choose from: \$89, \$109, \$129, with the higher prices closer to the conference rooms. There is a \$25 per room fee that may show up on our bills but will be waived at checkout. For those coming in Tuesday, Oct. 2, there will be a Gambling 101 session by the hotel. Wednesday will be a small bike build because one of the chapters will build most of them before the conference.



Wednesday evening will be an opening Sock Hop, so get out your poodle skirts and saddle shoes! Thursday and Friday will have some built in free time and Friday evening will be the Big Hat Auction and Dinner. Saturday from 1:30-5:00 will be the Amtryke giveaway and combined child and veteran rides. Registration is not yet open but it will be announced as soon as it is. Come join us for a fun and rewarding experience!

**(Conference continued...)**

**Right** before the lunch break during Al Bedell's talk on Amtrykes, we gave away Amtrykes to two children from the area. The young boy rode around the parking lot at top speed with Donna Carlton-Vish chasing him down because he hadn't yet mastered turning. The little girl rode slowly around the conference room in a pretty, blue helmet, decorated like a crown and donated by BRG Sports, (formally Bell Helmets in Rantoul). It's always great to see the kids smiling on their trikes!



**Next**, we were reminded of Parliamentary Procedure in a talk by Vic Mendez, Great Plains Regional Director. We were reminded that we need a motion and a second from the floor before voting on an issue. He also suggested that to keep a meeting short and acting on business, that the Chapter president refer big issues to a committee who would come back to the main group with a recommendation. Any member can "Call for the Orders of the Day" to move focus back to the agenda items when the group has drifted. There was lots of good information to help Chapter meetings.

**As** is the procedure, members who want to become Life Members, have a chance to win the right to buy one at a Regional Conference. Life Members no longer pay National dues. This time there were four Life Memberships available and five people were interested in purchasing one. All names went in a hat, and GCC AMBUCS member Andy VanEngelenburg, was the first name drawn. Congratulations, Andy! The fifth person is an alternate who will be allowed to purchase a Life Membership if one of the first four cannot take the membership. The cost is \$575.

**The** conference ended with the Big Hat Auction and Dinner Saturday night. Each Chapter is asked to donate an item for the auction. Our Chapter donated a engraved wooden box containing alcohol. GCC member, Roger Adams, engraved the box on the sides and ends. The ends had the Big Hat logo and name and the sides said "Big Hat Emergency Provisions". That's our item at the right and it brought in \$425!



**GCC** AMBUCS member, Don Dunlap, was re-elected as Central Region Big Hat President. He was running the auction with help from two Larrys, GCC's Larry Windingland, and Central Region Treasurer, Larry Turelli. They were also the sheriffs for the evening and collected all of the Big Hat fines. During the conference attendees must watch what they say and do because their friends will tell the Big Hat Sargent of Arms and they will end up getting fined at the final dinner. And be aware that if an attendee complains about their fine, that's called whining and they might get their fine doubled! It's all in fun and even the people fined laugh. Be aware also, that the Big Hat Sheriffs do not give change so if you have a \$5 fine and you only have a \$20 bill, you just donated \$20. The Big Hat Club is all about fun!

**The** next Central Region Conference will be hosted by the I80 Chapter with the help of the Cornbelt Chapter, and will be held in the Starved Rock area. Hope to see everyone there!

## District 4A Meeting

*After* the Regional conference was completed, Chapters in District 4A met to discuss business. The main topic of consideration was whether or not to continue the District. The biggest question was what would happen to the District Amtryke trailer if the district no longer existed. After a lot of heated discussion, the members voted to disband the district at the end of this fiscal year, if National would agree to support our trailer. It is also contingent on the Boards of the Danville and GCC Chapters accepting joint ownership of the trailer. More information will be shared as decisions are made.

## 2018 DisABILITY Expo

*April* 7th was the date for the 2018 DisABILITY Expo at the Vineyard Church in Urbana. The Expo is a chance for people with disabilities to find groups and companies that provide goods and services suited for them in one place on one day. The Vineyard Church was a new location for the Expo and the extra space allowed for better flow past the booths and displays. There were over 100 exhibitors and over 1,000 attendees, one of the biggest Expos ever! GCC AMBUCS



was there and at 9:30 gave away an Amtryke to a cute little girl who wanted to ride right off the stage. That's her at the right.

**Bob** Lacey, Elaine Windingland, Scott Price, Sally Denhart, and Harvey were staffing the booth with Harvey modeling an Amtryke. The kids loved Harvey because he is soft and cute. We explained our Amtryke and wheelchair ramp building programs to hundreds of people. Here's hoping we can help them all!

## Charity Golf Outing

*The* date for our next big fundraiser, the Charity Golf Outing at Stone Creek course in east Urbana, is **June 18th**. We'll need golfers, hole sponsors, lunch and dinner sponsors, and more, just like last year. Golfers and sponsors can sign up online from our website: <http://www.thegccambucs.org/golf-outing> using either PayPal or a credit or debit card.



## Speakers This Month

**Garrett** Anderson from Wounded Vets in Higher Education, talked with us on April 17th about the building on the campus of the Univ. of Illinois where vets can live and relearn how to "learn" at the U of I. Garrett is a wounded veteran himself and can completely understand their issues. Thanks for coming, Garrett!

## Tidbits

**General Email Account:** A general email account has been set up for our Chapter. People can send questions to this new account and the emails will be forwarded to the correct member for an answer. The new email address is: gccambucs@gmail.com

**Twitter Account for GCC:** In an effort to attract younger members, the Chapter now has a twitter account: @GCC\_AMBUCS. We will be tweeting several times per week as well as posting to Facebook.

**Facebook Posts:** Please be sure to Like and Comment on Facebook posts and share them on your own timeline, if possible. If you're on Twitter, please re-tweet our posts. This is the most effective way to use Social Media to help with our visibility.

**Members with Health Issues:** Bud Mesker is back with us and Roger Adams is traveling in Texas. Wayne Younger is recovering well from his heart surgery and Deb Griest is doing fine after her shoulder surgery. They can still use good wishes so send them along!

## Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on April 25th at Giordano's in Champaign.

The Board voted to:

- ⇒ Donate \$100 to the Cornbelt Chapter in honor of Al Bedell's birthday. Donations will be matched by Al and his former employer.
- ⇒ reimburse members attending the Spring Conference for one night's hotel stay.

## Winning Chances

4/3/18—50/50: \$11 to Renae' Strawbridge; Attendance: \$102 could have been won by Andrea Betzler but she was not present

4/10/18—50/50: \$11 to Steve Gibbs. Attendance: \$124 could have been won by Nelda Shaw but she was not present.

4/17/18—50/50: \$9 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$142 was won by Mike Foley. Woo, woo!

4/24/18—50/50: \$10 to Dave Fones; Attendance: \$19 could have been won by Bud Mesker but he was not present.