

Ramps

We built our first two ramps this month, a small one and one that was a monster at 65 linear feet!

The first ramp was a very rare redo of a ramp our Chapter built 27 years ago. It did quite well holding up over the years and in the harsh Illinois winters. Also part of the ramp was on a low section of the yard and was often sitting in water. Finally, the boards became loose and dangerous to the home owner and family. We used a tractor to pull out the old ramp, not only the posts but the well-nailed deck boards, too. Except for the loose ones, the rest were impossible to pull out by hand. This grateful home owner provided doughnuts, coffee, water, tea, and lemonade! None of that is necessary but very welcome on this hot day.



The second monster ramp was a challenge. The existing porch was 46 inches from the ground so that meant a run, a flat, another run, another flat, and finally the last run. Most of it can be seen in the picture at the left. There were also trees and bushes in the way so leader Ray Griest came up the night before the build and removed a tree, trimmed another one, and removed a bush. Then the rest of us could dive right into building the ramp the next day. The weather took pity on us and it was cloudy most of the day with the sun only shining strong near the end. Despite one volunteer getting hit in the face by an air hose, the build was fun and rewarding. Thanks to all AMBUCS, friends, and relatives, 24 in total, who helped make this happen!

Calendar

Sept. 14—Scarecrow Festival

Oct 2-5—National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

2020

Jan. 25—Barstool Golf

Feb. 29—Cash Bash

May 2—Road Rally

Scarecrow Festival

The festival is this Saturday! It will be a wonderful day in AMBUCS Park starting at 10am and running until 3pm. We can still use vendors for the flea market so members should talk it up. We'll be fitting some children with Amtrykes on that day along with all the rides, games, bake sale, and the big Car and Motorcycle show on the west end of the park.

Elaine Windingland will be asking for volunteers so make sure your calendar is free on **September 14th**. Everyone is encouraged to attend the **lunch meeting on Sept. 10!** We need to finalize the volunteer jobs on that day.

Also, each member should contribute an item to the bake sale. To save donors time, we will price the items the morning of the festival. We just ask that you pre-bag cookies and brownies in 2-3 item groups. You can contact Judy Dramstad if you need to deliver your contribution before the festival morning.



More Amtrykes!

Our chapter continues to deliver the Amtrykes we've been assembling all year. Leader, Scott Price, has been taking them to families and inviting them to our lunch meetings. He's had some help from one of our favorite therapists, Earl Martin, with the fittings. At right, Earl finalizes the fitting on one of our adult trikes at a lunch meeting.



Our chapter had the rare privilege of giving a pair of twins Amtrykes! The twins, whose official names are David and Nathaniel, are autistic and struggle with interacting with the world. They came to lunch to get the trikes and visit with their grandmother who happens to be world's best waitress at our weekly lunch meetings. We do live in a small world! The twins were very active, once they got used to having all these strange people around them and we found out their nicknames are Legendary and Legacy. Despite their lack of smiles for the pictures they were very happy to have their new trikes.



Scott and Earl also delivered Amtrykes to two of three brothers who struggle with Downs Syndrome. Their mother, who is legally blind, adopted the three and made them a family. We gave one of the brothers an Amtryke a year or so ago and put the second brother in the queue for a second Amtryke. That left the third brother without one but we couldn't let that happen so we surprised him with his very own! They are in the last picture above. Unfortunately, the three didn't get to ride together very long as one of them passed away suddenly a couple of days after this picture was taken. Our hearts go out to the family.

Urbana Park District Bike Nite

The Urbana Park District hosted their final concert in the park and final Bike Nite at Meadowbrook Park in Champaign. A band always brings people in so this event was well attended. We talked with several people and told them of our mission and projects. Thanks to Bob Lacey for organizing our participation with the Park District each year.

AMBUCS Park Improvements

When we put in the new gravel ramp at the door to the storage shed at the park, we had gravel left over. The park district used this to fill in some pot holes. They also added some things to the playground using a major donation from a man who passed away, Tom Berns, and some donations from us. They also replaced the sign by the road with a new one. The park district is also organizing some exercise classes in the Driscoll pavilion. With all these changes, they were able to get a spot on a local TV station.

Chapter Social

On August 25th our chapter hosted a social for all members and their families at Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy. Our organizers, Elaine Windingland and Laura Gibbs, arranged for us to have two bowling lanes and some great food. Eight members and family bowled a game and had fun cheering each other on. We schedule socials quarterly to help bring in members who don't often attend the lunch meeting and to just have some fun enjoying the company of our great members. Thanks, Elaine and Laura!



National Conference

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



The 2019 National Conference is the first week of October and it promises to be a great time in an interesting city! The training sessions are very informative and the keynote speakers are always inspiring. The conference is a wonderful chance to share ideas and techniques for fundraising and projects with other chapters across the nation. Members also get the chance to meet and talk with National officers and find out about plans for the future. Hope to see everyone there!

<https://ambucs.org/members/ambucs-national-conference/>

Spinters From the Board

Our Board met at Sammy's on August 28th. The action items were:

- ⇒ voted to give \$500 to the Developmental Services Center Tree of Hope
- ⇒ voted to give \$600 to the Disabled Students Organization for their Christmas Party
- ⇒ decided to make the last lunch meeting of the month the Board meeting on a trial basis



Getting to Know Your Officers

On the hotseat this month — Secretary, Sally Denhart.

Q: We heard from Renae' that Zombies are not real but if they were, where would you run?

A: I would run to Springfield, our state capital. Since zombies eat brains, any in that city would starve. There hasn't been a brain there in years!

Q: As a watcher of the show, Ancient Aliens, do you believe in alien abduction?

A: Yes! In fact I've been abducted. No, wait, that was my cousin, twice removed.

Q: If peanut butter wasn't called peanut butter, what would it be called?

A: Elephant Jam



Tidbits

Kyle Moe got married this month and went on a wonderful honeymoon to Jamaica. Congrats, Kyle!

Steve Gibbs had to wear a cast on his foot for a while and still has some pain so please send good wishes his way.

Ray Griest had outpatient surgery on his left leg and is wearing a compression sock for two weeks.

Sally Denhart was a little careless at the big ramp build and was hit in the face by the air hose used with the nail guns. There was some blood, sweat, and tears but Sally reports that she is heeled with only a small scar hidden by her nose. She thanks everyone who took such good care of her!

Winning Chances

8/06/19—50/50: \$9 to Deb Griest; Attendance: \$15 could have been won by Roger Adams but he was not present.



8/13/19—50/50: \$8 to Andy VanEngelenburg; Attendance: \$31 could have been won by Rick Ohmit but he was not present.

8/20/19—50/50: \$5 to Don Dunlap; Attendance: \$42 went to Bob Lacey!

8/27/19—50/50: \$8 to our Amtryke recipients Legacy and Legend; Attendance: \$14 could have been won by Theresa Adams but she was not present.
