

The Buc Shot

June 2015

Calendar

July 18th – Club Social at Scott and Anne Price's

July 20th – "Play Date" AMBUCS Park, 5:30-7:30pm

September 19th – Scarecrow Festival, AMBUCS Park

Sept. 30th – Oct. 3rd – National AMBUCS Conference, Biloxi, MS (registration open; see below)

Club New Member Award

The Spring Roundup Membership drive ended the first of June and the club gained two new members: Brian Hanson and Kim VanEngelberg, wife of Andy VanEngelberg. Andy won the first place award prize and he chose liquor. Congratulations, Andy!

Pictured are (l-r) President Andrea Betzler, Brian Hanson, Brian's sponsor, Ray Griest, Kim VanEngelberg, and her sponsor Andy VanEngelberg.



AmTrykes

There were several AmTryke presentations this month, some at the lunch meetings and some elsewhere. We love to have the presentations at the lunch meetings but sometimes because of the type of illness of the recipient and sometimes because of schedules that is not possible.

The first AmTryke was given out at our lunch meeting on June 2nd to Daniel. (Pictured l-r are Andrea Betzler, Daniel's mother Darlene, Daniel, and Scott Price.) Darlene told us a little about Daniel. He was sickly as a child and it took a long time to find out what the problem was. He was having lots of infections and was hospitalized every other week. The cause was determined and the right treatment established and now Daniel has been infection free for four years! Unfortunately, all the infections left him with some physical challenges but his therapist thinks an AmTryke will help him with those. Enjoy your AmTryke, Daniel!



On June 12th, Scott Price and Bud Mesker delivered an AmTryke to Elana, a wee little girl with some physical challenges. Happy riding, Elana!

Next, on June 17th, Deb Griest and Sally Denhart delivered an adult AmTryke to Bill. He has Parkinson's disease and the disease has removed his ability to drive and makes walking a lot of work. This means that Bill's world was mostly limited to his own house. An active person and former jet pilot, Bill has struggled a lot with being forced to stay home. Riding a regular bike was out, too, due to the disease's effect on his muscle control. Bill attends a Parkinson's support group and there he saw the presentation by Deb Griest last month and tried out an AmTryke. He realized right away that this could be the answer to his mobility issues. His therapist agreed and good things began to happen. Deb and Sally delivered the trike to his home in Rantoul and Deb spent some time getting it fitted so that Bill could ride safely



and comfortably. She made a second trip to Rantoul the next day to change out the original pedals for ones more suited to his needs.

Bill was very appreciative of his gift and wrote a thank you letter to the club. In part it said, "On June 17th I received from your organization a gift of freedom called an EZ3-USX-HD Recumbent Trike....Fifteen years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and I fight this terrible neurological disease each day. On June 17th, I won a battle against my PD. ...because of your wonderful mobility gift I am now more independent and less a slave to my PD disability. I am really grateful to each GCC AMBUCS club member. Thank you for restoring to me my mobile freedom...God Bless you!"

Here's hoping you have some great rides, Bill!



Ramps



On June 6th, the club built a ramp in Mahomet. The turnout of volunteers was huge. Sixteen members and friends came out for the morning. This ramp was slightly different from others we have done because it was set completely on concrete. At least it meant no post-hole digging! Thanks to Elaine and Larry Windingland for the picture.

Next, on June 28th the club came together to build a another huge ramp in Fisher, Illinois. This ramp needed a flat to start connected to the house, a run down to the end of the house, another flat for the turn towards the back of the house, and finally a long run to connect it to the existing sidewalk. This will allow the owner to come out her front door and easily end up at the front of her garage where a car will be waiting. Getting to doctor's appointments and family events will be much easier with the ramp.



Before the ramp, her caregiver would sit her in front of the window so that she could look outside. Now the owner will also be able to sit outside with her coffee on the first flat and enjoy a summer morning.

Eighteen AMBUCS members and friends showed up to put this long, complicated ramp together and the son of the home owner showed up to help as well. It took the group a little longer than a smaller ramp but the time was shortened by the large number of volunteers and the ramp was done and the trailer packed back up again by 12:20pm. With the work

done the group then enjoyed lunch, sloppy joes, chips, fruit, brownies, and pie, provided by the home owner's family. This is never necessary to our build and we tell the home owners not to go out of their way but when it is provided it is gratefully accepted and enjoyed!

Lunch Speaker: Andy Dallas

Our lunch meeting on June 9th was filled with magic, the magic of Andy Dallas! He opened his talk by showing us all one of the first card tricks he ever learned. It's the one where the magician starts with three cards, throws away three cards, and has three cards remaining, again and again. Andy is a renowned magician and owner of Dallas and Company Costume and Magic shop near downtown Champaign. His shop is filled with thousands of items pertaining to magic and there you can find any costume you might want. The shop is THE place to be at Halloween.



Andy got interested in magic at an early age when he saw his first magic act at five years old. When he was a little older a woman on his paper route gave him some old books and one of them was a book of 400 magic tricks. Andy set a goal for himself of learning all the tricks in the book. That started Andy on a life of fun and adventure doing magic tricks and escapes all over the world. Like the famous Houdini, Andy performed escapes from a straight jacket while being suspended in the air either from a building, a crane, and even a helicopter! He is a Past National President of the Society of American Magicians which represents over 7,000 magicians worldwide. He is a member of the Magic Circle in England and is one of their U.S. representatives. He is on the board of the Society of Young Magicians and has chaired the Paranormal Investigation Committee inspired by Houdini over 80 years ago. He has been a local businessman for over 40 years.

Thanks for sharing the stories and magic with us, Andy, and thanks to Big Hat President, Ray Griest for bringing us an interesting speaker.

Challenger League

The Challenger League season concluded in June. GCC representative, Joe Dart, and Cris Vowels, passed out the awards to each of the players. GCC AMBUCS provides the awards for the ceremony and Carle Hospital provides breakfast and lunch on that final day.

These pictures were actually taken the Saturday after the awards weekend at a makeup game. The first picture shows how many of the children participate during every pitch. The two girls standing at the left are the “helpers” who will spring into action when the batter hits the ball assisting the batter to run to first base. In the second picture, the young man crossing the plate in front of the other player is Nathan. Nathan is a



“senior” in the league and was playing in his last Challenger League game. He was so excited that he ran ahead of the player before him on the bases. Next, GCC member, Joe Dart, poses with the award that was passed out the week before. And finally, the last picture shows the new Challenger League sign on the park dugout which was provided by our club. Thanks to Joe Dart for all he does for the league and to the Kiwanis Club for being a leader in helping these children have fun!

Regional News

Regional Director, Deb Griest, shared some information from her visit to North Carolina. She visited an expo called Victory Junction which had lots of fun stuff for handicap children to do and enjoy. Twice per month AmTrykes are used to demonstrate mobility. Deb also shared that a California entertainment club called The Variety Club has adapted AmTrykes for their charity work. They are selling “Minion” pins with a dollar of each sale going to purchase AmTrykes. Deb also reported that the National organization has decided on the location for the National Convention for the next three years. The locations will be announced at the next national convention in Biloxi.



Registration for the National Conference in Biloxi is now open! Point your browser to:

<http://www.ambucs.org/2015-national-conference-biloxi-ms/>

and start the registration process. Be aware as usual, that you must make a hotel reservation separate from the conference registration. The block of hotel rooms will be released on September 11th so be sure to make your reservation before then. The Early Bird conference registration runs from now until August 14th when the cost will go up by \$50, from \$225 to \$275. On-site registration is \$325. Register early to save money!

Lucky Buck

Starting on June 23rd the membership will pass around a “Lucky Buck”. The member with the Buck must either bring a guest to the lunch meeting or spend a couple of minutes talking about themselves in front of the group. At the end of the meeting the person with the Buck will pass it secretly to some other member. This fun event is meant: 1) to remind members to bring friends and potential members to a lunch meeting and 2) to help new and long-time members learn about the club and other members. To decide who got the Buck for the first time, instigator, Joe Dart, polled the members and it was decided that who ever won the 50/50 drawing that day would be the first member with the Buck. The lucky member was Keith Jamieson. This may have been Fate taking a hand as Keith is a Charter member of the club. On June 30th Keith decided to talk a little about himself and about how our club started.



The Champaign Club was attempting to start a new club to cover Champaign County. They began by cold-calling owners of local businesses. Had Keith been in the office that day he probably would have said, “No thank you” but his father answered the phone and said, “Have I got a guy for you!” And Keith joined the new Greater Champaign County AMBUCS club.

Keith has three children, ages 25, 24, and 19. He recently moved one of his daughters to Eugene, Oregon to start her life. His youngest is David, who is in his second year at Parkland College, and is a super big help at ramp builds. Keith has been to at least 12 national conventions since joining but reports that he has slowed down a little. Now his hobby is fast cars and slow women.

Thanks for sharing, Keith!

Charity Golf Outing

June 22nd was the Charity Golf Outing fundraiser. Twenty seven teams participated in playing the beautiful Stone Creek Golf Course. The weather was a little hot but thankfully the sun stayed under clouds most of the day. Water was still the preferred drink for lunch, dinner, and during the day. Ray Griest and Roger Adams delivered coolers to the par 3 holes filled with water for the workers and players.

The winners, pictured at the right, were four young men who called themselves Team USA. Note the red, white, and blue shirts, with the fourth man wearing the shirt of stars and stripes. They found out about the event via FaceBook and had a wonderful time. They had so much fun they plan on coming back next year with more teams. They also plan on attending more of our fundraisers. Thanks, guys!



Deb Griest took an AmTryke with her to the hole she was working and let the players ride it around while they were waiting to play the hole. This was such a big hit that the club plans on taking more to the holes next year. There was one small accident, though. One of the players, who may have been feeling his drinks, rode the trike a little far and when he tried to turn too quickly to come back he did a slow motion tip-over. He was fine and so was the trike.

Lunch of hot dogs, coleslaw, and chips was provided by Bunny's. Dinner of fried chicken, fruit, potato salad, and baked beans was provided by Town and Country Catering.

The final numbers are not yet in but we expect the club raised over \$9,000 to help with AmTryke purchases and ramp building among other club projects. Thanks to all who participated, donated, and worked the day! Without all the help the event would not be the success it always is.

Board Action

The Board accepted the next year's budget presented by Treasurer Elaine Windingland.

After some discussion it was decided not to participate in the July Fourth parade.

The Urbana Park District is having a "Play Date" promotion on July 20th at all the parks and would like us to attend the one at AMBUCS Park. It will be from 5:30-7:30pm. We will have the AmTryke Trailer there if it's available and an information table. Volunteers will be needed so mark your calendars if you might be able to help.

Nuggets of Knowledge

For new club members and as a reminder to members who have been with us a while, here are some definitions of terms unique to AMBUCS. A full list of the terms can be found on the national Web site under Member Resources → Admin Documents.

Executive Director – Operates the AMBUCS Resource Center, implements programs of the National Board, plans the national conference, publishes AMBUCS publications.

Gold Star Pin – A pin given to a Big Hatter for each member he/she recruits

Lasso Pin – Awarded to a member who sponsors ten (10) new members in one chapter year during Branding Time and/or Spring Roundup.

Interesting Fines

Our newly elected Sergeant at Arms, Roger Adams, wanted to start his year off right with an unusual gift to the members and a related fine. He passed out small envelopes to each member and the envelopes either contained a Phillips screw or a regular nail. The fine of the day was if you had a nail you were fine but if you had a screw you were screwed, pay the fine! This was in honor of the anniversary of the invention of the Phillips screwdriver and screw back in 1934. This was doubly appropriate since Roger is a retired contractor. Thanks for the chuckle, Roger!



Thoughts from the President

Club President, Andrea Betzler, has chosen to help the members by giving us some positive thoughts for our lives. She wants us to "fill the bucket" with positive messages.

One of the first ones was about a man who was celebrating his 105th birthday. This man has remained humble throughout his life never once bragging about how he saved 669 children from Nazis death camps. He smuggled them out of Germany and into waiting homes in England. There were originally 670 children but he lost one and since he did he always feels that he didn't do all he could and yet the rest of us are in awe. We need to focus on the things we are able to do and not on any perceived failures.

Another tool to fill our buckets is positive ways to strengthen our word. Visualize what you want to happen. Be grateful for what we have. Appreciate others with praise and encouragement. Speak to what others can become. Say something that will change someone's future.



Member News

Bob Lacey is back! Recuperation from heart by-pass surgery is never easy and usually a long process. We are so happy to have Bob back in good shape! He was even well enough to work a hole at the Charity Golf Outing. Yea!

On the flip side, member **Andy VanEngelberg** was in a car accident. He was rear-ended by another vehicle but since he was pulling a trailer it took the brunt of the impact. Andy was mostly sore from the pressure of the seat belt across his chest. So glad things were not worse!

Member **Andrea Betzler**, paid homage to her father on Father's Day by "tossing a shot" on a bridge that was special to her family.

Winning Chances

June 2nd – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Laura Gibbs. The \$61 in attendance money went to Nikki Kopmann. Congratulations, Nikki!

June 9th – 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Sally Denhart. The \$22 in attendance money could have been won by Jill Hord but she was not present.

June 16th – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Ray Griest. The \$41 in attendance money went to Roger Adams.

June 23rd – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Keith Jamieson. The \$19 in attendance money could have been won by Linda Ohnstad but she was not present.

June 30th – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Andy VanEngelberg. The \$39 in attendance money went to Arlie Saldeen