

Note: when you finish reading this newsletter, please pass it on to someone who doesn't know about AMBUCS

Scarecrow Festival was Fun, Fun, Fun!

The 2022 Scarecrow Festival

had beautiful weather and a great turn-out! The event was held in AMBUCS Park on October 8th, from 10am-3pm. There was lots of games, (16!), a hay rack ride, a barrel train ride, a craft market, Billy Bob the giant scarecrow, food, live music, and a live scarecrow passing out candy! The day started out a little chilly but started to warm up right away and the temperature didn't stop people and their dogs, from coming out.

About mid-morning, the barrel train sputtered, backfired, and stopped! Luckily, we had the perfect person driving the train to fix it, member Don Dunlap, who owns a car towing service. He and his helpers had it back up and running in no time. While they were waiting, the children climbed in the cars, rang the bell in the engine car, while their parents took pictures! People, and especially children, are very adaptable! The line to take a ride formed quickly as soon as they heard the ATV running again and the train was never empty!



About 12:30 we gave away an Amtryke in the main pavilion to this young man, Jace, in the first picture below. He just couldn't stop smiling and rode the Amtryke all over the Park! AMBUCS creates smiles!

We also had a visit from our Central Region Director, Marsha Hamerstrand, who brought Connie, our live scarecrow! (First pic, bottom row)

We couldn't put on this great event without the many volunteers who helped out! Center picture, bottom row, is the U of I students from the APO group who worked the kids games all day!

We thank everyone who came out and hope they visit AMBUCS Park in the future!



October Amtrykes

One more Amtryke was gifted in October but first, another success story! We received an email from one of the therapists we work with, Kathryn Rose who said:



“This young man chose to get pictures on his AmTryke as part of his senior pictures. It’s one of his favorite things to do! Thank you again for helping to change his life in a positive way. He would have struggled more with walking with his canes and independent standing without the use of an AmTryke. He has been on an AmTryke since he was three years old.”



Amtrykes change lives!

We had a wonderful little girl come to lunch on October 25th, Grace! She is 3 years old and was born with a genetic condition that causes her to have very little muscle tone. She didn’t walk at all until just a month before her third birthday. Despite that, she’s a real go getter! She loves music and is rapidly learning sign language while also learning to speak. She will have a wonderful time riding her Amtryke at home!



2023 AMBUCS National Conference

Have you marked your calendars yet? The Galt House in Louisville, KY, is the place to be on August 2-5, 2023! It’s a beautiful hotel in a beautiful city, overlooking the waterfront and close to many downtown amenities. The conference in Birmingham reminded us how much fun and invigorating it can be meeting in person again so here’s our next chance to get re-energized in the AMBUCS way! Hope to see you there!

2022 Ramp Build

Eight AMBUCS and friends gathered for breakfast at Urbana Gardens and then headed out for a ramp build on October 15th. There was a small ramp needed, one flat and 16 foot run, on a duplex in East Urbana. The weather was cold but clear for the build and the previous day’s rain made digging the post holes easier. The other thing that made things easier was a pull-behind post-hole digger that drilled through the dirt with ease. Member, and ramp build leader, thought he had to push down hard to help the auger go in, but nope! Just a slight pressure was all that was needed to give the auger a little help when it hit the hard-packed earth. (Photo at left by Cris Vowels)



The build was finished quickly so everyone could get out of the cold and the owner could come out into the cold! She was very grateful for the ramp and noted how much of a difference this will make in her life. The next build is scheduled for November 6th. Great job all! (Right, some of the crew with the finished ramp. R-L: Don Dunlap, Jon Rogers, Scott Price, Keith Jamieson. Photo by Don Dunlap)





Visit from Terrance Stuber

Elections are coming up so Terrance Stuber, candidate for Champaign County Clerk, stopped by to let us know what he plans are if he is elected. He would focus on removing barriers to information sharing and especially the election process. He would reverse the trend of closing polls in small, rural areas and forcing voters in those areas to travel to vote in person or vote by mail. Terrance believes in helping people with what they need, not in making life harder for them. He is the son of two ex-navy parents so service is a way of life for him from when he was very young. He is seeking this office in order to move his service to a higher level.

We thank Terrance for coming by and wish him well in his bid for County Clerk!

AMBUCS At the disAbility Expo

October 22nd was the date for the disAbility Expo. Four AMBUCS volunteered to staff the booth from 11am-4pm on that day. The disAbility Expo is a way to showcase all the groups and companies in our area who help people with disabilities in some manner. There were groups there that help people with hearing difficulties learn and practice sign language; companies selling wheelchairs and other devices to help people stay mobile; there was even a group who rescues dogs with disabilities and pairs them with humans with similar disabilities.



AMBUCS volunteers, Sally Denhart, Judy Dramstad, Cris Vowels, and Pat Webb, talked with about 20 people who could use our help with either an Amtryke or a ramp build. One mother told us how just before they left the Chicago area, her disabled son's customized trike was stolen. She asked how much it would cost to buy an Amtryke from us. When told that all she had to do was work with their therapist to speck out the proper trike and we would give her one, she started crying! We hope to get the paperwork from her therapist soon and get that trike on order! (Pictured l-r: Pat Webb, Cris Vowels, Sally Denhart. Not pictured, Judy Dramstad.)

Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Perkin's on October 26th and addressed the following items:

- ==> ideas for the next AMBUCS Park improvement
 - ==> removal of Billy Bob, the giant scarecrow, after Halloween
 - ==> voted to have a \$50 fund to pay for Amtryke recipient guests' 50/50 raffle tickets
 - ==> next meeting location TBD
-

Tidbits

Member Judy Dramstad has a new family member Harley the dog! He's a rescue, of course!

Winning Chances

10/04/22—50/50: \$7 to guest John Namoff; Attendance: \$11 could have been won by Mike Foley but he was not present.

10/11/22—50/50: \$4 to Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$21 could have been won by Andy VanEngelenburg but he was not present..

10/18/22—50/50: \$5 to Don Dunlap; Attendance: \$31 to Pat Webb.

10/25/22—50/50: \$7 to Deb Griest; Attendance: \$11 to Dick Adams.