

# The Buc Shot

## February 2016

### Calendar

**Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner  
**Apr. 29-30, 2016** – Central Region Conference  
**May 4, 2016** – Road Show for Parkinson's Group  
**June 20, 2016** – Charity Golf Outing at Stone Creek  
**September 17, 2016** – Scarecrow Festival at AMBUCS Park



### Joe Dart

It is with great sadness that we must report that long-time member, Joe Dart, passed from this life on February 23, 2016. He fought hard but lost his battle with several illnesses.



Joe leaves behind a big family. He has 5 daughters, 20 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. Joe was a master recruiter for AMBUCS bringing in close to 50 members over his 40+ years in the club. That's his AMBUCS worker hat and his Big Hat in the picture at left. Those recruited included his beloved wife Mary, who passed before him, and his daughter #1, Mary Jane Jenkins. Joe claims his secret to recruiting was no secret at all. As he often said, "All you have to do is ask." We think it was more than that. It could have been Joe's persistence, his winning personality, his salesmanship, his perfect timing for asking, or



all of the above. Joe was an insurance salesman and, as a fellow member reports, he called her two weeks after her son's birth to suggest she buy some insurance, which she did. Timing made perfect by Joe's diligence.

Joe was a very active man, involved in a lot of things during his life until his health slowed him down. Besides recruiting for AMBUCS he was a major contributor to building wheelchair ramps, helping with over 200. Joe worked at all AMBUCS projects and often served as the ticket seller at fundraising events like the Scarecrow Festival and for the Benefit Dinner Raffle. Joe was also great at getting businesses and individuals to donate items for door prizes and raffle items.



The Tom Jones Challenger League was another of Joe's passions. This league is founded on the belief that all children should play baseball no matter what their abilities. He was the AMBUCS liaison between the two groups and arranged for AMBUCS to provide the awards given to all players. He handed them out to the kids and often said that was his favorite job. He's holding the 2015 Award in the picture at left. Joe worked tirelessly to promote the league and talked several radio personalities into supporting the league by working at the games and mentioning the games on the radio. He was also instrumental in arranging for the league in Champaign to play games against the Danville league.

Joe loved to hunt and fish and to teach archery to kids in the area. He started hunting early in life by providing game for his family to eat. He also picked cotton and watermelons to earn money to help support his family. Joe also made bows for himself and others through Hunters Haven in Champaign.

In May of 1945, Joe joined the Army Air Forces and became a parachute packer, a weather observer, and a technician. While stationed at Chanute Field in Rantoul, IL, he met Mary and they wed in 1946. After his service they moved to Oklahoma where Joe attended Muskogee College where he majored in agriculture. While there he also competed in ping-pong competitions and taught his daughters how to play. Joe worked as a milkman and then found his first calling as an insurance salesman, a field in which he worked for over 50 years.



The list of all the things in which Joe participated is a long one, so is the list of the lives he touched. Rest in Peace, Joe. You will be missed.

## Raffle

Everything is on track for the Benefit Dinner Raffle on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to sell tickets and get them turned in to Keith Jamieson's Ecowater office as soon as possible. All tickets MUST be in by Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, we can still use door prizes to give out to non-money tickets.

## AmTrykes

Scott Price delivered two AmTrykes to Leal School but neither of the two fit the children for which they were intended. But the biggest of the two AmTrykes was a good fit for another child at the school so he received the AmTryke. Scott will continue to work on getting the original two children their AmTrykes.

National offered a \$50 coupon towards purchase of an AmTryke to any club that would update their roster of Evaluation Sites including therapist contact information. President Andrea Betzler did that for the club with the help of Scott Price and we now have the coupon. Thanks, gang!

## Speaker: B.J. Stipes, Orange and Blue Distributing



B.J. Stipes is the person at Orange and Blue who works closely with AMBUCS on the Bar Stool Golf fundraiser. This event was started about 8 years ago with B.J.'s boss. This year's event turned out to be the biggest money earner of the 8 bringing in over \$15,000 for the club. Part of that was due to the great weather on the day and the promotion done by Orange and Blue on the local radio stations.

Orange and Blue distributes beer, wine, and spirits. They primarily work with Coors, Corona, and Guinness along with some craft beers. To be considered a "craft beer" the company may not be owned by a large brewery like the three listed above. They handle some local brewers like J.T. Walkers from Mahomet, IL. Orange and Blue is expanding into other areas of innovation such as drinks like Henry's Hard Soda. They have found that people like to change their drinks now and then. They distribute to 55 businesses in Champaign-Urbana, and 200-250 in Illinois covering 60 of the 102 counties in the state.

We thank B.J. and Orange and Blue for all of their support over the years and hope that close relationship continues!

## Speaker: Bob Bauer, Illinois State Geological Survey

Bob Bauer is one of the experts at the Illinois State Geological Survey on seismic events and is the liaison with the Illinois Emergency Management System for earthquake preparedness drills and, of course, in the case of a real emergency. He has been with the Survey over 39 years. Bob came to tell us about fracking from an earthquake perspective.



Fracking is not new; it has been around for over 160 years in some form. It started with drillers putting explosives down their drill hole to actually blow up the rock at the bottom of the holes creating many cracks into which the oil, gas, or water would flow. Different methods were developed later including what is primarily used today which is hydraulic

fracking. In one of the oil boom eras, the 1920s, there were over 1,000 new wells per year using fracking. The first well in Illinois to use hydraulic fracking was done in 1947. Since then there are over 1 million wells in the U.S. that operate with hydraulic fracking. The water which was used in the process comes up the hole with the oil or gas and must be separated from it. That water is reused or in some cases placed back into the ground using injection wells that help keep up pressure in the original well. When the fracking is actually done, only 1/8 inch cracks are formed in the rocks and even if you are standing right next to the well when the fracking happens you will not feel it at the surface. People who claim that fracking causes an immediate earthquake-like event are incorrect. Illinois has water wells all over the state of course, but the majority of the oil and gas wells are in or close to the Illinois Basin which covers a large part of southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana. Most wells are vertical but fracking can also be done horizontally to avoid altering the surface of a given area. Modern tools such as Three Dimensional Mapping now allow geologists and well drillers to know more accurately what is under our feet before drilling ever starts, making wells very safe today.

## Lucky Buck



**Mary Lou Younger** told us all about herself on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. She was born in South Texas and speaks fluent Spanish and when eating in Mexican restaurants keeps in practice by ordering in Spanish. Mary Lou is a retired nurse and has been in AMBUCS for 25-30 years. She is also an officer in the Agriculture Extension Group for wives of farmers. She enjoys helping at the AMBUCS club projects and had a great time at one of the bars during Bar Stool Golf. She also had a balloon making business for years and developed decorating skills that

she uses at each of our club projects. She's the lead decorator for the Benefit Raffle and the Scarecrow Festival, among others, but her favorite thing to do is decorate AMBUCS Park in east Urbana for the Christmas holidays and works on it all year long. Her husband, Wayne, also a member, hates that project but works tirelessly on it just the same. They both dote on their grandson, Jamieson, who attends many AMBUCS functions and wants to join when he grows up. We are ready to welcome you anytime, Jamieson!



Member **Ray Griest** was born in Kankakee, IL. The family moved to Rantoul when Ray was five and that is where he grew up. Ray's mom and dad ran the Wings Restaurant Dinner Club in Rantoul which has now become an American Legion post. He hoped to work on the farm owned by his uncle and aunt but that didn't work out. His cousin told him that United Parcel Service (UPS) was hiring Christmas help and Ray started on "...the worst job I ever had!" Ray still did a good job at it and when the company found out that he was single and liked to travel they asked him to be a driver. He drove for them, primarily the Champaign to Chicago nightly run, for the next 35 years. He just retired last November.



Member Deb Griest and Ray have been married for 35 years. One of their sons, Jason, is also a member of GCC AMBUCS and one of their other sons, Justin, is the chief operator of the tractor fitted with an auger used in digging the post holes at club ramp builds. Ray is the ramp build leader and has been responsible for over 300 wheelchair ramps. He and Deb also lead one of our biggest fundraisers, the annual Benefit Dinner Raffle which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2016. Ray and Deb have been the leaders for 25 or 26 of those years. A good friend of theirs, Mary Ohmet wife of member Rick Ohmet, bought a hot-air balloon and Deb crewed for her and quickly wanted her own. Ray was not sure about doing that but it turned out to be one of the best things they have ever done. Ray primarily drives the chase vehicle during the flights and they have flown all over the country and even in Canada. The other balloon people are great and the community that surrounds all overnight trips have been a positive influence on their children. Ray, Deb, and their son Justin work a mini-farm on their property in east Urbana selling sweet corn in the fall and people travel long distances to buy from them. They also have a mowing business they started for the kids to make money. One of the fun things Ray did when he retired was to buy a red and black Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Our last Lucky Buck holder of the month was **Bob Lacey**. Bob was born in 1952 in Charleston, Illinois. His dad worked on the railroad and was transferred to the St. Louis area so they moved to a little town called Greenville. There, Bob finished growing up and he graduated from Greenville High School. Bob worked many small odd jobs to earn money during his youth. He also worked as a “Gandy Dancer” for the railroad. A Gandy Dancer rides the rail lines and repairs/replaces railroad ties and metal rails. They worked hard every day and partied hard every night! Bob became active in the Mississippi River Festival while at Southern Illinois University where he parked cars and worked as security. He met Emily Lou Harris and Marie Osmond working security for their concerts. He married Pat after meeting her while working at CERL in Champaign. At CERL he wrote Environmental Impact Statements for various projects in Illinois. Next, Bob and Pat moved to Alabama but after a few years returned to CERL and worked there for over 30 years. During that time CERL sent him to work in Germany to write impact statements and also to North Carolina where he worked at Superfund sites and areas where there was LUST or Leaky Underground Storage Tanks. His focus was on military lands so he was sent to many other parts of the country, too. Bob also worked on equipment to block others from intercepting military communications. He and Pat have two children, one here and one in Pasadena, California and very much enjoy their two grandchildren.

## Board Action

There was no board meeting in February due to the weather on the usual day. There will be two meetings in March.

## Member News

**Deb Griest** received another Branding Time Pin and a Star Pin from National for adding our one new member during Branding Time last fall. Congrats Deb!

The son of deceased member **John Opolka** joined his father in death this February. The secretary sent a card to John’s widow on behalf of the club.

Members **Andy** and **Kim VanEngelenburg** have purchased a new home on an acre lot.

President **Andrea Betzler** continues to share her cancer experiences. This month she talked with 4 members of the Illini 4000. This group rides across the country to earn money for cancer support.

Member **Jason Griest**, son of Deb and Ray Griest now an EMT with the Champaign Fire Department, was part of a story on the Channel 3 news segment “Angels Among Us”. The firemen and EMTs in Jason’s department saved the life of a woman trapped in her car. As a thank you she baked them cupcakes and Jason was part of the group who accepted the cupcakes and hugs from this woman who is happy to be alive.

Secretary **Sally Denhart** had a great time visiting southern Indiana riverboat casinos on her birthday trip. Thanks to Deb Grist for taking minutes for her at the 2/16 meeting!

## Winning Chances

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Theresa Adams. The \$106 in attendance money could have been won by Alan Edwards but he was not present.

February 9<sup>th</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$7 went to Arlie Saldeen. The \$120 in attendance money could have been won by new member Jessica Smith but she was not present.

February 16<sup>th</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Jim Wahl. The \$140 in attendance money could have been won by Brian Hanson but he was not present.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Larry Windingland. The \$158 in attendance money was won by Don Dunlap. Woo, woo! Was that a record?