

# The Buc Shot

## August 2016

### Calendar

**Sept. 13, 2016** – Social at Bob and Pat Lacey's  
**Sept. 17, 2016** – Scarecrow Festival at AMBUCS Park  
**Sept. 20, 2016** – Speaker Sarah Simeziane, Land Connection Outreach Coord.  
**Sept. 27, 2016** – Speaker Donna Pittman, Champaign Library CEO  
**Sept. 28 – October 1, 2016** – AMBUCS National Conference  
**October 4, 2016** – Big Hat Meeting (Big Hat Meeting changed to first week)  
**October 11, 2016** – Speaker Cliff Hastings, Parkland Volleyball Coach  
**October 15, 2016** – Disability Expo, Fluid Event Center



### National Conference



#### AMBUCS National Conference

Loews Ventana Canyon - Tucson, AZ

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2016

Tucson, AZ is the site of the next AMBUCS National Conference. The Early Bird deadline has been extended to September 6<sup>th</sup> so there is still time to get the cheaper rate for the conference. As usual there will be an AmTryke Rodeo and a veterans ride as well as lots of inspirational talks and seminars. You can volunteer to help with the rodeo, the veterans ride, or the Greater Tucson Bike Build. Click on the link for more information.

<http://www.ambucs.org/members/ambucs-national-conference/>

GCC AMBUCS member Larry Windingland is organizing the golf outing on Friday. To sign up to play contact Elaine Windingland, 217-369-1231. Then you can send a check for the fee or pay online at: <http://www.thegccambucs.org/#!national-golf-outing-1/g0tee>

### New Members Inducted



The August 9<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting was the induction day for our two latest members, Kyle Moe and Kathy Harvey! Kyle visited with us at a previous meeting and came to an AmTryke build at the Griest Man Shed. Kathy is a friend of President Frank Thomas and came along on a ramp build before joining the club. Their dive-right-in attitude is great!



Welcome Kyle and Kathy!

## Ramp Build



On August 7<sup>th</sup>, eleven AMBUCS and friends got together to build a ramp in east Urbana. The owner is in a wheelchair and had four steps from her front porch to the sidewalk. The existing concrete porch and steps were very uneven and that posed some design problems for the ramp crew. AMBUCS are always up for a challenge and leader Ray Griest, was able to adjust and make the ramp work. This was the first ramp build for Kathy Harvey who as mentioned above, joined the club. The owner was very appreciative of our efforts and wished she could help us. She told us she built a deck on her previous house when she was younger and loved it that there were women working along side the men. The build took about four hours and there was only one casualty; one of the nail guns suffered a broken tip and has since been repaired. The owner and family gave \$800 towards the material for the build and an additional \$300 to help with another ramp. How generous! (The finished ramp is above. Below: (l-r) the guys are building the flat; most of the crew mid-way through the build including Kathy Harvey sitting on the ramp at the right. The crew having a laugh.)



Thanks to all who helped that day!

## AmTryke Given Away



At the August 9<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting we gave an AmTryke to 2-year-old Reimare Reyes. He has some health issues that keeps him from being able to sit and stay on a regular tricycle. He has ridden an AmTryke during his therapy sessions but having his own will allow him to ride outside and more often than when his parents take him to a session. Enjoy your AmTryke, Reimare!

## Scarecrow Festival

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Scarecrow Festival will be at AMBUCS Park in East Urbana. As usual we will have games for the kids, a flea market, a bake sale, food, (pulled pork, hot dogs, and sides), a car and motorcycle show on the west side, hayrack rides, barrel train rides, and music by the Discount Rhythm Dukes. The fun starts at 10am and will go until 3pm. Volunteers need to be at the park by 8am and plan on staying the whole day. This is an "All Hands on Deck" event so please plan to volunteer your time. The committee would like to know who is planning on being there so please use the signup at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4baea92ca31-24th> or contact Elaine Windingland to volunteer.



## Speaker: Justin Seno, University of Illinois Veterans

Justin Seno has been with the U of I Veterans Center since January. He also worked at St. Thomas Moore school and is a member of the Champaign Urbana Theater Company. Justin has a BS in Business Management and he and his wife are expecting their first child 11 days from the day of his talk!

The full name of the center is the University of Illinois Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education. It opened last year and helps veterans be independent while they are going to college. The center was a \$14 million capital project. Four million of that came from the state of Illinois but the rest came from private donations. The building was dedicated on October 2, 2015. But the building is only as good as what is inside and this one has a lot of good inside.

The U of I has a long history of helping people with disabilities. They were the first college to offer disability services even before the Americans with Disabilities Act came into being. This new center partners with several departments at the university like Engineering, to invent and test new devices to help disabled people. One of the apartments in the center has a full-body lift that will allow the disabled person to put themselves to bed and get up again all on their own. They are currently testing remote controls to call the elevator to the person's floor and even "push" the floor button for them. One of their residents competed in the Paralympics in Rio. Beyond the physical, the center helps veterans learn how to do all the daily things that are needed to attend school and live on their own. For vets who need full or part-time assistance the counselors at the center will help them learn how to choose an assistant, hire them, and when necessary, let them go. Since the center opened they have helped over 1,800 disabled students adjust to college and campus life. Vets are almost always older than the other students and that can be an adjustment, too. It may have been a number of years since a vet has studied and taken tests so the classes can be scary. The center helps them shift gears from fighting to studying and learning.



## Speaker: Larry Olson, Elks Club

The Elks Clubs have been in existence a long time, since 1888 in fact. The first club was founded by Jolly Orcas to help families with any troubles they happen to be having. Recently they have given special attention to veterans and their families and when Larry Olson saw an AmTryke he thought collaboration between Elks and AMBUCS would be a good fit. Elks Club money comes from estate endowments and they don't use the principle but do their good works with the interest on the account. They have good investments and for every dollar a club contributes to the principle they end up getting four dollars back. The Elks have many projects and events such as Hoop Shoots. This local event lets children ages 6-13 shoot free throws with the winner moving on to the national tournament. The Elks always have anti-drug

events to help children learn to say no to drugs. They also give scholarships to children of ex-members. They keep the process of applying simple. The applicant must write an essay and fill out a one-page application. A local Elks club can apply to their national organization to get grants but it must be for "material" things not just to run their club. The club to which Larry belongs is based out of Savoy behind Old Orchard Lanes. They have over 600 members in the club but their meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month, have less than 30 people attending. The national organization has over six million members. Their induction ceremony is over 45 minutes long and is very moving. Each local club competes with other clubs to make their ceremony the best. They also have an empty chair at each meeting to remember all members who have passed. (Additional note: member Larry Windingland took an AmTryke to one of the Elks meetings and they may fund an AmTryke for us.)

## Speakers: Sherrie Faulkner and Katie Shumway, U of I Social Work Community Learning Lab



The U of I Social Work Department created the Community Learning Lab with a \$10,000 grant. It was formed to “...create and support relationships between the community and the classrooms at the University of Illinois.” It is the connection between local agencies, organizations, and businesses, and the classrooms at the U. They reach out to local community organizations like ours and try to help with their most pressing un-met needs. The Learning Lab connects the students with these groups to help with projects. This gets the students real world experiences and helps make them more attractive to employers. Sherrie and Katie also gave us some statistics on what they had done in 2013. They worked with over 250 community partners on over 1,400 projects. The students receive mentoring from the members of the group during the projects. The partners generously gave over 5,400 hours teaching the students. In return the community got over 25,000 hours of service from the students. The workers at the department have a database of the

community groups and students which is updated every year. They then match the student to the group or project and everyone wins. Student groups on campus also work with the Learning Lab. Orange Krush and APO work on their own but other groups come to the Learning Lab for help finding projects. They have over 200 students available at any given time who must do community service as part of their degree process. GCC AMBUCS will keep this group in mind for future projects.

## Speaker: David Garcia, Parkland Baseball Coach

David Garcia has been at Parkland College for the last four years. He was a student at Parkland and after graduation he moved on to get his degree at Northern Illinois Univ. He started out teaching but found he liked the administration side of the job better and came full circle as head baseball coach back at Parkland. People are surprised to learn that Parkland is the first choice for many student athletes. Parkland only has 15 scholarships to give out which is less than other junior colleges. But even if there is no scholarship available, students will pay out of state tuition fees to come to Parkland. The scholarships available are not “real money”; scholarships are only tuition wavers and the student must pay for all books, housing, etc. The students get lots of experience playing here and lots of one-on-one mentoring. In addition to the mechanics of the sport they play, the students learn respect and civility. They must be respectful at all times of coaches, teachers, and each other. They are also required to do hours of community service so we should keep them in mind for GCC AMBUCS projects. They might be available to be buddies at a Challenger League game. The coaches’ motto is, “You don’t come to Parkland to be lazy.” Their studies are equally important to their sports and the team last year had a 3.2 GPA. The baseball team plays 24 home games in the spring and summer so come on out to Parkland and enjoy a game.



## Board Action

Chapter President Frank Thomas brought a request from the Penguin Project at the Orpheum Theater. This project is much like the Challenger League in that buddies help disabled children act in a play like other children. These plays are hosted at the Orpheum Theater but at the present time they have trouble getting wheelchairs onto the stage. They requested that we build a ramp for them but since we don’t build inside and there might be additional liability with building in a public place, it was decided that we would donate one of our wheelchair lifts to the Orpheum. We will deliver the lift, if it will work for them, and then the theater would get someone to professional install the lift. Frank will follow up on this.

The board also discussed a potential fundraising opportunity which came to board Chair Person, Andrea Betzler. She knows the manager of the Potbelly Sandwich shop on campus and he asked her about having an AMBUCS day. It would be from 5pm-8pm on whatever night(s) we wanted. AMBUCS would have to have a table with

literature about our group and be there to answer questions. For that we would get 25% of the cost of sandwiches during that period. Andrea offered to follow up on this opportunity and staff the table if a night(s) was set up.

The board also voted to purchase a new Coleman Easy Set-up tent in time for the Scarecrow Festival. One of the existing tents is in bad shape and probably can not be repaired in time for the festival. Larry Windingland will make that happen.

After some discussion, the board decided to form a committee to look into a cash bash dinner to replace the Benefit Dinner Raffle we normally have at the beginning of the year. It may be similar to our previous fundraiser but will be much simpler. Please contact Larry Windingland if you would like to join this committee.

## Member News

Chapter President Frank Thomas' Member Recognition talks are to help newer members appreciate how much the long-time members have done for the chapter. His choice for August is **Mike Foley**. Mike is retired from Rural Electric where he worked as a lineman for 30 years. He's been married and divorced twice. He joined AMBUCS in 1985 and was the chapter secretary for a couple of years. He and Ron Meyer ran the ramp build project in the early years. At first they hired people to help build the ramps but soon got enough volunteers from the chapter to do the entire build. Thirty years ago Mike beat the odds and won \$2 million in the Illinois lottery! He used the money to run several businesses over the years and now runs a woodworking shop. About six months ago he sold some stuff in a consignment shop but the check from them for his goods bounced so he bought the store. It is now an antique shop in Bloomington. We thank Mike for all he has done for GCC AMBUCS!



In other news, member **Don Dunlap** volunteered with the Springfield AMBUCS club selling beer at the Illinois State Fair. He did 4+ hours of sales and was amazed at how busy he was. On one of the days he worked they did over \$100,000 in beer sales alone! This is the only fundraiser done by the Springfield club.

## Winning Chances

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Ray Griest. The \$117 in attendance money could have been won by Keith Ewerks but he was not present.

August 9<sup>th</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$15 went to Andrea Betzler. The \$140 in attendance money could have gone to Andy VanEngelenburg but he was not present.

August 16<sup>th</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$8 went to Elaine Windingland. The \$156 in attendance money could have been won by Keith Ewerks but he was not present.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Bob Lacey. The \$178 in attendance money could have gone to Darcy Dunlap but she was not present.

August 30<sup>th</sup> – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Roger Adams. The \$196 in attendance money went to Kyle Moe! Yea!