

Ramps

The weather and volunteer availability have kept us from building any wooden ramps but we have been able to loan out an aluminum ramp and disassemble another one. It's a challenge to find a ramp that will fit with a specific house but with a little thought and a little customizing we have made a couple work. A previous newsletter mentioned how we were able to make a ramp fit for member Ron Meyer and this month we put a small one in place for an AMBUCS friend. It took a little less than an hour to put the ramp in place and level it. Thanks to all who helped with that!



We also received a donation of an extra large aluminum ramp providing we took it apart and transported it on a short notice. Five AMBUCS headed to Washington Street in Champaign and took it apart with a little help from a hammer and saw. Thanks to Ray Griest for organizing this donation, (and to Roger Adams who got the ball rolling with the owner), and for transporting half of the ramp. Thanks to Don Dunlap and his big towing rig we were able to transport that other half at the same time. We will store the ramp until we find an almost perfect fit on a house.

Calendar

Aug. 7—Bike Nite, Meadowbrook Park

Sept. 14—Scarecrow Festival

Oct 2-5—National Conference, Pittsburg, PA

2020

Jan. 25—Barstool Golf

Feb. 29—Cash Bash

May 2—Road Rally

Scarecrow Festival

September 14th is the date for the 2019 Scarecrow Festival in AMBUCS Park. We will have the ever popular kids games and rides as well as a food tent, flea market, music, and Car and Motorcycle Show. AMBUCS, we'll need all of you to volunteer on that date to make this big event happen. We may have help from the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) students from the U of I, shown in the first picture on the left. They do a great job with the kids' games! Mark this date on your calendars now!



Amtrykes, Amtrykes, Amtrykes!

Our Amtryke Program is in overdrive! We have been ordering trikes, building trikes, trading new for outgrown trikes, repurposing the used trikes and giving away a bunch! Leader, Scott Price, has been using his new truck to deliver trikes when needed and to bring them to our lunch meetings when possible. This is one of our core programs and provides good feelings for the kids, the families, and for the members. We are so proud to be able to help these great children have fun while they exercise.



The first picture below is of our guy with the famous laugh, Conley, who brought back the trike he has outgrown and traded it for a bigger one. As you can see, he really loves his Amtryke. Next is Damon who couldn't make it to lunch but was able to go for a ride at home. The third picture is of Sawyer who wasn't too sure what was going on at first but broke into a big smile as soon as his mom pushed the Amtryke a little.

This is what all of our hard work at fundraising does, creates smiles. Thanks GCC AMBUCS!



AMBUCS Park

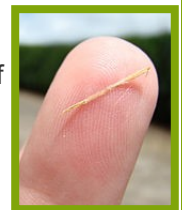


We have been working with the Urbana Park District to get a new sign at the entrance to AMBUCS Park since the old one was badly weathered. We also have been working with them and a concrete company to pour a parking pad for the handicap parking space near the entrance. We had some extra grant money due to things costing less, (imagine that!), than anticipated. The grantor agreed that replacing the gravel in that spot would be a good idea. The weather brought some delays but the pad is now in place. Thanks to all who made this happen! (Photos by Larry Windingland)



Splinter from the Board

The Board of Directors met on July 31st at Toro Loco after the abrupt closing of Giordano's at the mall the day before the meeting. Highlight:
⇒ voted to purchase a child's Amtryke and a veteran's Amtryke for the National Conference.



Challenger League All Star Games

The Tom Jones Challenger League ended it's season with two games at the U of I's Eichelberger Field on July 18th. GCC AMBUCS helps sponsor this league for children with handicaps by providing the end of the year awards and sponsoring a team. The League gave thank you awards to all their sponsors at the All Star Game. All the children in the league were able to play on one of four teams configured for that night. Big Mike, league supporter and owner of This Is It Furniture, always pitches the first game. His gimmick for his store was that he always gave away an onion to shoppers in his store, so to make the games more fun, he often substitutes an onion for one of the softballs. Spectators can smell the onion all the way up in the stands!

The league also arranges for U of I athletes to be "buddies" for the children in the second game. The buddies run around the bases with the kids and help them with their hitting and fielding. When a batter gets a hit, the pitcher will also throw several other balls into the infield so that everyone gets a chance to field a ball.

This evening is a fun and uplifting event for the children and spectators alike. Put it on your list of things not to miss next year! (Center two pictures courtesy of Autumn Nagle)



National Conference

August 15th is the deadline for the Early Bird registration to the National Conference in Pittsburg. You can save \$50 if you register before then. You can also get a cheap parking pass if you register before they run out. Also, be sure to register with the hotel separately. This conference promises to be a fun time learning about how other chapters do things and about all that's going on at the national level. Be there or be square!

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



Visit from Carmela Davis

And speaking of National Carmela Davis, National Big Hat President, visited our Chapter on July 16th. She was there to update us on some changes at the national level, to promote the National Conference, and to let us know about the National Big Hat raffle and fundraisers. The Big Hatters are selling Amtryke and AMBUCS red and blue socks and blankets featuring pictures of some Amtryke recipients having fun on their Amtrykes. The raffle is a 50/50 and the winning ticket will be drawn at the National Conference. Items will be on sale at the conference or you can buy now from our GCC Big Hatters.



Getting to Know Your Officers

On the hotseat this month — President Elect, Scott Price.

Q: Would you rather have Nosy neighbor or a Noisy neighbor?

A: Nosy

Q: What is the strangest thing that ever happened to you?

A: I was in Haiti and took a walk one evening and I was invited into a Voodoo Ceremony

Q: What fact amazes you whenever you think about it?

A: I'm always amazed by the accomplishments of our Chapter considering the number of people in it.



Tidbits

Arlie Saldeen is at home and hopes to be back attending meetings in August.

Deb Griest and Renae' Strawbridge helped the Decatur Chapter with their booth at the Decatur Celebration. Deb said she was impressed with how well this event was handled.

Mike Foley needs some good thoughts sent his way as he broke a rib.

Kyle Moe is getting married in August! He was brave enough to bring her to one of our AMBUCS socials and she didn't run away so he knew she was a keeper. Congrats, Kyle!

Larry Windingland left his AMBUCS baseball cap at the Challenger League All Star Games and it was found by Renae' Strawbridge. Renae' gave it some traveling experiences then auctioned it off at the next lunch meeting. Sally Denhart bought it for a dollar and sold it back to Larry for \$2. Careful what you leave behind, AMBUCS!

Winning Chances

7/02/19—50/50: \$8 to Cris Vowels; Attendance: \$50 could have been won by Dave Miller but he was not present.



7/09/19—50/50: \$6 to Bob Lacey; Attendance: \$62 could have been won by Theresa Adams but she was not present.

7/16/19—50/50: \$12 to Don Dunlap; Attendance: \$80 went to Sally Denhart. (She says she'll use it to help pay for National.)

7/23/19—50/50: \$9 to Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$16 was won by Jeannie Gothard.