

Amtrykes and More Amtrykes!

We are finally getting in a few new Amtrykes and we're still refurbishing returned ones so we were able to give away five Amtrykes this month!

Calendar

December 10—Decorate AMBUCS Park, 10am

December 10—DSO Holiday Party, 1-3:30pm

February 18, 2023—Cash Bash, Elks Lodge, Savoy

May 20, 2023—Road Rally, Elks Lodge, Savoy

First up on November 8, was Penelope. This wonderful young lady is 8 years old and very energetic. Sadly, she had a stroke before she was born and that caused multiple issues for her. She can't sweat and has seizures. This makes her unable to ride a regular bike. She loves being outside in winter and will use her Amtryke as long as the weather permits. She has an older sister that will ride with her and they have a lot of room to ride in their home town of Tolono! That's a great town to live in and ace therapist, Earl Martin, lives there, too. In fact they live next door to each other! Have a great time riding, Penelope! (Photo by Larry Windingland)



The very next night, five AMBUCS met at the Elks Lodge, Savoy, and assembled three more Amtrykes to give away! We are pushing hard to get as many trikes as we can into the hands, (and feet), of the riders before the winter weather gets too bad for outdoor use. Thanks to Scott Price and Larry and Elaine Windingland for setting up the build and we were so happy to see our newest member, Will Wade (left), assemble his first Amtryke! Great job, All!

On the 15th of November, we gave an Amtryke to Tavon, a 20yo young man who will use the Amtryke to strengthen his arms and legs and help him get out of his wheelchair. His mother and girlfriend will always be along for the ride!



Next up was a Double Header! We gave away two Amtrykes at the same lunch meeting, one to Bayon and one to Asher! Bayon, left, is a shy little five year old girl who found it hard to relax enough to smile, but her mother assures us that she is thrilled to get an Amtryke of her own! After her fitting, when someone tried to move her Amtryke to a different part of the room, she grabbed her mom's arm and said, "That's mine!" We know she'll be smiling in no time!



About 12:30, Asher, right, also five years old, joined us for his fitting and first time ride! He is an active young man who loves to be outside but because he couldn't ride a regular bike, had to be pulled in a wagon

when his older brother went for a ride. Now he'll ride, too! "We could never had done this on our own.", said Asher's mother. "This is a huge gift and blessing for our family!"

Bayon and Asher have something else in common; their favorite color is AMBUCS red!

Amtrykes continued...



One more Amtryke was gifted in November to beautiful Eden! She was happy with her trike but didn't want to take off her mask even for a few seconds for a picture! President Larry Windingland even offered to show her Micky Mouse if she would take off her mask and smile for a picture but nope! Eden is seven years old and sadly, has been waiting for this Amtryke since she was six! She was diagnosed with her condition when she was two and got her first Amtryke when she was three. Her mother says that the Amtryke she got at three was a tremendous help with the muscles in her legs and arms and knows that this Amtryke will keep her moving and hopefully strengthen her legs even more! Best of luck with everything, Eden! When you get bigger we'll get you a bigger trike!

Social at The Axe Bar

Continuing with our plan to have our socials at each of the nine bars that participate in Bar Stool Golf, we met in November at **The Axe Bar** in downtown Champaign. Eight members and one spouse, came to The Axe to enjoy some pizza and cheesy bread, with great marinara sauce, all made onsite. We also rented one of the axe throwing rooms for 30 minutes to try our hand at throwing. We found out that night that some of us are naturals at it and some of us couldn't hit the broad side of a barn, which the targets resembled. Andrea Betzler and her husband, Jason, are naturals and not only got the axes to stick but hit the bullseye more often than not! Renae' Strawbridge got the axe to stick on her first try! On the flip side, Pat Webb and Sally Denhart couldn't get even one axe to stick! Said Sally, "I must have thrown those axes at least 30 times and all I hit was the floor!" We finished off the evening with some Thanksgiving games arranged by Larry Windingland. It was a fun time downtown!



Second Ramp Build of 2022

Thirteen AMBUCS and friends met for breakfast at Sammy's on North Mattis then decided to take a drive to Southwest Champaign and build a ramp. This was a long one on a mobile home, 30-35 feet consisting of a flat, a short run, a second flat and finally a long run down to the sidewalk. The recent rains made "muddy" the word of the day but we cleaned our shoes and kept working. When we first got there, we noticed that the bit was missing on the new post-hole digger but we grabbed the hand auger and kept working until the bit was retrieved. One of our members opened her finger on the nail gun air hose but we put a band aid on it and kept working! That's what AMBUCS do; we hit a snag but just keep working!



At left is the "butt shot", (photo by Judy Dramstad), we seem to take at every build and at right is the crew and the owner on the finished ramp. Thanks to all who came out, especially Will Wade one of our new members who has dived in with both feet, building ramps and assembling Amtrykes! Thanks also to Keith Jamieson and Don Dunlap, Ramp Build Project co-leaders, who made this all happen. Hope to see you all next season!





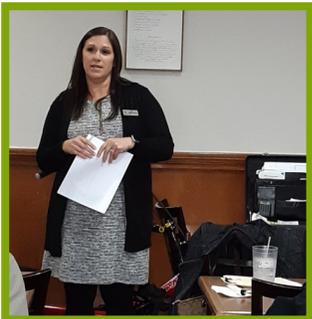
Visit from Susannah Scaroni

Christmas is coming so its time for our annual Christmas Party donation to the U of I's Disabled Students Organization, (DSO). They hold the party for the children of their members complete with snacks, games, and presents. Susannah came by as their representative on November 1st. She is a wheelchair Paralympian from Montana who transferred to the U of I because of the many things they do for people with handicaps. It took a while for Susannah to get used to the humidity in Illinois but she did and joined the racing team. She's studying to be a nutritionist but her passion is racing. She won a Gold Medal in Tokyo and hopes to try again in Paris in 2024! Thanks for stopping by, Susannah and best of luck in Paris! (President

Larry Windingland gives Susannah our check.)

DSC's Jodi Harmon Latest Member

And Christmas time also brings our annual donation to the Developmental Services Center's **Tree of Hope Campaign**. Jodi Harmon, Director of Development and Communications, came by for the check and to tell us about the many programs DSC has available for people in our community. The programs run the gamut from one-on-one work to classes for many. The **Tree of Hope** is their biggest fundraiser and helps them to serve over 1,200 families in the area! DSC is celebrating their 50th year and hopes to surpass their goal of \$215,000 from the campaign. GCC AMBUCS has been a long-time supporter of DSC and often has a member from their staff. Jodi volunteered to be that person so she filled out an application and became one of our new 2022 members! Welcome, Jodi! You're going to love it here!



Urbana Mayor Diane Marlin



And speaking of 50... Urbana Mayor, Diane Marlin is the 50th mayor of that city! She stopped by on November 29th to see us give away an Amtryke and tell us a little about the changes happening in Urbana. During the pandemic, Urbana, like all cities, was paddling every day just to stay afloat and keep services running! Now that things have gotten better, the city can begin to address the backlog of projects to be done and hire more people in key positions as well as emergency services like police and fireman. "We need to be competitive with salaries and benefits to attract and keep good people." says Mayor Marlin, so that has been one of the goals for Diane. She also started a project to speak with low and moderate income residents, asking them what they need to make their lives better. They received over 75 concrete suggestions that the city hopes to address in the near future. We thank Mayor Marlin for

coming by and for keeping Urbana running smoothly!

Another Amtryke Build

Woo, woo! We continue to receive more Amtrykes from the orders made pre-pandemic so we had a small, three trike build mentioned before and a five trike build on Nov. 29th. Both were in the banquet room at the Elks Lodge in Savoy which gives us lots of space and tables on which to build. And extra this time, a big screen TV with the Illini basketball game running.



Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Aspen Tap on November 30th and addressed the following items:

==> voted to buy 1,000 ramp pins

==> voted not to have the general meeting on Dec. 27th and moved the Board meeting to Dec. 20th

==> next meeting location at Urbana Gardens after our regular meeting

Tidbits

Member Scott Price's wife Anne hit a deer! She's okay but the car needs a little work!

Justin Griest is off to Guatemala to meet his girlfriend's mother. (sounds serious don't you think?)

The other Griests, Deb and Ray, and Renae' Strawbridge are finished with the harvest so we hope to be seeing them a little more often!

Member Judy Dramstad is struggling with the after effects of her eye surgery. Send her some good wishes!

Winning Chances

11/01/22—50/50: \$6 to Elaine Windingland; Attendance: \$11 could have been won by Sandy Jachino but she was not present.

11/08/22—50/50: \$5 to Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$18 to Ray Griest.

11/15/22—50/50: \$10 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$14 could have been won, again, by Sandy Jachino but she was not present.

11/22/22—50/50: \$7 to Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$23 to Sally Denhart.

11/30/22—50/50: \$9 to MaryLou Younger; Attendance: \$11 to Cris Vowels but she left early.
