

The Buc Shot

April 2015

Calendar

April-May – Spring Roundup Membership Drive

May 28th – 4th Quarter Social, Awards, and Officer Installation

June 22nd – Benefit Golf Outing, Stone Creek Golf Course

September 19th – Scarecrow Festival, AMBUCS Park

September 30th - October 3rd – National AMBUCS Conference, Biloxi, MS

Slate of Officers for 2015-2016

The slate of officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year are listed below. The vote will be held at the regular May 12th lunch meeting with the new officers taking office June 1st.

President Elect: Frank Thomas
Big Hat President: Ray Griest
Sergeant at Arms: Roger Adams
Secretary: Sally Denhart
Treasurer: Elaine Windingland
Board Members: (Pick two)

Laura Gibbs
Nikki Kopmann
Joe Dart
Larry Windingland
Don Dunlap
Mary Jane Jenkins
Priscilla Dorsett

No vote needed for:

Chairman of the Board: Keith Jamieson
President: Andrea Betzler
Board Members Retained:

Scott Price & Steve Gibbs

Be sure to attend the lunch meeting **May 12th** to cast your vote!

Central Region Spring Conference

Springfield, Illinois was the site of the Regional Spring conference. Twelve GCC AMBUCS members attended some or all of the conference and an unofficial count of the total number at the conference puts attendance at about 60. It was held in the Downtown Hilton Hotel which has uniquely shaped corridors and rooms and is within walking distance of many historical sites.

The conference began with a golf outing which allowed members from various chapters to get to know one another in a

relaxed setting. For those not attending that event, Al Bedell talked about the AmTryke Road Show. Attendees learned that each Road Show has a Captain who has various duties. This person not only helps with the fitting of the trikes but has the primary responsibility to talk with the parents about AMBUCS. The Road Shows often take place in an area where no chapters exist so the Captain talks with parents and therapists about how they could start a chapter in the area and help even more people. The Captain also helps the therapists to understand the options available on each of the trikes. Sometimes the therapists look only in the front of the catalog where the full trikes are shown and are unaware of the options available for tailoring the trikes to the needs of their patients. The Road Show Captain helps out with that and, once experienced, the Captain can often realize before the therapist what accessories the child needs. On Saturday, Al also gave a longer talk about the changes to the AmTrykes line such as making them stronger and making them easier to maintain. Al and others have been working with the new manufacturer to improve the trikes based on what members in the field have passed up the line. We should see those changes with the newer trikes. It was also announced that again we have

three containers “on the water” waiting for Customs permission to make land. Expect delays in receiving ordered trikes.

Friday evening was the social at Eric Oschwald’s house in rural Springfield.



There was a huge grill filled with food and things to drink were available all over the place. After dinner, a trio played and sang around the pool. Many thanks to Eric and his wife for hosting us!

National President, Patty Vannoy, updated attendees about changes at the national level. One of the biggest announcements was about a \$500,000 bequest from Hugh Cunningham. The full estate is not yet settled but National AMBUCS has already received a partial payment from his will. This bequest will allow national, among other things, to hire another "Joe Copeland" to learn about and also lead the effort in building our veterans program. She also showed a preview of the new national Web site and talked about some of the improvements. Some of the links have been renamed to make it easier to choose the proper one for getting answers to questions.



Patty added some statistics about clubs across the nation. 92% of the chapters give away AmTrykes; 29% participate in scholarships; and 9% of all chapters build wheelchair ramps. AmTryke sales were up last year by 15% and up last month by 20%. To date, AMBUCS has given away over 30,000 trikes! We also gave out over \$180,000 in scholarships to 234 students. National is encouraging clubs to participate in more scholarships, not only because the world needs more therapists, but because recipients will know about our programs and will turn to us for help for their patients.

New club building is also on the increase but not as much as National would like. We still have some huge areas of the country not covered by any club. We do have two new clubs in our region: Windy City, Illinois, and Motor City, Michigan.

Al Bedell talked about the national conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. The host hotel will be the Beau Rivage Casino. It is not directly on the water but bring your bathing suits because the pool is lovely. The AmTryke rodeo will be in a pavilion on the water. The Veterans ride will be Friday night with

the rodeo on Saturday. Secretary, Sally Denhart, has a "Dining and Attractions Guide Book" to the area that any member can borrow. Bring caps and sunscreen!



John Davis, National Big Hat President, talked about his "Brick" fundraiser. He also visited with our club before the conference and several members purchased bricks. (See later article for details.) We also heard a short talk by Diane Albrich who is running for National Big Hat President. Diane is a native of Chicago, although she is not living there now. She supports the use of Social Media, keeps up with her local chapters, and helps with fundraising and other club projects. It is also rumored that she has a fun side and participated in a scheme to ransom a certain notebook lost by a GCC AMBUCS member. We wish her luck in her election.

District Governor, Deb Griest gave a talk to chapter presidents about the way to run a good club. She likened the club president to the leader of an orchestra with the Board of Directors and committee chairs the lead instruments. Deb recommends planning in the first 90 days of a president's term of office, setting goals like how many AmTrykes a club will give away in the year, how many ramps should be built, how many new members should the club gain, etc. Presidents should use their committees and scorecards to have a successful year.

The next talk after that was about being a good secretary and a good treasurer. The speaker started off by stating that while the president of the club is important, the secretary and treasurer are really the heart and sole of the club. The secretary should take good notes, especially at board meetings, so that a club is prepared should there be any questions from the IRS. The same goes for the treasurer. Make sure your books balance; get receipts on all expenditures; and report to the board each month. The secretary should also buy a copy of *Rogers Rules of Order for Dummies* and use that to keep the president and chairman of the board on track.

The biggest news to come out of the conference is the new officers from GCC. **Steve Gibbs** will take over as District Governor; **Larry Windingland** will take over as District Big Hat President; and **Deb**

Griest will serve a two-year term as Regional Director starting June 1st. Congratulations to all of the new officers!

AmTrykes

Larry Windingland won a \$500 gift card to purchase an AmTryke for a child on the Wish List at last year's GCC AMBUCS Golf Outing. Larry chose a 5yo girl from O'Fallon, IL, and delivered it in early April. She is pictured at right on the trike with her mom and therapist



at her side.

AmTryke point person, Bud Mesker, has three AmTrykes on back-order and probably on one of the cargo containers stuck at sea. Hopefully, we'll see them soon.

In the mean time, Bud put together an AM9-XS for a young man going to the Carle Rehab Center. Unfortunately, he was not present when the trike was delivered to Carle but his therapist, Darcee Divan, posed with the AmTryke in the rehab room.



Keith Jamieson and Scott Price assisted in putting together an AmTryke but are missing one part needed before it can be delivered. They hope to have that soon.

Speakers:

Al Bedell and John Davis



National President Elect, Al Bedell, spoke with our group on April 14th. He wanted to thank us for our support of his purchase of an AmTryke for a girl on the Wish

List from the St. Louis area. Because of the generosity of clubs in our region, he was able to raise the funds for the purchase in less than 24 hours. Al has been an AMBUC for over 25 years. He was "hooked" when asked to come along on a ramp build and saw a 13yo girl smile and state that now she could go out and play with her friends whenever she wanted without the help of someone getting her out of the house. Al also related a story about planning for the National conference in Biloxi. When the planning committee was in Biloxi scouting locations for the conference, one of the hotel staff recommended that they talk with the woman in charge of the city parks. Fate intervened at the moment because the son of the woman in charge of parks will be getting an AmTryke at the Rodeo. Because of that, our use of the pavilion on the water for the rodeo will be free! Al also promised that there will never be another national conference held over Halloween.

On the same day as Al Bedell, we were honored to have a visit from **National Big Hat President, John Davis**. He was at the meeting to present his national Big Hat fundraiser project asking members to buy a brick at different levels and colors. He hopes to build something at the National convention in Biloxi, perhaps a wall of bricks representing all the things we have built, be they brick-and-mortar or relationships, or lives. If enough bricks are purchased, John will build an arch near the pavilion where the AmTryke recipients can ride through it during the rodeo. Details on the fundraiser are on the National Web site at:

<http://www.ambucs.org/big-hat-fundraiser>

Big Hat Visibility Challenge

John and the other National Big Hat officers, have challenged all the Big Hatters on Facebook to change their profile status to a selfie with them wearing their big hat. Then they should add a comment telling people about AMBUCS. They would like the status to run from Monday, May 3rd to Saturday, May 9th. Grab those phones with cameras and take the shot!

We thank John and Al for visiting our club and sharing their plans with us!

Spring Round Up

Due to changes at the national level, the period for Spring Round Up is uncertain but new members can be added in May and anyone bringing in a new member during that time will be entered into the contest for prizes. Keep bringing people to lunch!

Members can also invite potential members to ramp builds and all public events.

Board Action

At the April 29th meeting the Board voted to:

- support the new member contest with an allocation of \$50 for both Spring Round Up and Fall Branding Time
- donate \$670 to send two people to the U of I's Wheelchair Camp
- donate \$425 to MDA to help with the cost of sending Jordan Smith to their camp. We built a ramp for Jordan a couple of years ago.

Ramp Building Season Has Begun!

After the weather caused a reschedule of the first ramp build on a Saturday, we were successful at doing the build of this 8-foot ramp on a Thursday afternoon. Ten members and friends came out in the chilly afternoon air to help with the build. It was a simple ramp build with only one flat and one run but it will make a huge difference in

Geraldine's ability to walk from her house to her car. When you are ill and on oxygen even two small steps can be too much. Enjoy your new mobility, Geraldine!



Parkland College Scholarship Reception

On April 29th, GCC AMBUCS representatives, Elaine Windingland, Nikki Kopmann, and Sally Denhart, attended a reception for recipients and donors of the Parkland College Foundation. GCC AMBUCS gives one to two scholarship awards each year to Parkland students in the therapy program. This reception was to express thanks to all the donors and to allow the donors and recipients to meet. The down side to holding this on a Wednesday evening was that most students were in class and could not attend, including our recipient, **Barbara Unangst**. Just the same we heard from ten students how important their scholarships are to moving forward with their lives. We hope that

when her schedule permits Barbara can attend one of our lunch meetings.

Nuggets of Knowledge

For new club members and as a reminder to members who have been with us a while, here are some definitions of terms unique to AMBUCS. A full list of the terms can be found on the national Web site under Member Resources → Admin Documents.



District Governor – Assists, visits, and supports chapters in the district, installs chapter officers, and conducts district meetings.

Regional Conference – A weekend conference in the spring held in each region where members and spouses participate in educational workshops and have an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices.

Strategic Planning – Planning that each incoming Chapter President does with his/her chapter to determine its goals.

Member News

Member **Barb Satterfeal** is in a rehab center in LeRoy and is recovering well from her broken hip.

Likewise, member **Bob Lacey**, is recovering from his triple by-pass surgery and expects to be home for the delivery of this newsletter.

April 13th was the Mobil Mutts fundraiser at TX Roadhouse organized by GCC member **Sally Denhart**. Sixteen AMBUCS stopped by to have dinner and play a modified game of Texas Holdem'. The winner with three 3s was Keith Jamieson who won a \$20 gift certificate to Prairie Gardens. Each person at the table got a small gift bag with candy and a packet of seeds symbolizing the new life given to dogs on "death row" by Mobile Mutts. Sally thanks the members very much for their support of her other love!

Did you know that member **Ray Griest** now sports "hair by Harley"? His wife Deb liked his hair so much after a ride on their new Harley that Ray decided to keep it that way. Some members have

had to do a double-take to make sure it's really him.

Joe Dart was named the **Frank Kearns Sportsman of the Year** by Hunter's Haven. Frank Kearns was a long-time customer of Hunter's Haven who advocated for all things outdoor. Unfortunately, Frank died of a massive heart attack while hunting a buck. The owner of Hunter's Haven decided to honor Frank by giving an award in his name each year to the person he feels helps the community and advocates for the outdoors. Joe has been teaching archery for many years and helps to promote outdoor sports. Congratulations, Joe!



Joe Dart was also mentioned in what turned into a two minute spot on WHMS 97.5. Someone from the Challenger League emailed radio personality, Mike Hale, asking that he mention the skill drill that was going to be held Saturday April 18th at AMBUCS Park. Because Brian Barnhart who gives the news on WHMS, has been involved for years with the Challenger League, he and Mike talked about how wonderful the program is, how Kiwanis and GCC AMBUCS support the league, and twice mentioned that AMBUCS Park is the Official Home of the Tom Jones Challenger League (exactly what it says on the sign we posted on the backstop of the ball diamond at the park). They mentioned how Joe Dart has been our representative to the league for years. Good job, Joe! The Challenger League games begin in May and continue through June 27th and Joe would love to see members come to at least one of the games.

We offer our condolences to **Roger Adams** on the passing of his grandmother. Rest in peace, Ms. Fisher.

Member **James Oglesby** will take his money from the March fundraiser and run. He is moving to East Texas, specifically, Pineland, Texas. Hopefully, he will join or start a new AMBUCS club in that area. Best of luck, Jim!

President, Keith Jamieson, shared some Life Tips at the April 28th lunch meeting:

Men have two motivations: food and hobbies.

Feed a man a fish and he'll leave you alone for a few minutes; teach a man to fish and he'll disappear for hours!

Life is like a jar of jalapeños, what you eat today may burn your butt tomorrow!

Taking Chances

April 7th - 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Ray Griest. The \$19 in attendance money could have gone to Sandy Jachino but she was not present.

April 14th - 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Arlie Saldeen. The \$37 in attendance money could have been won by Mary Lewis but she was not present.

April 21st - 50/50 drawing of \$8 went to Frank Thomas. The \$55 in attendance money could have been won by Mary Lewis, (Yes, her name was drawn two weeks in a row!), but she was not present.

April 28th - 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Laura Gibbs. The \$75 in attendance money was won by John Olpolka. Good for you, John!