

## Cash Bash Fun!

***The 2023 Cash Bash was a huge success!*** We've been hosting a cash raffle in some form for over 33 years and each one has been a great fundraiser for our Chapter! We sold all 275 tickets and had over 100 people attend the dinner catered by Neimergs.

## Calendar

April 21-22, 2023—Central Region Conference  
May 6, 2023—BarStool Golf  
May 20, 2023—Road Rally, Elks Lodge, Savoy  
August 2-5, 2023—National Conference



We were able to give away an Amtryke at the event to the wonderful young lady at the left (photo by Larry Windingland). She is 9 years old and this is her second Amtryke. Her father told us that the Amtryke has been a great blessing and helps with her health and enjoyment of life! We hope that our attendees enjoyed seeing directly what their dollars do!

Attendees also had the option to join in several games besides the big drawing, 50/50 raffles, card games where a deck of 54 cards were sold, the card torn in half, and a winner drawn. We also hosted a Heads-N-Tails game where the participants put their hands on their heads or their tails and a coin is flipped. If the coin comes up heads, all the people who put their hands on their tails had to sit down leaving the people with their hands on their heads still in the game. This continued until there was just one person left standing and that person won a gift basket of different whiskeys and liquors. (Winner at right.)



The big drawing started up right after dinner. It's a reverse drawing where the remaining 5 tickets will win some dollars and have a chance at the top prize of \$7,500. The holders of the 5 remaining tickets are brought to the front and given champagne to celebrate. They now have a decision to make. They can choose to pool all the dollars for the five places and split that equally, but if one person chooses to continue, the drawing goes on until all agree or there is just one winner. This time, one of the five people opted to continue the drawing. After the next ticket was picked the remaining four decided to pool the money and split. Each person went home happy with their winnings. One winner generously donated the dollars back to our Chapter!



We really appreciate the C-U Elks Lodge of Savoy for again allowing us to have our fundraiser there! They have wonderful staff and facilities! We thank all the companies and people who donated to the door prizes and of course, each person who bought a ticket and attended the dinner! We also thank all of the AMBUCS who worked on this event and especially our event leaders Don and Darcy Dunlap and M/C Keith Jamieson who stepped in for Don at the last minute! See you all next year!

## Amtryke Giveaways Continue

***Besides the Amtryke we gave away at the Cash Bash,*** we gave away three other Amtrykes in

February! The first give away was on February 14th to a 7 year old young man who came to lunch to trade his old Amtryke in for a model 1412. His dad told us that he doesn't walk on his own but the Amtryke is helping with his overall mobility.



Our next give away was to a shy young 3 year old who has problems walking and speaking. She has 3 brothers and will have a lot of fun riding with them. Sometimes when she's struggling, riding the Amtryke calms her. Her mother says that, "[the Amtryke] at home will be wonderful for her and will help her continue her life journey!"

Our third lunchtime give away was to a happy, busy young man. This was the second Amtryke for him. He's in the second grade but sadly, he doesn't like school so riding his Amtryke after school is extra fun for him. His therapist joined us for lunch as well and the young man's dad says, "He would not be where he is today without [his therapist]! She is our Rock!"

Happy riding all! We hope you wear these trikes out! (photos by Larry Windingland)



## Donation from the Balloon Festival



**On the last day of February**, the leaders of the Champaign Balloon Festival, John McDaniel and Chris Diana, visited us at our lunch meeting to deliver a donation from the proceeds of the 2022 festival. This donation will allow us to buy two Amtrykes! By design, we were presenting one of the Amtrykes purchased with this donation at the same meeting so John and Chris could see directly where their generous donation went, (boy in the blue t-shirt above). John arranged to have a photographer from the local newspaper attend as well and there was a nice article about the give away in the News-Gazette. Although there was rain for the festival last year, it was a success and John says that they are looking forward to the 2023 event. The festival dates are **September 29th-30th**. If you have never ridden in a hot air balloon this will be your chance. It's a wonderful experience! We thank John and Chris for all their hard work and their donation, and we wish them luck with the 2023 festival!

## Tom Jones Challenger League to Begin

**Signups are open for the Challenger League** and our GCC AMBUCS liaison to the League, Cris Vowels, says that they are experiencing a record registration! They are also lining up lots of volunteers to be "buddies" to each player during the games. The schedule is at right, but be sure to check their Web page for any changes. Games are often weather dependent.

Saturday April 15th—Skills Day

Tuesday April 18th—Open Practice

Tuesday April 25th—Open Practice

The games begin Tuesday, May 2nd.

The [Tom Jones Challenger League](#) holds all games and practices at AMBUCS Park on East University Avenue in Urbana, Illinois. This is a handicap accessible park and ball diamond, equipped with lights for night games. They also play inter-league games at Danville Stadium, (one day, every other year), and in 2022 played exhibition games at the Rantoul Sports Complex, Rantoul, IL.

CHALLENGER LEAGUE SCHEDULE 2023				
Date	Time	Team	Skills Day	Team
15-Apr	TBA			
18-Apr	TBA			
25-Apr	TBA			
OPEN PRACTICE				
2-May	6:00	Big Mikes	vs	Sullivan-Parkhill
	7:10	Personal Mobility	vs	Martin Hood
6-May	8:00	Autism Network	vs	Coca Cola
	9:10	Busey	vs	Chesser Financial
	10:20	First Federal	vs	GCC Ambucs
9-May	6:00	First Federal	vs	Chesser Financial
	7:10	GCC Ambucs	vs	Busey
13-May	8:00	GCC Ambucs	vs	Personal Mobility
	9:10	Autism Network	vs	Big Mikes
	10:20	Chesser Financial	vs	Sullivan-Parkhill
16-May	6:00	Autism Network	vs	Martin Hood
	7:10	Coca Cola	vs	Personal Mobility
20-May	8:00	Sullivan-Parkhill	vs	Personal Mobility
Picture day/All Teams Play	9:10	GCC Ambucs	vs	Big Mikes
	10:20	Chesser Financial	vs	Autism Network
	11:30	Martin Hood	vs	Busey
	12:40	First Federal	vs	Coca Cola
23-May	6:00	Big Mikes	vs	Sullivan-Parkhill
CELEBRITY NIGHT 5 TEAMS COMBINE	7:10	First Federal	vs	Martin Hood + Autism Network
27-May				
No Play Day				
3-Jun	8:00	Personal Mobility	vs	Busey
	9:10	Big Mikes	vs	Martin Hood
	10:20	Sullivan-Parkhill	vs	Autism Network
6-Jun	6:00	Busey	vs	Chesser Financial
ILLINI NIGHT 5 TEAMS COMBINE	7:10	Personal Mobility	vs	GCC Ambucs + Coca Cola
10-Jun	8:00	Big Mikes	vs	Chesser Financial
	9:10	First Federal	vs	Martin Hood
	10:20	GCC Ambucs	vs	Coca Cola
13-Jun	6:00	Sullivan-Parkhill	vs	Chesser Financial
	7:10	Busey	vs	First Federal
17-Jun	8:00	Chesser Financial	vs	Big Mikes
	9:10	GCC Ambucs	vs	Autism Network
	10:20	Sullivan-Parkhill	vs	Coca Cola
20-Jun	6:00	Martin Hood	vs	Coca Cola
	7:10	First Federal	vs	Personal Mobility
24-Jun	8:00	Sullivan-Parkhill + Personal Mobility	vs	Autism Network
PICNIC DAY	9:10	Busey	vs	Coca Cola
	10:20	Chesser Financial	vs	Big Mikes + First Federal
	11:30	Martin Hood	vs	GCC Ambucs
27-Jun	6:00	Coca Cola	vs	Busey
	7:10	Personal Mobility	vs	First Federal

## Splinters from the Board

*The Board met at Denny's on February 22nd* and addressed the following items:

- ==> agreed to find a date for the Cash Bash that works for more members
- ==> officer nominating committee: Kyle Moe, Scott Price, Renae' Strawbridge, Deb Griest, Larry Windingland
- ==> set Bike Day at Carle Annex for March 4th
- ==> will put \$5,000 from the Cash Bash into the AMBUCS Park fund

## Central Region Conference

*April 21-22 is the Central Region Conference* in Springfield, IL. All members are encouraged to attend but especially new members and new officers. There will be sessions that will help new members learn about AMBUCS and it will be a great opportunity to meet members in other chapters and hear about their Chapters' successes. The host Chapter is Springfield, the largest Chapter in the nation, and they always put on a great conference! Registration is only \$90 and will be reimbursed by GCC. Hope to see everyone there!

## Tidbits

*MaryLou Younger's husband Wayne*, fell off a ladder and tore his rotator cuff! We wish him a speedy recovery!

*Cris Vowels granddaughter* visited us at lunch and fell asleep near the end. Good food, grandma's company and conversations that bore a 2 year old girl leads to Zzzs.

*Several members received pins* from the National organization. Jodi Harmon, Elaine Windingland, and Sally Denhart received pins for bringing in new members. Don Dunlap received pins for bringing in four new members, and Larry Windingland received a trail boss certificate. Congrats all!

## Winning Chances

**02/07/23**—50/50: \$7 to MaryLou Younger; Attendance: \$14 to Keith Jamieson.

**02/14/23**—50/50: \$7 to the father of the Amtryke recipient; Attendance: \$11 could have been won by Mad-die Browning-Perry but she was not present.

**02/21/23**—50/50: \$10 to Ray Griest; Attendance: \$25 could have been won by Nelda Shaw but she was not present.

**02/28/23**—50/50: \$8 to our Amtryke recipient; Attendance: \$36 could have been won by Nelda Shaw (again!), but she was not present.



**TEAM AMBUCS**  
CENTRAL REGION  
SPRING CONFERENCE

ALL AMBUCS AND GUESTS WELCOME

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 21  
PRE GAME ACTIVITIES (GOLF) 11 AM  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM  
MVP TAILGATE DINNER—6 PM—WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 22  
ROOKIES/PLAYERS/COACHES MEETING (NATIONAL AND AMTRYKE NEWS) 8 AM  
7TH INNING STRETCH LUNCH NOON  
HOME RUN (AMBUC TRIVIA PRESENTED BY KEVIN LUST) 1 PM  
CONTINUED COACHING/BRAINSTORMING OPPORTUNITIES 2 PM  
PLAYERS/MANAGERS MEETING (REGION MEETING) 4 PM  
WORLD SERIES (DINNER AND BIG HAT AUCTION) 6 PM—???  
HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN 7 PM—???

VISITING PLAYERS ACCOMMODATIONS  
NORTHFIELD INN AND SUITES, 3280 NORTHFIELD DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL  
217-523-7900  
ROOM RATE \$101/KING OR DOUBLE \$109/JACUZZI ROOM OR KING SUITE

ALL AMBUCS PLAYERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND—THIS IS NOT FOR OFFICERS ONLY