

Amtrykes!

We had a build and an Amtryke giveaway at our first January meeting to start off 2023 right!

Wonder of wonder, Amtrykes we've had on backorder for a while keep arriving! We've also bought some replacement parts on Amazon to use on returned trikes so our storage unit is pretty full of Amtrykes ready for riders! Kudos to Scott Price and Larry and Elaine Windingland for creating this good-to-have problem! Scott and Larry will continue to work on getting trikes in the hands, and feet, of the riders.



On January 24, we gave away one Amtryke to Branson, (right, photo by Larry Windingland), and built five more that same evening!

Branson, (left, with almost a smile), had outgrown his first Amtryke so he needed a bigger one. This little guy has struggled with health issues since birth. He has mild autism and other physical challenges, so his parents started him in therapy right away and last year he started walking and talking. His first Amtryke helped strengthen his legs to help with his ability to walk and with a little help from his dad, he walked into our lunch room! Branson's therapists joined us for lunch and said that his parents are doing a great job with him, His dad said, "We are doing everything we can to help him move on the right track!" Have fun riding Branson!



At 5pm that night, ten GCC AMBUCS converged on the C-U Elks Lodge at Savoy to assemble five new Amtrykes. We actually had seven trikes in boxes at the Ecowater office of member Keith Jamieson but not enough room in the storage shed to take in all seven assembled trikes. Keith volunteered to continue to store the other two boxes until we transfer more assembled trikes into the hands of the riders. The bar manager, Colin Lamkin, of the Elks Lodge, generously volunteered to store the five assembled trikes in their banquet room for a few days until we can line up their riders to get them. Our association with the Elks Lodge has been so helpful to our Chapter! Not only do they allow us to assemble trikes in their banquet room when not rented for an event, but we are hosting our Cash Bash fundraiser there next month and our Amtryke Road Rally in May. It's a wonderfully large room that is perfect for various events. Thanks much to Colin who is so nice to us and even took the second picture at the right. The first picture is titled, "Herding Cats" because getting all the workers together with the Amtrykes for a picture is exactly that. Thanks to all who make this happen!



Calendar

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

April 20-21, 2023—Central Region Conference

May 6, 2023—BarStool Golf

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

August 1-5, 2023—National Conference

After the build on January 24th we left the 5 Amtrykes at the Elks Lodge in Savoy. Larry Windingland arranged for us to have a giveaway Friday, January 27th right there! The Elks Lodge has a lot of members who stop by for dinner on Friday nights when they bring in a food truck. Larry arranged for Lailan and his mother to come by for the trike during the dinner hour. The Elks have given us grants in the past to buy Amtrykes so this was a way for the members to see where their money goes. Thanks to Larry for arranging this giveaway! (r: Lailan and his mother. Photo by Larry Windingland)



And on January 31, we finished the month with a double! We gave away two Amtrykes at our lunch meeting! Both young children were a little shy but took a couple of laps around the lunch room anyway. They have challenges and an Amtryke will address those in the best possible way, while they are having fun! Happy riding to all our recipients! (photos by Larry Windingland)



Possible Grant from the City of Urbana

Back in December the city of Urbana announced that they had money to give out as grants for projects to enhance the city. Our grant writers, Cris Vowels and Judy Dramstad, put together a request for money to add a sidewalk to AMBUCS Park to enhance citizens' ability to use the park for exercising, like walking and riding. We were invited to speak along with quite a few others, to the committee who would make the decision on distribution of the funds. Cris and Charter member Keith Jamieson made a presentation with questions to the group in mid-December. Watch this space for an announcement on the decision at the beginning of February!

New Members Inducted

Four new members were inducted into our Chapter in January: Will Wade, Brooke Chilton, Dana Daugherty, and Jodi Harmon. We have been fortunate these last couple of months, to have nine new members joining us! President Larry Windingland inducted the new members and presented them with their membership pins. He will induct the others when they are able to join us at a meeting.

Welcome All!

(l-r: Will Wade, Brooke Chilton, Dana Daugherty, Jodi Harmon)



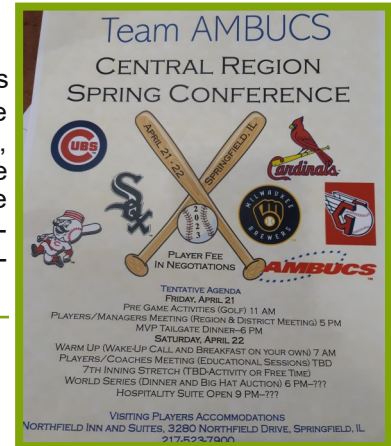
Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Denny's on January 25th and addressed the following items:

==> decided our Board meeting place will be Denny's back room.

Visit from Regional Director

On January 17th Regional Director **Marsha Hamerstrad** came to visit us and report on things going on in the Central Region. The Regional Conference is April 20-21 in Springfield, IL, and she is meeting with the host Chapter, Springfield, on setting registration cost and plans for the conference. They are hoping to keep registration at \$100. The theme will be Baseball and it will be hosted at the Northfield Inn and Suites. Room rates are \$101 for King or Double, \$109 for Jacuzzi or King Suite. Mark you calendars to attend! The Springfield Chapter is always a great host!



Tidbits

Member Maggie Brown is back from St. Louis and Nashville where she was visiting.

Justin Griest is home from Guatemala where he observed no glass in windows, only bars but no bugs, thick walls on homes, no A/C, several volcanoes (some active), and reported that he missed his puppies!

And speaking of the Griests Ray and Deb left for an extended vacation in Arizona. They will be stopping by Mountain Metro, the Lawton Oklahoma Chapter of AMBUCS, on the way back to Illinois.

Big Hat President MaryLou Younger and her husband Wayne both had a flu-type illness so she designated Larry Windingland as her replacement to lead the Big Hat meeting. (No one remembered to bring their Big Hats so the fines for that were voided.)

Member Scott Price is off to North Carolina for a vacation. Safe travels!

New Member Will Wade won a Review of the Month award from his work at Ryan Dallas Real Estate and that included a \$25 donation to a charity of his choice and he picked AMBUCS! Congratulations and thank you, Will!

Philanthropy Night

On January 26th, the University of Illinois Orange Krush group, students who go the extra mile to support U of I sports teams, hosted a Philanthropy Night before the women's basketball game at the State Farm Center and invited charitable groups to staff a table and talk with people about what they do. Orange Krush also gives grants to these groups and GCC has been a recipient in the past. GCC members Pat Webb and Sally Denhart braved the cold, and the tedious security to get in the door, to set up a table near the Traditions Club on the East side of the center. They talked with a couple of people and were then allowed to watch the basketball game. The names of all the participating groups were listed on the big display screen several times during time-outs. During half-time, they had a



short basketball game between two teams from the Special Olympics. Each basket was met with lots of cheering and applause and when one of the players hit a 3-point shot, the crowd erupted like it was the winning shot at the end of a playoff game! The young man's smile lit up the Hall! Thanks to Orange Krush for the wonderful moment and for the invitation!

Winning Chances

01/03/23—50/50: \$5 to Don Dunlap; Attendance: \$59 could have been won by Justin Griest but he was not present.

01/10/23—50/50: \$7 to Pat Webb; Attendance: \$71 could have been won by Dana Daugherty but she was not present.

01/17/23—50/50: \$7 to Dana Daugherty Attendance: \$86 to new member Brooke Chilton.

01/24/23—50/50: \$8 to one of our guest therapists who donated it back to the Chapter; Attendance: \$13 to Cris Vowels.

01/31/23—50/50: \$8 to Dana Daugherty; Attendance: \$12 to Ray Griest (who returned from Arizona just in time to win.)
