

The Buc Shot

December 2016

Calendar

2017

January 28, 2017 – Barstool Golf Fundraiser

March 4, 2017 – Cash Bash Fundraiser

April 21-22, 2017 – Spring Conf., Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL

October 21-23, 2017 – AMBUCS National Convention



Ramp Build



Our last ramp build of the season brought out nine AMBUCS and friends to the little town of Dewey. It only has a couple of streets so the location was easy to find. The ramp build, however, was not as easy. This ramp started out as a challenge because the gas meter and shut off valve were in the corner near the front door. The gas company was contacted by the owner's friend and they came out and moved it. Had we built the ramp with it where it was we would have blocked workers access to the shut off valve which they need in an emergency. The next challenge was removal of the solid concrete front steps. The owner bargained with some local people for work in exchange for the steps. We coordinated with them to move the steps an hour before our arrival. It was tight quarters working in the corner

by the door but AMBUCS member, Don Dunlap, first picture in the yellow vest, wiggled into the corner and did that part of the work.

The next challenge was found when we started digging the post holes for the flat over the driveway. It seems a garage had been there originally and was torn down but the concrete floor was left behind and covered with rocks. Plan "B" was called on and the flat, shown in the last picture with the crew, was build on concrete feet. We were lucky to have three residents of Dewey there to help us out. The extra hands made placing the flats much easier. They also



offered suggestions on getting things done as shown in picture number two. The guy facing the camera pointing was one of the helpers.

Picture three, with member Scott Price, shows how long the ramp needed to be to comply with standards. The slope must be gradual enough that the person can push her walker or wheelchair back up the ramp. Also, it's good if the slope doesn't cause them to move down so fast that they can't stop at the bottom.

Thanks to all who came out and helped and to the friend of the home owner who cared enough to contact us from Missouri while the home owner was in the hospital. There's that village at work again! (Pictures 3 & 4 courtesy of Bob Lacey.)

AMBUCS Park Christmas Decorations

Leaders Mary Lou and Wayne Younger did another wonderful job of decorating AMBUCS Park! Thanks to all who came out and helped including a young man who lives in the neighborhood and loves to see the lights each season. A couple of the days were so cold that the only work done was in the shed. Brrr! Some DSC people came by to help and the driver was happy to climb the ladder to hang the lights allowing Wayne to stay on the ground a little more this year. Mary Lou and Wayne have done a wonderful job with this project for years but now wish to be the helpers instead of the leaders. GCC AMBUCS: who will step up to make this project continue? (Picture 1 courtesy of Bob Lacey.)



DSO Christmas Party

Each year DSO, Delta Sigma Omicron, the disability service organization at the Univ. of Illinois, hosts a Christmas party for children with disabilities and their families from East Central Illinois. GCC AMBUCS has supported that party for a number of years both with money and with help to wrap the presents and to be present at the party and help with the games and crafts. This year was no exception. Members Andrea Betzler and Mary Jane Jenkins, and her sister, helped with the crafts the day of the party. Mary Jane and her sister had the messy craft station called Hot Chocolate Mugs. These were made with a cookie, a large marshmallow, and frosting. There



were 142 kids attending and almost all of them made it to the Hot Chocolate Mugs station. We thank Mary Jane and Andrea for representing our club at this fun event! (Photos courtesy of Maureen Gilbert, DSO)

Branding Time Contest

The winners of the Branding Time contest were: 1st place for bringing in two new members, Deb Griest; 2nd place for bringing in the most guests, Nikki Kopmann; and 3rd place to Frank Thomas for bringing in the second most guests. Watch for the next contest for Spring Roundup!

Barstool Golf Fundraiser

The chapter is gearing up again for this wild fundraiser we hold in winter. Barstool Golf will be on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and promises to be another winner. The bars are in place; the transportation is in place; and the entry forms have been delivered to each of the bars. Chapter members should start asking friends and family to join a team and come out for this fun day. Entry fee is still \$20 per person with four person teams and players can sign up at any of the bars. There will be 50/50 drawings, door prizes, and food and drink specials at each of the bars. We have many repeat players and can't wait to see how they dress this year. Many volunteers will be needed so clear your calendar. Any friends not playing can still help by working with us on the day. A signup sheet will be ready soon. It will be a fun break in the cold winter season!



Speaker: Dave Leake, Parkland Planetarium



Dave Leake of the Parkland College Planetarium was our speaker on December 5th. He has been with Parkland for 27 years and is also a NASA Solar System Ambassador. Not only does Parkland have the planetarium on the main campus but has another observatory south west of Champaign. Tours are run at the building but have stopped for the winter. They will begin again in March. They hope to have a rolling roof in place by that time. Dave told us about upcoming solar events including the so-called "Super Moon". This misnomer is one of Dave's pet peeves. The super moon is really a moon illusion. The moon is exactly the same size as it always is; it just looks like its larger and seems closer. This can be proven by extending your arm towards the moon. You will be able to cover it with your pinky finger. A "Harvest Moon" is also just a regular full moon that happens in the fall. Did you know that the moon travels West to East? Ask Dave about it sometime. There will be an eclipse of the sun in 2017. Unfortunately for our Chapter in central Illinois, it will only be visible in southern Illinois. Dave and his crew will be on the scene so he'll be happy to tell you all about that, too!

Guest: Donna Carlton-Vish

On December 20th, Donna Carlton-Vish, member of the Danville Chapter, came by to say Hi and let us know that she is running for Region 4 director. Donna has years of experience in being an AMBUC. She has held several offices in her Chapter and was National Big Hat President. If elected, she is planning to focus on communication between chapters in our region. She helped to set up a Facebook page for the region and encourages us to Like the page and to post our events. Donna would like our votes at the conference in April.

AmTrykes

A small AmTryke build was the place to be on December 5th. Five AmTrykes were assembled and one from the Danville club was repaired. The Griests again graciously allowed us to use their shed for the work. Member Sally Denhart, is now part of the "build club". She managed to put the handle bars in upside down on her AmTryke! Thanks to all who came to help and to Scott Price for helping us all and delivering the AmTrykes to their owners.



Member **Bud Mesker**, made his annual gif of an AmTryke to a child on the National Wish List. This year he selected Cameron who lives in the underserved area of Waupun, Wisconsin. Cameron is six years old with Angelman Syndrome. This causes developmental difficulties. He is non-verbal, has seizures, and problems with his coordination and balance. His parents and therapist were amazed at how quickly Cameron could operate the trike. He will use his AmTryke at school during the winter for his therapy sessions. The photo is of Cameron, his father Joseph and his mother Naomi, along with Bud.

Grant from Orange Krush

President-Elect, Roger Adams, ran the meeting on December 27th and had the privilege of announcing that we have received a grant from the Orange Krush this year in the amount of \$1,300 for AmTrykes! Thanks much to Bob Lacey and others who made this grant possible. Bob continues to follow up leads for other grants including one from Illinois Power to help build a ramp.

New Member: Wade Frerichs

Wade Frerichs came to the meeting on December 27th and was inducted by President-Elect Roger Adams. Wade was recruited by Deb and Ray Griest. He has taken over the Feeder Driver job with UPS formally held by Ray. Wade became interested in joining AMBUCS because of an uncle who lost a leg in the war. He wants to help people like his uncle retain their independence. Wade has a serious girlfriend; they even have a dog together. Welcome to GCC AMBUCS, Wade!



Board Action

There was no action by the board but several items were discussed:

- The Wix Web Site will continue and the board will reimburse Sally Denhart for the fee.

- The board hopes to begin the process of electing new officers in February.

- Once visibility month is designated by National or the board, Sally Denhart will lead the effort.

- Due to Mary Lou Younger stepping down from park decorating lead, another member will need to step into the roll if the chapter wants that project to continue. The board members recommend the decorations be a smaller project next year.

Member News

Chapter President Frank Thomas' Member Spotlight talks started out with the objective of helping new members appreciate all that the long-time members have done but it has evolved into a way to get to know each other better and to learn what we do, or did, in our previous lives. His spotlight this month is newer member **Kyle Moe**. Kyle has been in the Champaign-Urbana area for 30 years. He is currently a Wells Fargo financial advisor but in his previous life he was a competitive gymnast. Kyle was a very active child and at 18 months of age he climbed to the roof of their house. His parents saw a natural fit for Kyle in



gymnastics so that became his focus early. In high school, he met some college athletes and started training 3 hours per day. Unfortunately, he had a bad accident at 16 and broke his neck in two places. He recovered and could focus on the rings and the parallel bars. He was looking at various colleges but he got a walk-on spot at the U of I. His discipline of practicing helped him to cope with his college classes. He red-shirted his freshman year but joined the team for the next four years where he helped the team win the Big-10 title all four years! Kyle encourages everyone to attend a gymnastics event and the NCAA tournament will be held at the State Farm Center next April. (Kyle's induction picture at left.)

Winning Chances

December 6th - 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Bud Mesker. The \$17 in attendance money could have been won by Pat Webb but she was not present.

December 13th – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Keith Jamieson. The \$37 in attendance money could have gone to new member Wade Frerichs but he was not present.

December 20th – 50/50 drawing of \$6 went to Mary Jane Jenkins. The \$49 in attendance money could have been won by Bud Mesker but he was not present.

December 27th – 50/50 drawing of \$8 went to Larry Windingland. The \$66 in attendance money could have been won by Sandy Martin but she was not present.