

The Buc Shot

July 2016

Calendar

August 2, 2016 – Justin Seno, U of I Veterans
August 9, 2016 – Larry Ohlsson, Elks Lodge 2497
August 16, 2016 – LaShaunda Cunningham, topic to be announced
(Big Hat Meeting changed to 16th)
August 23, 2016 – Sherrie Faulkner and Katie Shumway, UI Social Work
August 27, 2016 – Big Hat Baseball Trip
September 17, 2016 – Scarecrow Festival at AMBUCS Park
September 28 – October 1, 2016 – AMBUCS National Conference



National Conference



AMBUCS National Conference

Loews Ventana Canyon - Tucson, AZ

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2016

Tucson, AZ is the site of the next AMBUCS National Conference. The Early Bird deadline has been extended to September 6th so there is still time to get the cheaper rate for the conference. As usual there will be an AmTryke Rodeo and a veterans ride as well as lots of inspirational talks and seminars. You can volunteer to help with the rodeo, the veterans ride, or the Greater Tucson Bike Build. Click on the link for more information.

<http://www.ambucs.org/members/ambucs-national-conference/>

Car Raffle

The car raffle was a great success for our chapter! The funds raised will be used to purchase more AmTrykes and to help build wheelchair ramps and go toward our other projects. Several AMBUCS and friends attended the raffle wrap-up party *Juice the*

Joint at Jupiter's at the Crossing. The theme was the 1920s so attendees dressed in clothes from the period. (GCC AMBUCS are pictured in costume at right with member Nikki Kopmann in her outfit at left.) There were flappers and gangsters enjoying the music from the era and the casino games provided by the Oakwood Men's Club. There was also a basket raffle where attendees could purchase tickets and place them in the canisters of baskets they wanted to win. Jupiter's provided snacks to eat including veggies, egg rolls, meatballs, and their famous pizza. There were also special drinks the attendees could purchase, like a sidecar. And to get upstairs to the party you had to know the

password, "We're not the fuzz!". The entire upstairs was dark with the shades pulled, red lights, and fake smoke sliding over the dance floor. It was a fun time for all!



The baskets were drawn about 8:45pm with the big car drawing at 9:00pm. They used the GCC AMBUCS' raffle cage to hold all the tickets and when the winner was drawn, it was our own Bob Lacey's name on the ticket! He and wife Pat were at another fundraiser held on the same night but when reached by members of our chapter he and Pat came over to receive the keys. They have several options as to what will happen to the car but we know it will be put to good use. Congratulations, Bob!

Thanks to our sponsors, the Women's Business Council, Don's 24Hr Towing, Bill Smith Auto, and Service King. And a special thank you to GCC AMBUCS member Don Dunlap for getting us involved with this project. Thanks to all who sold tickets and bought tickets and if you didn't buy a ticket you could purchase a non-winning ticket for \$5 from any member. (Ha Ha)

It was a fun project and we hope to have more opportunities like this in the future.

Big Hat News

National Big Hat Fundraiser

This year the National Big Hat club is raffling off a gun or \$2,500 in cash. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from GCC member Don Dunlap. Get one while you can!

Big Hat Fun

Don Dunlap has arranged a trip to a major league baseball game on August 27th in Chicago. The tickets are \$116 each and are in box seats along the 3rd base line. Don arranged for 20 tickets and at this writing there are 7 tickets left. The game is a night game and starts at 6:10pm. Attendees must arrange their own transportation. The game will end around 10pm. Contact Don to get one of the last few tickets!

Big Hat Meeting

The Big Hat meeting for August will be the third Tuesday, August 16th instead of the second. Be sure to bring your big hats on that day!



AmTryke Build

An AmTryke bike build was held at the Griest Man Shed on July 13th. Nine AMBUCS including our newest member, Kyle Moe, came out and put together seven AmTrykes of various sizes. We had hoped that our chapter could have a big giveaway of the trikes at AMBUCS Park but that couldn't be worked out so Scott Price has delivered most of them himself. There were a couple of issues with two of the trikes but Scott has taken care of those and reordered a rear steer that was left off one of the orders. It was a fun evening and Kyle got a good introduction into what our chapter does. Thanks to all who came out and helped with the build!

Extreme Flying Event Donation

Our own Larry Windingland has another hobby besides AMBUCS; he likes to fly radio-controlled airplanes. He is a member of the local flying club and they have an event at least once per year at the reclaimed landfill off route 150 in Champaign. This year the club decided to donate some of the vendor fees to our AMBUCS chapter and it added up to \$200! We thank the flying club and Larry for thinking of us!

Challenger League All-Star Game

The season is over for the Challenger League kids but some of them got one more chance to play ball in the All-Star game. (The Challenger League is for children with disabilities.) It was held on the U of I ball field, Eichelberger Field on the campus of the Univ. of Illinois. WHMS Radio personality, Brian Barnhardt, introduced the players and gave the play-by-play. Local celebrity and business man, Big Mike, was the pitcher for the game

and the catcher was pro baseball player, Derrick Fletcher. The weather was warm but the rain went around the field with only a couple of sprinkles to settle the dust.



The object of each game is to let the kids play so there are no strikes and almost no foul balls. Once the player hits the ball the pitcher also throws extra balls into the infield so that everyone gets a chance to field a ball. They throw it back to the pitcher who has a player to help catch those balls as well. There are two innings in a game and each person on the team gets to bat each inning. The last batter is the clean-up hitter and once that player hits the ball all the runners come home. Each player has a buddy who helps them run around the bases and pushes the wheelchairs when needed. At the end of each of the two games pictures were taken of the players, coaches, and umpires. (At left with a photo bomb by Holly Stalcup.)

The kids had a great time; the helpers had a great time; and the spectators had a great time. Thanks to Cris Vowels, GCC AMBUCS member liaison with the league who attended all the games during the season. GCC AMBUCS is proud to be a sponsor of this great organization!

Speakers: Terry and Sheila Walters, Organ Donation

GCC Member **Kim VanEngelenburg**, opened the speaker portion of our July 19th meeting by telling us about her two liver transplants. She had her first transplant as a young girl when she had about 12 hours to live. She was told at that time, that the liver would only last about 5 years before her body would reject it. Transplant recipients are told minimal information about the donors but they can write letters to the donor's family if they choose. The transplant agency will send the letter on. The donor's family can choose to reject the letter, accept the letter but not answer it, or they can choose to get in contact with the recipient. Kim found out that her first transplant came from a young girl who died in a car accident and her second liver came from a woman in Canada who also died in a car accident. Organ donation is a gift of hope and a gift of life.



Kim then introduced Terry and Sheila Walters who told us about their son Caleb's last day. Their son was a very giving person who wanted to protect and serve by becoming a police officer. He had a cross tattooed on his back because of his strong faith in God. His last day started off normal enough but he was hit by a semi truck while he rode his motorcycle to work. They used the tattoo as part of the means to identify him. Terry and Sheila tried to donate Caleb's organs because that was his wish but were initially told it was not possible. They later found out that his corneas were donated. Through the eye bank, they contacted the recipients and ended up meeting the person and several of her relatives. This brought home how many lives were touched

by Caleb's donation. The Walters encourage everyone to be an organ donor and to let their relatives know of their wishes immediately so that the organs can be used. Gift of Hope; Gift of Life.

Speaker: Holly Stalcup, U of I Athletic Dept.

Our guest speaker on July 26th was Holly Stalcup of the Univ. of Illinois Athletic Dept. She, and her crew, are the behind-the-scenes people for each sporting event on campus. She started her current job in 2003 when the Chicago Bears came to town to use Memorial Stadium for a few games while their stadium in Chicago was being renovated. There were a million issues with hosting a professional football team and Holly had to deal with all of them. On Illini football game days Holly and her staff must arrive for work at 4:30am no matter what the scheduled game time. This makes for a really long day for them when the game is in the evening. Holly has the enviable position of sitting at the scorer's table during basketball games. Unfortunately, she is so busy coordinating all the details of the event, with



three radios squawking at her, that she can't watch the game. Holly also heads the coordination of any post-season bowl games. This is a much bigger job than even a regular game at the U since the bowl games include more travel, more events, and more VIPs who also need their help. Holly says that she and her staff are mostly anonymous and they like it that way. If everything goes well no one knows they exist and they work very hard at not existing.

(Side notes: Holly organized the Challenger League All-Star game held on the U of I baseball field and acted as a buddy to one of the players. Also, GCC AMBUCS member **Keith Ewerks** sometimes works for Holly.)

Board Action

The board had a short meeting but discussed several topics and decided:

- ...to purchase a new version of QuickBooks for Elaine Windingland to use for her Treasurer's work.
- ...to stop selling flagpoles which were few and far between at best.
- ...to continue the reimbursement of some expenses for members attending the National Conference.
- ...to participate and donate to the Disability Expo October 15, 2016.
- ...to look into fundraising training for Bob Lacey.

Member News

Chapter President Frank Thomas, started a Member Recognition time during the regular lunch meetings. His first one is **Bud Mesker**. Bud was an MP in the service where he and others guarded a ship with unknown contents. He transferred to Ordinance because there was more opportunity for advancement and ended up guarding nuclear weapons. After he left the service he went to work for the U of I as a fireman where he worked for over 30 years. He held all the jobs in the firehouse including Battalion Chief and coordinated interactions with the Champaign and Urbana fire departments. He organized a drill where no one was told it was just a drill. It was to be a test of emergency response so to make the test valid no one could know it wasn't real. There were fake victims and when the doctors responded and found the fakes they were not pleased but it gave an accurate picture of how the departments would react in a real emergency. Because of the test they were able to make some positive changes to make things better. Bud was the first to write a grant for the department to the Community Foundation and he received \$2,000 that first year. Bud started out owning a Harley in 1952 and today drives a trike with the license plate AMBUC 1. Thanks for all you do and have done, Bud, for the people of Champaign County!

Member **Andrea Betzler** is struggling with some health issues. Please send her good thoughts.

Deb Griest also needs some healing help. She fell in a hole while walking through a field after a balloon flight and broke her foot. She now has a 4-leaf clover to help her change her luck.

Mary Lou Younger is healing but dealing with some pain. She was at the Home Extension Garage Sale in July but she was wearing her turtle shell again to help with the pain. She needs the good wishes, too.

Winning Chances

July 5th – 50/50 drawing of \$6 went to Kim VanEngelenburg. The \$35 in attendance money could have been won by Cris Vowels but she was not present.

July 12th – 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Cris Vowels. The \$57 in attendance money could have gone to Ron Meyer but he was not present.

July 19th – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Brian Hanson. The \$76 in attendance money could have been won by Linda Ohnsted but she was not present.

July 26th – 50/50 drawing of \$12 went to our speaker for the day, Holly Stalcup! The \$99 in attendance money could have gone to Alan Edwards but he was not present.