

The Buc Shot

November 2016

Calendar

December 3, 2016 – Decorating AMBUCS Park, 9:00am-2:00pm
December 4, 2016 – Decorating AMBUCS Park, 1:00pm-5:00pm
December 5, 2016 – AmTryke build, Griest Man Shed, 5pm
December 9, 2016 – Decorating AMBUCS Park, 1:00pm-5:00pm
December 10, 2016 – Lights On, AMBUCS Park, Dusk
December 13, 2016 – Blood Drive, Urbana Gardens, 11am-2pm

2017

January 28, 2017 – Barstool Golf Fundraiser
March 4, 2017 – Cash Bash Fundraiser
April 21-22, 2017 – Spring Conference, Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
October 21-23, 2017 – AMBUCS National Convention



Ramp Build

Eleven AMBUCS and friends came out on November 5th to build a ramp in east Urbana. The ramp had some initial challenges, a couple of tree limbs in the spot for the flat and the flat initially had to “float”. The height of the existing porch made it necessary to build the flat free-standing and join it to the porch by a two-board run. The owner was very grateful and kept going up and down the ramp in his walker long after we had packed up and headed home. Jean Gothead, a friend of Ray and Deb Griest and Dick Adams, came out to the build when we were about half done and loved it so much she decided to join. Welcome Jean! Thanks to all who came to help! There will be one ramp build in December and then our season will probably end until spring.



At left are Ray Griest and Don Dunlap working on the flat. Below left, Scott Price prepares to attach the flat to the porch. Below center, the run is finished up by Kathy Harvey, Cris Vowels, and Jean Gothead. Bottom right, the finished ramp and all the workers.

National News

Regional Director, Deb Griest, reported that a new National Executive Director has been hired, Jay Laurens, who will begin his new job on January 1, 2017. Joe Copeland will be around to help Jay and may be asked to stay around in some capacity. Jay is a cyclist so he will be a great leader for the AmTryke program. Welcome, Jay!

Branding Time Contest

Branding Time ends December 1st. The contest winners will be announced in December.

Speaker: Cody McCabe, Veteran



Cody McCabe is a Marine and a Cubs fan. He came to lunch to share his service stories in honor of Veteran's Day. Cody grew up in Paxton and went to Eastern Illinois University then joined the marines. His recruiter told him that if he joined the paratroopers he would be jumping out of planes after boot camp so he signed up. Sometimes things don't work out as you hoped and he ended up a Fabric Specialist, sewing parachutes instead of using them. This was not exactly Cody's dream job but one time a Warrant Officer asked him, "Marine! What did you do for your country today?" and Cody realized that taking care of the parachutes was serving our country, too. Next, he was sent to Tanzania where he was a guard at the American Embassy in Dar es Salaam. On August 7, 1998, al-Qaeda bombed the embassy killing over 200

people. Cody was off duty at the time but immediately he and the other marines headed for the embassy to see how they could help. All landmarks for the area were gone so finding the embassy was hard and they got into some areas where they took small arms fire. They made it to the embassy and went through the ruin of the building helping the injured and the dead. They had no idea what might happen next and had no communication with anyone. It was a long scary day with 6-8 hours of duty after no sleep before they were relieved of duty by other marines. They made it through the day and kept what was left of the embassy secure. Cody will be at the Marine Corp Birthday Ball in Las Vegas on November 12th. We sincerely thank Cody for his service!

Speaker: Kelsey La Fever, Paralympic Athlete

Kelsey La Fever came to speak to us on November 15th. She works with Delta Sigma Omicron (DSO), a rehabilitation service fraternity whose members are former U of I students with disabilities. Kelsey originally wanted to be a ski bum in Colorado but her mother insisted she go to the U of I. She is from a small town and had a couple of friends there but when she came to the U she didn't know anyone. The various coaches were very friendly and got her involved in basketball and track-and-field. She was good in both but dropped out of basketball when she became a graduate student. She went to the Paralympic field trials but didn't qualify the first time. She ended up on the National Team in 2013. In 2015 she was in the Pan American Games and in 2016 made it to the Paralympics in Rio. Kelsey found the athletes' village great. There were about 5,000 people in the dorms and she shared her room with 5 others. The dining hall was a free-for-all that was open 24 hours with all kinds of different foods served. Kelsey tried to sit at a different table every time she ate so that she could meet different people each time. She had come a long way from the girl who had trouble making friends in school. Kelsey found the Brazilian people very nice and very friendly. They treated all the athletes the same as they had the other Olympic athletes. Her time as a Paralympian taught her how important community support is to the athletes. She said it was a wonderful experience. Kelsey made the finals in the Paralympics in the 100m, and was 6th overall in track and field. Keep up the good work, Kelsey.



Speaker: Joy Henderson, Skill Sprout



Joy Henderson came to tell us about her company, Skill Sprout, that works with children with autism. The company provides in-home training for children from the age they are diagnosed until the age of 16. They are a for-profit company so while the assessments are free, there is a charge for their services. They don't have a branch in Champaign yet but would very much like to since they have 25-35 clients in the area. There isn't a lot of help available for children with autism. They started their company 16 years ago when the founder saw the need for someone to help children and their families. Skill Sprout comes into a client's home to teach the child how to deal with basic life skills. They help with potty training, eating at a table, taking naps, and how to play with toys. Doing simple things like eating at a table may not seem important to us but is a very important skill to the parents. So

is learning how to take a nap, allowing some down-time for the parents. The company also helps the clients with creating a plan of behavior with goals and milestones and helps the children with their work in school. Joy had heard of AMBUCS before she was asked to speak to us. She had a client who didn't know how to play with toys but we gave him an AmTryke and his therapist showed him how to use it. Now, whenever Joy visits his home she makes sure to take him for a ride, if at all possible. He loves it and smiles the whole time.

Speakers: Linda Tammen and Patricia Hruby Powell

Linda Tammen and author Patricia Hruby Powell, came to tell us about the Youth Literature Festival. This is a bi-annual event held in central Illinois in October. Ninety-two schools participate and over 19,000 students attend. The festival schedules several authors to come into the schools to talk with the kids and read to them from their childrens books. The organizers of the festival contact the publishers of the authors' books to ask for a few free copies to put in the school libraries in anticipation of the festival. Most of the publishers have been very generous and will send several copies to the schools. This allows the teachers to work the books into their classes so that the students look forward to the author's arrival. It also allows parents to check out the books and attend the festival as well. Usually the authors will talk at two different schools during the festival. The books are often about children dealing with challenges in everyday life. "Pinned" is about two kids who really like one another but because of their challenges they don't act on their feelings. They are afraid of being rejected. The boy is in a wheelchair and believes the girl will reject him because of that. The girl has some learning disabilities and believes that the boy will reject her because of that. The book recounts how they deal with the situation and ultimately learn to take a chance on one another. After one of the presentations, a boy in a wheelchair stopped the author and thanked her for writing the book and told her how much the book helped him.



Some of the books deal with heavy issues like race. A book written by Patricia, "Josephine", was about Josephine Baker who was the first African American dancer. She was also a civil rights activist and a spy for the French and the Allies during the war. Later she adopted 12 children of difference races and religions and raised them all in their given culture and religion. It's good for black children to read about Josephine and for white children to learn about outstanding leaders of different races. Pat also wrote, "Loving vs Virginia" about a court case on civil rights. She has more books coming out soon including one on Louis Armstrong's wife.

AmTrykes

Member Bud Mesker announced that he will do his usual Christmas gift of taking a child off the National AmTryke Wish List. In lieu of presents for his family, Bud spends the money in their honor by buying a child an AmTryke. He has chosen a child in an area of Wisconsin not served by an AMBUCS Chapter. Bud plans to deliver the AmTryke in early December.

Scott Price continues to work with our AmTryke program and delivered an AmTryke to a 15yo boy who says "Thank you" by punching people in the face. His parents thought he was not yet ready to attend a lunch with us. Thanks for delivering it, Scott, and saving us all. 😊

Champaign Parade of Lights

Our theme for the parade float this year was, "It's the Night Before Christmas", Project Leader, Mary Lou Younger's idea. Member Don Dunlap used a tow truck from his business, Don's 24Hr Towing, to pull the float. New member, Jean Gothead, was the aunt on the float reading the story to the children at her feet. Her nephew, Ezra, and Sally Denhart's great-niece, Courtney, were the children listening to the story. Member, Roger Adams, built the fireplace at his shop, CU Woodshop Supply, and members painted it and added stripes to look like bricks. Habitat for Humanity loaned us the couch and Scott Price provided more furniture and a rug. The bear riding the AmTryke was loaned to us from Mary Lou's grandson, Jamieson. The Cubs stocking was initially met with resistance from some Cardinal fans but the Cubs fans won out, much the same as their team did this year.

The float took a lot of members working together to create it with each person bringing ideas and style to the display. Thanks to all!



New Fundraising Committee

Don Dunlap is the chair of a new fundraising committee. They are working on a replacement event for the Dinner Raffle and plan on having a Cash Bash on March 4th, 2017, at the Elks Club in Savoy. Tickets will be \$100 for just the raffle and an additional \$25 for the dinner. The top prize will be \$7,500 and each 10th ticket drawn will win \$100. There will be only 250 tickets sold. The dinner will last from 6:30pm-9:30pm and there will be 50/50 drawings and card games through out the night. The plan is for the evening to be similar but different from the usual event and the committee hopes everyone will have a good time!

Board Action

The board voted to continue our donations to Camp New Hope; \$400 in December and \$400 in March. We will fill one last request for an AmTryke for the year even though we are slightly over budget. Our new budget will

start in January. The board also formed a sub-committee to look at the income levels we use for ramp builds. Members of this new committee are: Keith Jamieson, Chair, Don Dunlap, Ray Griest, Roger Adams, Bob Lacey, and Sally Denhart.

New Member: Jean Gothead

Jean Gothead, friend of Deb and Ray Griest and Dick Adams, joined our club on November 15th. She had been talking with Deb and Ray and decided that it might be fun to be an AMBUC. She came out to a ramp build and found that it was fun, so she joined. Welcome to the fun chapter, Jean! That's her at right with President Frank Thomas.



Member News

Chapter President Frank Thomas' Member Recognition talks are to help newer members appreciate how much the long-time members have done for the chapter. His choice for November was **Mary Lou Younger**. Mary Lou was born in Texas a mile from the Rio Grande. Her father was a farmer, rancher, and a goat farmer. They lived in a 22-room house built by her father and others. Mary Lou went to a private catholic school but they wanted her to eat white rice and she always ate Mexican rice so she refused. When her parents found out that the nuns had made her sit at the table until she ate the rice, which she never did, they pulled her from that school and she finished her education in public schools. Mary Lou at first wanted to become a nun but her grandfather said no so she ended up in nursing. For a while she was a traveling nurse and went all over the country. Her sister was in Champaign so she made that her base. While out at a club she met Wayne Younger. They danced, started dating and were married a year later. They have a daughter, Evie, a son-in-law who is a Lt. Col. In the army, and a grandson, Jamieson, who is the apple of grandma's eye. Mary Lou had her own business Balloon Creations, for 21 years. She has been secretary, president, and Big Hat president of the chapter and in 2008 was named AMBUC of the Year!

Member **Wayne Younger**, has 5 herniated discs in his back. He is struggling with the pain and needs all the good wishes he can get!

Deb and **Ray Griest** are helping with the Tiny House craze. They moved a tiny house from St. Joseph, IL, to Indianapolis, IN for a tiny house show. Both were amazed at how nicely they are designed.

Member **Priscilla Dorset's** husband, Roger, has had some health issues. He is doing much better now.

And more news on the grandchild front; members **Don** and **Darcy Dunlap** are new grandparents! Their son Chance has a new daughter, Caroline Rose, who came into this world November 20th, weighed 8lb 13oz, and had a full head of hair. Welcome, Caroline!



Winning Chances

November 1st - 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Elaine Windingland. The \$96 in attendance money could have been won by Mary Lou Younger but she was not present.

November 8th - 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Jason Betzler. The \$116 in attendance money could have gone to Pat Webb but she was not present.

November 15th - 50/50 drawing of \$11 went to Sally Denhart. The \$136 in attendance money went to Mike Foley!

November 29th - 50/50 drawing of \$12 went to Elaine Windingland. The \$41 in attendance money also went to Elaine. Woo, woo!