

Three Amtrykes Went Home!

We had three meetings in December and gave away an Amtryke at each one!

On December 6th, during a visit from our National President, Carmela Davis, we gave Larzo, right, his Amtryke. Larzo has autism and communicates with the device you see in his hands in the picture. That doesn't slow him down and his mother says he is a busy child who loves to run in the house. He also loves to be outside and will love riding this trike on a path around a lake near his house. It's a mile long! Take it slow at first, Larzo! (Photo by Larry Windingland)



At our next meeting on December 13th, lucky Jailyz, was the recipient of an Amtryke! Five Year old Jailyz has trouble walking and the Amtryke will strengthen his legs. It will teach his muscle memory how to do the motion of walking. It will also add strength to his core which in turn will help with the balance he needs for walking. Enjoy your Amtryke, Jailyz!



Later that night, we held another bike build at the CU Elks Lodge in Savoy. This time we had a group of thirteen members and friends, (which, by the way,



matched the December day!). We all ate a couple of slices of pizza and built four Amtrykes. Sadly, we had parts missing and backordered on a couple of the trikes. We're sure our Amtryke Project Leader, Scott Price, can find the needed parts in the storage shed we organized over the summer. We thank the Elks for again allowing us to use their banquet hall for the assembly and volunteering to take care of the empty trike boxes for us! We still have a couple of trikes awaiting assembly at member Keith Jamieson's office but we've suspended builds for the holidays.

GCC AMBUCS will always replace an outgrown Amtryke with a bigger size tailored to the new needs of the recipient but it's not often that we have a picture of the first Amtryke being gifted to compliment a picture of the latest gift! Left and right is Sutton who received her first Amtryke four years ago when Bud Mesker was our Amtryke Project leader. That's her again at right getting a bigger one at our lunch meeting in December. Sutton is non-verbal but communicates with an electrical device and sign language. In the picture she was saying to President, Larry Windingland, "I like you!" because he was working to get a smile from her. Thanks to therapist Earl Martin, (left in the green shirt), for the picture from four years ago! We're so glad to help Sutton continue having fun and exercising on her Amtryke!



Christmas Party at Huber's West End

December is the time for Christmas parties and GCC members look forward to the one we have! This year it was in the back room at another of our long-time Bar Stool Golf bars, Hubers. The 20+ members, family, and friends mingled and mixed and made one last 2022 connection with each other. We enjoyed pizza and soft drinks on the Chapter and a little libation on our own. Then came the gift exchange where each person went by number order to choose a wrapped gift or take an unwrapped gift from another person. A beautiful serving tray was stolen the limit of three times and ended up with our Chairman of the Board, Kyle Moe and his wife Ashley. Thanks to Elaine and Larry Windingland for organizing this fun evening and to Hubers, of course, for all their support over the years! Merry Christmas!



National President Carmela Davis

Our December meetings started off right with a visit by National President Carmela Davis! Carmela was on a tour of Mid-West chapters and started off December with us. This also happened to be our Big Hat Club meeting day so Carmela grabbed her Black Hat from the car. (All members get a cowboy hat when they bring in three new members to their chapter and join the Big Hat club. They must bring it to all Big Hat meetings or they will be fined. Past National Big Hat Presidents trade in their light hat for a black hat signifying their status as a Past President. Carmela is on the right in the photo with GCC Big Hat President MaryLou Younger.)



Carmela updated us on the happenings at the National level including the progress on the new Amtryke design by the Bicycle Corporation of America. They are testing the prototype with actual riders with handicaps and tweaking a few things. The biggest plus for riders of these new Amtrykes are that they will be lighter but still sturdy and easy to take apart and pack in a car trunk for travel! No tools required!

Thanks for all the updates, Carmela!

Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Urbana Gardens on December 20th and addressed the following items:

==> approved Larry Windingland creating a draft business card for the membership

Tidbits

Member MaryLou Younger was not in her usual happy Christmas mood when she hosted the Big Hat Meeting this month. She wore a Christmas shirt that said, "Merry Whatever"! Maybe the cruise she, Wayne, and family are on will improve her mood!

Please send good thoughts to all of our members and their families struggling with health issues, even the four-footed ones!

AMBUCS Park Decorating

On December 10th MaryLou Younger, her husband Wayne, Pat Webb, and Sally Denhart headed out to AMBUCS Park to put up a few decorations in the main pavilion. MaryLou always has wonderful decorating ideas and our shed is full of objects to use. This year we used the giant wooden Christmas tree that Wayne built and MaryLou enhanced with lighted stars. For Veterans Day this year we had a display with green lights arching in two directions from the top of the pavilion. We just added more colored lights to those for Christmas. Thanks MaryLou and Wayne for all of your hard work over the years giving the people of Urbana a happy display for Christmas!



Winning Chances

12/06/22—50/50: \$8 to Cris Vowels; Attendance: \$23 could have been won by new member Brook Chilton but she was not present.

12/13/22—50/50: \$9 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$37 could have been won by Mike Foley but he was not present..

12/20/22—50/50: \$10 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$49 could have been won, again, by Mike Foley but he was not present.

