

The Buc Shot

March 2015

Calendar

April-May – Spring Roundup Membership Drive

April 11th – Finish up Christmas lights “put-away”, 1pm, Wayne and Mary Lou Younger’s house

April 17th & 18th – Central Region Spring Conference, Springfield, IL

May 28th – 4th Quarter Social, Awards, and Officer Installation

June 22nd – Benefit Golf Outing, Stone Creek Golf Course

September 19th – Scarecrow Festival, AMBUCS Park

Benefit Dinner

The Benefit Dinner Fundraiser was a great success! All the tickets were sold before the day; the food was great; and we upgraded an AmTryke for a young man who couldn’t wait to ride it off the stage! (Crowd shot at left by Larry Windingland.) We had about 220 people attending and enjoying the night.



The decorations by Mary Lou Younger and helpers were great as usual and started with an arch at the left doorway. Then around the room were stations celebrating our various projects. A wooden replica of a house and ramp was one of the first things attendees saw when they came in the entry door. As usual, they were greeted by the Dart women who verified their tickets and handed out carnations to the women. Once in the main hall attendees could see lighted stars on all the railings. These stars were borrowed from the Christmas decorations we use in AMBUCS Park. There’s an example of recycling and creative thinking by Mary Lou! Each table

had a bag with lots of goodies including pens (some nice ones donated by member Bud Mesker), paper, and little sandwich bags of chocolate.



The table decorations were won by the person at each table who was “pointed at” by the handle bars on the boxed motorcycles which also sat on the tables.



The possible grand prize, a beautiful Harley Davidson motorcycle, sat in its usual place between the two entry doors surrounded by lights. As always we appreciate the support we receive from Andrae’s Harley Davidson! The giving nature of companies like this is why our club can do as much as we do. And speaking of companies, we gave a thank you plaque that night to a representative of United Parcel Service, UPS, Chris Asmusson, who helped us with transport and storage of the 100+ AmTrykes for our National Convention give away in St. Louis. We also received a check from the Community Foundation for the purchase of 10 AmTrykes! The Community Foundation has been a great supporter of our club over the last few years and we really appreciate their continued involvement with our club!



The card games and 50/50 raffles were also a success. Maybe because of the good weather or the promise of Spring, the money was flowing fast and the \$10 50/50 raffle hit a new, all-time-high

dollar amount going to the winner and to the club. The lucky winner danced across the stage to get her fat envelope from GCC AMBUCS supporter, Renae' Strawbridge who, along with others, worked hard to sell the tickets. We couldn't do large events like this without our members and friends working so hard to make it a success. Thank you!

Thanks also to event leaders, Deb and Ray Griest, for another successful fundraiser! They spend about nine months of the year in planning the event, selling the tickets, and soliciting door prizes. Members like this are what makes the GCC AMBUCS club great!

Next year will be our 30th event and promises to be wonderful with some special surprises.

Central Region Spring Conference

It's still not too late to register for the Central Region Spring Conference in Springfield, IL, April 17th and 18th. The theme this year is **Beach Bums & Bucs** and is hosted by the Springfield AMBUCS club. The conference hotel will be the Downtown Hilton, 700 E Adams, Springfield, 217-789-0709. Registration for the conference is \$90 per member with the same cost for any guests. Each attendee must book their own hotel room. The room rate is \$95 per night.



Send in your registration today!

Organize Christmas Lights

Mary Lou Younger would like help from the members with organizing, labeling, and testing the lights from the storage shed at AMBUCS Park. Please meet at her house at 1pm, Saturday, April 11th.

AmTrykes

Project leader, Bud Mesker, continues to order AmTrykes and with the help of Scott Price, Keith Jamieson, Roger Adams, and others, the trikes are put together and delivered to people in need. President Keith Jamieson reported that clubs received a notice from National that the 1424 AmTrykes are being recalled. They have discovered that the center support can separate from the rest of the frame during a ride causing the trike to collapse. This is the first ever recall of AmTrykes since the beginning. Owners of this model of the

AmTryke should contact National to receive further instructions. The owners can choose to have the existing frame welded or can return the trike for a reengineered model.

AMBUCS Park Upgrades

On March 10, representatives of the Urbana Park District spoke with us about the next set of improvements to AMBUCS Park. They are continuing with the master plan they developed before the upgrade of the playground. There are needed improvements to the drive, to the lights in the park, and new walking paths need to be added. Representative, Derek Liebert, right



in the picture, also told us about a request from a resident of the neighborhood to the west of the park, for a sidewalk linking one of the streets in the neighborhood to the driveway around the park. The path would allow wheelchair access from the neighborhood into the park. This path would be eight feet across in order to accommodate the passing of two wheelchairs. The cost for a path like this could be as much as \$100,000. This path is designated the "southern path" and could be 800-900 feet long. The sanitary district, which owns the park land, may expand into the northwest side of the park so there will be no improvements to the ball field on

the west.

GCC AMBUCS members took this opportunity to make additional suggestions for improvements. Mary Lou Younger asked that the Park District improve the power on the West side of the park to accommodate the holiday lights. Among other suggestions was a restroom on the west side. The high costs for a restroom make a permanent one impossible but a porta potty might be placed there as an alternative. That solution does have continuing costs so the park district will have to evaluate that. Another suggestion was for more bleachers at the ball field used by the Challenger League. When the Park District redid the bleachers to accommodate wheelchairs some seats were lost. This resulted in parents and spectators having to stand during the games. We also asked about improving the area in the center of the park that currently has water issues and tall weeds. This area presents a barrier during the Scarecrow

festival to people moving from the car show on the west to the main part of the festival on the east. The park district will evaluate the club's suggestions to determine if they can be included in future improvement plans.

Visibility Month

For Visibility Month we had an article printed in the News-Gazette, the local Champaign, IL, paper, and we created a movie of our various projects throughout the year. The movie is posted on YouTube and was playing on the big screen at the Benefit Dinner. It can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/1VtIH9-r87Y>

Please keep wearing your "Ask me About AMBUCS" buttons and be ready to tell people all about what we do! If you still don't have a button, contact Larry Windingland.

Big Hat AmTryke Checking Project

Big Hat President, Larry Windingland, reminded the Big Hat members to continue to check on past AmTryke recipients to make certain they are still using their trikes. If not, the member should arrange to get the trike back so it can be repurposed and used by another person.

Speakers:

Brian Hagy and Darin Wolken

March 24th found the group listening to speakers from Developmental Services Center, DSC, about a program they operate called The Prompting Theater. Brian Hagy, (left in the picture), has been the director for 19 years and after doing some reading he realized that Champaign is quite the center for movie making so he contacted some of the people making the movies and Champaign and arranged to do a movie of the Prompting Theater's latest production, "Who Stole My Hoo-to Foo-to Boo-to Bah?".



The story is a take off of some Dr. Seuss books. They filmed the movie all around the Champaign area including Parkland College, some vineyards, County Market, and even in Brian's house. The story line starts with the main character, Simon Spingle Spore losing his Hoo-to toy and trying to find it. Simon was played by our other speaker, Darin Wolken, and he ran some of the lines for us. The movie will premier at the Art Theater in downtown Champaign, April 21st, 7:30pm. It will

be a real "red carpet" affair with the actors' dressing in their finest clothes. The audience is encouraged to also dress formally like they were on the Red Carpet in Hollywood for a big premier. There is no cost to attend the hour-long movie but they do suggest a \$10/ticket donation to the Prompting Theater to support their future projects.

Speaker:

Stephanie Glad, DSC

One of the programs at Developmental Services Center, DSC, is the Self Advocacy group. They are people with disability issues that work to help regular people to understand their challenges and to educate the public in how to interact with people with disabilities. They also advocate for the right to make their own decisions about their own lives. The group helps each other when life becomes more than they can handle. Stephanie told us about a sub-program called "Spread the Word to End the Word" which tries to get people not to use the "R" word. The group also has conferences where members can attend seminars on such subjects as living on their own, using technology, navigating government programs, and even Zoomba classes. This group has something in common with AMBUCS in that they help people with disabilities to live more independently, too.



We thank all of our speakers for taking the time to come and visit with us!

Challenger League

The Challenger League games will be starting at the end of April. The full schedule can be found on their Web site at <http://www.tomjonesleague.org/schedule> and they can always use volunteers to help the players around the bases.

Holiday Parade and Float Work

Mary Lou Younger would like to have a list of the members who worked on our float for the Holiday Parade in downtown Champaign. Please let her know if you worked on this project.

Board Action

There was a special board meeting on March 17th to discuss helping a low-income friend of a friend with the purchase of a new battery for her wheelchair. The board voted to order the battery at a cost of \$120.

At the regular meeting, the Board voted to purchase a CD, probably from Edward Jones, for \$5,000 to start our next AMBUCS Park improvement fund.

The Board voted to reimburse registration fees for members attending the Regional Spring Conference in Springfield. The two day conference fee is \$90; Saturday only fee is \$80. Please be sure to let Secretary Sally Denhart know you are at the conference when you arrive. She will pass a list to Elaine Windingland for reimbursement. Larry Windingland and Keith Jamieson will work on a basket for the club to donate to the Big Hat auction.

Ramp Building Will Begin Soon

We have several applications in the queue for ramp building and leader Ray Griest believes the weather is good enough to begin our building season. More information will be sent out as soon as dates and details are determined. Warm up your hammers, dust off your gloves, and clean your safety glasses!

Nuggets of Knowledge

For new club members and as a reminder to members who have been with us a while, here are some definitions of terms unique to AMBUCS. A full list of the terms can be found on the national Web site under Member Resources → Admin Documents.



Boot Pin – Awarded to a member who sponsors a new member during Spring Roundup

#1 Cowpoke – A title the Chapter President receives for achieving a new gain of five members during the Spring Round Up.

Spring Roundup – National membership drive held April 1st through May 31st.

Member News

Did you know that GCC AMBUCS member, James Oglesby, was holding one of the last five tickets for the drawing at the Benefit Dinner? He's the one in the black hat in the picture. (Left is GCC Member Don Dunlap.) He ended up in the last two



and they split the remaining prizes.

Member **Barb Satterfeal** fell and broke her hip. She and Bud Mesker were at the Laborer's Hall walking down a short flight of stairs when Bud caught his shoe on the step and fell. He's okay but he knocked Barb down and her hip broke. She had surgery to place a pin in her hip and will leave the hospital in early April. She will likely go into a rehab center to learn to walk again. Get well cards can be sent to Bud's address and he will pass them on. Get better soon, Barb!

Another member, **Ron Meyer**, is also having some health issues. He had several heart attacks, the last one coming while he was shoveling snow. Please take it easy, Ron! Cards for him can be sent to his home address.

Member **John Opolka** fell and broke his hand, making the third member with health issues. Since some people believe bad things come in threes, the rest of us should be safe, at least for a little while. John is well enough to drive and attended our meeting on March 31st. Heal soon, John!

And on a more fun note, **Deb** and **Ray Griest** are now the proud owners of a trike-style motorcycle. They drove to Oklahoma to purchase the 2014 trike from a private owner and brought it back via a trailer to Illinois. We look forward to seeing pictures of their spring rides.

Gambling

March 3rd - 50/50 drawing of \$13 went to Joe Dart. The \$24 in attendance money could have gone to Wayne Younger but he was not present.

March 10th – 50/50 drawing of \$12 went to Larry Windingland. The \$46 in attendance money ALSO went to Larry Windingland! Hope you bought a lottery ticket, Larry because that was your lucky day!

March 17th – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Bud Mesker. The \$17 in attendance money could have been won by Holly Snider but she was not present.

March 24th – 50/50 drawing of \$8 went to Scott Price. The \$31 in attendance money could have been won by Sandy Martin but she was not present.

March 31st – 50/50 drawing of \$14 went to Stephanie Glad, our speaker for the day. The \$57 in attendance money went to Laura Gibbs. Woo, woo!