AMBUCS™ Greater Champaign County Chapter
AMBUCS - AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUBS

The BucShot

Monthly newsletter of the Greater Champaign County AMBUCS

Please pass this on to someone who doesn't know about AMBUCS

July Amtryke Riders

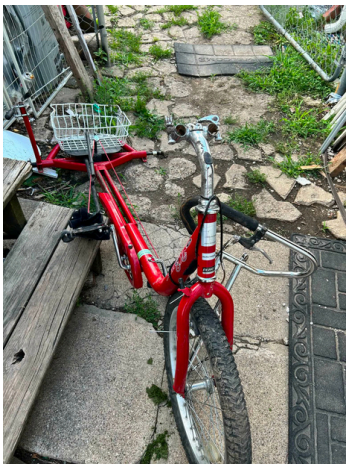
We started our monthly giveaways with little, 2-year-old, Avery. She can't walk or move much on her own right now. She was born full-term but was in 3 different hospitals in her first 6 months of life. We know the Amtryke will move her forward in walking and doing all the things a baby girl should do.

Next up to get an Amtryke was Leah. She will be starting Junior High in the Fall and has been riding an Amtryke through the halls of her current school. Leah uses a wheelchair to get around the rest of the time, but we hope the Amtryke will help her leave the chair in a classroom someday. Leah and her brothers are pictured here with our local WCIA weatherman, Kevin Lighty. He was our speaker that day. When the brothers saw Kevin, there were whispers to Mom from both sides, "We see him on TV!" All were happy to have a picture with Kevin. Check out the smiles on the brothers!

Matthew, our third recipient for the month, is 33 months old, loves Mickey Mouse, being outside, playing catch with his brothers, and anything that has to do with the ocean, especially Finding Nemo.

Calendar

National Conference—August 26-29
Golf Outing—September 21
Scarecrow Festival and Car Show—October 17
2027
Cash Bash - March 6, 2027
Amtryke Road Rally - April 25, 2027



Matthew will have to ride carefully but his family loves taking him out-and-about so he'll be well attended to.

On a less happy note, one of our riders, Jaydn, had his Amtryke stolen from their locked storage shed! Thanks to social media and great people, the thieves were caught and the pieces of the trike returned to Jaydn by the police. There will be an update on this story next month.

Happy riding to all and Jaydn, we got your back!







SPEAKERS: JACOB TYREE, KEVIN LIGHTY, AND MEGAN SCOTT



July saw three guest speakers telling us about what they do: Jacob Tyree, Wheelchair Basketball Coach at the U of I; Kevin Lighty, Chief Meteorologist for WCIA Channel 3; and Megan Scott, daughter of member Scott Price, who loves working in Morocco.

GCC AMBUCS supports the wheelchair basketball program by sponsoring athletes at the camp held in the summer. Twenty-eight kids attended this year, and our support took care of two of them. Jacob told us about some of the logistics of getting athletes to out-of-town games, which is quite a production, but they have it down pat. He also told us about how the unique design of the chairs used in the game helps the players maneuver and remain upright. Thanks, Jacob!

Kevin Lighty was born and raised in the Midwest and started his career in Terre Haute, IN. Although he doesn't like extreme weather, he admits he does like active weather over repetitive sunshine and blue skies. He has to be happy this year as he reported that Illinois now leads the world in most tornadoes. Sadly, not everyone likes TV programs being interrupted to report tornadoes touching down, and Kevin has received death threats. (People: ever heard of reruns? Streaming?) Be careful out there, Kevin!

Megan Price has been living and working in Morocco for several years now and loves it! It has a more laid back lifestyle even during work. If the administration finds out someone is taking work home, they ask, "What can we do to see that you don't have to do that?" They are all about life balance in Morocco. The US could learn from them.

Thanks to all three speakers. July meetings were more enjoyable when you joined us!



National Conference

August 26-29, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Great fun is waiting in Myrtle Beach! Not only will we have great speakers but we'll be doing fun stuff including an optional Challenger League Game. Besides the usual Big Hat Raffle tickets, an online auction will start August 15th and will run through the 25th and EVERYONE can bid. The usual live auction will be held at the Big Hat luncheon. And don't forget, we'll be right on the beach! See you there!

https://ambucs.org/ambucs-national-conference-2026/



New Big Hat Member

Will Wade

July 7th was a big day for **Will Wade**, Big Hat Day that is! He was presented with his Big Hat for bringing in 3 new members this year. Will wears his hat with pride and has already added pins to the back. He's planning on filling it all in soon.

He also got a new nickname: AMBUCS' Texas Ranger! Congrats, Will!

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Our Board of Directors met on July 30th at Denny's and addressed the following items:

- **dues statements will be e-mailed instead of sent via US mail**
- **voted to spend $300 for a tree in AMBUCS Park**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 26-27;
NOT PICTURED: SCOTT PRICE, ANDREA BETZLER

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED

July brought us two new members, Mike Martin and Jennifer Hanna! Mike was sponsored by member **Will Wade** and Jennifer was sponsored by member **Dana Daugherty.**

New members bring fresh ideas, fresh perspectives, and more warm bodies for our events.

Welcome Mike and Jennifer! (Mike, far left, Will, Jennifer and Dana)



Event Planning Has Started

Charity Golf Outing - Sept. 21

Our next big Fundraiser will be the Charity Golf Outing on September 21st. As always, we need hole sponsors; they really add to our bottom line. If someone wants more than a sign on a hole, they can be a Tent On Course Hole Sponsor and set up a tent to tell people about their business, $250.

As of this writing, we have breakfast and lunch sponsors covered but we still need golf ball sponsors, $1200, golf cart sponsors, $1800, and main event sponsor, $2500.

Don't forget, get players, players, players! And be prepared to volunteer that day. We need lots of help.

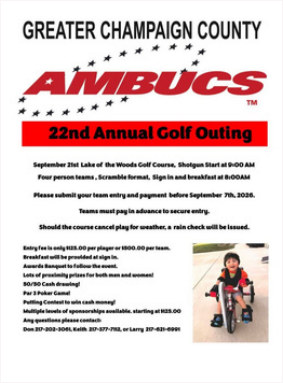
Scarecrow Festival and Car Show - Oct. 17th

The Sundowners Car Club will be hosting their 2nd Annual Dick Adams Memorial Show on the West end of the park. Flyers have been given out at other shows to draw participants. If you know of anyone who would like to show off their special car or motorcycle, give them a flyer or point them to our Website.

Vendors are much needed for the Scarecrow Festival as there is another big event on the same day. Spots in the pavilion are free and some have access to electricity.

The committee, lead by **Keith Jamieson**, will begin meeting soon so more information will be coming as we get closer to the date. (Hint: be prepared to bake!)

Flyers for both events are on our website:
http://thegccambucs.org





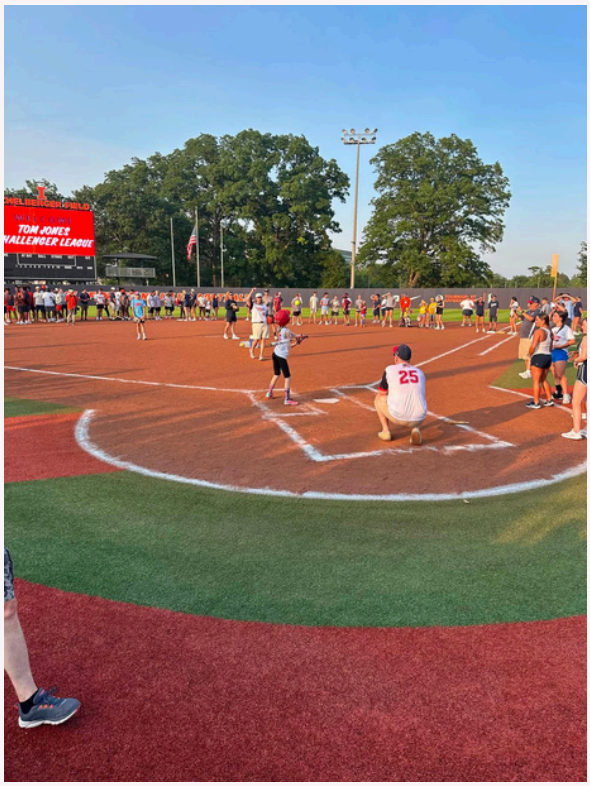


CHALLENGER LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAMES

GCC AMBUCS supports the Tom Jones Challenger League for children with disabilities. They play their softball games at AMBUCS Park in East Urbana, and we have worked with the Urbana Park District on many improvements to the field. Member **Cris Vowels** is our liaison to the league and often catches at the games on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. At the end of the season, the league arranges for all team members to play games on the U of I's Eichelberger Field and asks members of the various ball teams to act as buddies that night.

This year, Cris was in the booth with local celebrity, *Brian Barnhart*, to help announce the players' names, just like in a major league game. Brian also does a play-by-play for the many parents and spectators in attendance.

The children and parents make memories they will keep all their lives! We appreciate the Kewanis Club allowing us to help with this great group of children and for all they do to make the experience fun.



CHAPTER SOCIAL

On July 11th, members **Keith Jamieson** and **Sandy Jachio** hosted our Chapter social on their lovely patio in Mahomet. The chapter provided the pulled pork, cooked by Keith, and members brought side dishes to share. **Don Dunlap** brought his slushy machine and made piña coladas and mudslides.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect for an outdoor event. The patio backs onto an athletic field with a walking track around the outside so members were treated to dog walkers, bike riders, and all number of interesting people.

We thank Keith and Sandy for opening their home to a bunch of chatty AMBUCS! (Member **Ray Griest** was enjoying the event.)



WINNING CHANCES

- 7/7/26 - 50/50: $7 Renae' Srawbridge; Attendance: $56 could have been won by Jill Horde but she was not present.
- 7/14/26 - 50/50: $7 to Don Dunlap; Attendance: $69 won by Renae' Strawbridge for new shoes.
- 7/21/26 - 50/50 $7 to the Amtryke family; Attendance: $9 could have been won by Keith Jamieson but he was not present.
- 7/28/26 - 50/50 $12 to the Amtryke family who donated it back. Attendance $32 could have been won by David Jamieson but he was not present.

GCC AMBUCS creating Independance and Mobility for 45 years!