

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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Dan Bedell, At-Large Board Member



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Denny Strauss)

July was National AMBUCS™ Conference month. As President of the Cornbelt Chapter it was my honor to represent us at the National Conference. This year's event was held in Reno, Nevada, at the Peppermill Hotel and Casino.

This four-day event featured educational opportunities, national news, great meals, an AMBUCS™ rodeo, and many fun events. In addition to myself, our chapter had three members attending: Alan Bedell (Regional Director for our Region), Deanna Frautschi (Al's wife), and Connie Oltman (Past National President).

Some of the highlights included:

- Wednesday Evening – attendees were invited to dress up as their favorite inter-galactic characters.

This fun evening included a wonderful buffet dinner, games, and time for meeting fellow AMBUCS™.

- Thursday Morning – this time included six different educational sessions, and a general business session.
- Thursday Afternoon – this was free time and you could participate in a Virginia City Tour, a Reno Scavenger Hunt, or a golf tournament
- Friday Morning - this time included the Big Hat Breakfast and Auction, Regional Caucuses, and the AMBUCS™ Foundation Program.
- Friday Afternoon – this was free time and you could participate in a Lake Tahoe Sightseeing Cruise, and more Reno Scavenger Hunt.
- Friday Evening – this was the “Out of this World” Awards Program, where chapters received awards in many different categories.
- Saturday Morning – this time included the “Trek for Trykes” Walk-a-thon, educational sessions, and general business session.
- Saturday Afternoon – this time was the AmTryke® Rodeo. AMBUCS™ chapters donated over 40 AmTrykes® for local individuals with disabilities. Our chapter gave an AmTryke® – see Al’s AmTryke® for details.
- Saturday Evening – this was the Presidents Dinner, which included a sit-down meal, and the installation of officers. Anna Blubaugh was the out-going National President; Cliff Bauerle was our incoming National President. Greg Ferris, our Central Region Director, was elected National President Elect. Our own Alan Bedell was sworn in as Regional Director of the Central Region, replacing Greg Ferris.

In our local news for July, we built ramps (see Bill’s ramp article), we gave away AmTrykes® (see Al’s AmTryke® article), and beginning in August we are having our Wednesday Lunch Meeting at Monicals Pizza in Bloomington.

In August, we are building three ramps, and giving away more AmTrykes®. We are getting close to having a permanent location to house our ramp trailer.

Denny



- **Greg Ferris being sworn in as National President Elect by out-going President Anna Blubaugh.**



Alan Bedell being sworn in as Regional Director of the Central Region replacing Greg Ferris.



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting - **NEW LOCATION**

When: Wednesday, September 2, 2009
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All you ramp-builders!

What a job!... What a day!... and What a difference we made for Colleen! Once again, the AMBUCS™ crew got together and made a home accessible for Ms. Colleen Baker. She recently moved into her new home, but the home was not accessible. She had plenty of friends telling her what to do and even had someone start digging holes in her lawn... but no ramp... until she got in touch with our AMBUCS™ club. Professionals?... not really. Experienced?... you betcha! We built her a ramp on a Saturday morning and had plenty of volunteers to watch that "maiden voyage" down her new ramp that day. Colleen has MS and her power wheelchair was sitting in the house... with her sitting in the house, as well... and no way to get out to the store or out to enjoy this beautiful summer weather. But we changed that... and saw a pretty big smile that day... and made her life just a little easier. I have to mention that Colleen had been saving her money and even purchased some of the lumber we used that day. We were able to recycle some materials, donate some materials, and even had a local business owner donate funds to help cover the remaining costs. (If you see Dave Bratcher in town... tell him "Thanks" from the AMBUCS™!) And while you're at it... be sure to tell all the volunteers "Thanks" for making Colleen's place a real home for her. And if you want to be a part of this... and see plenty more stories like Colleen's... just give me a call and I'll add your name to the e-mail list.

Be sure to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather this summer... and while you're out and about... keep thinkin' of all the folks that we've helped with our ramp-building program. We really do make a difference in our community.

See ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

Did you know you can now receive your monthly copy of the Cornbelt Buc-etin via email? *Save a tree*, and save *Cornbelt AMBUCS™* the first-class postage...and get your monthly copy online! Just send Jerry an email at JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com.



Notes from Al...

Fortunately our AmTryke® activity is beginning to pick back up. Cornbelt AMBUCS™ presented an AM-12 AmTryke® to Andrew Peterson on June 24th at Easter Seals. Andrew and his family found out about our AmTryke® program through an event at United Cerebral Palsy hosted by Megan.

As you can tell Andrew was quite excited and was ready to go down the halls at Easter Seals. Andrew also could not wait to get home and detail his bike with a few star wars stickers. He is also looking forward to riding his bike with his brother and family. I have a strong feeling it will not be too many years and Andrew will be ready for a much bigger bike. I have another AM-12 assembled and ready for another child through Easter Seals. We are waiting for the final paper work and appropriate time to present the bike. He has been riding the older model AM-12, which is much harder to pedal and operate than the new one.



We are also working with a therapist at SPICE on bikes for two young children. Hopefully we can have new bikes for them soon and they can enjoy the bikes outdoors. SPICE also had a bike returned which we will be picking up soon and determining if it can be used for another child.

The Rodeo at National Conference in Reno was a major success again this year. AMBUCS gave away 40 AmTrykes® that afternoon. We had great coverage in the local paper prior to the conference and local television coverage at the Rodeo. They interviewed several of the children who received bikes and their parents. There were not many dry eyes in the area as these wonderful kids rode their AmTrykes® out of the fitting and assembly area.

Attached are a few pictures of Rebecca, her family, her therapist and the new AmTryke® Cornbelt sponsored for the Rodeo. Rebecca was so sweet and did very well on her bike. She really liked the bright red helmet, even though the picture may indicate otherwise. Her family was very thankful and made a financial donation to National AMBUCS™ before they left that afternoon. One of the therapist in the Reno area worked with a local foundation, which she had a very close relationship, and was able to secure a \$10,000 donation to help cover a

portion of the cost of the 40 bikes which were given away. Also the Hotel provided National AMBUCS™ with a \$500 donation for the Rodeo, which may have covered some of the AMBUC™ member losses the night before in the casino.



As usual please continue to let Heather, Megan or me know if you know of any person who could benefit from an AmTryke®

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