

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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## OCTOBER 2010

### **THE PREZ SEZ...**

(President Denny Strauss)

October is here and things are happening! We continue to build ramps at a 3 per month pace, headed towards a new yearly record? See "Bill BucHie's Babbles..." for more information on our September ramp building. We have some AmTrykes® in the works, including one to the demo site at Easter Seals.

**State Farm Volunteer Fair** - On September 21 and 22, we participated in the State Farm Volunteer Fair, at State Farm Corporate and Corporate South, from 10:30 to 12:00. Al Bedell and I manned the table at Corporate, and Dan Bedell, Jerry Wyrick, and I manned the table at Corporate South. This gave us an hour and a half at each location to let people know who we are and what we do. Some contacts were made. Attendance was light this year but it was still worth the time and effort to attend this event.

**Central Region Fall Conference** - The Danville Chapter hosted the AMBUCS™ Central Region Fall Conference on September 24 – 25. Friday Night was a fun time with a Gilligan's Island theme. We were bused on the SS Minnow to the Danville Boat Club for a buffet dinner, followed by the Big Hat Auction. Al made two banner stands (like ours) for the auction that sold for \$55 each.

Saturday morning we attended two Challenger Baseball All-Star games for kids with disabilities, run by the Danville Chapter every Saturday during the summer. It is an amazing event that everyone should see and participate in. We had lunch in a park in downtown Danville on a beautiful day, followed by speaker on autism. The Danville Chapter also gave an AmTryke® to a young girl during lunch.

The afternoon was back to the hotel for meetings and training sessions. Saturday night was the awards banquet. Again the food was excellent. Our chapter received four district awards:

- Public Relations
- Class 2 Visibility
- Class 2 Community Service
- Chapter Web Site

Note: Class 2 is for chapters with less than 50 members.

**Parenting and Disabilities Expo** - On October 5, we are again a participating sponsor in the Parenting and Disabilities Expo at the Bloomington High School, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. It is organized by "Access Allies of Bloomington-Normal (AABN)" and "The McLean County Transition Planning Committee (TPC)", and brings together over 30 groups that work with people with disabilities. Again, a good opportunity to let people know who we are and what we do.

**Fall Branding** - October/November is Fall Branding time when all AMBUCS™ everywhere gear-up to find new members. The goal is five new members. And if you recruit three new members during a 12-month period, you can become a Big Hatter, or re-Big Hat if you already are. Our club has six Big Hatters. We have promotional materials that you can use for recruiting. Plan now to get your spurs!

We have had a good start to the 2010/2011-year – let's keep up the good work of "providing mobility and independence for people with disabilities".

Denny



**State Farm  
Volunteer Fair**  
Manning the Table  
Al Bedell (right)  
Dan Bedell (left)



**Fall Conference  
Saturday Morning**  
Challenger Baseball Game  
Al and his “buddy”,  
Kids and buddies having  
fun



**Fall Conference  
Friday Noon**  
AmTryke Give Away  
Lunch in the Park



**Fall Conference  
Saturday Evening**  
Central Region Director Al Bedell  
Leading the Awards Banquet



## Mark your calendars!!!

### Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, October 16, 2010  
 Time: 7:15 a.m.  
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

### Next Noon Meeting - \*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*

When: Wednesday, November 3, 2010  
 Time: Noon  
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



## Bill Buchie's Babbles...

Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We had a great month and got several ramps built! Congrats to all of you who braved the weather and helped us complete these three ramps. First, we started a ramp for Mr. Claude Fowler on a cloudy evening... and found out that a metal carport was not a great place to "hang out" during a thunderstorm that evening... so we showed up the next day and finished a ramp for Mr. Fowler. He was glad we came back and is certainly glad we got his ramp finished!



We built a huge ramp for Mr. Jason Zicarelli on Saturday, September 18th. Again, we started out with great weather... but got "baptized" around lunch time with a brief rain shower... so we took a break and came back and finished this 42 foot ramp with three platforms after lunch. I have to tell ya'... I stopped back to the site that afternoon to pick up some of the lumber... and I saw Jason way down the road... kicking his feet and propelling his wheelchair down the middle of the street. I stopped and asked him where he was going... and he said, "I'm out, I'm out... I'm goin' out to visit all my friends I haven't seen!... Thanks!" That's the difference... we are letting people "out"... so they can enjoy the weather, visit with friends, and be free to do whatever they want!



The last ramp we built was for a group of folks with disabilities at a home in Normal... managed by staff from the MarcFirst program. We started strong at 4:00p.m. and finished in the dark with my wife bringing the last few ballisters over to us so we could finish the ramp that evening! (I think that's gonna cost me...) We had some of the clients "supervising" our work throughout the evening... and had one of the clients give his final approval with a "thumbs up" as we packed up our tools at the end of the evening. I heard from the MarcFirst program... that they were impressed that we got the ramp done in one evening.. and that they are really enjoying their new found freedom, as well... for everyone who lives there and visits them.



Thanks again for all your extra help in getting our ramps completed this season. We still have several ramps to build... and we are welcoming the students from the Diversity Project again this fall... as they join us to learn about our program and what it means to help someone with a disability by truly giving "freedom" to another. C'mon out and join us this next couple of months. We will post the schedule of our projects by e-mail... so let me know if you need to be added to our e-mail list.

Enjoy this fall weather... and be sure to carve out some time for helping others this season. The smiles you get in return will confirm your commitment to our program of helping others 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](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).