

Fall 2009

AMBUCS

TM

Creating Mobility and Independence For People With Disabilities

**Full Recap of 2009
National Conference**

Tons Of Conference Photos

**Meet New AMBUCS
President Cliff Bauerle**



AMBUCS™ is dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities.

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Mid-States Region Director:

Jack Bellware

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Great Plains Region Director:

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Southwest Region Director:

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AMBUCS™ Magazine (ID No. 16860) is published quarterly (fall, winter, spring and summer) for \$12.00 per year by National AMBUCS™, PO Box 5127, High Point, NC 27262.

Amherst Junction to Stevens Point WI 54481

Postmaster: Send change of address to

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Designed by Nelson Design Studio, LLC

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COVER PHOTO

A young rider basks in the sun after receiving her brand new wheels at this year's AmTryke Rodeo.

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Page 20, Chapter News: There were plenty of smiling faces and appreciative families on July 18 as AMBUCS held its 6th annual AmTryke Rodeo and Open House during this year's National Conference in Reno, Nevada.

2009 FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Region	Date	Host City and State	Facility
South	Oct 9-10	Charlotte, NC (Aiken, SC chapter)	Hampton Inn & Suites
Mid-States	Oct 2-4	Grand Rapids, MI (Walker, MI chapter)	Amway Grand Plaza
Central	Sept 25-26	Decatur, IL	Decatur Conference Center
Great Plains	Oct 23-24	Great Plains PNP's State Park	State Park
Southwest	Oct 16-17	Grapevine, TX (District 6-E)	Embassy Suites
Northeast	Nov 13-15	District 7D Gettysburg, PA	Wyndham

President's Message



Thank you Ambucs!

Thank you for all the hard work you do every day to help the people in your communities and all over the country that benefit from our programs. I could not be more excited than I am about the year ahead. I know with your continued efforts we are going to experience another fantastic year for AmTrykes, Scholarships, and Community Service. Together we can complete our goals and achieve everything we set out to accomplish. Individually we are limited in what we can do, but as a group we are a powerful force that can perform great things in our respective communities.

As every president before me, I call on you to help achieve the goal that I have set for the coming year. The funny thing about goals is they are easily set, but can be very difficult to reach. As president, I have tried to set a very focused and narrow path for our organization for the coming year. We have but one plateau to reach. We must charter twenty new chapters by May 31, 2010. By reaching this milestone every other program in AMBUCS will grow. Membership, AmTryke, Scholarships, Big Hatters all will benefit from this achievement. Building new clubs is not easy, but nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. We as an organization have established a great route to new club building, both in traditional chapters and friends chapters. If we just give our best efforts and follow our guidelines, we can and will build these new chapters. Your national executive board and your national board of directors will be working to give you some new tools to work with to help complete this mission. The Resource Center and both you National and Regional officers are here to help in any way possible to make your New Club Building efforts successful. Shoulders Together is more than a motto; it's a way to get things done.

Now, as we head into Fall Conferences, let's get all our Regions fired up about our upcoming year. I know each and every Regional Director is working with their host teams to make their conferences informative and fun. Be apart of your Regions growth. Attend your Fall Conferences, and step up and be a "Beast" for Ambucs.

After the excitement of being in Reno, Nevada for our convention this last July, you wonder how we can make the next gathering any better. Well the best way to make it better is for every Ambucs member to answer the call to our next National Conference. I know it's early, but mark your calendars now, and start making plans to be in Naples, Florida next July 7 through 10 at the Naples Golf and Beach Club to celebrate AMBUCS. For those of you who have never attended a National Conference, you will be amazed at the power of AMBUCS. For those of you who have not attended in awhile, it's time to come back home to your roots, and renew old friendships and recharge your AMBUCS batteries. It's never too early to start planning, so make a note in your date book today!

I am looking forward to teaming up with this year's Big Hat President, Gary Miles to get our most valuable resource, The National Big Hat Club, on board and working for our goal. I'm sure Gary and I will be announcing some fun new incentives shortly, to encourage our Big Hatters. I know Gary will have a great year as Big Hat President along with his very capable Big Hat Board of Directors.

I started by saying "thank you" for what you have accomplished, I leave you by saying "thank you" for all you are about to undertake.

Shoulders Together

Cliff Bauerle
Ambucs National President

CHAPTER NEWS



Greenebucs Members Work To Be Good Neighbors

This May, seventeen volunteers from Key bank offices in Xenia and Vandalia, OH gathered at the Beaver Creek Golf course to build 12 AmTryke therapeutic tricycle as part of their Neighbor's Day project. Neighbor's Day is a national event where 8000 employees from Alaska to Maine volunteer their time to partake in over 780 various community service projects. The projects range from Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Clubs, Meals on Wheels, libraries and senior citizen centers -- just to name a few. Key bank centers closed for the afternoon to allow these employees time off to work on their chosen projects. The GreeneBucs AmTryke building project has enjoyed a special relationship with Key Bank employees, as Louise Gibson- the relationship manager in Xenia- is

a GreeneBucs member and served as president of the chapter in 2008-09. Each of the trikes constructed were later used for two other events: the annual Blessing of the Bikes gathering and the installation of new chapter officers, where an Amtryke was presented to one member of a set of quadruplets.

Kalamazoo Chapter Featured In Local Newspaper

This July, the Kalamazoo, MI AMBUCS chapter earned major coverage in their local newspaper after organizing a very successful AmTryke Rodeo and Open House for 14 children with disabilities. The event took place on Tuesday, July 1 at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and was featured prominently in the Kalamazoo Gazette the following day. The full-page article provided readers with important background information about the Kalamazoo chapter, including its meeting time, membership fee and upcoming events. In addition, the article featured great quotes from Mid States Region director and Kalamazoo member Jack Bellware as well as several appreciative parents. The entire article can currently be viewed in the archives of the Kalamazoo Gazette website archives at <http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/>.



Longview Too Chapter Welcomes Push America Riders

Members of the Longview Too, TX chapter greeted cyclists from Push America on July 23, who rode into town as part of their "Journey Of Hope". The Journey of Hope was organized by the Phi Kappa Hil fraternity and features cyclists who travel from San Francisco to Washington, DC in an effort to spread a message

of acceptance and understanding for individuals of all ages and disabilities. The Longview Too chapter members consider it a privilege to host the group of cyclists each year while providing their guests with an overnight stay in a comfortable hotel. For the past three years, Fairfield Inn has donated rooms and provided breakfast for the cyclists. Skinners, one the local meat markets in Longview, donated steaks for the cyclist's evening meal, which was held at the home of Mark Adkisson and Carmela Davis Adkisson. The Longview Too Ambucs provided all the trimmings for the steaks and also served hotdogs and hamburgers. The cyclists also enjoyed swimming, miniature golf, water volleyball as they socialized at the dinner held in their honor. For more information about the Push America riders, please visit www.pushamerica.org.

CHAPTER NEWS



Northwest Arkansas Chapter Receives Great Publicity

Thanks to “AmTryke Mama” Sue Haywood and a successful therapy in-service she hosted that featured the donation of eight trikes to a Bentonville, AR middle school, the Northwest Arkansas chapter recently received some excellent coverage from their local media.

Actually, the publicity couldn't have come at a better time as it coincided during the week that global retail giant Wal-Mart was holding its annual Stockholders meeting. This meeting brought people from all over the world to the Rogers/Bentonville area, including stockholders, employees, managers, vendors - and tons of magazine, TV and newspaper reporters.

This article ran in Democrat Gazette daily newspaper. Not only did the article promote the AMBUCS mission but a child on an AmTryke also

appeared on the front-page masthead. “We couldn't have done better if we'd paid for it,” said Past AMBUCS National President and longtime Northwest Arkansas chapter member Connie Oltman. To see the picture and full feature story about this event, please visit NWANews.com.



Valley Forge Chapter Donates Trike

This summer the Valley Forge, PA chapter of AMBUCS was able to bring a smile to the face of a young girl named Alexandra Espinoza by presenting her with an AmTryke therapeutic tricycle. The giveaway took place on July 25 at the Spring Valley YMCA in Limerick, PA. The Valley Forge chapter was founded in 1989 and has worked tirelessly to improve their community and help those less fortunate. Current chapter officers include president Phyllis Byndas, secretary Barbara Grohoski and treasurer Margaret Sclafani. The chapter meets every second and fourth Tuesday at 6 PM.



Walker, MI Chapter Enjoys Big Dance

Fourteen Walker AMBUCS members were transformed into waiters and waitresses for The Big Dance at the Indian Trails Camp. The Indian Trails Camp was started over 55 years ago by parents who wanted to provide a camp experience for their children with disabilities. The chapter members served the campers and staffed a three course dinner (including sparkling grape juice) as they celebrated Christmas in July.

This was a great opportunity for the chapter members to interact with the campers and staff. It helped them understand why they work so hard for the camp. Last year the Walker chapter donated \$23,100 to help this great organization. Since the Walker AMBUCS chapter was chartered in 1981, it has given over \$275,000 to Indian Trails Camp. This does not

include the hours of volunteer labor that members have performed throughout the years.

It is not unusual to see chapter members out at the camp, roofing cabins, cutting down dead trees, landscaping, cleaning up and doing whatever needs to be done. Indian Trails Camp features the first AmTryke Race Track ever built and is an AmTryke Demo Site. The chapter continues to work on improvements to the Race Track and the building that houses the AmTrykes.



"Greetings!"

Many thanks and best wishes to Linda Mask. She put her heart into her job as Big Hat President. You can rest assured she will remain active and continue to inspire others with her dedication and enthusiasm for our organization.

We owe Black Hatters Kip Miles and Ray Schoonover a big "THANK YOU". These two worked countless hours organizing, promoting and documenting the Atlantis raffle project. Their hard work and your generosity helped raise over \$36,000! Adding the funds from Big Hat auctions and fines allowed Linda to present a check to National for \$77,000! Well done, Big Hatters! You can rest assured that Salina, Kansas chapter member Christie Copas was glad she bought a ticket. She will be spending Christmas in the Bahamas with three of her closest friends.

I also want to thank the three candidates who ran for Big Hat secretary. All were qualified and dedicated AMBUCS members who have and will continue to serve. Although Vance Hall and Don Smith didn't get the most votes, they are both winners. I do look forward to working with Duane Neitling over the next year, and congratulate him on his victory.

The NASCAR and Atlantis raffles were both huge successes, but a good portion of those funds came out of the pockets of AMBUCS members. It seems we dig into the same ones year after year. My goal this year is to go outside our organization for sponsorship and grants, share ideas for successful fund-raisers, and promote our organization. Bob Richard had an excellent presentation on seeking out grant money. Go to nccs.urban.org to find opportunities in your area and call Bob or myself if you need help.

Friends, our future depends on you. We need to restore

the pride and elitism of having a Big Hat. We need to wear them proudly at every Big Hat function. We need to convince those new members that an Ambuc isn't really an Ambuc until they have the "HAT". Let them know what we're about. How can someone watch the video of the Am-Tryke rodeo in Reno without being proud of the work we do and being inspired to do more? A child can't understand the recession or comprehend being on a wish list, but they sure can relate to getting that tryke. We have to make it happen.

We have a new chat room for Big Hatters at

bighatclub@yahoo.com. This is an open forum where we can exchange ideas and communicate with no restrictions. We want to hear your ideas and share your successes. Go online and check it out.

Stay involved, bring in new members, hang on to the members we have! An Ambuc without a job or a purpose will not stay active or remain a member for long. Remember, someone thought enough of you to ask you to join AMBUCS. Shouldn't you give your friends and acquaintances the same opportunity? Cliff and I will be working on some incentive programs to "Sweeten the Pot" for new hatters and re-hatters. Details will be forthcoming.

Finally, contact me with your suggestions, problems and ideas. My job description, as I interpret it, is to do whatever it takes to help YOU help AMBUCS. I look forward to working with you and HAVING FUN!

God Bless America, God Bless AMBUCS, and God Bless YOU!

Sincerely,
Gary Miles



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Welcome new AMBUCS Members!

The following is a list of all individuals who joined AMBUCS from May 29, 2009 through August 20, 2009. *Congratulations and welcome to the AMBUCS Family!*

Albright, Sheri L
Alonzo, Mark
Amblen, Peggy
Armour, Katherine
Ayers, Laurel
Bernal, Suzanne J
Bickford, Crystal L
Blizzard, Jason
Boehler, Orlie J
Boesten, Holly
Boling, Steve D
Bonnett, Steven L
Boodt, Thomas G
Branstetter, Stephanie A
Bromley, Zach
Bryant, Michael
Budd, Frank T
Bunn, Bill
Bushyhead, Kathryn D
Callahan, Shawn M
Carriger, Peggy
Carter, Corey C
Caruso, Christine M
Caruso, Jennifer A
Cervi, Michele L
Chandler, Jeff
Child Protective Services
Clement, Kim
Clement-Shaw, Jeanette
Coldiron, Gary S
Collins, Clare
Cote, Adam M
Counts, Heather R
Craft, Kayla
Crawford, Lindsay A
Crick, Joe M
Crowell, Jarrod S
Davis Jr, James E
Davis, Tammy
Dawkins, Benjamin S
Deluka, Brad
Dinteema, Pat
Donaldson, John M
Donmoyer, Brian L
Esch, Donald M
Fawcett, Jeff M
Fisher, Robin
Flegler, William C
Fortenberry, Nesley A
Franks, Helen
Fueshko, Jeremy J
Gabriel, Brian P
Geistmann, Leslye A
Germundson, Levi B
Gibbs, Laura L
Gibbs, Steven R
Glowner, Stephanie
Goebel, Jerry W
Gollahon, Victor J

Gould, Joseph M
Graham, Lindsey M
Grauerholz, Byron L
Gray, Chris
Gray, Jordan
Hackinson, Shawn J
Hailellassie, Myra Ann
Hall, Shawn M
Hansen, Karen S
Heinsohn, Sue E
Henderson, Freida
Henderson, Scott
Herren, Melissa
Hickey, Troy R
Hill, Jerry
Hodges, Chris
Hodges, Shelley
Huff, Michael T
Huff, Tony R
Huffman, Dawndrea
Huseman, Lonny
Ingram II, Kent
Jackson, Steven M
Jacobs, Joel
Jensen, Blake N
Jezak, Beth A
Johnson, Robin
Jones, Randee K
Kelly, Loretta
Kemler, Judith A
Khatib, Rabah Ahmed
King, Bret
Kingsolver, Jene
Kiser, Kurt
Koerner, John A
Kretsinger, Wade A
Kutchell, Tana
Kuzma, Elizabeth
Kyle, Kimme S
LeBlanc, Sandy G
Leisey, Chad M
Long, Jennifer
Long, Sandra K
Lorenzon, Jennifer A
Luis, Kodi B
Makowski Jr, Stanley
Manning, Jason R
Matheny, Robert Steven
McCloy, Sarah
McConnel, Joshua
McDaniel, Aimee R
McKenney, Jennifer A
Mead, Shawn
Millikan, Debra F
Mioni Jr, Joseph M
Mohr, Donna L
Mohr, Richard A
Mongold, Chet W
Moore, Kris

Morland, Bettye R
Morris, Marcus C
Morton, Lori L
Moss, David K
Muller, Joshua B
Multiple Sclerosis Society
Murphy, Cindy D
Neely, Brandon M
Nichols, Charles
Nietling, Amanda
O'Brien, Daniel
Ondo, Ronald
Ondo, Stephanie M
Otoofi, Jasmine P
Pankratz, Larry
Patterson, Randall K
Pelleorino, Jo A
Phillips, Tiffany
Piccone, Stephanie L
Pigg, Mark
Pool, Linda D
Powelson, Jay
Power, Dane D
Price, Dared L
Pruitt, Travis

Ramos, Mary Beth
Ratliff, Joshua C
Rennaker, Bob L
Reschly, Erica
Rice, Natasha A
Ritchie, Charles
Roberts, Austin
Rollins, Barbara
Ronald McDonald House of Amarillo
Saladino, Jake
Sanchez, David
Savant, Troy
Schultz, Kevin
Shaw, LeAnne
Shen, Grace
Sills, Sandra
Sluder, Jeffrey D
Smith, Chris R
Stancil, Chad
Staser, Craig A
Stein, George E
Steward, Jonathan M
Stinson, Patrick S
Stumper, Travis W
Summers, Ronny

Swallow, Lucinda
Taylor, Betty J
Terpstra, Patricia D
Troutman, Jason R
Tubbs, Cindy K
Turner, Dennis R
Uhl, Ruth
Umekubo, Audrey
Valdez, Eddie D
Vance, Kymberly D
Vargas, Maria
Walters, Cody
Watt, Jim R
Weidman, Drenning H
White, Leonard S
Whitten, Kim
Wig, Jennifer L
Willenborg, David R
Williams, Shannon L
Williamson, David H
Wiltcher, Camila F
Wimberley, Jacqueline T
Wondra, Denise
Woodman, Teresa A
Zaccaria, Christine M





Bauerle Invites AMBUCS Members To Take Walk On Wild Side

It should come as no surprise that new AMBUCS National President Cliff Bauerle chose a jungle theme for his president's dinner on Saturday, July 18.

Over the past few years, this gregarious leader from Texas has energized our organization with his infectious enthusiasm, and challenged other AMBUCS members to "unleash their inner beasts" in an effort to better serve their communities.

Blessed with great leadership skills and a knack for getting things done, he is also known for his keen wit and dry sense of humor.

But one thing that Bauerle doesn't joke about is his commitment and passion for the AMBUCS organization.

"I want to let you know that just like all of you, I love this organization, and like you, I will work diligently to see that our group grows and prospers," said Bauerle during his speech which concluded the 2009 AMBUCS National Conference in Reno, Nevada. "Together, this group is the Beast of Ambucs. We do more with less than any groups of people in the world!"

Bauerle, who first joined AMBUCS in 1998, has been a devoted member of both the Irving, TX and Mid-Cities, TX chapter. He and his wife Stacey have invested their time and personal resources to help

people with disabilities gain more mobility and independence.

Throughout the years, Bauerle has served in a number of leadership roles including Southwest Region Director, National Big Hat President and Chapter President. As an added surprise, he was named Ambuc of the Year during the Friday night awards ceremony at this year's National Conference in recognition of all the



work he has performed on the local chapter level.

Now, as National President, Bauerle has turned his focus to making sure AMBUCS continues to expand its reach and impact.

"After looking at what Ambucs needs, my thoughts are the same as everyone who has stood before you in this position," said Bauerle. "We want to grow the membership, raise more money, and promote the Ambucs mission. How can we best accomplish these three things in the quickest and most effective way? I think the answer is one that is not

new, but needs a new impetus. We need to build new clubs!"

In fact, he has announced an ambitious goal of creating 20 new chapters in the 2009-10 year. To do so, he would like to develop new models and techniques for club building and facilitate more partnerships amongst current chapters and members.

"It takes teamwork to build new clubs," he said. "There is always that sparkplug who takes the lead in club building, but he or she cannot do it by themselves. Nowhere is the motto of "shoulders together" more important than with new club building efforts."

During his president's dinner in Reno, Bauerle also announced some of his committee appointments for the upcoming year including Fred Sammons as the new chair of the National AmBility Advisory Committee, Linda Wolfert as a new member of the new Audit Committee, Don Thomas as a new member of the Investment Committee, and Marilyn Flora as a new member of the National Scholarship Committee.

"If you ask me, who is the proudest guy in America tonight, because he has been blessed to be able to call you my Ambucs brothers and sisters, I will tell you it's me," Bauerle said. "I will tell you that you are what's good about America. That what you do in communities all over our country makes our country a better place to live."

Mid Cities AMBUCS Builds A Ramp And Takes On Landscaping Project

by Brenda Pierce

When members of the Mid Cities, TX AMBUCS chapter became aware of a woman in a local nursing facility who couldn't be released to go home until she had a wheelchair ramp, they quickly rallied and accepted the challenge. While they arrived at the home to get measured for the ramp, Mr. Wendell Davis, the 83-year old homeowner, apologized for the condition of his plant hedges but explained to them that he had been spending all his time at the nursing facility with his wife. This was a perfect opportunity for the Mid Cities Ambucs to do more, so they told him that they would take care of it for him.

Chapter members Orval and Brenda Pierce, Roma and Greg Rusk, Darrell Brodrick, Walter Leach, Deidra Early and Nic Davis arrived bright and early on Saturday, July 25, 2009, to get started on the Davis project. They had a ramp to build and some front yard landscaping which needed lots of TLC.

The ramp team got busy with their project, while others began trimming the shrubs, clearing the underbrush, mowing and edging the lawn, as well as adding mulch in the beds. As the day progressed one could hear them saying "let's do...it won't take that much longer." Yeah right. What should have been a half day project turned into ten hours of hard work.

Throughout the day various Davis family members came out to express their gratitude. They said they certainly didn't expect all the things that were being done. They knew about the ramp, but not the yard work. Mr. Davis's son said that he and the rest of the family had been trying to keep up with everything for the past several months following his mother's strokes, but ultimately decided that spending

extra time with her was much more important to them than the chores, so they got a bit behind. He was assured by everyone that they would have done the same thing and that it was a blessing to them to be able to help out.

Mr. Davis told the chapter members that his wife's stay had been extended because she had another stroke the previous Monday. However, he was going to bring her home the next day for a visit, so she could see how everything was prepared for her. His hopes were that this would lift her spirits and give her the encouragement she needed to get better.

As the day progressed and the 104-degree sun beat down harder and harder, the worker's bodies began to droop a bit (okay, a lot!) and they had to literally crawl to the shade of the big tree from time to time. However, their spirits were high because they knew that they were making a difference in the lives of some very special people.

When the job was completed, they packed up their stuff, admired their handy work, and said good-bye to their new friends. Then they drove away thanking God for the many blessings He had bestowed on them this day, which included a generous donation to Mid Cities AMBUCS chapter by Mr. Davis.



Big Fun In The Biggest Little City In the World

Throughout the past year, AMBUCS members were challenged by National President Anna Blubaugh to “Step Into The Future”. This past July, they were able to do just that while celebrating the 2009 AMBUCS National Conference in Reno, Nevada. Held at the spectacular Peppermill Resort Casino, AMBUCS members enjoyed an unforgettable week of fellowship, learning and community service. In addition, they were able to witness an intergalactic-themed wedding and share plenty of “out-of-this-world” experiences. And right there to capture all the important moments on film was Longview Too chapter member Carmela Davis who graciously filled in as this year’s conference photographer.



Bikes Blessed and Funds Raised



concession licenses will be split evenly between Special Wish and GreeneBucs chapter.

Several members from GreeneBucs volunteered to man the AmTryke trailer for the day. Cookies were baked and donated as an extra treat for the riders in attendance. Additional fundraisers were held to enhance the efforts of the Moose Riders.

Longtime chapter member Alan Eakle spoke to the attendees from the grandstand, and Charlotte O'Meara, the AmBility Chairperson for the GreeneBucs chapter, introduced the three children who would receive trikes at this event. Quincy Williams, a 15 year-old from Cincinnati, was on hand to show off his new AmTryke.

With a huge smile on his face he stated, "It is awesome"!!!!

It was a picture-perfect day on Sunday, May 17, 2009, when more than 5,000 Harleys, Suzuki's, Hondas, other motorcycles gathered in the parking lot of Welcome Stadium in Dayton, Ohio for the 9th annual Blessing of the Bikes.

This gathering was sponsored by the "Moose Riders" – a group of motorcycle enthusiasts from the Dayton, OH Moose Lodge No. 73. On that day riders stood silent on the sun-splashed asphalt as Rev. Dale Peterka prayed for the riders' safety and gave a reminder to remember those less fortunate.

In addition, the GreeneBucs, Ohio chapter of AMBUCS seized the opportunity to gain more visibility and continue its mission of helping individuals with disabilities.

With over a hundred children waiting to receive their own AmTryke therapeutic tricycle, Dick and Wanda Stewart –Moose Riders and members of the GreeneBucs, Ohio chapter - organized this event to raise money to fund the trikes. All the money from admission, program books, and



AMBUCS Honors The Best of The Best

It was another fun-filled night of music, smiles and hand clapping on Friday, July 17 as AMBUCS celebrated its annual awards ceremony.

Held inside the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nevada, this two-hour event allowed top members of the AMBUCS organization to receive recognition and praise for all they've accomplished throughout the year.

Past National President Leonard Epperson served as the master of ceremonies on the evening and he did a skillful job of keeping the program moving along with his quick wit and charisma.

"Tonight we will honor our outstanding AMBUCS members, chapters and districts who have achieved great things this past year," said Epperson. "Although all of our AMBUCS members should be commended for their hard work, tonight

we will honor the very best of the best!"

He was joined on stage by several other Past National Presidents in attendance who took turns presenting each of the evening's awards.

The big winners on the night were Mike Speakmon from the Lawton, Oklahoma chapter who took home the Project Manager of the Year Award and Cliff Bauerle of the Irving Chapter who was honored as Ambuc of the Year. For Bauerle, the award came as an extra highlight in a memorable week, as he would be sworn in as the 2009-10 AMBUCS National President the following night.

Other top winners included the Mid-Cities chapter which won the community service class two award and the Mountain Metro, OK chapter which took home community service class one honors.



National Award Winners 2009- Reno, NV

AMBUC of the Year

1. Cliff Bauerle, Irving, TX
2. Sharon Goers, Lincolnland, IL
3. Darrell Roths Jr., Dodge City, KS

Project Manager

1. Michael Speakmon Lawton, OK
2. Linda Fischer Stine Southwest Dayton, OH
3. Lloyd Seitz Amarillo Palo Duro, TX

Community Service Class 1

1. Mountain Metro, OK
2. Hutchinson, KS
3. Ponca City Noon, OK

Community Service Class 2

1. Mid Cities, TX
2. Decatur, IL
3. Holland, MI

Local Charities Class 1

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Longview Too, TX | \$1,028.46 per member |
| 2. Noon Network, KS | \$700.00 per member |
| 3. Greenebucs, OH | \$550.91 per member |

Local Charities Class 2

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sooner, OK | \$2,973.18 per member |
| 2. Walker, MI | \$1,637.92 per member |
| 3. Pekin, IL | \$921.05 per member |

Newsletter Class 1

1. Greenebucs, OH
2. Edmond, OK
3. Kalamazoo, MI

Newsletter Class 2

1. Woodward, OK
2. Holland, MI
3. Loves Park, IL

Scrapbook Class 1

1. Longview Too, TX
2. Lawton, OK
3. Greenebucs, OH

Scrapbook Class 2

1. Walker, MI
2. Lawton, OK
3. Greenebucs, OH

Visibility Class 1

1. Mountain Metro, OK
2. Greenebucs, OH
3. Lubbock Monterey, TX

Visibility Class 2

1. First Seniors, OK
2. Loves Park, IL
3. Lubbock Caprock, TX

Publications

1. Dodge City, KS
2. Edmond, OK
3. Holland, MI

Public Relations

1. Walker, MI
2. Northwest Arkansas, AR
3. Noon Network, KS

Web Site

1. Mid Cities, TX
2. Lawton, OK
3. Edmond, OK

Exhibit

1. Longview Too, TX

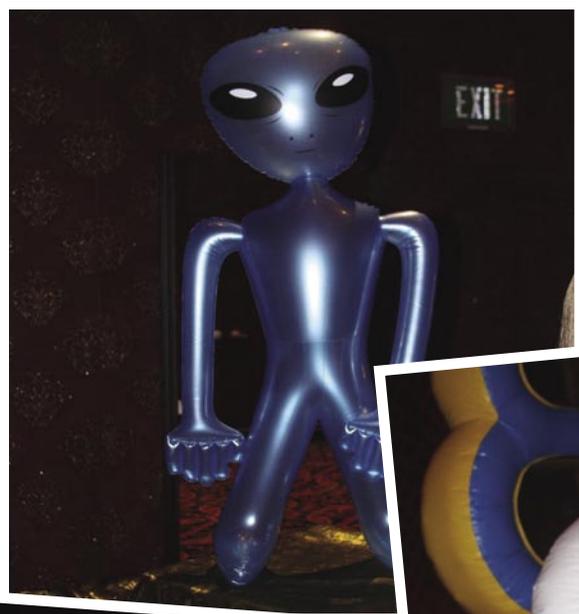
Youth Auxiliary

1. Longview Too, TX

Scenes from the 2009 AMBUCS National Conference



Scenes from the 2009 AMBUCS National Conference



Southwest Amarillo Chapter Hosts Derby Day

It was a beautiful spring morning in the Texas Panhandle on March 2nd as the Southwest Chapter of Amarillo prepared for their 6th Annual Outback Steakhouse Derby Day.

This much-anticipated event has been embraced by the local community and tables sell out faster every year. Derby Day is an annual tribute to the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs and held on the first Saturday in March. This fund-raising extravaganza offers contributors from Amarillo and around the country the chance to purchase one of about 70 tables that range from \$500 Donor Tables to the ultimate \$5,000 Track Marshall Tables.

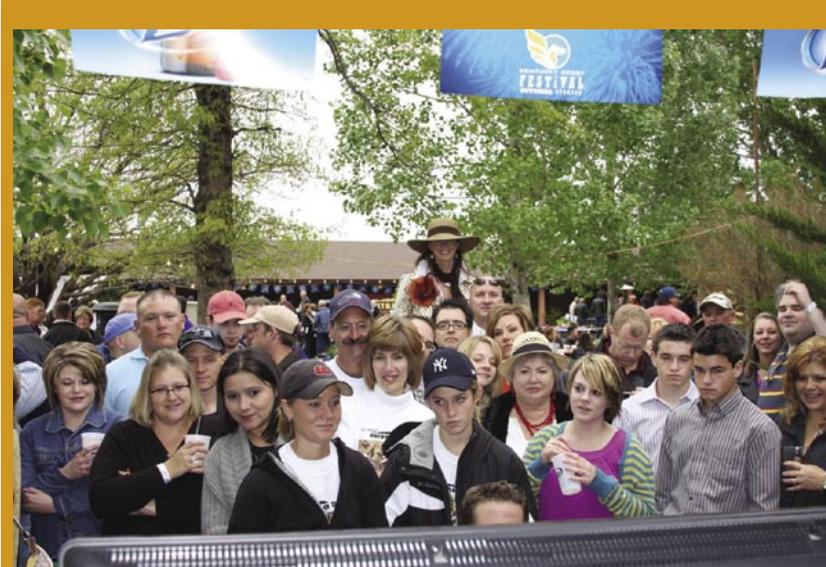
The amenities vary at different contribution levels, but all 600 guests are treated to a very enjoyable afternoon with live music, a Derby Hat Contest, the Race shown on big screen TV's, and a well-stocked Silent Auction.

One of the highlights of the day is a full steak dinner

with all the trimmings provided by Outback Steakhouse, who has been one of the chapter's biggest sponsors. Everybody has a great time with the Big Hat Wheel of Horses game, traditional Kentucky appetizers and drinks, and a spirited live auction with some incredible hunting trips and special parties available.

This year, the chapter welcomed Past National President Anna Blubaugh and her husband Dan who came all the way from Enid, Oklahoma to join the fun. The best part of the day was that the chapter was able to net \$52,000 in order to buy more AmTrykes and provide our therapy students with much needed scholarships.

This one-day event allowed the Southwest Amarillo chapter to be blessed with the ability to give away about 100 Amtrykes last year and they hope to improve on that goal in 2010.





Golfer DJ Gregory Discusses His Incredible Journey

AMBUCS was pleased to have golfer DJ Gregory as a keynote speaker and special guest during its 2009 National Conference.

Born with cerebral palsy, Gregory was told by doctors that he would never be able to walk. However, what those doctors did not take into account was his tremendous heart and champion spirit.

Today, Gregory walks with a cane and has become source of inspiration to people all across the globe. His story was featured on ESPN or the Golf channel recently where Gregory talked about his journey in 2008 when he walked every single PGA tour event. That included more than 37 events.

Gregory, who has a Masters Degree in Sports Marketing from Springfield College in Massachusetts, currently serves as the official blogger for the PGA and the Ambassador for United Cerebral Palsy. His book, *Walking with Friends: An Inspirational Year on the PGA Tour* is currently in bookstores.

In addition to offering his story with AMBUCS members during the Living Endowment Program, Gregory also attended the foundation dinner earlier that week where he shared even more of his wit and incredible life experiences.

Comedy Duo Engage In Battle Of The Sexes

The keynote speakers during Saturday's business meeting were Idora Silver and Tom Kubistant from the Silver Speaker Bureau.

When Tom and Idora get together to chat about the differences between men and women, no one is safe! Together they engaged in a light-hearted battle of the sexes titled "He Said-She Said."

Tom, who also serves as a sex education professor at a Reno-area university, represented the men in the audience during the discussion while Idora did a great job explaining the female point of view.

During their comical presentation on July 18, the two were able to enlighten and entertain with their frank and humorous discussion. As a result, they effectively taught the audience members how to better appreciate the differences between men and women.



Father Of Child With Disabilities Delivers Heart-Felt Message



There weren't many dry eyes left in the Peppermill Resort's Tuscan Ballroom on July 17 after Heath White offered his candid and emotional account of living with a daughter who has Down's Syndrome. His speech was part of the conference's Living Endowment Program, and White took time to share with fears, joy and love with the AMBUCS members in attendance.

Heath and his wife Jennifer are the proud parents of daughters, Pepper and Paisley. Paisley, their youngest daughter, was born in 2007 and diagnosed with the condition. Like most parents who learn that their child has a developmental disability, this news came as a major blow. White, who has enjoyed success throughout his life as a college football player, fighter jet pilot and accomplished marathon runner, initially felt devastated by the doctors' announcement and wondered if he could rise to the challenge of raising a child with disabilities. He even contemplated ending his running career. However, he soon realized that he was presented with a unique opportunity to bring awareness to his daughter's cause.

With his wife's support, White decided to continue to run in marathons while carrying young Paisley with him in a jogging stroller. The father/daughter duo now has competed in a number of regional marathons, proving that no challenge is too great for TEAM White.

Today, Paisley is developing at a rapid pace and is full of life. The White family, as a unit, has grown closer together and can speak with insight on what it's like to live with a child who has disabilities.

After his emotional speech, White presented a brief slideshow containing lovely images of him, Paisley and his entire family.

New National President-elect Plans To Keep The AMBUCS “Wheels” In Motion



AMBUCS National President –elect Greg Ferris is not afraid to wear his heart on his sleeves.

During his candidate’s speech at this year’s AMBUCS National Conference, he gave the audience a glimpse of his passion for our mission when he began to tear up briefly while sharing an encounter with a young AmTryke recipient.

Ferris, who will take office in June 2010 when current National President Cliff Bauerle concludes his term, described how a young girl named Adrianna arrived at a giveaway on crutches and how she and her parents were extremely grateful when she was able to ride off on her own trike.

“I saw her eyes light up when she saw her AmTryke, the big smile that she had as she rode it around the room and the tears in her parents eyes as they saw some-

thing happen to their daughter that they never thought would happen,” Ferris said. “Everyone in this room knows what I mean by this ‘look’”.

A dedicated member of the Decatur, IL chapter, Ferris joined AMBUCS in 1999. Since then he has served in a variety of key leadership roles including Central Region Director, District 4-B Governor and Decatur chapter president. In addition, he has also earned recognition as a Big Hat Club member, three-time William L. White member and a Life member.

He is married to wife Jan – also a member of the Decatur, IL chapter – and he has a son named Matt and two granddaughters, Jessica and Hannah. Ferris lists his hobbies as golf, yoga and running.

Already, he is preparing for his time in office and focusing on ways he can help AMBUCS continue to grow.

“As we look forward to what our organization will become in the future we must make sure our base is strong,” Ferris said. “We must drive revenue through the sale of AmTrykes and by increasing our membership base.

Tisdell Honored As National Therapist of the Year



The winner of this year’s Therapist of the Year Award was none other than Teresa Tisdell.

During her speech at the conference’s Living Endowment Program on July 17, Tisdell discussed how passionate she was when it came to helping others who were in need of therapy

Teresa, who was sponsored by the Enid A.M., Oklahoma chapter, has been an occupational therapist for over 14 years and has worked hard to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

In 2006 she opened NeuroResources Rehabilitation Specialists, a clinic which serves over 185 patients each month.

Establishing a “patient first” mentality, Tisdell pledged that no one in need of therapy would ever be turned away from her clinic, regardless of their ability to pay.

Tisdell also created a non-profit program recently that offers durable medical equipment and therapy to those with little or no medical funding.

In addition, Tisdell emerged as a leading political advocate for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. She previously authored and presented the Consumer Protection Act for Powered Mobility Devices bill to Oklahoma state legislators. That bill was passed and signed into law.

Irving, TX Chapter Recognized As No. 1 In AMBUCS

When it comes to carrying out the AMBUCS mission, the Irving, TX chapter has a one-track mind.

Well, maybe two tracks.

“We have a pretty diverse group of members here, but all we care about is donating AmTrykes and awarding scholarships,” said current Irving president Jerry Loftus. “Whatever it takes to improve the lives of those less fortunate, we are all motivated to make it happen.”

Despite the recent downturn in the economy and other challenges, the Irving AMBUCS members have maintained their focus throughout the past year, donating more than 120 AmTryke therapeutic tricycles to individuals with disabilities and also emerging as one of the nation’s top sponsors of scholarships for students who are aspiring to become therapists.

During this summer’s AMBUCS National Conference in Reno, Nevada, the Irving Ambucs were recognized for their hard work by being named the No.1 Superior Chapter in the entire organization. This honor is bestowed each year to the chapter that earns the most scorecard points.

“It felt great to receive that kind of recognition for our organization, especially when you consider all the great work the other AMBUCS chapters are doing” Loftus said. “We just try to help out people who really need our help, which is the greatest feeling in the world.”

Founded in 1968, the Irving chapter currently has a membership base of over 40 dedicated volunteers. To raise the money needed to fuel their community service efforts, chapter members organize a number of key fundraising events throughout the year, including three major poker

tournaments and an extremely successful golf tournament. In addition, they have attracted corporate sponsors in their community who can be counted on to make sizable donations.

The chapter itself is propelled by a number of influential leaders including current AMBUCS National President Cliff Bauerle, Past National Big Hat President Charlie Young, Past National President Bob Whitney, past AmBility Advisory Board Chair Jack Spurlock and longtime member Joe Edwards. Together, members of the chapter donated over \$300,000 last year to the AMBUCS Living Endowment Fund.

The Irving Ambucs hold their chapter meetings each Thursday at noon at the local Panda Café restaurant in Irving.

Loftus, who is a retired airline worker, joined the Irving chapter a little more than two years ago. He said it was an AmTryke giveaway organized for a young girl with disabilities which first ignited his passion to become heavily involved in the organization.

“When I saw how happy she was to ride her new trike, the smile on my face went from ear to ear,” said Loftus. “I just had so much fun.”

For more information on the Irving AMBUCS chapter, please visit their website at <http://www.irvingambucs.org>





Conference Walkers Raise Record Amount for AmTryke Program

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more picturesque view than the one that awaited AMBUCS members and supporters on the morning of July, 18 in Reno, Nevada. In front of a majestic backdrop of the Sierra Mountains, participants gathered at 7 AM and embarked on an exhilarating morning stroll around scenic Virginia Lake Park for the 4th Annual Trek for Trykes walk-a-thon.

The event was organized to fund Am-Trykes for individuals with disabilities in the Reno area and thanks to the fundraising efforts of this year's walkers a record amount of over \$24,000 was raised.

"It's so rewarding to be able to make a difference in someone's life and to help them increase their mobility," said Longview Too member Carmela Davis who served as co-chair for this year's trek alongside Past National President Cynthia Young. "I myself am an avid jogger so it was an added bonus to be able to get in some cardio this morning while also helping to support the AmTryke program."

This year's Trek drew over 60 walkers who worked diligently to fund raise for the event both around their communities and via online donation page created by AMBUCS. The top three fundraisers were Carmela Davis, Patty Vannoy and Lori Blake.

In addition, the walk-a-thon was also made possible by a number of generous corporate sponsorships including a \$10,000 donation from the Robert Z. Hawkins Foundations.

"It seems like this event just keeps getting bigger and better," said Davis. "I can't wait to see what we'll be able to accomplish next year."



6th Annual AmTryke Rodeo Brings Plenty Of Joy

The scene inside the spacious Tuscan Ballroom was one of laughter, smiles and excitement on July 18 during the 6th Annual AmTryke Rodeo and Open House in Reno, Nevada.

This year, over 40 individuals with disabilities from the Reno area were able to ride away with their very own AmTryke therapeutic tricycle, while also being introduced to the wonderful work of the AMBUCS organization.

“Words can’t express our gratitude for all that AMBUCS has done today” said Jason Gowins, the parent of a trike recipient. “With this AmTryke, my son will finally be able to ride around our neighborhood and play with some of the other kids in his age bracket.”

AMBUCS members from all over the nation raised money to fund each of the trikes donated during the Rodeo, which included the new ProSeries 1424 and HP-1000 models. This event was also made possible by a partnership with Children In Motion therapy facility who identified the trike recipients months in advance and worked hard to generate visibility in the community. Some of these participating therapists included Rebecca McFadden, Susan Richards and Saundra Gumfory.

As a result this year’s Rodeo attracted a great deal of media coverage including an excellent preview article in the Reno Gazette daily newspaper as well as a heart-warming report on the Saturday evening edition of the local ABC affiliate, KOLO TV. A video of the Rodeo TV feature can currently be viewed on the homepage of www.ambucs.org.



Scholarship Winner Dedicated To Helping Troops

There can never be enough respect and admiration given to the brave men and women who serve in our nation's military. Our soldiers constantly find themselves in harm's way, while asked to protect our country and persevere our way of life.

Inspired by their commitment and sacrifice, current AMBUCS Scholarship recipient Justin Zimmerman is dedicating his career to aiding those military members who are in need of therapy.

Zimmerman, who is enrolled at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is on pace to receive his doctorate in physical therapy in 2010.

After graduation, he himself plans to enlist into the armed forces where he will serve as an Army Physical Therapist.

"The guidance of influence of both military and civilian physical therapists has reinforced my feelings of honor and respect towards this profession," said Zimmerman. "As an active and motivated person myself, I understand the need for full mobility and function. This strengthens my willingness to provide effective care to injured individuals."

Sponsored by the Longview Too chapter of AMBUCS, Zimmerman has been awarded an AMBUCS scholarship in each of the past three years.

The scholarship has been extremely important for Zimmerman since he and his wife Shelia are now raising a young daughter and are expecting their second child this October. Because of the rigors of his studies, he is unable to work a full-time job, leaving the financial burden



of his household to currently fall primarily on his wife.

"Although I try to work whenever possible, our total income is not enough to support our living expenses as well as pay for graduate tuition and fees," he said. "The AMBUCS scholarship not only allows me to complete my studies but it helps out entire family as well."

Since 1955, National AMBUC-

STM, Inc. has been awarding scholarships to therapy students in their junior/senior year in a bachelor's degree program, or a graduate program leading to a master's or doctoral degree. Today, AMBUCS has emerged as the largest private awarder of scholarships to therapy students.

Recipients for this year's scholarship award were determined in June and are currently posted on the AMBUCS website.

This year 207 scholarships were awarded totaling \$139,675. The average award was \$674.75.

Once again, Zimmerman was thankful to have been selected and is very excited about his future.

"By attending the physical therapy program at the University of Missouri-

Columbia, I am continuing to develop my leadership potential and knowledge essential to not only the therapy profession, but also my future career as a military officer," he said. "The pride of selflessness and determination are feelings that I will continue to have as a military physical therapists."

Check Out The Latest Items From The AMBUCS Store

If you weren't able to pick up souvenirs from this year's AMBUCS National Conference, don't fret. The AMBUCS gift store still has plenty of commemorative items available from Reno, Nevada, as well a ton of other cool merchandise.



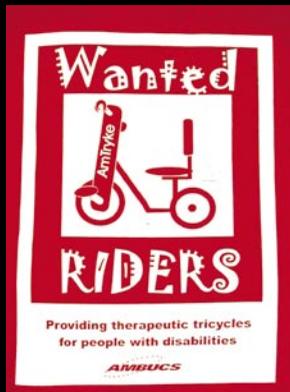
Chapter Mission Banners - \$75

Now for just \$75 AMBUCS chapters can order their own personalized mission banner. These 2.5' X 6' vertical banners are made of an extra-durable vinyl material and come with a set of four clear adhesive hangers.



AMBUCS Brief Case - \$25

This durable, royal blue brief case is sure to come in handy for those heading to the office or back to school. It features a front flap and double buckle closure. It also has an adjustable/removable shoulder strap and interior organization and compartments. Please refer to item number BRIEF when ordering.



Wanted Riders T-Shirt - \$10

Everyone will love this bright red t-shirt. The front is plain red, the back contains a white graphic with the main words "Riders Wanted", a drawing of an AmTryke in motion, the AMBUCS logo and the description "Providing therapeutic tricycles for people with disabilities." These t-shirts were a great hit at the 2009 AmTryke Rodeo! Sizes available M-XXXL



Big Hat Polo-style Shirt - \$25

Show off your Big Hat pride with this silk touch 65/35 poly cotton red shirt that is silky soft and supple to the touch. Shirt is embroidered with the new Big Hat logo on the left chest. Available in ladies' sizes S-XXL, plus 1X, plus 2X and men's sizes S-XXXXL. Red only. Please refer to item number C500BH when ordering.



Big Hat Logo Cap - \$10

This red 6-panel hat with double piping on the bill and Velcro closure is a perfect alternative when you can't wear your Big Hat. This hat comes embroidered with the new Big Hat logo. Please refer to item number CAP3BH when ordering.

Memorial Contributions

Memorial contributions to the Living Endowment Fund are an excellent way to support AMBUCS™ Scholars- Scholarships for Therapists, the AmBility™ Program and Cornerstone Growth and Development, while honoring the memory of a friend, relative or acquaintance who has passed away.

Contributions are credited to the donor and toward total Living Endowment giving for the chapter, if the donor is an AMBUCS member. A distinctive memorial letter is sent to the family of the deceased advising them of the donation and identifying the donor.

A listing of memorial contributions is included in each issue of the AMBUCS Magazine.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Living Endowment Fund, request a memorial transmittal envelope from your chapter secretary, from AMBUCS Resource Center or include the following information when sending your check to AMBUCS Resource Center.

- In memory of (deceased)
- Name, address and the relationship to the deceased or to the person to whom the letter will be sent
- Your name, address and chapter

All contributions to the Living Endowment Fund of National AMBUCS Inc. are tax-deductible. The following contributions were made through 8/12/09.

<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
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AMBUCS™ Memorial / Honorarium Form

Name: _____

I would like to support the programs of AMBUCS with a gift of: ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$10 ___ Other Amount: _____

Please direct my gift towards:

___ AMBUCS Scholars, Scholarships for Therapists ___ AmBility™ ___ Cornerstone Growth and Development

This gift is in Memory of:

Name _____ This gift is in Honor of: Name _____

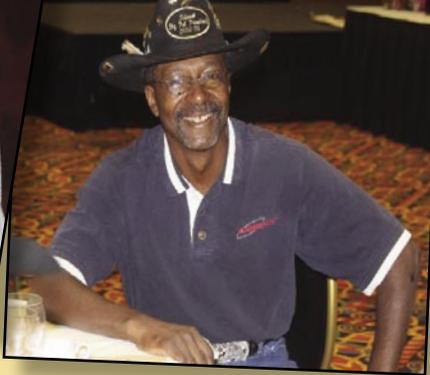
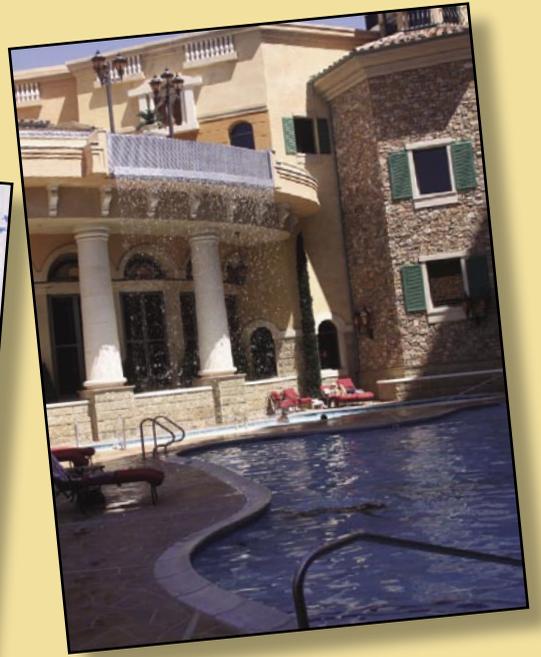
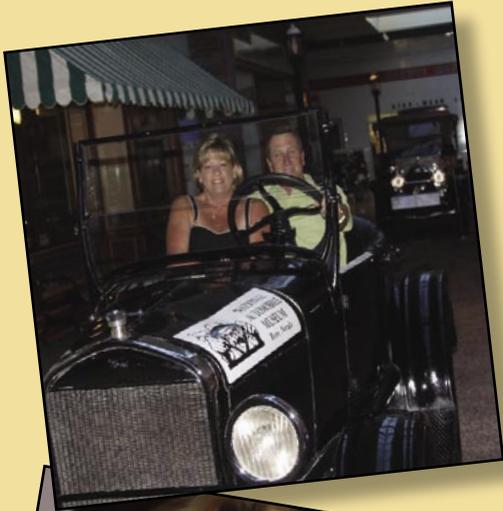
Please notify the following person of my gift:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Please mail form and donation to: AMBUCS Resource Center • PO Box 5127 • High Point, NC 27262

A final look at Reno



See you next year in

