



The Ratchet



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www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 127 March 2008

Chili Chowdown a Success

The 2008 version of the *Chili Chowdown* is history except for the fact that about fifteen Rotarians have yet to pay for their tickets. Their names will not be published here but woe be unto them in the April issue. When all of the money has been collected, our profit margin should be about \$5,800. We served 774 this year which was 22 more than last year, but 128 less than in 2006.

Thanks to Mike and Melissa for all of the hard work they contributed and to Main Street UMC for allowing us to use their facility.

The pictures below are examples of all the volunteer help we had from Rotarians. To see more pictures of volunteers, go to our website, www.altongodfreyrotary.org.



Rotary Programs



Apr 7 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Tom Harris, an Elsie resident, who was a participant on the re-enactment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 2004 and 2005. He traveled all the way to the Pacific Coast with the group and has many interesting stories of his adventure.

Apr 14 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for April will be honored.

Apr 21 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Golf outing to precede. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Apr 28 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Fourth Quarter Club Assembly. Plans for 08-09 Rotary year to be announced. Committee organization presented.



Student of the Month Essays

In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

Summer In Peru

By: Amelia Millemon



Last summer, I went on a mission trip to Peru. I was in the capital city, Lima, which has a population of over eight million. The summer seems like such a long time ago, but the experience changed my life. Those fifteen days were filled with firsts: my first time flying, my first time out of the country, my first time away from my family for longer than a week. I ate new foods, shopped in an open air market, and used my Spanish skills for the first time. However, not all of my new experiences were so exciting.

I saw true poverty for the first time. I washed the hair of children who had never had the luxury before. I encountered litter and pollution far worse than any here. But what shocked me the most was not the poverty. It was the joy of the children. They lived with next to nothing, yet they were more cheerful than children here. Seeing how they could be so lively while living with so little has really made me rethink my attitude about

material possessions. Of course the children would have been glad to have toys, but they were happy without them. We do not have to have the latest and greatest things to be joyful.

I have also gone on two mission trips with my church to the Appalachia region in Tennessee. Last summer, I helped run a day camp for the local children. Those children also had less than the average American child, but they were still happy. When do we lose that childhood joy that comes from just living and being with others? Maybe it is when we start comparing ourselves to others, or maybe it is when we begin to choose for ourselves what to do with our money. I love working with children because their joy is infectious. They don't care if I am wearing designer clothes, they are just glad I am playing with them. Working with underprivileged children has not only given me a better appreciation of what I have, but a better attitude on living which I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

A Great Catch

By Stephanie Wilton

History was made two summers ago. Two summers ago, my family tree stood a little taller and stretched its branches a little wider. Two summers ago, my uncle caught a homerun ball at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, home of the White Sox, your 2005 World Series Champions. Now you may know someone who has caught a homerun ball, but I highly doubt that person caught it right before a pitching change, which means the shot of you stealing the ball from midair plays over and over again on the Jumbo-tron in slow-motion. Did the crowd cheer every time the shot of you and your catch was shown on the Jumbo-tron? Ya, didn't think so. My uncle is a blessed man.

Uncle Jim was born a die-hard Cubs fan. He has stayed faithful to them through the good and the bad. Wait. Have the Cubs had good times? I like to point this out often to Uncle Jim. Victorry. Oh, the benefits of being a Redbird fan.

Back to the story. When I go to visit my family in Chicago during the summer, we always go to a baseball

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game. Since Cubs tickets are hard to get a hand on, we always settle with White Sox games, which is fine with me. At the beginning of this particular game we attended, my experience was far from exceptional. We went early for batting practice. A very nice pitcher from the Twins threw a ball up to me as a symbol of his undivided love for me. Kidding. He really did throw a ball to me though. This would have been an exciting event if I had not missed the ball, letting it fall to the people below me. Dang the luck.

Long story short, during the game

a soaring homer came roaring towards our seating area, which was right next to the Twins bullpen in the outfield. Uncle Jim grabbed his mitt and reached wayyyy over the bullpen and made an amazing catch. The crowd went crazy for him. It was a sweet catch. It was such a great catch that fellow White Sox fans were buying him "over 21" beverages.

We raced home after the game to watch the sports segment on the news. Maybe...just maybe Uncle Jim's catch would make the news. We watched anxiously through commercials, through other game highlights, our foreheads dripping with the sweat of anticipation. Finally, like water in a desert, Uncle Jim's catch colored the screen with the announcer in the background, "great catch by a fan!" The living room went wild! We had made the news. I say "we" because I was in the corner of the screen watching my uncle in amazement. Ya, I made Chicago primetime news.

My uncle recorded this particular news program and now has it on tape. I think everyone has seen it once, and seen it again, and seen it again. That mere 10 seconds helps us to relive the one night that my uncle was a celebrity. The night Uncle Jim left the ball park giving high fives to complete and total strangers who were shocked by his homerun catching expertise.

May 3 Busch Stadium

Rotary Family Day at the Ballpark, 2:45 p.m. Tickets are \$32 or \$45 purchased in advance. Proceeds go to District Literacy Projects.

May 5 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Annual Golf Outing
 Time: 12:30 PM Tee Off
 Game: 4-Man Scramble
 Cost: \$75.00 per player
 Dinner: Steak Fry starting at 5:30 PM
 Auction: Live Auction starting at 6:15 PM followed by Golf Awards and 50/50 Drawing.

May 12 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m.
 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for May will be honored.

May 19 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Golf outing to precede. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

May 26 No Meeting

Memorial Day Holiday

-Bill Hoagland, Program Director



March Minutes

The March 10, 2008 meeting of directors of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Josh Farley. Others in attendance were, Roland Hansen, Scott Neudecker, Mike Osborne, Bill Moyer, Sam Stemm, Bryan White, Rod Elias, Martha Morse, Tom Turpin, Ford Phillips, Ron Mayhew, Ken Spells, Dick Jones and Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary.

Others in attendance were Mike Seymour, Ed Morrissey and Larry Thompson.

On a motion by Ford Phillips, seconded by Bill Moyer the minutes and treasurer's reports were approved

In Club Administration, Larry Thompson said the National Conference is being held in Los Angeles this year. He asked the Board to pay his \$347.50 registration fee. On a motion by Bill Moyer, seconded by Tom Turpin the request was approved. For the Piasa Foundation Dick Jones reported that there is \$16,094.66 in the account.

In Club Public Relations, for the Chili Chowdown Ford Phillips reported that the Telegraph donated 4 ads and WBGZ donated two weeks of advertising. Also, we have received a \$6000.00 Public Relations grant from R.I. that will be used for advertising on KEZK.

In Service Projects, Mike Seymour reported that Chili Chowdown was a success and the new location worked out very well. When all the member ticket money is collected the total fund raising effort will net \$5,766.36. On a motion by Sam Stemm, seconded by Bryan White the Board approved a \$250.00 donation to Main Street Methodist Church. For the Literacy Grant we will receive \$1,000.00 grant from District in April. The Club will distribute the dictionaries to the schools in August. Josh Farley reported that the City will turn on our Centennial Fountain the 3rd week in April. The Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 5, 2008 at Rolling Hills.

In Foundation, there was no report.

In Membership, Ed Morrissey has proposed John Hopkins. His membership was approved pending his attending two meetings. On a motion by Scott Neudecker, seconded by Sam Stemm the board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Dan Adams.

In old business, Ron Mayhew said microphone system is still on order. The projector system can be purchased for \$300.00. Josh Farley found out that only the Executive Board can go to Grown Association events. On a motion by Dick Jones, seconded by Bryan White the board decided not to renew our Growth Association membership this year. Concerning the 3 wheel carts Bill Moyer is still gathering information. Bill is also working on getting paint donated to paint the Christmas Tree Trailer.

In new business, Ed Morrissey presented a proposal to the Board for a fundraiser called St. Baldrick's that benefits childhood cancer research. At a St. Baldrick's event volunteers shave their heads for donations. Ed would like to us be the first Rotary Club in Illinois to do this project. The request was referred to committee for recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary

February Report

Previous Balance	\$21,876.80
cleared payments	8,779.70
cleared deposits	2,094.54
Cleared Balance	15,191.64
uncleared payments	1,533.29
uncleared deposits	2,048.00
Account Balance	15,706.35
New Payments	1,480.51
New Deposits	5,458.75
Ending Balance	19,684.59

Club Officers 2005-2006

President.....	Josh Farley 1211 Callahan Dr, Alton, 462-5257
Vice-President.....	Scott Neudecker 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Secretary.....	Ford Phillips 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Treasurer.....	Roland Hansen 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2005-2006

Ron Mayhew-3rd yr	Ken Spells-2nd yr
Bill Moyer-3rd yr	Sam Stemm-2nd yr
Mike Osborne-3rd yr	Jasper Fischer-1st yr
Dan Saeger-3rd yr	Martha Morse-1st yr
Tom Turpin-3rd yr	Alan McBride-1st yr
Dana Eastman-2nd yr	Mike Tillman-1st yr
Rod Elias-2nd yr	Brian White-1st yr
Dick Jones-2nd yr	D. Jeannine Kelly-PP