



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2006-2007

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Donald J. Faber, Harpoon Editor

P.O. Box 131217
Ann Arbor MI 48113-1217
www.annarborrotary.org
a2rotary@comcast.net
(734) 662-1734

Meetings: Wednesday at noon
U-M Union, 530 S. State St.

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsors the [U-M Rotaract Club](#) and the Interact Clubs at [Huron](#) and [Pioneer](#) High Schools
"Harpoon" is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Contact the club to subscribe by email.
Copies of recent editions are available as .pdf files at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>

The Program for Wednesday, November 22, 2006

Speaker: Ted McLogan

Topic: "In the Jungles of Burma with Merrill's Marauders – Memories of World War II"

Ted McLogan was part of an infantry force that spent 125 continuous days and nights behind Japanese lines in the Burmese jungle, subsisting on air drops. Troops under his leadership captured a strategic target now known as "McLogan's Hill." Almost 90% of the total force did not survive the ill-fated campaign to establish an overland supply route to China. Our fellow Rotarian was one of barely 300 who did, and it will be a fitting (if belated) commemoration of Veterans' Day and a vivid Thanksgiving Eve reminder of sacrifices for which we must be forever thankful to hear him recount those experiences.

Host/Introducers: Hal Flynn

Song Leader: Russ Collins

Accompanist: Tom Strode

Looking Ahead



November 29 (Wednesday noon) – Deb Polich will wrap up a solid month of in-house speakers with her talk, "Artrain USA – from Ann Arbor to Washington, DC to Nenana, Alaska." Preceding the meeting at 11:00 will be the second of two "Committee Showcases." This one will focus on the committees related to outreach and other external functions.

Note: Details on all the luncheon programs for November are on the website at <http://annarborrotary.org/november.shtml>. Paper copies will also be available on the attendance table at the meetings.

News from the Meeting of November 15, 2006



The understated Jim Irwin

Invoker Jim Irwin gave a reading of a poem by J. Fred Lawton, titled "Roses that Bloomed in the Snow," an account of the 1950 Snow Bowl game at Columbus between U-M and the Buckeyes. It goes like this:

"The place was Columbus, Ohio. The time, 1950 A.D.
With Michigan playing the Buckeyes. Oh, bring back that memory to me!
Right there, in a wild, swirling ice storm, with temperatures hovering low
A miracle happened...we saw it...The Roses that Bloomed in the Snow!
The Rose Bowl depended on this one, this game on the ice rink out there,
Our hopes for a victory seemed shattered, then happened a punt and a prayer.

Ohio's Vic Janowicz punted, with less than a minute to go.
The prayer – a blocked kick for a touchdown – and Roses that Bloomed in the Snow.
All credit to our Tony Momsen, who fell on that snow-covered ball.
All hail to sleet-covered warriors, to Benny and Crisler and all.
But don't forget freezing alumni, whose wild, shivering voices we know
Were joined in the prayer that planted
The Roses that Bloomed in the Snow.”

It was a truly Maize and Blue Rotary luncheon, with many members togged out in U-M colors. The Big Game Nov. 18 was on everybody's mind.



Daphne Slater and the STRIVE students

President Ingrid urged folks to give \$100 to the Every Rotarian – Every Year Campaign of The Rotary Foundation, money from which will go to immunize children in northern India. Jamie Walsh, a U-M Rotaractor, came to the podium to tell us of her imminent trip there for that purpose and to thank the Club for our help with some of her expenses.

Daphne Slater (at podium in the photo) from Stone School introduced four STRIVE students who have achieved good grades and top performance. They are: Montez Miller, Tyesha Parker, Jessica Poteat and Tykeyla Washington.

Jim Rasmussen briefly outlined a Rotary Friendship Exchange trip to Brazil along the Amazon River. For more information, see the article later in this newsletter.



Doug Paterson

Phil and Elaine Alexander introduced new member Doug Paterson, pastor at First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, and a proud Yooper from Marquette. Doug, a lover of the out-of-doors, is a former Rotarian from Grayling. In the coming weeks, we will meet Jim Berlucchi and Jesse Bernstein, the two remaining members from our class of November 8.

At the District 6380 Foundation Gala on November 9, our club received two certificates for outstanding giving. One was for First Place in Total Foundation Giving in 2005-2006. The other was for First Place in Total Giving to the Annual Programs Fund (our EREY donations) during 2005-2006.

Tree planting ended last Saturday in the rain at Esch Park. Thanks to all Rotarians who contributed to the several plantings around town.

Artrain has been singled out for a special national award. Details to follow, but congratulations to Deb Polich and her staff!

President Ingrid pointed out recent newspaper articles on outstanding Junior Rotarian Seth Buchsbaum and Ypsilanti Rotarian John Barfield.

Notes from the Program of November 15, 2006

Introducer Tom Dickinson jokingly said “I can't wait to get this over with.” When he was finished, we sang a lusty version of “The Victors” and maize-clad members “turned their backs” on speaker Greg Cook, executive director of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, and unabashed Buckeye booster. Greg took it all in good humor and produced his own Ohio State helmet and baseball cap to adorn the speaker's lectern.

The AATA, Greg said, enhances and improves our quality of life in town. He said “we hope to go county-wide in the near future.” Ridership is up 25 percent over the last few years on the 27 fixed routes around town. The 6:30-9:30 a.m. is the maximum period - “we're packed with people on the bus.” To the question, why not smaller buses, he said a second fleet of smaller buses is economically inefficient and that large buses are needed to handle peak demand.

What does AATA do? The A-Ride goes door to door for the disabled; Good as Gold is a shared ride for seniors; the Night Ride is a late night shared ride, door to door; and the Holiday ride is a shared ride, door to door, on seven major holidays. For special events such as the Art Fairs, football Saturdays, the Saline Celtic Festival and U-M Commencement, the AATA provides special shuttles.



“We now have five lots of Park and Ride with free parking,” said Greg. “Our go!Pass has over 4,000 participating employees who ride the bus.” In 2000, there were 300 cars in Park and Ride; that number has risen to 800 cars in 2006.

AATA incidentals: Every single bus has a bicycle rack. Greg said “our ridership is one of the most diverse in the country,” citing students, seniors, regular users, handicapped persons and others. The AATA budget breaks down to operations, 70 percent, maintenance, 20 percent and administration, 10 percent. Greg said 12-20 hybrid buses are coming in fiscal year 2007 as part of a capital grant program. Our budget challenges, he said, include rising fuel costs, a reduction in state assistance and employee health insurance.

Ads on buses generate about \$83,000 a year, on its way to \$200,000/year in the future. Greg said he valued AATA's partnership with U-M. As an industry leader, AATA leads in clean-burning fuel, hybrid electric replacement buses and was first in the Midwest to use low-sulphur fuel. And on the horizon? Detroit to Ann Arbor rapid transit. (May the day soon arrive!)

Note: You can learn more about the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority from their website at <http://www.theride.org>. The Ohio State University is online at <http://www.osu.edu/>.

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber, Harpoon editor. Peter Wright took the photographs at the meeting.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 152 members. We also had nine guests (including the Daphne Slater and the four Strive candidates from Stone School). We were also joined by visiting Rotarians Rich Voorman (Ann Arbor North) and Jamie Walsh (U-M Rotaract). Earlier in the day, 14 members participated in the Board of Directors meeting. The Program Committee met just prior to the luncheon. Eighteen members attended. At the same time, twelve members took part in the Committee Showcase.

The report from the Rotary Tutors at Angell School for September and October was processed. Fourteen members conducted a total of 68 sessions. Several spouses also participated. Participation in the first two tree planting sessions was credited. Twenty-eight Rotarians earned a total of 35 attendance credits. The Rotarians who were planting trees were accompanied by a number of spouses, Rotaractors, Interactors and neighbors, not to mention City Forester Kay Sicheneder and members of the Parks staff. The STRIVE breakfast on November 13 was attended by six Rotarians.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: November 19 – Thad Carr and Judie Lax; November 20 – Jack Dobson; November 22 – Bob Guenzel and Burt Voss.

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: Phil Alexander (Huegenot Trail, VA on November 3) and Hal Flynn (Ypsilanti on November 6).

Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting: At the board meeting on the morning of November 15, the resignation of Jefferson Porter was accepted and it was noted that the total value of the Permanent Endowment Fund has reached \$1.25 million.

“Every Rotarian – Every Year” Campaign in Full Swing: More than 100 members have already donated so we over halfway to the total number that participated last year. If you wish to donate, you can retrieve the #2 invoice from the 1-2-3 bill you received in July and follow its directions. If you have misplaced your #2 invoice, simply make out your check to “The Rotary Foundation” and mail it to the Club address (see the masthead of this newsletter) or give it to Downs Herold or John at an upcoming meeting. John will see that it gets properly credited.

Former Long-time Member Bob Bliss Passes Away: Bob was a member of this club from 1967 to 2004. His obituary was published in the Ann Arbor News on November 15. You can read it online at <http://www.legacy.com/annarbor/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=19931559>.

Tree Planting Project Results in Donation: After our tree planting session at Esch Park, the Club received a donation of \$100 from an appreciative neighbor. The check will be deposited into the permanent Endowment fund. This donation and other expressions of gratitude and cooperation are evidence that our Club's work is gaining notice and making a difference in the community.



Brazilian students and Rotary volunteers

Rotary Friendship Exchange to Brazil in February 2007: John Rasmussen is organizing a Rotary Friendship Exchange proposed for Feb.2-12, 2007. He wants to invite Rotarians to visit Rotary Project Sites such as the Soccer Court built by Rotarian volunteers for Brazilian children in 2004, the Bill Chase Dental Clinic and three classrooms built by our volunteers in 2006. He has air fare quotes and needs to firm up the trip by early December to book flights and guides before carnival season. He says that travelers will also go to the beach and cruise on the Amazon! Contact John at publicmkt@aol.com.

Rotarian in the News: In the November 16-22 issue of the Ann Arbor Business Review, Dan Stewart was recognized. He has been awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation by the CCIM Institute. Of the estimated 125,000 commercial real estate practitioners in North America, only 8,600 hold the CCIM designation. Congratulations, Dan!

Flag Exchange: Pictured below are the most recent flags we have received from visiting Rotarians or as the result of our member's visits to other clubs.



Links of Interest: Below is a list of links to various websites that will be of interest to Rotarians.

- **Rotary International:** <http://rotary.org/>. The RI home page has links to About Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Club Locator and Member Access. Registration information for the Annual Convention is on-line at: <http://rotary.org/events/conventions/2007/index.html>
- **Zone 28:** <http://www.zones27-28.org/>. The zone level is between RI and the district. We are part of a zone with 15 districts covering the lower peninsula of Michigan, the upper parts of Indiana and Ohio and even a bit of Pennsylvania and New York.
- **District 6380:** <http://rotary6380.org/>. This is the website for our district. District 6380 covers a total of 50 clubs in the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb and Kent (in Ontario). The district's monthly newsletter is also posted here.
- **Rotary Club of Ann Arbor:** <http://annarborrotary.org/>. This is our Club's own website. It contains a great deal of background material and current information such as the descriptions of upcoming programs and an archive of current and past Harpoons.

“Lead the Way”