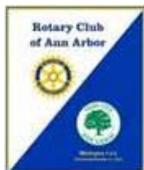


Harpoon for the Meeting of April 22, 2009

The .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) version posted on the Club website at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>.
Submit news, committee meetings, and announcements to "a2harpoon@umich.edu"



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor 2008-2009
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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>

April is Magazine Week on the Rotary Calendar

IN THIS ISSUE:

Senior member initiative
Tree planting date and locations
Volunteer opportunity: Success by 6

Program for April 22, 2009

Program: Group Study Exchange Team from Australia

Topic: Michigan-Canadian Group Studies for Aussies

Meet a diverse group of young Australian business people, in our District for a month and in Ann Arbor for several days. Led by Brisbane Rotarian and business development consultant Alison Blomkamp, the GSE team includes farm manager Jeff Stark, detective/constable Ian Skinner, web designer/developer Ryan Blunden, and accountant Ian Shaw.

Host/introducer: Bill Dunifon **Song Leader:** Russ Collins **Accompanist:** Maurita Holland

Upcoming events

April 22--Committee meetings, Anderson Room

Rotate Your Food, 11:15 a.m. (pyhouse@umich.edu)

April 24 – PolioPlus Benefit Concert: Do your share. 7:30 p.m., Skyline High School Schreiber Auditorium, 2552 N. Maple (1/2 mile north of M-14). Tickets are \$30 general admission and \$50 preferred seating (\$25 tax-deductible). Contact Joanne Pierson, jpierson@umich.edu or Andrea Bernardini, bernardiniaad@gmail.com

April 29-- Speaker: Deborah Loewenberg Ball, Dean, U of M School of Education speaks on "Becoming a Nation of Mathematically Literate People . . . What Will it Take?"

May 3--Senior Showcase with Pre-Glow at Barbara Bryant's home (smithsms@umich.edu)

May 16 – Success-by-6 Touch-a-Truck Event: Up to 30 Rotary Volunteers are needed to help staff the trucks and information tent. Details below. Sign up at the desk before and after the meeting on the 22nd or contact Nishta Bhatia, Nishta_b@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Notes from the Meeting of April 15

Thoughts for Tax Day from Dave Keosaian: Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is quite as satisfying as a tax refund. A tax loophole is something that benefits the other guy but if it benefits me, it is tax reform. The difference between a mosquito and an IRS agent is that one is a bloodsucking parasite, the other is an insect. I wish I could pay my taxes with a smile, but cash is required.

Ed Wier introduced 3 Rotary Interact students from Huron High School.

President Jim summarized today's Board meeting as follows: We now have 319 members. One high school scholarship will be named after Anna List, the Huron Interact Club student who was killed last year. Club's Endowment Fund value went up by 7% last month. Work is now starting on the Community Services disbursement.

Sam Offen asked that we complete the Club survey; the results drive Club plans for the upcoming year. Sam will have paper copies at the next meeting. He also needs additional volunteers to help compile the results.

President Jim reminded us to register for the District Conference, May 1 – 3 at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth. This is an easy drive for a delightful experience.

Charlie Crone introduced Bruce Duncan, a new member. Bruce, a banking manager for Comerica Bank, is moving to Ann Arbor. Bruce and his wife, both competitive sailors, have 2 sons, one at the Naval Academy and one in high school.

Joanne Pierson and Andrea Bernardini reported that our Club has 40 more tickets to sell for the April 24th PolioPlus Benefit Concert at Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple, north of M-14, 7:30 pm. This would be a great time to host a friend. Contact Joanne at jpierson@umich.edu or Andrea at bernardinad@gmail.com for tickets. THE CLUB IS DEPENDING ON YOU!

Norman Herbert described "Success by 6," a county literacy program to give pre-school children the necessary skills to prepare them for academic success. Over 500 families in the county are now participating. "Touch a Truck" on Saturday, May 16th 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at Briarwood will be a chance for young people to see fire trucks, ambulances, also for children and their parents to learn about the program. Norman needs 30 volunteers to help staff the trucks and introduce parents to the various programs and resources. Training will be on Wednesday, May 13 prior to the Club meeting. Talk to Norm or Nishta Bhatia for more information.



Karen Kerry, along with Lois Jelneck and Ingrid Deininger, described a new committee to help senior members get to meetings, to greet them, and to support them with health issues. Emeritus status will be awarded to Rotarians age 80 with 20 years of membership. Contact Lois or Ingrid to nominate Rotarians who might benefit from this new program.

Tree planting will be Saturday, April 25, starting about 8:00 am at Scheffler and Sylvan Parks. This requires about 30-35 volunteers to complete the planting and to rake mulch. The holes are already dug. Just think--you can learn a trade while having fun and drinking coffee.

Program Notes from April 15



Agnes Reading introduced Will Minnette who spoke to us on the *Personal Energy Transport (PET) Program, the Gift of Mobility*. The PET project builds hand-made, hand-cranked wheelchairs for developing countries where conventional wheelchairs are not suitable. People not capable of walking because of polio or land mine injuries are sometimes forced to crawl on the ground. They are unable to work, are a burden to their families, cannot marry, and often hide in their villages. However, equipped with a PET, a mason, for example, can now carry his tools in the back of his vehicle and earn his living.

The vehicles are assembled at 14 workshops around the world by volunteers. They are then shipped to areas where they are needed, such as Vietnam and West Africa, often in cooperation with Rotary International. Construction is simple as the PETs have sealed bearings and solid rubber tires so they are easy to repair. The cost per unit is \$250, for raw materials, shipping, etc.

Although regional construction is possible, materials such as steel and electric power are often not available, therefore production is located where resources are easily obtained. A PET facility will open this summer on Carpenter Road near Bemis. The project is seeking volunteer vehicle construction workers of all ages and also needs power tools.

Notes by Bob Buchanan; Photographs by Fred Beutler

Meeting Statistics: Attendance at the meeting of April 15 included 117 members. That total was below average, likely due to spring break for the public schools. We also had two visiting Rotarians (Bruce Carr of Farmington and David Koepele of Mad River Valley VT), three Interactors (Emily Hsaio and Min Lui of Huron High and Liane Racalis of Pioneer High) and five guests. Before the meeting, a total of 32 members attended meetings of the International Outreach, Interact and Program Committees. Earlier in the day, 17 members participated in the meeting of the Board of Directors. Since no one responded to last week's trivia question regarding the STRIVE acronym, John White says he will have to keep the donated Lamborghini for himself. STRIVE stands for "Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education."

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor International Humanitarian Project: Infant Cardiac Surgery in Guatemala

Every year, more than 1200 children in Guatemala are born with serious congenital heart defects. Unless they receive surgery promptly, they will die or suffer extreme disability. Fortunately, UNICAR (Unidad de Cirugia Cardiovascular), the only Central America facility capable of performing cardiac surgery on infants, is located in Guatemala City.



At UNICAR, Professor Castaneda has initiated a program of cardiac clinical diagnosis and surgical treatment, including the training of Guatemalan health

professionals. Professor Castaneda is superbly qualified in this role, since he retired as Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Cardiac Surgeon-in-Chief at Children's Hospital in Boston.



In support of this worthwhile humanitarian effort, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor has partnered with the Rotary Club of Guatemala City to provide two complete sets of surgical instruments (including one for open heart surgery). The total cost of the project is \$17,000, of which the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor provided \$6940. The project has been headed by Prue Rosenthal, with the assistance of Jim Cook and Nishta Bhatia. *(Report by Fred Beutler)*

Missed a Meeting? Listen to the Podcast. (Yes, we are entering a new era!) Follow the link: <http://www.annarborrotary.org/podcasts>. For sign on instructions, see the *Harpoon* of April 8.

Makeup Cards from Roving Rotarians: Elaine and Phil Alexander (Escondido Sunrise CA on March 26), Brad Bowersox (Saline on March 5 and Ann Arbor North on April 8) and Bob Mull (Belleville on April 14).

Birthdays: **April 19**, Mike Marich; **April 20**, Barbara Debrodt, Mark Ouimet; **April 23**, Larry Hastie; **April 24**, John Debbink, Bob Mull

“Make Dreams Real”

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.

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 53 clubs in the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland and Macomb in Michigan and Kent in Ontario. The district's monthly newsletter and other individual articles of district-wide interest are posted here.

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor: <http://annarborrotary.org/>. This is our Club's website with background material and current information including the current Annual Report, Strategic Plan, New Member Nomination Form, Committee Descriptions, Club and Golf Outing brochures, synopses of upcoming programs and an archive of current and past Harpoons. Find our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57896502278&ref=ts> Also, find our meeting podcasts at <http://www.annarborrotary.org/podcasts>

Our club also sponsors the following Rotaract and Interact Clubs:



U-M Rotaract Club: <http://uofmrotaract.wordpress.com/>

Huron High Interact Club:

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/huron.interact/home>

Pioneer High Interact Club:

<http://www.pioneerinteract.blogspot.com/>

“Make Dreams Real”