



Did You Enjoy
The Perfect Weather?

Serving Residents of the Butternut Valley Since 1938

The ROTARY CLUB of MORRIS, NY

Chartered February, 1938 Charter #4887
Gary Johnson, President Selean "Sam" Koury, Governor
District 7170



2009-2010 Rotary Theme

Volume 71

September 14, 2009

Number 09

Meetings every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Town House, Morris, NY

Last Meeting – August 31, 2009

The regular weekly meeting was called to order by President **Gary Johnson**. The location in the pavilion of Guy Rathbun Park was special to accommodate an end-of-summer picnic. It was a dish-to-pass event and everyone was fed very well. Special thanks go to: **Gerry Bourgeois** for supplying fresh-picked sweet corn, **Juanita Brown** for husking all the corn and doing so many other set-up tasks, McDonald's Family Restaurant of Norwich for contributing Hi-C orange beverage, and **Matt Meyers** for donating ice cream for dessert.

The day was blessed with perfect weather although a chill descended onto the Butternut Valley toward dark. We had a huge turn-out with many current and past Rotarians, honoraries, family members, and special guests. Oneonta's **Dick Breuninger** was the only visiting Rotarian but honorary members **Ron Halbert** and **Herb Sorensen** also came with their spouses. Past president Rev. Ann Blair dined with us. Local favorites Harriet Ryther and Barb English came with Rotarians Mike and Hank respectively. Jaro Dlouhy brought along his first host family. And a featured guest was German Rojas, our inbound exchange student from Mexico in 1978-79. German attended with both his wife and children ...and one of his Morris hosts, the



Visiting exchange student Jaro Dlouhy, Cassie Schwarzhans and John Lopez got a quick history and geography lesson focusing on nature's bounty in the Empire State. **Ron Hay** led the students through the displays and museums of the New York State Fair.

Faye Wilcox family of Garratsville. The 2009 picnic featured good food and conversations with many old friends.

Rev. Norm told another bad joke and Happy Dollars were collected but most other elements of a normal meeting were suspended.

Announcements — **President Gary** praised members Matt, Hank, Roger, Mike, and Harry for an afternoon's work on the renovations of the Lynn Tractor building. Significant progress was made and Jim is very pleased with the ground-level storage space. --- The September schedule was reviewed. It will be a month of special events with no meeting on Labor Day, a fireside chat, the new teacher dinner, and a pork roast on the month's other Mondays. --- **Sharon Bosco** says the agenda for the fireside chat includes supper at the Town House followed by an evening of Rotary background information at her house. She'll serve dessert.

A Backward Glance

Monday's outing revived a long-standing late-summer tradition. Several members contributed memories of the club's past picnics. Honorary **Bill Stowell** had earlier recalled when the first picnics were held at Glimmerglass State Park. In those days, legendary members like **J. L. Miller**, **Guy Rathbun**, **John Kogut**, and **Howard Sheldon** took all day to move utensils and china (and some claim even a piano) from the Morris Manor Farm. Stowell told of sweeping the sawdust away to get blocks of ice from the Manor Farm's ice house. Harriett confirmed the preparations, noting that the first picnic that she and Warren attended was a dress-up affair with men in suits and ladies in gowns.

Royce Webster said the picnics became informal family-friendly affairs complete with softball games (and closer to home) when **Bruce Norton** started hosting the event.

The nature of the picnic changed again when **Mac Godley** assumed the annual party at the hilltop cabana on his estate during his retirement years. Luxury returned. However, the spectacular location led to a few scary moments one year when the brakes of **Herb Sorensen's** car failed while returning down the steep hill back to Route 51.

Active Members

Bosco, Sharon *
Bourgeois, Gerard *
Breuninger, Mary *
Brown, Juanita *
Burdick, William
Conroe, Jeffrey +
D'Amico, Michael +
DeLaurentiis, Teresa
Frankel, George +
Fusco, Nancy *
Graves, Harry *
Harris, Carl
Hay, Ronald *
Johnson, Fred *
Johnson, Gary *
Keene, Richard *
Kranbuhl, Maureen
Long, Joanne
Marlier, Felice *
Matteson, John *
Meyers, Matthew
Miller, Joan
Miller, Roger *
Miller-Ballard, Lois *
Pasternak, James *
Pegg, Patrick
Phillips, CarrieLynn +
Pickens, William *
Rehmann, Henry *
Schwarzhans, Fred
Schwarzhans, Marg
Tiffany, Norman *
Townsend, Neil *
Virgil, Michael *
Webster, Royce *

YEP Students

Dlouhy, Jaroslav "Jaro"
From Slovakia to G-MU
No Outbound Students
During 2009-2010

Honoraries

Danielson, Walter *
Halbert, Ronald *
Norton, Bruce *
Sorensen, Herbert
Stowell, William *
Walicka, Terry *

* Paul Harris Fellows
+ Sustaining Members

Send Newsletter Items To
Harry Graves, Editor
skierharry@yahoo.com

Next In Rotary Service: Next Week's Meeting Will Be At Gilbertsville Presbyterian Church.

Anniversaries — **Roger and Joan Miller** celebrated the date of their wedding.

Make-Ups — **Fred Johnson** visited two neighboring clubs recently. He went to Oneonta RC on August 27 and September 3 ...and to the Milford RC on September 1.

Happiness — **Chuck Bosco** drew a laugh when he said he came to the picnic for a good meal. --- **Sharon Bosco** said she heard a ruckus in her garage, closed the door to keep the "cause" from escaping ...and is now thankful for finding a very large Have-A-Heart trap to catch the mystery critter. (Rotarians will have to wait until the next newsletter issue to see if the culprit had stripes.) --- **Mary Breuninger** just returned from California where she and Dick visited their children and grandson Leo. --- **Jeff Conroe** claims that Doris B. has already lost the keys to her new car. She laughed ...but didn't deny it. --- **Joe Gonzales** is glad he and his family were invited to tonight's Rotary fellowship with exchange student Jaro. --- **Ron Halbert** is happy to be feeling better and getting out-and-about. --- **Ron Hay** appreciated seeing German and his family after so many years. He enjoyed being a host families back in the late 70s. --- **Gary Johnson** took some joshing from other Rotarians but was happy for the fellowship. --- **Ruthann Johnson** is looking forward to her upcoming vacation Wyoming. --- **Joanne Long** was very pleased with the turn-out for the picnic. --- **Joan Miller** found an anniversary dollar. --- **Patrick Pegg**: happy. --- **Linda Pickens** commented on a visit from her granddaughter. --- **Hank Rehrmann** had a great time with the grandkids in Florida. --- **German Rojas** was overjoyed to be visiting the Morris Rotary picnic with his Wilcox host family. --- **Harriet Ryther** took a ribbing from dollar-collector Mike for "emptying her change purse" but she laughingly commented on a good summer and a great picnic. --- **Cassie Schwarzhans** noted start of the upcoming soccer season. --- **Fred Schwarzhans** took a brief vacation in New Jersey. Also, he's enjoying tonight's sweet corn. --- **Herb Sorensen** is happy to be included in the Rotary festivities. --- **Norm Tiffany** paid for his story. --- **Neil Townsend** is happy (without comment, as usual).

The Rotary Picnic Mailbag — **Before** — From **Rev. John Bowen**: *I'd really like to attend the picnic. BUT... I had a cataract operation on Tuesday and I'm stuck in Catskill by a No Driving order from the doctor.* From **Mike D'Amico**: *Raina and I will be unable to attend the picnic. We had a death in the family and we have to go to NYC Monday for the wake and the funeral on Tuesday.*

After — From **Rev. Ann Blair**: *The picnic on Monday was great! Food - fellowship - all quite lovely. Thanks for inviting me.* --- From **German Rojas**: *We had a great time in Morris. We appreciate the hospitality, it was super to see my friends from '78-'79 and also meeting new people. We overnighed at Milan, OH near by Toledo and we are going to continue today toward Chicago and then to Madison, WI.* --- From **Harriet Ryther** (via Mike Virgil): *Harriet sent us a very nice thank you note for taking her to the picnic. She said, "It was nice to be greeted by old friends and see Rotary in action again." She wanted to thank Rotary, too.*

Neighbors — **Spencer Gridley** of the Sidney Rotary Club sent the following e-mail: *Time for a Sidney Rotary tidbit - and a dollar the next time I get up there. Our Club is holding our annual Fly-In Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 8-1 at the Sidney airport on River Street in Sidney. Adults are \$5.00 for pancakes, eggs, sausage, beverages - all you can eat. Kids under 12 - \$3.00; Under 5 - free.*

Thanks ...and I love your newsletter.

Family Of Rotary

Still Remembered After 30 Years

Back in 1979, he was an exchange student to Morris from central Mexico. German Rojas was hosted by Rotarians Ron Hay, Mac Godley, Alice Quintin, and Faye Wilcox. Three decades later, he returned to Morris to share the experience with his wife and children.

German made the late-August trip with his wife Paty, son Ray (age 21), and daughters Ana Paola (19) and Yolanda (16). While in Morris this time, they stayed with Faye and Kathleen Wilcox in Garratsville. After leaving the Butternut Valley, they were going to visit friends near Chicago before continuing to Madison, WI where Ray has applied for a job with the Madison city police force.

Life has been good to German. Following his exchange experience, he returned to school in Mexico and to work in his father's insurance business. He later held positions in the Mexican government and with other insurance firms. He and Paty started their family in Mexico before migrating to the US. The family, now US citizens, makes its home in the Maple Grove section of northwestern Minneapolis. German has been the manager of a FedEx/Kinkos outlet for the past five years.

Rotarians wishing to stay in contact with German can send snailmail to him at 7495 Vinewood Lane North, Osseo, MN 55311 ...or email germanrojas@comcast.net.

