



Thanks,
Roger & Team

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

April 19, 2010

Number 39

Meetings every Monday at 6:15 PM in the Town House, Morris, NY

Last Meeting – April 12, 2010

The regular weekly meeting at the Morris Town House was called to order by President **Gary Johnson**. The meal for 27 Rotarians and guests was prepared by **Carrie Lynn Phillips** and Joanne Tuttle. **Gerry Bourgeois** drew the Eight of Hearts in the Ace of Spades contest.

Guests — Visiting Rotarian **Dick Breuninger** (Oneonta) was joined by outbound YEP student Jen Meyers and the Schwarzhans girls Abby and Cassie. Also, welcome back to **Joan and Roger Miller**.

Make-Ups — None this week.

Birthdays & Anniversaries — None.

Happiness — **Gerry Bourgeois** has next season's firewood cut and stacked. --- **Dick Breuninger** says Jen Meyers will be staying Jaro Dlouhy's home town in Slovakia next year. --- **Mary Breuninger** is giddy over the birth of granddaughter Charlotte Ann Elise. --- **Bill Burdick** reports that life is good on Meadow Lane. He says Rotarian Jeff has already started

mowing his lawn. --- **Mike D'Amico** is glad that the Schwarzhans family is well represented this evening. --- **Gary Johnson** is grateful we sang "My Grandfather's Clock" this evening. --- **John Matteson**: happy. --- **Joan Miller** welcomed both sets of grandchildren to their Florida home this winter. --- **Roger Miller**: We made it to Florida and back home safely! --- **Abby Schwarzhans** says track practice is off to a good start. She, Cassie, and Freddie are on this year's squad. --- **Cassie Schwarzhans** thanked Coach Mike for being such a dedicated mentor. --- **Lyle Smith**: Happy. --- **Mike Virgil**: Happy.

This Week – April 19, 2010

Morris Rotary will entertain the visiting Group Study Exchange team from District 1030 in the United Kingdom.

Next Week – April 26, 2010

Steve Pindar of the new Oneonta Outlaws baseball club was able to re-schedule his presentation so we could accommodate the GSE team. He'll be here a week later than planned.

Active Members

Bosco, Sharon *
Bourgeois, Gerard *
Breuninger, Mary *
Brown, Juanita *
Burdick, William
Chase, Michael
Conroe, Jeffrey +
D'Amico, Michael +
DeLaurentiis, Teresa
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
Sheldon, Matthew
Smith, Lyle
Tiffany, Norman *
Townsend, Neil *
Virgil, Michael *
Webster, Royce *

YEP Students

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

Honoraries

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

* Paul Harris Fellows
+ Sustaining Members

Send Newsletter Items To
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Community Service — It was a week of two major Rotary projects in Morris. First, the club sponsored a chicken and biscuit dinner to help fund the community's scouting programs. That project netted over \$1,300 dollars to support the Boy Scout, Cub Scout, and Girl Scout activities. Then, several members conducted the annual spring highway litter clean-up. Thanks to all who donated their time to make these projects a success.

Next In Rotary Service: Register Now For The District Conference In Owego.

Community Service

Cleaning Highways For A Quarter Century

A group of loyal Rotarians assembled on Saturday morning to scour sections of highways 23 and 51 in the first Adopt-A-Highway clean-up of the year. Chairman **Roger Miller** wanted to get the roadsides cleaned before the rapidly-growing grass hid the debris.

Participation had fallen in recent years so the club abandoned its usual Wednesday evening clean-up in favor of a Saturday morning session. After meeting at the diner for breakfast, the project started promptly at 9 AM. Despite occasional showers of graupel, two entrances to the village were cleaned - Route 23 by Hillington Cemetery and Route 51 south of Morris Central School. The section of Route 51 north of town will be cleaned at a future date.

Rotarian Roger was familiar with Adopt-A-Highway when it became an official NYS DOT program in the late 1980s. It has become so common that many residents take it for granted. When he went to the DOT office to get the clean-up supplies last week, Miller was told that 70 groups have "adopted" sections of Otsego County highways this year.

Several bags of debris were collected on Saturday by volunteers **Roger Miller, Hank Rehrmann, Matt Meyers, Mike D'Amico, and Harry Graves** with **Fred Schwarzhans** carting several bags to the dump. Observations by one of the collectors:

- There are still plenty of beverage bottles, several that were tossed out half-filled,
- Scratch-off lottery cards seem to be getting less popular,
- No valuable ...or really unusual finds ...this year, and
- At least one residence on Route 51 has a septic problem.

Follow-Up — Last November, Sidney High science teacher Richard Townsend gave a program on backyard astronomy. He offered tips that you and your family could use at home to enhance the viewing of the moon, planets, and other celestial bodies.

Sidney is one of the few local school districts to have a permanent observatory with a large telescope on its campus. Townsend said the public is invited to use the facilities several times a year, weather permitting. One of those special occasions is coming up this week as part of the school's Earth Day Birthday Celebration.

The observatory will be open on Thursday, April 22, from 8:30 – 10 PM. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. The group's publicity says *Our featured attractions for the night will be the waxing first-quarter moon, Mars, Saturn, and the Lyrid meteor shower. During this session, we will expect from five to 15 meteors per hour. We will have several telescopes available for viewing, including the main scope inside the dome.*

The SHS Observatory is located behind the high school building. Drive past the gym and turn right past the pool.

It all started in the Lone Star State.

One day back in 1984, James R. "Bobby" Evans, an engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Tyler District, was driving through Tyler when he observed debris blowing out of the bed of the pickup truck he was following. Alarmed by the incident and concerned that the cost of picking up litter was increasing at an annual rate of 15 to 20 percent, Evans began appealing to local groups to "adopt" a section of highway. His initial challenge went unanswered.

It wasn't long before Billy Black, Public Information Officer for TxDOT's Tyler District, became involved in developing the Adopt-a-Highway program. Black was responsible not only for creating a quarterly cleanup cycle for adopting organizations, but also for implementing the initial concept, which included furnishing volunteer safety training, reflective vests and equipment — and for erecting the well-known Adopt-a-Highway roadside signs that recognize adopters.

The Tyler Civitan Club soon became the first group to volunteer, adopting a two-mile stretch of Highway 69. The rest, as they say, is history. Within months, more than 50 groups in the region — garden clubs and scouting groups among them — had joined the program, which would blanket Texas and quickly spread nationwide.

Signs recognizing the Tyler Civitans' section of roadway ("First Adopt-a-Highway in the Nation") were erected on March 9, 1985 — a day that has subsequently been named International Adopt-a-Highway Day.

Demonstrating the value of a successful public-private partnership, today Adopt-a-Highway is a grassroots movement involving nearly 90,000 groups in 49 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Source: TxDOT Website

Family Of Rotary

PDG Joe Farrell Passes



We were saddened to hear of the passing of **PDG Joseph A. Farrell**. The long-time coach and Athletic Director for the Binghamton City School District served as a Rotary District Governor in 1981-82.

PDG Joe was known by many of our club's senior members. He passed away on April 7 with his family at his bedside. He was 89.

PDG Joe is survived by RotaryAnn Regina, his wife of 67 years, a daughter and two sons.