



P-E Bill Burdick
Turned 40 This Week.

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

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

Last Meeting – June 14, 2010

The regular weekly meeting was called to order by President **Gary Johnson**. The meal for a roomful of Rotarians, spouses, and guests was served at Gus' Steakhouse in Norwich. The occasion was the annual Pride of Workmanship Dinner. The Club returns to the Town House on June 21 for one week. The meeting on June 28 will be at Centennial Park in Gilbertsville. The schedule for the rest of the summer will be announced at P-E Bill's first meeting on July 5.

This Week – June 21, 2010

The Youth Exchange Program is center-stage. President Gary will give Jennifer Meyers her official send-off to Slovakia. And he'll thank Jaro Dlouhy's host families for housing our current inbound student.



Scouting – In a ceremony on Saturday, June 19 in Garrattsville, Daniel J. Nitto was recognized as the 27th Eagle Scout to be produced by Morris Troop 3. The first local Eagle was Norm Meagley back in 1925. However, Nitto was the first to earn the rank since 1996.

The newest Eagle Scout, in turn, honored former MRC member Jeff Felker for inspiring him to undertake the challenges of attaining BSA's top honor. Felker has been his Cub Scout leader and later Scout Master.

Morris Rotary helps fund the local Boy Scout, Cub Scout and Girl Scout programs. Nitto's ceremony was attended Rotarians **Harry Graves** and **Matt Sheldon** and former members Jeff Felker and Bill Sullivan.

Looking Ahead

From The Pen Of The President-Elect **Bill Burdick**

Taking into consideration what a busy club we are, my goals for the 2010-2011 MRC year will focus on maximizing/streamlining our membership's skills and efforts at running events, which is what we all seem to enjoy the most.

On the same token, I also hope to be able to provide some relief to our busy calendar by making sure that event scheduling is done at a pace that we can keep up with - especially in the spring. I hope to be able to work with various chairpersons to plan for our "fun" activities and evenings out well in advance so that as many Rotarians as possible can attend and simply enjoy fellowship after all the hard work we put in together.

I would like to add at least 3 new members and spend some time getting to know all of our newer Rotarians through classification talks and a few general informational sessions. It is also important to me to keep our "senior" members engaged and enjoying regular attendance at meetings. Their wisdom is essential to our success.

I will work with the MRC Board to tighten our budgeting process so that our hard-earned fundraising dollars are spent in thoughtfully and focused ways that will benefit our Butternut Valley community.

Regular, consistent communication will be key to my success as Club President. I look forward to another great MRC year!

Next Week – June 28, 2010

Pass-The-Gavel Picnic at Centennial Park in Gilbertsville. Officially, it's President Gary's final meeting. The club's seating arrangement changes the next week when **Bill Burdick** and his team take over the leadership. The fee for the picnic will be \$5 per person. MRC will supply the burgers and hot dogs, the drinks, and traditional strawberries and shortcake for dessert. Bring table service and a dish to pass. Spouses and guests are welcome.

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 *
- Schwarzahns, Fred
- Schwarzahns, 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
Harry Graves, Editor
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Next In Rotary Service: Our Pass-The-Gavel Picnic Is Next Monday In Gilbertsville.



A Felker Adventure In Bolivia

"He's happy, smiling all the time!" That was a proud father's summary of his son's year abroad.

It seems like only yesterday when the Felker kids were regulars at Morris Rotary meetings. Like all of us, they have grown and gone on to new adventures. Chazzman moved from his high school in Pennsylvania to the South American nation of Bolivia as a Rotary exchange student.

And, like most exchange students, he has been visiting many new places. *Things are very busy. So far I have traveled almost all around the entire country including Tarija, Potosi, Oruro, La Paz, and Cochabamba. On August 5, I will travel to Benni for ten days for photos and a fishing trip.*

Argentina is next on his travel agenda. He'll be leaving soon on an excursion that will last for two weeks.

My Spanish is much better. A few words every now and again I need help with but you will have that.

The one thing from Bolivia that will always stay with me is my trip to Cochabamba and Lake Titicaca. We took a boat to the Isle de Sol (island of sun) where we climbed a very large hill of loose rock and steep sides to find a shamen conducting a ceremony for Pattchimama (meaning mother earth). Burning fresh herbs on a small pile of coals.

He invites Rotarians and friends to share his life through pictures. *I have a couple hundred photos on Photo-bucket. If you just look up chazzmanfelker2 it should bring up my profile.*

Dad Jeff Felker recently visited to celebrate Chazzman's 18th birthday. In typical Felker fashion, they found time to go fishing. Chazz got the first Pacu ...and the race was on to see who would land the largest.

In a bit of a role reversal, Jeff was now on his son's turf. It was the younger who know the language, the layout of the city, and the customs. *It was a bit funny when he had no idea what was going on ... but all went well!*

Dad agreed. *It was one of the best vacations I ever had. I spent probably 8 hours total being a father and the rest of the week being a tourist with Chazzman as my guide. I could not have imagined not having had him show me around, translate, etc. I can't imagine how it must have been for him to not have the same resource when he moved there.*



While there, I visited the Zoo where Chazzman volunteered, his school, and several marketplaces. The markets spanned everything from what we're accustomed to ... to farmers parking their trucks on the sidewalk and shutting down ~20 blocks for a "market".

Former Morris Rotarian Jeff was also struck by the growth that his son has experienced in the past few months. *Chazzman is doing amazingly well! He was placed with a very well-to-do family who ironically parent him much like I do. He can do just about anything he wants as long as he understands the details of what, where, how, with whom, and how much. His maturity has gained tremendously as has his popularity, confidence, and general health.*

Chazzman has extended his stay 6 weeks beyond his original anticipated return and is traveling South America with members of his host family. He will return to the US in August to complete his senior year and then plans on returning to South America, possibly to go to school for Biodiversity (you'll see a strong theme in his photos).

The Rotary program routinely introduces students to different cultures and new challenges. But, like most others, Chazz sees a dilemma on the horizon. *I come back to the U.S.A on August 23. About two months left. I have mixed feelings about coming back. I want to see all my friends and family but, then again, I don't want to leave my friends and family here.*

