



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 19, 2016; Volume XXIV, Issue 3



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY BUILDS TRYKES!



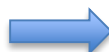
Rock Island Rotarians once again put service above self and stepped to the plate assisting in the Ambucs Tryke project. This new Club service Project caused Club members to work with Ambucs volunteers. Ambucs is a national organization that provides the specially built bikes for disabled vets and children with disabilities. The local affiliate of the group is the Mississippi Bend Tryke Organization. They had purchased the "Trykes" but needed manpower to help assemble them. Rock Island Rotary came to the rescue with several of our members gathering last Saturday at Mills Chevrolet in Davenport to help do the assembly. Besides a feeling of service to others, our members got a special treat when the selected recipients of the Trykes arrived to receive their gift. The smiles and tears of joy made the 3 short hours of work well worth the time! For many this is their first opportunity for mobility on their own.

July - August Calendar

- July 19 - Club Assembly and *Foundation Tuesday*
- July 26 - Jacqueline Holm – Quad City River Bandits
- Aug 2 - Keri Bass, Augustana College
- Aug 9 - Mark McQuate - 1 Marine 1 Life Foundation
- Aug 16 - Kenny Massey, CEO of Modern Woodmen
- Aug 23 - Rene Gellerman, Quad Cities Chamber
- Aug 30 - TBA



Rock Island Rotarians, Cathy Trone, Pete Wessels, Sue Cassatt, Steve Morenz, Tom Hammar, and Mike Locander show off two of the Trykes they build for the Ambucs Project.



An excited new Tryke Owner stops riding just long enough for a quick photo with family and Rotary Tryke builders.





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Officers

Steve Morenz, President
Bruce Peterson, 1st VP
Sue Cassatt, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
John Phillips, Past President

Board Members

Dave Geenen
Jim Nordquist
Molly Shattuck
Al Metz
Angela Campbell
James Benson
Billy Puckett

Co-Sergeant At Arms
Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Program Chairs 2016-17

July – Aug: Kyle Vietti
Sept – Oct: Dave Geenen
Nov – Dec: Gary Rowe
Jan – Feb: John Wetzel
Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
May – June: Bob Swanson

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

This week's raffle featured cash and wine from Lo Milani's famed cellar. Larry Tadlock was the first lucky winner and he snatch the Milani wine. Frank Lambert was the second ticket pulled and, as usual, Frank took the money! Raffle proceeds provide the matching funds our Club provides for those who work toward Paul Harris Fellow status. Thanks to all who participated!

Club Notes & Announcements!

- **Welcome Guests!** The Club was visited today by Mark McQuate, a prospective member and guest of Kyle Vietti. The Club also welcomed Rotarian visitors, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. We hope you enjoyed our lunch and hospitality!
- **Volunteers Needed for JDC!** The Moline Rotary Club has the 18th hole during the John Deere Classic. It takes about 10 to 12 persons at all times to make this happen and the Moline Rotary is extending an invitation to Rock Island Rotary to help cover the slots. The classic is the weekend of August 11, but will run from Wednesday thru Sunday. Your entrance fee is free, but you will have to buy a Tee Shirt that costs about \$25. You get free snacks while on duty and a free lunch at noon time. If you are interested, please contact Sam Wray at 799-5160 or Kent Crippen at 787-3514.
- **Collecting For School Supplies!** With the school year rapidly approaching, Rotarian help is needed to ensure students at our adopted school, Earl Hanson Elementary, have what they need for a successful year. Our Literacy Committee will do the shopping; we just need to fill their purse! A donation box will be at the Sergeant's table next week. Drop whatever you can in the box. With back to school sales going on, \$5 will provide scissors for 10 students, or notebooks for an entire class.
- **Have Items for our Newsletter?** For July publication send items to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net. August items should be sent to Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com.

A REMINDER FOR SOME – NEW INFO FOR NEWER MEMBERS

TABLE BOWLS - The bowls in the center of our tables are for tipping Mark and Michelle who serve our weekly luncheons. We gather the funds each week and typically present the funds during the Christmas Holiday season. Your generosity is appreciated and helps to keep our luncheon costs reasonable.

THE AUSTIN RULE - One of our great Rotarians was Charlie Austin, father of current member, Chuck Austin. Charlie was totally committed to service above self and donated to Rotary at every opportunity. He became well known for bringing in newspaper clippings that mentioned anyone named "Austin" and claiming they were some long lost relative and he'd pay a \$1 fine during *Rotarians In and Out of the News*. During his time in our club, Tracey Austin was one of the most prominent pro-tennis players in the world, and of course every time she was mentioned in the sports section, Charlie would claim her as a "Cousin Tracey". Gradually his ploy caught on and the club adopted the "Austin Rule" in his honor. Any time your last name (or even a reasonable facsimile of it) appears in print or on the air you may be fined!

CLUB COMMITTEES BUSY NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Today's meeting featured a Club Assembly in lieu of a guest speaker. President Morenz open the session by noting that many members, and in particular, newer members don't know what our committees are doing, and what opportunities members have for service by joining committees of that are of particular interest to them. He then asked each committee chairman to present a brief description of their purpose and current activities.

Here's what is going on in your Rock Island Rotary:

MEMBERSHIP – *Chairman, Bruce Peterson.* The Membership Committee is always looking for help in the effort to bring new members into the club.

Bruce mentioned that Rotary membership is by invitation only, meaning that unless those of us who are current members invite prospective members to visit, we absolutely will not grow. Bruce said he doesn't want to see us become a small group of elderly folks sitting around a lunch table wondering where our Club went. We're all on the Membership Committee!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION – *Chairman, Bud Phillis.* The International Foundation is Rotary's main arm in funding international projects. There are three "buckets" where our donations to the Foundation can go. 1) Designated Funds, such as the campaign to eradicate Polio, and efforts to provide clean water to areas suffering from unsafe water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. 2) The Annual Fund, where funds collected are held for a short time and then 50% is returned to Rotary Districts Worldwide for distribution to clubs in the form of District Grants. The other 50% is spent to fund Rotary's worldwide projects. 3) The Endowment Fund, where funds are invested into perpetuity to ensure Rotary's future. A portion of the income earned from the investments is spent annually to benefit current and future Foundation grants and program.

ROCK ISLAND CLUB FOUNDATION – *Chairman Frank, Lambert.* Our Club Foundation accepts donations from members which are invested. Currently the Club Foundation has approximately \$275,000 in purchased investments. Annually a portion of the income earned from the investments is transferred to our Club's general fund earmarked for use only for projects that benefit our Rock Island Community. Over the past few years Foundation Income has been used to help fund the Botanical Center's Children's Garden and Rock Island High School's new Entrepreneur and Enterprise program. **NOTE THE DISTINCTION** – The Rotary International Foundation supports major international projects. The Club Foundation supports local Rock Island Community projects.

BUDGET PRIORITIES – *Chairman, Frank Lambert.* Budget Priorities is committee that directs our Club's support and funding of requests received from our Community. Requests come to the committee and are screened, discussed, and voted on by committee members. Their guidelines are that grants may be given only to programs that deal with 1) Children at risk 2) Literacy 3) Poverty and hunger 4) Environment 5) Education/School events 6) Violence/Community Safety 7) Individuals with Disabilities. We do not fund political campaigns of any type or funds to a single individual. Annually the committee administers \$6,000 in grants.

FUNDRAISING – *Chairman, Cathy Trone.* This committee provides the fuel that make Rock Island Rotary go. Through Birdies for Charity, Trivia Night, Dueling Pianos, Dining Books, and other efforts the committee spearheads fundraising for the club. **We have to support them!**

Don't Forget BIRDIES!



Chairman, Kevin Koski, reports good progress toward our club goals for the 2016 Birdies For Charity drive. Remember, all funds pledged go to our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation used solely for projects that benefit Rock Island.

Club goals were for 40 members to make pledges. Kevin reports we are just 3 pledges short of reaching that goal. The cash goal was 90 cents, and Kevin says we have already far exceeded that plateau and are setting new records with each new pledge. We have 94 members and so far 37 pledges!! Let's get going! Pledge forms are at the Sergeant at Arms table. Make your pledge today!

YOUTH EXCHANGE – *Chairman, Jeff Dismer.* The Youth Exchange Committee facilitates both incoming and outgoing high school age students for a year-long foreign exchange experience. They solicit and screen student applicants from Alleman and Rock Island High School wishing to spend one of their high school years abroad as a Rotary Exchange Student. They also serve as our Club's primary contact and advisor of incoming foreign exchange students sponsored by our club who will attend either Rock Island or Alleman High School. All Club members are urged to invite and include our Exchange son/daughter in family outings and social events to ensure the student has a broad experience of Midwestern America activities and culture.

LITERACY – *Chairman, Anne McGlynn.* This committee ensures that Rock Island Rotary is deeply involved in improving literacy throughout our Community as an important cog in carrying our Club's mission to be a catalyst for improving the Rock Island community. The committee has provided books for local summer programs, and works hand in hand with our Earl Hanson Partnership Committee.

EARL HANSON PARTNERSHIP – *Liaison, Tammy Weikert.* Rock Island Rotary "adopted" Earl Hanson Elementary School in Rock Island and provides support for the school in many ways. Each month during the school year Rotary purchases books used as gifts to Hanson students having birthdays during the month. Rotarians attend the "Birthday Book" celebration, hand out the books, and enjoy refreshments and often Fred Houlton's harmonica performances. The committee also hosts an annual "Meet and Greet" with the faculty and principal; a "Pumpkin Palooza" fieldtrip taking kids to the Pumpkin Patch; an Angel Tree that provides Christmas gifts to needy students; tutoring provided by Rotary members; an annual Essay Contest with student essays written about an aspect of *Rotary's Four Way Test*; Rotarian help in the school library; preparation and distribution of summer packets containing math/science activity books, rulers, pencils, glue, markers, etc. in an effort to minimize the summer "slide back" that often impacts students. Rotary also provides a Chess Team coach for the school (Rotarian Tom Hammar) and custom made pillows for kindergarten children to give to their mom's (made by Rotarian Tricia Barron and decorated by the kids).

INTERACT, RYLA, ENTREPRENEUR CLASS – *Chairman, Mike Locander.* Interact is a high school version of Rotary. Members of the Interact Club elect officers and participate in various service projects. Rock Island Rotary established the Interact Club at Rock Island High School and helps fund their faculty adviser. Rock Island Rotary provides guidance and assistance to the club as needed. Frequently members of the Interact Club will visit our Club to observe full fledged Rotary in action.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a leadership training program for high school students. Each year Rock Island Rotary helps fund four to six students from Rock Island and Alleman High Schools. The program is a two-day event held in Oregon, Illinois. Students participate in team building and multiple leadership activities. The Entrepreneur Class is a program established in the 2015-16 school year at Rock Island High School. Students are divided into teams and develop plans for a new product or service they would like to market. The curriculum includes all phases of business and finance required for establishing a successful business. Like the TV program "SHARK TANK" at the end of the school year each team presents their product or service idea to potential investors with the hope that their idea will blossom into a thriving business. Last year out of 9 teams, 5 received investor proposals.

BERT BLOOD SCHOLARSHIP – *Chairman, John Wetzel.* This committee administers our Bert Blood Scholarships, given to students based on their 4-H projects. The scholarship was created in honor of Rotarian Bert Blood who had a strong interest in the agricultural roots of the Quad Cities. Committee members serve as judges as applicants present their projects. The winners make their presentation to the entire Club. 1st Place wins \$1,500, 2nd Place wins \$1,000, and 3rd Place wins \$750. The program also includes an annual update of the activities of the University of Illinois Extension Service. The Extension Service assist our committee by partially funding the scholarships.

GLOBAL PROJECT COMMITTEE – *Chairman, Bob Swanson.* This committee was formed after our club's visioning retreat set a goal for Rock Island Rotary to develop a 3rd World Clean Water Project. Over the past two plus years the committee has investigated potential projects in Uganda, Nicaragua, and most recently, Kenya. One of our club's members has made an initial and substantial donation to get this project off the ground. Unfortunately, the logistics, politics, red tape, and sheer distance involved with undertaking an international project tends to make progress slower than we would like. Not only do we need to determine where to do our project, but also what type of project we will do, with options ranging from drilling a well to providing individual households with water filtration units. However, it appears we are closing in and hope to propose a specific project for our club during the current Rotary year. Any members interested in working in the area of international service are welcome to join the committee.

FUN COMMITTEE – *Chairman, Ruth Lee.* The FUN Committee was an outgrowth of Rotary International's "Family of Rotary" initiative. The purpose of the committee is to provide social opportunities for Rotarian Fellowship outside the setting of our regular meetings. The goal is to open our organization to family involvement, whether that be a spouse, family members, friends, or colleagues. Examples of the Committee's activities include our annual Holiday Party at Circa 21 during the Christmas season; our Night at the Ball Park coming up on August 19th; the Fislar Caribbean Pool Party held last month; our Blue Cat Pub Social held last spring; and our social to celebrate the opening of the Grape Life Wine Store & Lounge owned by Rock Island Rotarian, Diane Koster. We believe such activities provide an opportunity for Rotarians to become better acquainted with fellow members, they provide a forum to introduce Rotary to potential new members, and they give members a chance to involve their families in Rotary in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. The committee is always looking for new folks with fresh ideas. If we have any regrets, it is only that we wish more of our members would participate in FUN Activities.

PUBLIC IMAGE COMMITTEE – *Chairman, Kyle Vietti.* One of the best ways to attract members is to show what we do. The Public Image Committee is in charge of presenting Rock Island Rotary to the public. Chairman Kyle Vietti has fully revamped and modernized our Club website, www.rirotary.com. The committee is also charged with finding additional ways to ensure that Rock Island Rotary is portrayed accurately to the public. Club members with public relations, communication, or computer skill backgrounds are welcome and urged to join the committee.

BLOOD DRIVE COMMITTEE – *Chairman, Chris Lemon.* Annually in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Blood Bank holds a blood drive. Members and their families and colleagues are urged to donate the gift of life and give blood. The Blood Bank comes to us, setting up in a room adjacent to our meeting room and members can make their blood donation prior to, during, or after our regular meeting. The committee's work is primarily working with the Blood Bank, recruiting donors, and helping to set up the room on the blood drive day.

EARLY ACT COMMITTEE – *Chairman Needed!!* EarlyAct is the elementary school version of Rotary. Our club established the first EarlyAct Club in the area at Jordan Elementary School in Rock Island. The club is open to fifth and sixth grade students at the school. Each year they elect officers and conduct one local and one international service project. Last year the EarlyAct club raised over \$2,200.00 and funded water filtration units for seven schools in Kenya. Rotarian Andrew Guzzo was our chairman, but a change of jobs required Andrew to relocate to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A new chairman is needed! The committee primarily simply maintains contact with the faculty sponsors of the club and assists when needed.

AWARDS PROGRAM COMMITTEE – *Chairman Holly Sparkman.* This committee plans and organizes our annual Awards Luncheon. Lining up a keynote speaker and selecting recipients for our Rotary Awards for Community Service; Excellence; and A. T. Peara Award, along with awards for the top scholars from Augustana College, Rock Island High School, and Alleman High School are presented.

WOW! What a busy and active club we have! And this listing didn't include all of our active committees. So don't stand on the sidelines. Something in this group must have interested you! Step up, contact the committee chairman and just say, "I'd like to join your committee". You will be welcomed and your input will be a valued addition. New ideas are not only welcomed, they are needed!

WE'RE ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE --

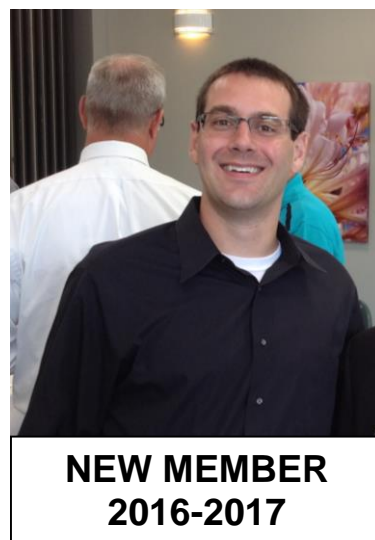
Find new members

The top two reasons people join Rotary are to meet new people and to get involved in their communities. Many of the non-Rotarians you know are looking for the same things. Invite them to help with a service project, attend a networking night, or participate in a club gathering so they can see for themselves how Rotary connects leaders to make positive change.

Consider these potential candidates for membership:

- Friends and family members
- Business and professional acquaintances
- Younger community leaders who are already connected to Rotary through Rotaract, RYLA, peace fellowships, Youth Exchange, and other programs

Have you invited anyone to join Rotary this year? Someone invited these folks and look what happened



**THEY ARE NOW
ROCK ISLAND
ROTARIANS!!**