



ROTARY ROUND-UP

Volume 35

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February 28, 2008

PROGRAMS

Last Week: Iowa Speedway in Newton – America’s Place to Race!

This Week: Ecolotree: Dr. Lou Licht

Next Week: : Ron Reed: Healthy Kids Initiative

CALENDAR

Feb 27: Information/Orientation Mtg. @ Noon @ UAC

Mar 5: Board Meeting @ noon @ Mercy Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Condolences to the family of Kent Angerer on his recent death.

PROGRAM LAST WEEK

PE Jeff Disterhoft presided in the absence of Pres. Charlie.

A Moment of Silence was observed in the memory of Kent Angerer who died recently.

Goat Rider: Terrence Neuzil was last week’s goat rider. He began by saying that his father advised him to “never get old.” He took that advice after a recent birthday when he realized he needed to make some changes in his life. He reduced his work commitments, changed his lifestyle to include time at the gym and losing 75 lbs. He worked on controlling his temper, began smiling more and now realizes that life is just beginning. He now has more time to spend with his wife, Jill and his dog, Bailey. He still reads 9 newspapers each day. He does not plan to get old and appreciates being a Rotarian, thanks to his sponsor, Maggie Mowery. Thanks to Terry for sharing his wisdom prefaced with a short story about an 80-year-old lady who was getting married for the 4th time! Continue to welcome Terry to the club.

Program

Bill Bywater introduced the program by noting the popularity of motor racing in the U.S. Memorial Day is well known as “Race Day in Indiana”, now we have Race Day in Iowa, only 70 miles from IC, in Newton. The speaker, Craig Armstrong, is General Manager of the Iowa Speedway in Newton. Armstrong began by stating that he is not a native Iowan, but did not find this a hindrance as he has found Iowans so accepting. This was unlike his experience in Georgia where one could not claim to be a native unless born there. He began his motor sports speedway career in Portland, OR with the Portland Speedway.

This continued until the speedway land was sold, thus his move to Georgia prior to being recruited to Newton. The Newton Speedway began as an idea about 8 years ago, when some laughed and said, “Why Iowa?” Now a \$70 million facility, the laughing has stopped. He noted that there are more race fans in Iowa than in any other state and Iowa ranks #3 in the U.S. for number of racetracks. Armstrong showed a short DVD of the Speedway, dubbed as one of the finest in the

U.S. and probably in the world! The result is that Iowans benefit from having the Speedway become a destination. It serves as a place for people to come, to spend money and to enjoy the entertainment. Although there are many racing fans in Iowa and the Midwest, it is not just about racing. There are concerts, displays, VIP events through the Newton Club for members only with a members-only clubhouse offering up-close parking, food and beverage service all with no long line hassles, described as a fun place to be. Armstrong described the economic development factor as more development around the Speedway continues, “activity builds activity.” He noted the closure of the Maytag operation preceded the Speedway, “timing is everything.” The Speedway is the economic engine; it was built by Iowa companies and proving to be a good return on the investment. The building began in 2006, the first full season inaugurated in 2007 and now the second full season is scheduled. Making this “America’s Place to Race”, thus the destination becomes a reality. Rusty Wallace designed the 7/8-mile smooth wide track offering a fast driver’s dream. The season opener will be April 19th. For more information visit www.iowasspeedway.com Brochures on the tables described season ticket information and membership information about the Newton Club. Thanks to Bill Bywater and Craig Armstrong for this timely program about one of Iowa’s newest destination sites for entertainment! PE Jeff Disterhoft presented Craig with a book to be given in his honor for the school library in Xicotepec, Mexico sponsored by Rotary.

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Verne Folkmann introduced the following: Visiting Rotarian: Stan Barber (Wellman); Guests: Bruce Teague (Caring Hands & More/Maggie Mowery), Falanga Sula (Homeland Care Int./Jeff Disterhoft), Lou Crist (Arleigh Clemens & Myron Welch), Larry Weber (Barry Butler), Chad Reimers (Gary Pacha), Glen Meisner (Larry Schnittjer), Stan Clement, Mike Beecher & Kathleen Goody (Bill Bywater), Ralph Neuzil (Terrence Neuzil), Mary Audia (Corridor Chiropractic /Nancy Quellhorst), Bob Mercer (TruArt/Bankers Advertising/Ann Parker.)

ROTARY FAMILIES IN THE NEWS

Marriott raises funds for UI Children’s Hospital (Jeff Peller), Now I Know My A B Cs (LaDonna Wicklund), Great to live where literacy is valued (letter to Editor, LaDonna Wicklund), Obituary (Kent Angerer), Words of Wisdom (Roy Justis, Richard Caplan, Jane McCune, Bump Elliott)

MAKE-UPS

Bill Ambrisco (Sun Lakes, AZ x2), Arleigh Clemens (MOST letters x3.)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Program: Tom Cilek

Sunshine: February: Mike Pugh

March: Barron Bremner

Attendance: February: John Chadima & Nancy Droll

March: Charlie Gay & Don Koch

Greeters: Feb. 28: Mike Jensen & Dave Seibert

Mar. 6: Barron Bremner & Thais Winkleblack

Mar. 13: Dick Gibson & Russ Schmeiser

Mar. 20: Brad Baldes & Deb Dunkhase

Mar. 27: Benny Hawkins & Larry Schnittjer