


## Rotary Club of Portland Maine

### The Windjammer

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

 Club Web Site

Service Above Self

**Editor:** John Marr  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

**THIS WEEK: LES OTTEN, MAINE ENERGY SYSTEMS**

*by Erik Jorgensen*

**Future Speakers**

**Oct 22 2010**  
Richard Kennedy  
*"Camp Kieve"*

**Oct 29 2010**  
Kelly McDonald  
*"Murray, Plumb and Murray"*

**Nov 5 2010**  
Harry McMann  
*"Systems Engineering"*

**Nov 12 2010**  
Larry Catlett, MD  
*"Occupational Medical Consulting"*

**Nov 19 2010**  
Vaughn Stinson  
*"Maine Tourism Council "*

**Nov 26 2010**  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
*"No Club Meeting"*

This week, we'll be joined by Maine entrepreneur Les Otten, whose current venture, Maine Energy Systems, is aimed at helping one of the most heating-oil-oriented regions of the country move toward alternative fuels.

Maine Energy Systems' (MESys) primary mission is to support a transition to the use of renewable wood pellet fuel for heating of homes and businesses. By offering stably priced carbon neutral sources of heat and energy like wood pellets, MESys will keep home and business owners comfortable with their heat and comfortable in the knowledge that they are being good stewards of our environment. According to the company, this fuel transition will not only lower costs for users in the long run, it will also help retain and create jobs in the region while significantly reducing the region's carbon footprint.

MESys was the outcome of a series of informal seminars organized by Les Otten in 2007 focusing on energy. Les and his group identified a number of ways in which improving energy production and usage in Maine would help the state's citizens and economy. After months of meeting, the group settled on a comprehensive solution based on the conversion of a significant proportion of the central home heating systems in Maine from oil to wood pellet fuel. The conversion to wood pellet fuel will cut heating costs in homes and businesses substantially. The production of the fuel from Maine forests will employ many Maine workers and most importantly will keep the money spent on home heating in the State rather than sending it to the Middle East. The conversion to a renewable carbon neutral fuel will have a positive impact on the environment through a substantial reduction in the production of greenhouse gases.

To implement the solution, Les and his partners formed Maine Energy Systems with the goal of bringing these benefits to homeowners and small businesses. Automated wood pellet fired central home heating systems are very common in Western Europe. For example, 76% of the new homes constructed in Austria in 2006 were built with pellet fueled boilers rather than oil fueled systems. MESys offers a range of boilers all based on proven European technology. The MESys systems have long maintenance cycles running for months with very little attention. The home or business owner has only to set the thermostat and enjoy a warm home, hot water, and a reduced heating fuel bill. As an important added benefit, the owner of an average sized home will have a carbon footprint reduction of about 16 tons per year.

This eBulletin has been generated by **ClubRunner** club communication software. Visit [clubrunner.ca](http://clubrunner.ca) for details.  
  
© 2002- 10 Doxess. All Rights Reserved.

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY**

*by Loretta Rowe*

"DO YOU THINK YOU QUALIFY FOR THE 'Rule of 85' ?

A member's absence from Club meetings shall be excused IF the aggregate of the member's years of age and years of membership in one or more clubs is 85 years or more and the member has notified the Club's Secretary in writing of the member's desire to be excused from attendance and the board has approved

If you think you qualify, please contact Loretta Rowe (Club Secretary) IN WRITING (email is okay) to request this status. You will be excused from attendance, so the Club does not get penalized for

**ClubRunner Sponsors**



Please visit our Sponsors. To place your ad [click here](#).

**Club Site Sponsors**





Please visit our Club Website Sponsors.  
To place your ad click here.

your absence from meetings, but you will still be a full member with dues-paying responsibilities."

### **BITS AND PIECES**

by Eric Lusk

#### *A Matter of Generations*

**Dave Snow** was careful to point out the writer of "The Grand State of Maine", Roger Vinton Snow, is the grandfather of **Rick Snow**, not Dave. Subtle point, but what's twenty or thirty years when the Social Security checks are coming? **Meredith Small** then led us in "Side by Side", another of those songs that allows most of us to avoid actually reaching for the song book.

#### *Must Be Something About January*

Our October birthday roster boasted a startling number of Rotarians. From **Burleigh to Rowe, and Putnam to Cole**, we celebrated easily a dozen birthdays. We cannot rule out this being a simple coincidence, but it does raise questions about the Northeast's coldest months.

#### *Rosado Follows Through*

When Rwandan expatriate Pacifique Jabiro befriended **Chris Rosado** he found a determined ally and advocate. As a non-US citizen, Pacifique is eligible for some help to finance schooling at the Southern Maine Community Center, but not all. Lacking the funds to pay the sundries called textbooks, Chris landed the final \$500 from the Portland Rotary to put Pacifique in class squared away to succeed. Our best wishes to Pacifique at SMCC and admiration for Chris' determination to put an effort on its best footing.

#### *Badge and Holster to Follow*

Having taken the course of study, **Kathy Grammer** is our new "Club Protection Officer". This could raise the question of what we did for "protection" before Kathy took on the role but somehow we believe Kathy understands the timely applications of vinegar vs. honey.

#### *Somehow It Got Away*

Like a baseball game when no one can get a hit in the 13<sup>th</sup> inning, does anyone really want to win the raffle? Jon Young pulled **Bill Blount's** ticket and Bill pulled the Six of Hearts. That was for a paltry \$665, so for another week... *the Pot Thickens*.

#### *Speakers for Coming Quarters*

As usual, the speakers have been terrific **Rick Snow's** first quarter of his presidency and this current quarter is full and looks promising also. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011 is under the management of **Paul Tully** and **Scott Wilson** and is closing quickly also. Catch them sooner than later if you have a speaker you'd like to present to the Club.

#### *Rotary International Topics*

In honor of the approaching World Polio Day, RI is offering bonus points for committing funds to Polio Plus. During the week of October 18 to 24<sup>th</sup>, a \$100 contribution will count as 200 points towards the Polio Plus Award.

### **WHO'S DOING WHAT THIS WEEK:**

by Elise Hodgkin

Editor	Kathleen Grammer
Bits & Pieces	Eric Lusk
Registration	Herbert Carmichael
Meal Ticket Sales	Malcolm Collins
Buffet Table Tickets	John Curran
Greeter	John Gaudet
Raffle	David Ciullo
Invocateur	Garvey MacLean
Music	Michelle Mitchell ( <i>Russell Burleigh</i> )
Sgt at Arms - Early	Eric Lusk
Sgt at Arms - Late	James Willey