

THE VALE NEWS
December 2, 2009
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Community Service

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

Dec. 9 Christmas Party at Timbers 6 PM
16 Restaurant Raffle Drawing
23 No meeting
30 No Meeting

2010

January 6 Bob Grant - classification Speech
13 Pat Pinkston
20 Bob Cummiskey - Classification speech
27 Rose-Marie White

Editor's Note: Please inform Wini (496-6710) of the name of your speaker at least 2 weeks in advance. If you can't get a speaker for that date, please try to trade with another person on the list.

Birthdays: Al Barillaro 12/6

Wedding anniversaries - none the week following Thanksgiving

Membership anniversaries -

When I was going down my driveway at 6:30 AM this morning the view resembled a photo on the Vermont December calendar; the full moon was shining on the snow covered mountains. Even the leafless trees looked beautiful in the moonlight.

Meeting News

A small crowd this morning, a lot of people have still not returned from their Thanksgiving travels. Our guests were George and Linda Schiavone, members of the Shelburne Rotary Club and our speakers, Jim Parker and his son Steve. They had already set up their computer showing a video of SCUBA divers swimming thru underwater caves before the rest of us arrived at the inn.

Announcements

Monk injured his ankle while using a chain saw. He was patched up at UVM and is able to walk on crutches but not walking good enough to attend our meeting today. Hopes to be able to attend the Christmas party. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

At the last MRVRC Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved the applications of Vickie Walluck and Gary Plewak to become members of the Club.

The Board also approved giving:

Central Vermont Foster Parent Assoc. \$100.00

Habitat for Humanity \$2000.00 (There is a matching grant for this donation)

A prize of \$100.00 to the winner of the Speech Contest.

The following is the slate of officers for next year to be voted on at our next meeting:

President Audrey Witschi
Secretary Bob Grant
Treasurer Dave Ellison
5 Directors Al Molnar, Al Barillaro, Heli Hietzker, Jim Leyton, Ken Friedman

Restaurant Raffle- tickets

Ralph told us that over 100 tickets were sold at the Round Barn; there are only 88 tickets left to be sold in front of Mehurons and asked for volunteers for the next 2 weekends. A lot of members still have not turned in their money and stubs for the tickets that they were assigned. If they are not turned in by Dec. 16th, the members will be charged for the unsold tickets. Sissy told us that members can also leave their ticket stubs and money at Jim Leyton's office during the week.

Rotary convention in Montreal: It is necessary to register before Dec. 15th (you can do it online) . Also Tom Byrne has made reservations for hotels. After that prices will go up. Also daily bus trips are planned from Burlington to Montreal during the convention.

Holiday Party reminder: It's next week!!!! Give your reservations and payments to Al Barillaro ASAP. This is our big GALA of the year. You don't want to miss it!!! Dec. 9th; 6 PM at Timbers Restaurant. 75 people signed up so far. Also bring a can or box of nonperishable food to donate to the food shelf.

Dave noted that the items listed in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song would now total \$87,000 with today's high labor costs.

Wini has collected \$213 from the Christmas Card signatures, and this money will be used to create 3 Christmas Dinners with all the fixings for 3 needy families from the Warren School.

EREY -Jim Leyton keeps reminding us that we are not 100% yet. He also has 2 aisle tickets for the Vt. Symphony concert and will sell them for ½ price. Call Jim if interested.

Pat Pinkston told us that the Interact Club at Harwood H.S. is collecting items for the homeless, such as food, toys, clothes gift or gas cards, etc. Bring the articles to the next meeting or the Christmas party and Pat will collect them.

Mega Bucks - \$1000. to the winner, only 15 cards left.

Note: the pot has reached max. All further ticket purchases will go towards the next pot.

Wini's ticket was pulled out of the hat, and she failed like all the others and received \$5.00 for the 8 of hearts.

Happy Bucks

All happiness seemed to revolve around Thanksgiving Day events.

Jim Leyton - Magnificent Thanksgiving in NY with family inc. 5 wk old grandson.

Jack Mansfield - Happy Thanksgiving in Ohio

Jim Groom -watched grandson learn to use Iphone in 5 minutes

Put - grand Thanksgiving

Gene Scarpato - grandson played drums in parade in NY

Ken Amann - grand P.T.

Al Barillaro - good thanksgiving
Ken - Questionable thanksgiving with wife
Pat Pinkston - spent thanksgiving in R.I with son
Tom Byrne - quiet thanksgiving with wife
Ralph – Son’s mother-in-law went home
Sissy - Happy ticket sales going so well

PROGRAM

Wini introduced Jim Parker, her many talented neighbor. Jim does air shows, runs a business (Clearwater Filtration) on Airport Rd (where else), acts and sings, and now has gone back to scuba diving, not the recreational kind, but serious technical diving for hours in underwater caves.

After Wini made the introduction, everyone looked around and said “Where is he?” In a few minutes, Jim came striding into the room in full scuba gear, wearing a dry suit and carrying a back pack including the tanks, lights, reels of string etc. weighing 110 lbs. He also carried the large flippers.

He then explained each item. Every item had one or 2 back-ups because when you are deep underwater, you can’t go back for a replacement. In the underwater caves near Mexico there are 600 miles of main lines. A diver connects his reel of string to a main line after entering the cave and places an arrow showing his entry direction, indicating his way out.

The caves are completely dark. Even using his \$900 light, sometimes the water is stirred up with silt. Thus extreme care must be taken not to get lost. The goal is to be totally connected to daylight.

Many,many years ago these caves were above ground. People and animals lived in them but with gradual warming of the earth, the caves are now underwater. Jim has seen ancient bones of both humans and animals.

If you are underwater for about 20 minutes, expect the dive to last 2 hours, allowing time for decompression. You can’t breath pure oxygen below 20 ft. of water, it must be mixed with CO2 and nitrogen according to the depth of the dive. It takes 21 hours of diving in water in the dark to get certified.

In spite of all this, Jim loves diving in caves.

The video showed divers going past huge stalactites, creating by trickling limestone deposits and stalagmites, built up from the floor of the cave by dripping water.

Divers use their hands to feel the lines of rope and navigate with their flippers in order not to stir up the silt.

Thanks Jim, for telling us about underwater diving in caves and showing the video. It was fascinating but scary.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the Truth?
- 2) Is it Fair to All Concerned?

- 3) Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- 4) Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

The Vale News
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