**THE VALE NEWS**

Mar. 12, 2014

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Rotaract & Interact Month - an opportunity to promote services to youth and young adults

**Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments**

Mar 12  Heather Timins - Vt. Adaptive Ski & Sports

      19  Amy Todesco - Pathways for Veterans

      26  Catherine Hamilton - Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vt.

Apr 2  Amy Schram - Better Business Bureau - Scams & Fraud

      9  Honduras Team Report

    16 Gov. Schumlin

      23 William Carrigan, Vt. Dept of Financial Regulation - Fraud Prevention

    30 Jim Reagan - Senior Housing

May  7 Open

      14 Rob Williams - Vermont Public Bank

      21 Jeb Spaulding - VT. Sec’y of Administration

      28 open

**Birthdays**   Jim Groom 3/18;    Karen Winchell 3/18

**Anniversaries**      Jon & Amy Jamieson 3/16/96

**Meeting News**

Nature was kind enough this morning to let us have our meeting before the storm started in earnest.  There were 5 guests today: Carol Groom, our speakers Heather Timins and Vasu Sojitra from Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports plus two of our foreign exchange students.  Both Liesbeth Jacobs and Pelhate Thibault were wearing their blue Rotary jackets decorated with souvenirs from their various activities. Thibault was especially colorful with a Hawaiian license plate pinned to his back, Hawaiian leis down one sleeve and those miniature parasols on the front.

**Announcements**

Bolton Ski Race

Dave Ellison has 7 entries to form two teams for the Bolton Ski Race on March 14th of this year, He had 8 but one dropped out and he needs a replacement to fill in team 2.  People who don’t want to race, could come - cheer on our teams and have dinner.  It is another indoor locale to sell YBYI raffle tickets and a fun evening.  Cost of skiing & dinner is $47, for dinner only is $30.  Registration begins at 3 PM, dinner scheduled for 7:30 PM.  The teams are meeting at Shaw’s parking lot at 3:30 PM on Friday. The race starts at 5:30 at Bolton.

The Ice House Team for the YBYI raffle have collected $5,400 so far in ticket sales.

Next week - BOD meeting.  Guests are coming to make a presentation to the BOD

The Intreract group at Harwood are having a fund raiser. They will perform Spring cleaning jobs and with the money they raise will be donated to the school.  They are asking us to help out by giving them jobs on April 4th. Change to April 15th - 16th?    Email your requests to Manny.

**Mini Bucks:**  $115 Joe Goldstein had the opportunity but drew the 6 of diamonds for $5

**Happy Bucks:**

Gene paid $3 -  1) Happy to be back with Rotary friends  2)Hope that Virginia will heal quickly after foot operation so she can have the cast removed  3)Hope Virginia does not have to sleep with the boot and he will stop getting kicked in the shins in the middle of the night.

Ken Amann - Gene & Virginia on the mend

Stan N. - Happy about snow

Tom Byrne - Postponed his flight to N.C. to tomorrow

Ken Friedman - grandson made it to the finals

Wayne - another snow lover

Jim Leyton - won 75 bottles of wine

Jim Groom - happy about the Harwood student's activities in Interact

Bob Holden - $5 - Eli coming home; Norwich in Playoffs; Seeing so many friends here today.

Monk - Back from Colorado, Patrol leader’s son won ski race

Doug Stoehr - Wife flying to Calif. tomorrow

Dave K. - Bob thinks he has friends?

Al Barillaro - Happy Vt. Ski & Adaptive Sports here today

Karl - going to China

Dave E. - Snow brings more people to MRV

Al Barillaro - Helped out a fellow Rotarian. Gave Dave K. a glass of water from another table.

**PROGRAM**

Manny told us that Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports is the largest year-round disabled sports non-profit organization in Vt. offering the most diverse program activities and unique, specialized equipment.  VASS promotes independence and furthers equality thru access and instruction to sports & recreational opportunities.  Heather Timins is a certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and is the coordinator of the Mt. Ellen based VASS program.

Vasu Spjitra is a VASS volunteer and recent UVM graduate.

Heather told us that the Mt.Ellen program is year round.  In the off Ski season instructs in sports such as rock climbing.

They need financial aid to provide opportunities for handicapped people including autistic people. She has one autistic lady who changes magically as soon as she gets on snow - whole personality changes and she exhibits improved capabilities.

New volunteers are always welcome. They have over 400 clients from all walks of life

She introduced Vasu Sojitra, a volunteer who lost part of one leg when he was 9 months old.  He taught himself to ski following his brother down a slope.  He has adapted to situations and can do almost everything.

For skiing has special poles (with a small ski on them for balance). In order to perform back country skiing and climb up hills, he adds a bigger ski to his special poles. He designed this gadget and worked with the manufacturer, now he can walk uphill. He is a graduate engineer from UVM.

Vasu is a great inspiration, not only to the physically challenged but to the rest of us as well.

He says now he is able to beat his brother down a ski slope!

                         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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**Club Officers**

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