

THE VALE NEWS

June 9, 2010

Vol. 34 Issue No. 44

International Conventions & Club Service

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

June 9 Helmut Hietzker
16 Win Smith- Sugarbush Resort
23 Dinsmore Fulton - Autumn Foushee, Executive Director of the Mad River Path Association. Laura Brines, MRPA Board President will also join us.
29 Changeover Party (Tues. 6 PM) Hogan's Pub
30 No Meeting

July 7 Jim Groom
14 Carol Hosford
21 Jon Jamison
28 Lorraine Keener

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: none

Anniversaries: Anne & Adam Greshin 6/13

Meeting News

There were over 50 members at the Inn on this cool sunny morning plus Anna & Benjamin White. Like migrating birds, our summer members are returning north.

Announcements

A thank you note was received from the Valley Ambulance Service for our latest donation.

Duck Race

Leo informed us that the sponsorships totaled \$2,850 and the raffle tickets have been ordered. Jim Leyton says they will be ready by the 15th of June.

July 4th Parade float is under construction. Leo demonstrated the special Duck Race hats to be worn by members on the 4th of July on and around the float. By pulling on the strings the "Duck Wings" flap. They are hilarious and should draw a lot of attention.

At least 24 members are needed to parade and tend the booth to manage the Chili Challenge and the sale of raffle tickets. There will be 3 people on the float stirring the "Chili" in a big pot.

Gary Plewak reminded us that members are needed to sell tickets starting on Fri. June 22nd in 1 hour shifts at the Supermarkets and for the Farmer's Market on June 23rd, also in 1 hour shifts.

Carol Hosford thanked all the members who voted by e-mail for the orchard. We won the grant. Now we need people to work on the orchard after we receive the grant.

Al Barillaro was collecting the money for Changeover Night:
TUESDAY JUNE 29th from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Hogan's PUB at Sugarbush Resort Golf Club on Golf Course Road. You'll enjoy an assortment of Hot and Cold Hors d'oeuvres along with Vegetable and Fruit Platters. The cost is just \$15.00 per person with a Cash Bar. The Anthony Santor Duo will be playing quiet Jazz in the background and the Weather Man promises to his best to provide us with great weather. Y'all come!!! This is always a fun affair. We need to know the number of attendees by JUNE 21st--an email RSVP to me is fine (audreywitschi@gmavt.net). Your payment may go to Jim Leyton at his office, Al Barillaro or Dave Ellison.

District Conference will be held on June 12th & 13th (Fri. & Sat.) Dave Koepele has the registration forms and hopes at least 6 of our members will attend this event.

Mega Bucks: \$617 to the winner. Note: the amount increases as the no. of cards in the deck decreases. Jack Simko drew the Ace of clubs today.

Happy Bucks:

Larry Ryan-had laser surgery on his eyes
John Hale - trip to Maine to visit grandchildren
Bob Holden & Ken Amann - fast talking happies
Leon - Log camera called "The Bruno"
Tom Byrne- attended Opera Rehearsal - wonderful voices
Joe Klimek - Glad Jack Simko can round up cows
Jack Simko - whole heard of cows in his yard
Al Barillaro - looking forward to the 4th
Ken Needleman -happy
Monk- had operation to straighten out his finger
John Crump - Caryn & Caitlyn in San Francisco
Jack Miner -Carol in Oregon with son's family
Ron Geren - Rejoicing over clean bill of health and thankful for Rotary support
Art Conway - going to Indiana for family reunion
Judy Reed - Almost finished painting Opera Scenery
Leon Bruno -Pleased to hear so many positive Happy Buck things
John Straub - Happy to be out of dangerous city

Ken Friedman - Picnic at Round Barn for Opera Fest tonight

Dave Ellison - In-laws arrived for a week's stay

Audrey - 1) wonderful Opera company 2) attended Opera in Middlebury on Sunday.

Program

Helmut told us all about his adventures from Vienna to Vermont including a trip to Africa.

Heli joined our club in 1997, when we met at Jay's Restaurant and had only 26 members.

He was born in Vienna in 1940, before WWII. His father was drafted by the Germans, captured and became a prisoner of war and sent to El Paso Texas. He was treated well and lived better than his family back in Austria during the war. When the war ended, he was returned to Austria wearing a navy pea coat with the letters POW on the back. He also had a duffle bag full of "goodies" inc. a rattlesnake skin.

After graduating from school, he became a mountain climber and skier. In 1956, he came to the US, looking for a job at Stowe, Vt., earned a certificate as a ski instructor. In 1960, he finished tech. school with a journeyman's license for working on high voltage electrical installations.

In 1962, a friend persuaded him to drive from Austria to Africa and go all the way to the cape. As there was a war going on in Egypt they had to put their old Mercedes Benz on a ferry from Athens to Cairo. Then they went on a hair-raising adventure thru warring countries in Africa for 3 months, including mountain climbing on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro. Finally they were able to sell their broken down car and used the money to fly home.

In 1962, he went looking for a job in Stowe, Vermont and became a ski instructor. He was used to lots of Snow in the Austrian mountains, but there were only ice covered trails on the top of Stowe. There was no snowmaking then. He had a contract with immigration to have a job. Then in 1965, he took up flying and got a private pilot's license. He was flying Piper Cubs, and on his first solo he bounced several times, but didn't wreck the plane.

In 1966, he obtained a commercial license and in 1967 He became a crop-duster. Flew over swamps, chain gangs and the Andersonville Prison in Georgia.

1968 - Returned to Vermont and became assistant director at the Sugarbush Ski School and during the summer worked at the Sugarbush Airport towing and giving glider rides until 1974.

This time he obtained a master electrician's license and got a job in Syracuse managing the Oberdorfer Foundries producing aluminum castings.

In 1977 he accepted an offer from F. Jos. Land in Detroit, making spec. mach. transfer lines, aluminum castings mach.

In 1984 it was Kuka Robotics, ABB., Tesco, ABB (He had built up relationships with many industries by then).

In 1984, he married Gail after a 9 year courtship (and 40 years of being a bachelor).

1997 - Quit all jobs and semi-retired to Vermont. In Vermont he worked part time as a ski instructor, Sugarbush soaring pilot, electrician and ABB consultant (5 years).

Although retired, he has been very active in community affairs: Rotary President 2 x (2000 & 2002), active in the MRV Seniors Association, Warren United Church, Habitat for Humanity and Chairman of the Rotary Community Service committee for 7 years and is looking for a replacement.

He may be retired, but has not slowed down yet. Nobody can say he had a boring life. Thanks Heli for telling us about your exciting adventures.

Editor's note: I doubt if I got all of this correct - I could not even keep up with him using pencil and paper.

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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Pres. elect	Audrey Witschi
Vice Pres.	Lorraine Keener
Treasurer	Dave Ellison
Secretary	Audrey Witschi

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International	Al Molnar

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