



**Rotary**

## The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills  
PO Box 14  
Norway, ME 04268

**Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

**Our mission:** The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills is a diverse group of service-oriented men and women providing hands on and financial support within our community and beyond. We exemplify “Service Above Self” while encouraging high ethical standards, enjoying friendship and promoting world understanding, peace and good will.”

---

### 2024-2025 Officers:

Rotary International President: Stephanie A. Urchick, Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania - District 7780  
Governor: Robert McKenzie, Rotary Club of Kennebunk, ME – Oxford Hills Rotary President – Dan Allen –  
President-Elect: Jeff Noblin – Vice-president: Connor Burnam - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt.  
At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Beth Abbott – Club Service Chair: Bob Schott – Vocational Service Chair: Jeff  
Noblin - Community Service Chair: Beth Abbott - International Service Chair: Val Weston – Youth Service Chair  
and Interact Advisor: Tina Fox

### Home Club of PDG George Rice

---

**Welcome!** Today is the 220th day of 2024. There are 134 days remaining in the year. Tally Decato is program chair this morning and Bob Schott is our greeter.

Program Chairs: Please let John know what your program is so it can be published in the Reader. You can text or call John at 207-461-7158 or e-mail at [griffs2@roadrunner.com](mailto:griffs2@roadrunner.com). Please remember that when you are program chair, you are expected to lend a hand after the meeting putting away the club paraphernalia.

### August:

**28 – Tina Fox and Lynne Schott**

### September:

**3 – Board Meeting at South Paris Town Office**

**4 – Club Assembly and Patty Rice**

**11 – John Griffith and George Rice**

**18 – David Knox and David Preble**

**25 – Liz Knox and Jeff Noblin**

## Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Our visiting Rotarians were Dan Hart from Bethel and Dennis King from Washington, TWP, New Jersey. Troy Ripley, our guest speaker, was the guest of Curtis Cole.

## Rotary Moment:

Our greeter, Warren Spencer, did not have any Rotary information to share. However, he told us that he drove to the meeting in his wife's antique VW Beetle convertible which reminded him that he went to his first Rotary meeting in his Mustang convertible. He said it was a cold ride this morning as it was many years ago in the Mustang.

## Announcements:

President Dan feels it is important that we celebrate one another and last week, he asked us to celebrate PP and PDG George Rice for his years of service and dedication to our club and to Rotary.

Dan also presented Frank Shorey with his 40<sup>th</sup> year perfect attendance award. Although Frank is only with us in person a few meetings a year since he and Connie retired to Florida, Frank has kept his attendance going with make-ups, Zoom and other community activities. Congratulations, Frank.

Dave P. waited for Liz to crunch all the numbers before announcing our take from the Cornhole Tournament last month. We made \$1,382.41, an okay amount. We received a lot of positive feedback, but we need more players.

## Last Week:

President Dan returned just three weeks after his hip replacement surgery. He led us in the pledge and 4-Way Test. Curtis Cole gave the invocation.

Before our guest speaker, Dan talked a bit about membership and how the Bethel club has been attracting new members. One suggestion is not to ask prospective members directly to come to a meeting, but to interact with them and let them know about Rotary, let them see what Rotary means to us and if they like what they see, encourage them to come as our guest.

Continuing, Dan also said that he would like his year to be about kindness, hence the bumper stickers he had made. There are still plenty available, so spread the word.

Curtis Cole introduced his guest speaker, Troy Ripley, Chair of the SAD 17 school board. Troy said he is definitely a native, having been the first baby born at Stephen's Memorial in 1963.

As chair of the school board, he said that it is an exciting time as there is a lot going on in the district, but there are an enormous number of challenges working with 8 towns with varying needs and wants. He appreciates the work of Superintendent Heather Manchester as they meet frequently to discuss various ideas and policies that the board and she would like to implement, whether they agree on those ideas or not! The two major issues facing the district right now is the defeat of the school budget twice, in June and again in August. There will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> vote on October 1 which hopefully will pass this time. The second issue is the replacement of 2 school buildings, the Agnes Gray school in West Paris and the middle school in South Paris/Oxford. Troy said yes, we can get funding from the state, but it is an almost 5-year process. The state also puts stipulations on the money in that they want schools with a minimum of 400 students and a middle school with grades 6,7 and 8, not just a 2-year middle school for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. And of course, Agnes Gray's enrollment is far less than 400. In talking about the budget and building new schools, they are two separate issues and we need to do a better job of helping the public understand this.

*50-50 – There was \$211 in the pot. I did not note who drew the winning ticket, but Dennis King's number was drawn. Unfortunately, he did not draw the yellow ball.*

*😊Happy and Sad Dollars 😊*

*Dan Hart* said he was happy to join us once again.

*Dave Preble* was happy to see Frank and reminded him that the Red Sox are ahead of the Tampa Bay Rays in the standings.

*Frank Shorey* was happy to see everyone and said he noticed what Dave said about the Red Sox.

*Tina* said that she had a great time on her trip to Montana with her family. They went to Yellowstone and did a lot of hiking.

*PP George* paid a \$5 fine because his phone went off.

### *How about a Riddle and a Pun?*

What has four letters, sometimes has nine and never has four?

I'm addicted to buying old Beatles records. A friend said it sounds like I need help. I told him I already had that one.

### *The Rotary theme for August is Membership and New Club Development:*

#### Other benefits of Rotary Membership:

The [Rotary International Convention](#) is our biggest event of the year. Rotary members from more than 130 countries meet at the convention each year to celebrate our successes and make plans for the future.

[Rotary Fellowships](#) give members the chance to join a group of people who share similar interests, hobbies, or vocations. Some groups use their fellowship to make a positive difference.

[Rotarian Action Groups](#) unite Rotary members, family members, program participants and alumni who share their expertise in particular fields by collaborating with clubs and districts on projects.

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries:*

*August Birthdays:* Dean (Jeff) Noblin – 8/3; Charlie (Tina) Fox – 8/27.

*August Anniversaries:* None found

*August Membership Anniversaries:* David Knox – 1 yr. – 8/2.

## **Make-Ups:**

**Bethel** – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at the Grace Note Inn, Bethel

[www.bethelrotary.org](http://www.bethelrotary.org)

**Bridgton-Lake Region** – Thursday, 7:15 AM at Bridgton Alliance Church, 368 Harrison Rd., Bridgton

[www.lakeregionrotary.org](http://www.lakeregionrotary.org)

**Fryeburg** – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Rt. 5, Fryeburg

[www.fryeburgrotary.org](http://www.fryeburgrotary.org)

**River Valley** – Monday, 12:00 noon, at Hope Association, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 85 Lincoln Ave., Rumford

[www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org](http://www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org)

**Interact** – Thursday, 2:15 PM, Room A210, Oxford Hills Comprehensive Hills High School during the school year only.