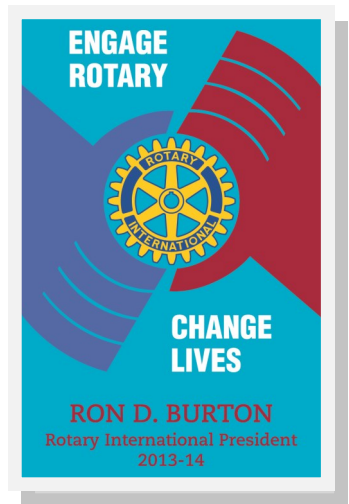


# Avon Rotary News



April 1, 2014



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## *President's Message*

Hello everyone hopefully this isn't an April Fool's joke but I think Spring is finally here. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. March was a wonderful month as far as Avon Rotary goes. We gained 2 new members this month. Please make sure you welcome Jake and Heather Ayres to our club. I'm sure they will be a great asset to our family. Jake and Heather joined our club officially at our St Patrick's Day social event. Speaking of our event it was held at the Avondale Pub. I thought we all had a wonderful time and it was a joy to be able to share this night with all of you. We had a great turnout and I hope you all had as great a time as I did. I want to personally thank Rob and Autumn for the wonderful buffet they put on and I want to also thank PDG Gavin Hurley for joining us on such short notice and helping us to welcome Jake and Heather to our club. Gavin is always such a pleasure to have with our club. We also just enjoyed a great time at the Avon Inn for membership night. There were many Rotari-

ans there as well as perspective members to possibly join our club. It was a very informal evening of meeting new people and answering any questions they might have about Rotary. I want to thank everyone who made this evening possible I think we will gain some awesome people for our club even if it's not right now but in the near future. Lastly I would like to thank our members and their families who presented the program on their trip to Nicaragua to help build a school. Awesome job everyone. Here's to looking forward to April with the wishful promise of pleasant spring weather, green grass and trees and no winter jackets. April also brings the District Assembly which 6 of us are attending in Geneseo to help us better learn to be a more successful Rotary Club. You know there is always room for improvement even as awesome as we are. We also have a roadside cleanup on April 19th. So let's do some spring cleaning in our club and our community. Have a great month.

President/Queen Marcia

## Board of Directors



Marcia Cameron, President  
Tim Dickinson, PE  
Dan Jones, Director  
Scott Holmes, Director  
Bob House, Sr. Rep  
Laurie Vonglis, Past Pres.  
Cathy Murphy, Secretary  
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

## Reflections On My Nicaragua Adventure



By Dr. Jim Tompsett

When I reflect on our trip to El Sauce and the adventure of assisting the local populace building a much needed rural school through the Enlace Project I become very emotional. Yes, “choked up.” Why? Because it was a life changing and life affirming event for me. I was part of a twenty member group from Avon, New York, the “Avon for Nicaragua” group, made up of six high school Interact students, various teachers, principals, a librarian, counselors, an engineer, a tile installer and three youth ages 11, 11 and 13, plus myself and another dedicated Rotarian. I took my 11 year old granddaughter, Olivia and 13 year old nephew, Christian. They, along with Ella, daughter of the other Rotarian raised \$1100.00 for building materials for the school. We all paid our own expenses. Everyone worked hard. The children contributed a great deal in terms of work, energy, emotional and psychological support. We feel so affirmed in our efforts as the residents were very gracious, friendly, helpful and thankful.

Much credit goes to the Enlace Project support team in country. These folks are diligent, dedicated and extremely well organized. May God Bless all those involved.

## Avon Rotarians & Family Share Their Nicaragua Adventure

By Laurie Vonglis

Many thanks go to Rotarians Kirk, Rob and Jim for presenting their program to the club on March 25th. This group as well as Honeoye Falls Rotarians, Avon Central students and friends traveled to Nicaragua in February to help build a school. Jim provided a historical/political background for us. Rob spoke of the people there, the school project and previous school builds on which he assisted. Lastly Kirk informed us of the supporting organization The Enlace Project. He told us there is so much more than just the school building going on there. Great progress is being made through tourism and micro enterprises such as coffee production and pine needle baskets, all helping to grow and stabilize the regional economy.

Highlighting the program was Ella and Olivia. The girls confidently stood in front of a full room and enthusiastically shared their experience.



Pictured L to R: Rotarian Kirk Vanderbilt, Daughter Ella, Rotarian Rob Lupisella, Rotarian Dr. Jim Tompsett and Grand-daughter Olivia Montesano

***“From my heart deep down I think this trip was fascinating and heart-warming too. I learned a lot and got to know the people very well. Also this trip had a lot of hiking and outdoorsy stuff and that’s my kind of thing. So I would recommend this trip to anyone who might consider going.” Ella Vanderbilt***

***“My trip to Nicaragua was a wonderful experience. It made me really appreciate all the opportunities and wonderful things that I have in my life. I met wonderful people who work very hard for what they have. It felt very good to help others and to experience what it would be like to live in another country. I would recommend this trip to others, it was a life changing experience.” Olivia Montesano***

## *Empire Multi-District PETS 2014*

### President Elect Training Seminar

By Tim Dickinson



On Friday March 14 and Saturday March 15 I had the pleasure to attend a day and a half long training seminar for Rotary. PETS

as it is affectionately referred to is the assistance and education made available to all incoming Rotary Club presidents for coming Rotary Year. The Rotary Year, for those who have not had the need or opportunity to find out is July 1 to June 30. This event, attended in 2014 by over 300 participants, is an ideal opportunity to find out what other clubs are doing. We heard from many on the successes and failures in various avenues of service, fellowship, and administration. I know, it sounds so thrilling you can't imagine how you managed to miss such an event. Well, it was an excellent opportunity for me to catch up on some of the Rotary International expectations for our clubs, meet with some nearby club PEs to discuss potential opportunities to work together, and to get acquainted with the 2014-2015 Ro-

tary International theme, "Lighting up Rotary". There is a song, written to go along with and support the theme for the year. We sang it a number of times. WARNING!!! The song is written in Mandarin Chinese and I have it on CD. Let me say this now, to alleviate your fears. I will not attempt to put the song in our song-book and since my Mandarin is so in need of brushing up, I will not try teaching you the song either. I have more than enough trouble with English.

As a result of the training and the numerous discussions had over the meals we shared on Friday and Saturday I have some plans for my upcoming year as your Club President. We will continue to sing in English but we will continue to sing. I pledge to all of you, that I will do my best to make our meeting time enjoyable. Our programs will be as informative or entertaining as the speakers you can locate and invite to present on our Tuesday night get-togethers. I would encourage everyone to take a few moments and consider your answer to two questions.

What was it that made you join Rotary? What is it that keeps you in Rotary? At some point in the upcoming year, I will share with you, my answers to those questions. I hope others might also be willing to share their answers as well. It is those an-

swers that will guide us towards finding and retaining new Rotary Club members. Since our theme for 2014-2015 is Lighting Up Rotary I would like to make sure that the things we do as a Rotary Club are as visible to the community as they can be. We are very visible in much of what we do. Corn Fest couldn't be more visible and our Rotary Honors program is an excellent means of "Lighting up Rotary" for the community. Many of you also do smaller things, often not noticed by many, but still important to the community. I ask each of you to just send me an email, once a month with the number of volunteer hours you spent in the various avenues of service you all quietly but effectively participate in. From this I am hoping to create a more complete picture of the impact Rotary, and our local Rotarians have on the community.

Yes, all this came from a few hours of training, a few meals shared and a vibrant discussion at the table, and a few conversations with like-minded Rotarians, soon to be Presidents of their local Rotary Club. How can we work together for good and do good work together? We shall see what the ensuing year brings.

Your current President Elect,  
Tim Dickinson

# Think Spring!

## *Remembering Avon Rotarian Bill Bruckel*



Bill Bruckel joined the Avon Rotary Club in 1955 after returning to his home town of Avon to practice law. After serving on the Rotary Board of Directors, he became President in 1965-66. Bill was an active member, participating on various committees and club projects. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1989.

Bill was a retired Navy commander, who maintained a busy law practice and raised 9 children with his wife Jane. Along with Rotary, he was a generous, active member of the Avon community and of St. Agnes Church. Bill was also known to always enjoy a good round of golf or a tennis match.

Bill will be missed and fondly remembered by everyone who knew him.

## *Membership Meet & Greet*

By Terry Lemen

Thursday, March 29, 2014 the Avon Rotary Membership Committee held a meet and greet at the Avon Inn. It proved to be an extremely successful venture. More than a dozen Rotarians were on hand to talk with prospective members and enjoy some chicken wings. Past President Laurie Vonglis provided a display which highlighted our club's members and held literature about Rotary. Membership Chair, Kirk Vanderbilt offered up words of fellowship and briefly discussed the requirements of membership. All in all there were about 6 potential candidates for membership out of everyone who attended. It was deemed an extremely successful gathering.

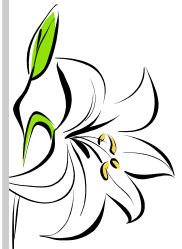
Thank you to all the Rotarians who came out to help talk about what Rotary represents and to answer any questions people had.

## **Remembering Former Avon Rotarian Dick Hartnett**

Richard Hartnett moved with his family to Avon in 1986 to assume the job of plant manager for General Foods. Dick joined the Avon Rotary Club that same year. He was very active with Avon Rotary Club, as well as many other community organizations, including the Avon Fire Department. When he retired in 1992, he and his wife Jane moved to New Smyrna Beach Florida to be near their children and enjoy golf and fishing.

## *APRIL CLUB SCHEDULE*

Tues. April 1	Reg Mtg—Dom Genova re Auto Dealer Scams & Tactics
Sat. April 5	District Assembly in Geneseo
Tues. April 8	Reg Mtg—Corn Fest Steering Com Following
Mon. April 14	Board of Directors Mtg
Tues. April 15	Reg Mtg—Christine Ryan & Rebecca Budinger, Avon Librarians
Sat. April 19	Roadside Cleanup & Breakfast
Tues. April 22	Reg Mtg—Diane Marcus re Business Etiquette
Tues. April 29	Reg Mtg—Club Assembly

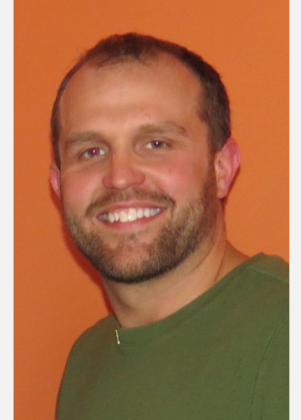


## *Meet Avon's Newest Members*



Jake and Heather Ayers have lived in Jake's hometown of Avon for the past 4 years. Jake is an Occupational Therapist at Monroe Community Hospital and Heather is in Business Development for First American Equipment Finance, which is a technology financing company located in Fairport. They both enjoy hunting and camping when it isn't hay season for Jake and when Heather is on break from getting her MBA at the University of Rochester.

They are looking forward to becoming more active in the community through the great work of Rotary.



## *South-East Asia Region Declared Polio-Free*

From Rotary International:

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) on 27 March congratulated the countries in the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) on being certified polio-free, a historic milestone in the worldwide effort to end polio. The 11 countries in the region are home to 1.8 billion people and represent the fourth of six WHO regions of the globe to become polio-free.



*The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you,  
whose presence calls forth your best.      Epictetus*

### *District Schedule*

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 5  | District Leadership Assembly @ Geneseo High School   |
| May 2-4  | District Conference in Burlington, VT.               |
| June 1-5 | Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia |

# Welcome New Members

Avon Rotary had a special ‘St. Patrick’s Day’ gathering March 18th at the Avondale Pub. We enjoyed a delicious ‘holiday’ buffet provided by our hosts, Autumn & Rob Welch. The occasion was very well attended and provided a great opportunity for club fellowship. Highlighting the night was the induction of two new Avon Rotarians, Jake & Heather Ayers. Special guest past district governor Gaven Hurley assisted Rotarian Dan Jones with the induction. This was a great evening for the memory books. Thanks to all for attending. Most importantly—WELCOME Jake & Heather!

Pictured right: PDG Gaven Hurley, President Marcia Cameron, New Member Jake Ayers, Rotarian Dan Jones. Missing—New Member Heather Ayers



## March Photo Highlights



## *Avon Interact—Exchange Student Weekend 2014*

By Julie Carney

On March 20th the Avon community had quite the international flair as 18 Rotary Exchange students arrived for the annual Avon Rotary Interact Exchange Weekend. Through the hard work of the Avon Interact Club members and their advisers, they were ready to entertain our foreign visitors with a fun packed, activity filled weekend.

After arriving and meeting their host families, the majority of students and families went to the Avon Inn for wing night where everyone got acquainted and where some lifelong friendships were beginning to form. On Friday, the students went with their host student(s) to Avon High School for first period, then loaded onto a bus where they went to RIT for a tour of the school. All forty students were provided lunch and two mini lectures by two of the professors, one on Ethics and the other on International Business. After school everyone spent a

few hours with their host families. In the evening, they all returned to Avon High School to join Avon Students at the "Glow Dance" where they danced under black lights where anything white or fluorescent glowed. Saturday was bowling in the afternoon and then a late evening at Casino Night, which has become a favorite where all the students show up dressed for a high class evening at "Casino Royal". They played Blackjack, Texas Hold-Em and Roulette, all while being served by a diligent waitstaff made up of volunteer Rotarian's. Sunday morning, Chef Ernie, who after a light night at his job has a casino dealer, arrived bright and early and prepared a pancake breakfast for the exchange students, interact students, weekend host families and the long term host families who came to pick our visitors up. All the students received tee-shirts to commemorate the weekend which they spent over an hour having everyone sign. It was then hugs goodbye as the exchange students returned to

their host communities.

This weekend is really made possible through the work of the Interact Club who raise all the money for the activities. A very special thanks has to go out to Principal Barbara Zalazney, who opens the school dance to the Rotary Exchange students and who provides the bus transportation to RIT and bowling, at no cost to the club. Casino Joe, who we have always rented the equipment from, is so impressed with this group of kids that he donated the use of the equipment for the second year in a row. All this means that the Interact Club has more funds that they can apply to service projects around the globe to further Peace through Service.

We can now close the book on another fabulous Interact Exchange Weekend!



# Human Influence on Climate Change Confirmed

By Funny Man—Kirk Vanderbilt

As we (presumably) near the end of what is, in all likelihood, the longest and coldest winter in our recent collective memories - it is probably safe to assume many of us are asking the question "why?". This is of course in addition to questioning why any of us would live in the Western New York area in the first place.

After months of data collection and number crunching, the highly trained and pocket-protector wearing folks at the IHOG (International House of Geeks) believe they have stumbled into an answer.

It seems that some of the initial observations into the well-established theories of climate change and the associated doomsday predictions have been a bit off the mark.

It turns out that this months-long tumble into a frozen hellhole of a winter can be traced back to a single person - and his name is BOB FRENCH. You see, Bob is the father of a 4 boys, all of whom seem to enjoy these activities they call "winter sports". I know - if there isn't a ball involved - it's clearly not a sport. We

all know that, but it cannot be denied that these not-far-from-the-tree offspring of Mr. French have deluded themselves into believing that snow is "fun" for some inconceivable reason. So after hours of careful study, they have pinpointed the main cause of this disastrous run of cold weather to one of his sons in particular. His name is STEVEN FRENCH. He has apparently made claims on certain social media internet outlets that he plans to be on his skis for at least 100 days this season. Clearly these are musings of a truly sick person, however it would seem that Steven has summoned a sort of supernatural power to control the weather, and it involves several esoteric dances and chants around open flame in various states of undress - usually including special headwear.

So as the snow once again piles up this evening, and as you find yourself cleaning off your cars and trucks for what would seem like the one hundredth time - take a look towards Conesus NY and imagine Steven dancing around his fire in only his Canadian Toque. It should be noted that Steven had only just perfected

this technique. He has learned and taken cues from other clinically disturbed individuals along the way, including but not limited

to: Steve Stephenson, Bill Shaw, and Bob French himself.

The fine folks at IHOG are happy with their findings, however there are reports of new data streaming in that may point to an additional cause of this God-forsaken weather. It appears that Rotarians TOM VONGLIS and LAURIE VONGLIS have recently purchased gas-powered snow machines for their camp in the Adirondack Mountains, and they have been reading up on, and practicing Mr. French's techniques. Further study is needed, but concerns over next winter are already forming.

