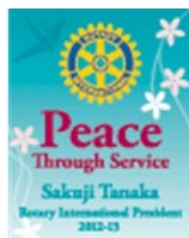


Special "Come Join Us" District Conference 2013 Edition



# The KILT



Vol. 1, SE. 1

*wrap yourself in Rotary*

By PDG BJ Metz  
Photos by Chris Hornaman



## Skytop Resort April 26-28, 2013

*Come forth into the light of things, let Nature be thy teacher.*

**William Wordsworth**

Skytop Resort in the Pocono Mountains served as the setting for this year's conference. Perfect weather complemented the beauty of the 5,500 acre mountain playground. Early arrivals explored the grounds and even squeezed in a round of golf before we all gathered for...

**Plenary Session I:** Past District Governor, Emcee, and Part-time Auctioneer Jack Zarra convened the Conference noting that he would keep to a strict timetable thanks to the watch that he doesn't wear. He would also abide by the script provided by Conference Co-Chair Diane Donaher unless, of course, he did not. District Governor Tony Jannetta thanked us all for a fantastic year. Our President's Representative from Rotary International was Joe Lauren and his wife Sonia. Joe is a PDG from District 7490 in Northeast New Jersey. He brought greetings from RI President Sakuji Tanaka whose theme of Peace Through Service is one of the most timely and inspiring messages in Rotary. Joe's travels with Rotary took him to Honduras where the 7:30 PM weekly Rotary meeting started at 8:30 and ended around 10:30 which allowed most of the attendees to leave around midnight. Rotary has great respect in Honduras and it was one of the groups asked to monitor elections after the political coup in 2009. Rotary affords individuals the opportunity to do things which they could never accomplish alone. Even Bill Gates could not eradicate polio on his own. To date in 2013 there have been 19 cases of the disease. Working together with our partners CDC and WHO, we will finish the job. After all, we are this close!

**Helping Others:** Warrington Rotarian Peter Clayton introduced us to the world of adaptive sports. This involves changing or adapting the equipment and/or rules of a sport to allow individuals with physical and mental disabilities to enjoy the fun and challenge of something they may have thought to be impossible. Peter is active with the all-volunteer Pennsylvania Center For Adapted Sports. He told us about Disabled Sports USA which began in 1965 when a group of disabled Vietnam Vets managed to ski in Colorado. The Disabled Sports motto is "If I can do this, I can do anything!" Disabled athletes participate in a wide variety of sports and some become good enough to compete in the Paralympics. Peter's main focus is on skiing, where they work with amputees and even blind people. Special equipment allows people to ski either with outriggers or a monoski device. A grant from the Veterans Administration is funding a program called Veterans In Action to integrate wounded warriors.



**GSE:** Blue Bell Rotarian Bruce Dearnley reported on his adventures as Team Leader for the D7430 Group Study Exchange team. Bruce accompanied four young professionals as they visited D2550 in Tochigi, Japan. Rotary meetings are different in Japan, entailing a lot of bowing. The team made presentations at nine Rotary meetings and delivered about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their program in Japanese. Their host families loved sake, sushi, and sashimi. The group slept on mats on the floor in tatami rooms. One of the locals made kimonos and the women on the team each tried on a kimono worth \$10,000. Meals consist of 9 courses of small portions served in elaborate presentations. Breakfast was usually fish, miso soup, and salad. The group spent a day visiting the Nikko World Heritage site, sacred spot of the Edo Shogunate with striking religious architecture that is adorned with intricate carvings. One of the sculptures, the "Three Monkeys", is famous throughout the world for the "see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil" poses. The carved monkeys covering their eyes, ears and mouth, respectively, were inspired by the Buddhist teaching that if we do not hear, see or speak evil, we ourselves shall be spared from evil, and the theme was chosen here in the belief that the monkeys would protect the horses from disease. The traditional Japanese tea ceremony requires years of study and the ceremony itself can last a couple of hours. The team encountered the world-famous shower toilet which includes a heated seat and a cleansing shower underneath. Team member Givon especially enjoyed a trip to the Ashikaga Toy Museum where a large section was devoted to Transformers. The Technology Park featured wind generators and the Flower Park had 30,000 pots of irises. Businesses visited included an automated concrete company, a company that makes Kubota combines, and an earthquake-proof hospital. They visited several grade schools where they made instant friends with the outgoing children. School lasts  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours longer than here and the school year has 35 more days. The elementary students surprised the team with their own lesson about Pennsylvania. Local Rotarians and community leaders wanted the Team to spread the word that it is safe to travel in Japan following the tsunami-related destruction.

**Come Join Us:** Blue Bell Rotarian Lisa Miller ventured into new territory as she endeavored to make a video as a public relations tool for her Club. There is a quote on a sundial outside Union Station in Los Angeles that reads "Vision to see, faith to believe, courage to do". That is the spirit Lisa wanted to capture with the video. Blue Bell is a close-knit and active Club but they sometimes lose sight of the impact of their efforts. The video represents a composite of the work, fun, and benefits of their efforts. The video serves to remind current members of the tremendous difference they are making and also to inspire prospective members to join. The pictures are accompanied by a soundtrack featuring the song "Come Join Us" written by Wisconsin Rotarian Jerry Mills. The video can be found on YouTube where to date it has been viewed nearly 400 times.

**Friday Evening:** Friday was International Night and Rotarians and Youth Exchange students could be seen in attire from around the world. There were an unusually large assortment of kilts this year for no apparent reason. We received a welcome and an escort from the pipers of the Liberty High School Grenadier Band. Even the dinner buffet was international featuring Indian, Asian, and Italian dishes. DG Tony offered a brief recap of the year thus far. We had a highly successful GSE with D2550 in Japan and a Friendship Exchange with Southern Australia. Watch out for next year's Friendship Exchange with Western Canada/Vancouver. We funded a Rotaplast Mission to Cebu City in the Philippines. Our ShelterBox Ambassador Allan Syphers was recognized with a Volunteer Service Award from President Obama. We have raised approximately \$50,000 for the polio eradication campaign. PRIP and Rotary Foundation Chair Wilf Wilkinson visited one of our District projects in India. There are 4 new international matching grants and 3 under review. The youth exchange program is alive and well with 15 inbound and 11 outbound. The early-registration 32" LED TV prize was won by Al Ottinger.



**Entertainment:** The legendary comedy team of Phil Janke and Larry Moss took the stage with another edition of their famous trivia game. This match pitted two Youth Exchange students against a pair of well-seasoned Rotary veterans. The students had to answer questions that were Rotary-based whilst the Rotarians faced questions about Austria and Sweden, the home countries of the two students. The prizes (conference t-shirts and Youth Exchange cookbooks) were displayed by glamorous assistants. In the end, the Youth Exchange team prevailed by the slimmest of margins over Team Rotary featuring Joy Zwicker of Springfield Flourtown and Ryan Van Norman of Slatington. The evening came to a close with a musical performance by Ambler Rotarian Gerry Timlin. Gerry favored us with songs including "I Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound" by Tom Paxton, "When You Were Sweet Sixteen" by James Thornton, and Irish folk standards "The Wild Rover" and "Molly Malone". Adventurous attendees headed for the generously stocked Hospitality Suites even though an early morning loomed with the promise of...

**Plenary Session II:** The morning session opened with a bang thanks to Rachel's Sunrise Surprise as she led us in a bit of stretching and light calisthenics to the tune of Nora Jones' "Sunrise". Thankfully the song ended before anyone collapsed and we proceeded with the Conference as planned. PDG Bill Palmer presented the 2010-11 financial statements which were unanimously approved by the Club President Elects or proxies.

**EWB:** Allentown West Rotarian Herb Klotz introduced Engineers Without Borders and the project they have undertaken to refurbish a school in Sierra Leone. EWB nationally has over 12,000 members who strive to provide sustainable engineering solutions to improve the quality of life. Sierra Leone was the site of an horrendous Civil War from 1991-2002. The rebels controlled and ruined what had been the prestigious Centennial School. EWB is systematically restoring the school with electricity, sanitary plumbing, pure water, and safe buildings. They needed partners to attempt such a project

and Rotary was the key due to a \$50,000 grant. One of the first accomplishments was to install solar panels and a battery that allowed them to put lights in 3 classrooms. EWB volunteers do not do the physical work. The local people invest sweat equity by doing the labor. A deep well was drilled in 2012 and sanitation was added in the form of toilets for the teachers. The well is operated by a hand pump. The local people pay a small fee to attend the school which helps pay for ongoing costs of operation. The tricky part was getting the local people to devise this payment plan on their own. Sanitation toilets for students were added in 2013 and a solar powered pump to send water to a storage tank. The next project is hoped to be a \$30,000 Global Grant with District 7430 for a new roof. Rotarians that wish to get involved can help with books, supplies and most importantly training for teachers.

**H<sub>2</sub>O:** Steve Maxwell came all the way from Colorado to share his knowledge of water resources and how it relates to sustainability and peace. Water is unique and essential to life. It exists in a fixed amount and there is no substitute at any price. For most of Earth's history demand was small and stable but in recent times demand has increased exponentially. The world's population tripled during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today there are still 2.5 billion people without adequate sanitation. 95% of the world's cities dump sewage into natural waterways. The problems are not all in the developing nations. 30% of the US population uses water that is technically non-compliant. Water shortages will increase with the depletion of aquifers and natural wetlands. Climate changes will exacerbate the problems. In the USA, only 1% of the water treated to such high standards is consumed as drinking water. Virtual water that is found in products and services we buy is consumed at levels that are 30 to 50 times higher. True water scarcity will lead to higher costs and eventual political conflict. We need to learn how to effectively reuse and recycle water and to develop low-flow appliances. Dual water systems in houses and buildings will enable us to reduce the amount of unnecessary water treatment. Water needs to be treated as a true factor of production and viewed in a more holistic and virtual manner. More information can be found at [www.wateraidamerica.org](http://www.wateraidamerica.org).



**Youth Exchange:** Blue Bell Rotarian Patti Smith explained the Heart 2 Heart nature of Youth Exchange. When one heart meets another, fun starts and friendships begin. More friendships means people are more connected and people that are more connected are happier. Rotary Youth Exchange connects countries, people, and hearts. Join them, if you've got the heart. Get connected and be a friend. The program is beneficial for the host families as well as the students. A short summer program is available for families that don't want to commit to a full school year. District 7430 YEX Committee members are always ready to help Clubs get involved with this fabulous Rotary program. Outbound Exchange student Chelsea is headed to Spain. She timidly applied to the program with limited knowledge of Rotary but, after meeting Rotarians and other exchange students, she is confidently heading abroad and eager to make new friends. She has an appreciation for the vast amount of work Rotarians are performing in the world and she is anxious to be an ambassador for Rotary and the USA. Olivier is nearing the end of his year as an Exchange student from Belgium. He wanted to have a year as an exchange student before heading to college and his research led him to select Rotary as the best program. He likes living with Rotarians and truly experiencing the culture of the host families. His nervousness began to vanish immediately when he arrived at the airport and received such a warm greeting. Bonds developed with the host families make it hard to leave one for another. It is not all fun and games. He misses family and friends but he praised the District YEX program for its support. He feels this experience will make him stronger and better able to face life's issues in the future. The Exchange program is a step toward peace because it builds friendships between countries and you don't want to have a war with your friends. Rotex Ambassador Katelyn told how her Exchange student experience led her to become a member of a Rotary E Club and win a \$90,000 Jack Kent Cooke scholarship.

**Is It The Truth?:** Boyertown Rotarian Joe Wyands introduced the 4 Way Test Speech Contest. Three regional winners squared off for the District finals. Participants can choose their subject matter and must speak for no less than 5 minutes and no more than 7. Neither props

nor notes are allowed. Contestant 1 spoke about the morality and ethics of gun control and the balance between liberty and order. Contestant 2 questioned whether or not the traditional classroom structure stifles creativity, leaving students afraid of the consequences of being wrong. Contestant 3 spoke about the need for research regarding the issue of gun control in the hopes of bridging a seemingly unbridgeable gap in our society. The judges deliberated and awarded first place and the \$1,000 prize to Zachary, Contestant 3 from Kutztown. The \$500 second place prize went to Kyle from Souderton-Telford. The \$500 third place prize was claimed by Brendan from Blue Bell. Brendan and Zachary will be freshman at Yale in the fall. Kyle will be entering his sophomore year at Souderton Telford High School.

**Saving Smiles, Changing Lives:** Easton Rotarian Jean McGill reported on the D7430 Rotaplast mission to Cebu City in the Philippines. Rotaplast sends teams of medical professionals as well as non-medical volunteers to provide free reconstructive operations and treatment for children in need worldwide. The focus of these missions is children in need of cleft lip or cleft palate surgeries. The cleft lip patients just need cosmetic surgery. The cleft palates can affect speaking and eating, increase the chances for infection, and possibly be life threatening. The local volunteers worked for a year spreading the word about the upcoming mission. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> Rotaplast mission to Cebu. The local people are either quite rich or very poor and there are armed guards in the stores. Many potential patients are incredibly poor and have no access to television, internet or mainstream advertising. The Philippines is an archipelago comprising 7,107 islands and some patients traveled for hours by boat. The prospective patients are already waiting in a long line when the 7AM opening clinic begins. This is the only hope for these families. There is no other way to get the necessary medical services. Children who are afflicted are often unable to go to school for fear of bullying. These procedures, done so routinely in the USA, will utterly change the lives of these children forever. The team worked in a hospital but conditions were far behind the times. The cots in the patients' ward had sheets that were never changed no



matter how many different patients came through. There were no ID tags so patients had their information written on their arms with a Sharpie. The surgery tables were not adjustable resulting in backbreaking conditions for the surgeons. The team managed to complete 60 cases, many requiring multiple extractions as well. All the children receive their own personal quilt courtesy of Wrap-A-Smile, a Rotarian-led organization based in Maine. District 7430 hopes to continue funding a mission every two years. Watch for the TV Auction fundraiser on December 7, 2013.

**Polio NID:** District 7450 Rotarian Charles Lyddane told us about his experiences on an National Immunization Day trip to Pakistan. There were 125 polio endemic countries in 1988 and that number has been whittled down to 3: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. As the saying goes, we are this close to eradicating the disease. Unfortunately the job that remains is difficult and can be done at an estimated cost of \$5.5 billion. The few areas that are left are high risk and difficult to get to. There are 2.2 million children under the age of 6 in Karachi which is the largest city in Pakistan. Most of these children are desperately poor. Low income, religious fanaticism plus poor sanitation is an excellent equation for the growth of polio. Many people live in areas where they wash their hands approximately every three days. The sanitary act of hand washing can help effectively raise the average IQ of a country by 20 points. The immunization days are published long before the team arrives. All but the most ignorant do whatever they must to get the vaccine. Vaccinated children have their fingernails colored and there are purple pinkies all over town. Charles' team went in support of the locals who do the real door-to-door work because they have much easier access to households in the slums of Karachi.

**Saturday Evening:** The Saturday night dinner featured the popular parade of flags as the Youth Exchange students were introduced one by one. DGTony spoke of how honored and humbled he felt to be part of this family of 1,880 Rotarians, partners, and friends. Our District has 44 autonomous Clubs that collectively raise over \$1 million per year and put it straight back into our communities. In Service Above Self we help people and we inspire each other as we do. 16 Clubs

achieved enough to earn the RI Presidential Citation. 16 Clubs also received the District Governor Citation. Also winning Presidential Citations were 7 Interact Clubs and one Rotaract Club. There were 21 District Clubs that received Peace Through Service Awards. District 7430 contributed \$42,500 to hurricane Sandy relief efforts. All 14 District Simplified Grants that were applied for have been funded. Rotary Foundation giving is already at \$150,000. The Club Rotarian of the Year was Nello Ianeri from Warminster. Sanjay Deshpande of The Rotary Club of West Reading and Wyomissing received the Citation for Meritorious Service. The RI Vocational Service award went to Len Marella from West Reading and Wyomissing. Clubs also received Zone 32 awards for Community Service (3 Clubs), 6 Areas of Focus (1 Club), Public Image (3 Clubs), and New Generations (3 Clubs). Hatboro Federal Savings received a Certificate of Appreciation and a donation to the Rotary Foundation was made on their behalf. Blue Bell Rotarian Lisa Miller accepted the award as the District 7430 Rotarian of the Year.

A tie and a scarf autographed by RI President Sakuji Tanaka were auctioned off by PDG Jack Zarra to benefit the Rotary Foundation. The tie went to Robert Walton in exchange for a \$1,500 donation. The scarf was received by Mark and Tammy Skiermont in return for a donation of \$650.

RI President's Representative Joe Laureni spoke about President Tanaka's timely and inspiring theme of Peace Through Service. Rotarians can make a significant difference in the quest for the elusive world peace. We can't count on our political leaders. Somebody, somewhere, has to say "Enough!" Perhaps someone like Mahatma Gandhi who said that poverty is the worst form of violence. A way to end the violence then is to end poverty. A path to peace can be made in small manageable steps as Rotarians think globally and act locally. Rotarians can partner with organizations such as Kids for Kids which helps families in Darfur, Sudan by giving them goats. The gift of a goat helps transform a family's life, not only giving them urgently needed proteins, vitamins and minerals from the milk, but the income earned will help lift the family out of abject poverty. Rotarians can partner with Nonviolent



Peaceforce, an organization that trains people in non-violent conflict resolution. The civilian peacekeepers are sent to unstable areas of the world in an effort to reduce violence and protect civilians in situations of violent conflict. Volunteers are needed for the newly formed Rotary Action Group for Peace. The Rotarian Action Group For Peace is an action-driven group of Rotarians, Rotarians' family members and Rotaractors working together for the purpose of advancing world peace and preventing wars through the education and activities of war prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and peacemaking. Nearly 600 Rotary Peace Scholars have gone on to build peace in their communities and nations, as well as across international lines. RI President Tanaka has arranged for 3 Peace Forums during his year. The Forums are dedicated to peace and the peace process. RI Representative Joe concluded with President Tanaka's words: "When we serve our communities - when we go to teach someone a skill, to help paint a house, to participate in an NID - we become more fully involved in our communities. We build connections with others; we give of ourselves. And in doing this, we work toward our real goal: a world of greater happiness, greater contentment, and greater peace."

The hospitality suites were once again in full swing and although it was a late night we all managed to come out bright and early for...

**The Memorial Service:** Reverend Dave Mohr presided over an ecumenical service designed to remember those Rotarians who have passed in the last year. PDG Roger Whitcomb provided accompaniment on the piano. Pastor Dave offered reflections on peace and being a Rotarian. He recalled hearing the news of the end of the War in 1945. He remembered the joy of the adults as they looked forward to peace and being able to settle down and get on with their lives. Being part of Rotary is being part of an organization that works diligently for peace. Rotary crosses the barriers of race, religion, and nationalities. Rotary breaks the barriers between people. Being a Rotarian means reaching out and touching the lives of people all over the world. At this service we remember the lives of 31 Rotarians that helped make a difference in the world. Pastor Dave recalled his favorite scripture from Matthew that says "Most

certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you didn't do it to one of the least of these, you didn't do it to me". Through Rotary, these 31 people cared enough to help those who had the least. Rotary gives the opportunity to be of service to all. PDG Bill Weber offered a Prayer for Peace and a bell tolled 31 times. A candle was lit for each of the departed Rotarians and a representative from their Club accepted a white rose in their remembrance. The candles softly burned as the service concluded with the singing of the Rotary Centennial song.

### **Final Plenary:**

Harleysville Rotarians Phil Janke and Larry "BUSHKILL" Moss invited us to meet them at the falls at next year's District Conference scheduled for May 2-4, 2014. Larry even managed to provide a real-live waterfall right there at the Plenary session! The event will take place at the newly renovated Buskill Inn. Those who register before December 31 will receive a significant discount. DGE Frank and his Committee have a lively weekend planned including a Kentucky Derby party.

RI Representative Joe Laurenzi thanked us for a great weekend and told us that he learned a lot about District 7430 and also about Rotary. He praised us for our impressive Rotary Foundation support and our wide array of projects. He considers us overachievers and wondered where we get our ideas and our energy. Vibrant Clubs are the key to membership and we obviously have vibrant Clubs in our District. He was impressed with the poise of the students in the 4 Way Test speech contest. It was heartwarming to see the youth exchange kids and how full of life they are. Joe's own district was the beneficiary of our Sandy relief efforts and he brought thanks from DG Bonnie Sirower for all that we did. He talked about the difference between an idea in the world of research and one in Rotary. The idea in the research world must be a secret lest someone else capitalize on it. Rotary is where ideas are shared with like-minded people who can make the idea special by doing something with it. Paul Harris shared an idea in 1905 and we are still extending that idea. It is hard to gauge the full impact of Rotary. You can count how many people get fed and determine how many benefit from the pure water from a well but the emotional impact cannot be measured.



Photographer Chris Hornaman shared a montage of memories of the Conference and the weekend closed with the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne.

**Odds and Ends:**

**House of Friendship:** Thanks to Cindy Hornaman, Linda Young and the Emmaus Rotarians for a room stocked with delicious treats.

**Sight and Sound:** IT Guru Steve Smith ran the visual part of the program to perfection.

**The Script:** Thanks to Co-Chair Diane Donaher for the legendary script that did in fact keep things on schedule even when it appeared to be ignored.

**The Tap Room:** The unusual thing about the Tap Room is that it has no tap. Legend has it that people had to tap on the door to get a drink during the days of prohibition.

**The Crow's Nest:** The Skytop observation post was used during World War II for spotting and reporting enemy aircraft. It was manned around the clock by volunteers.

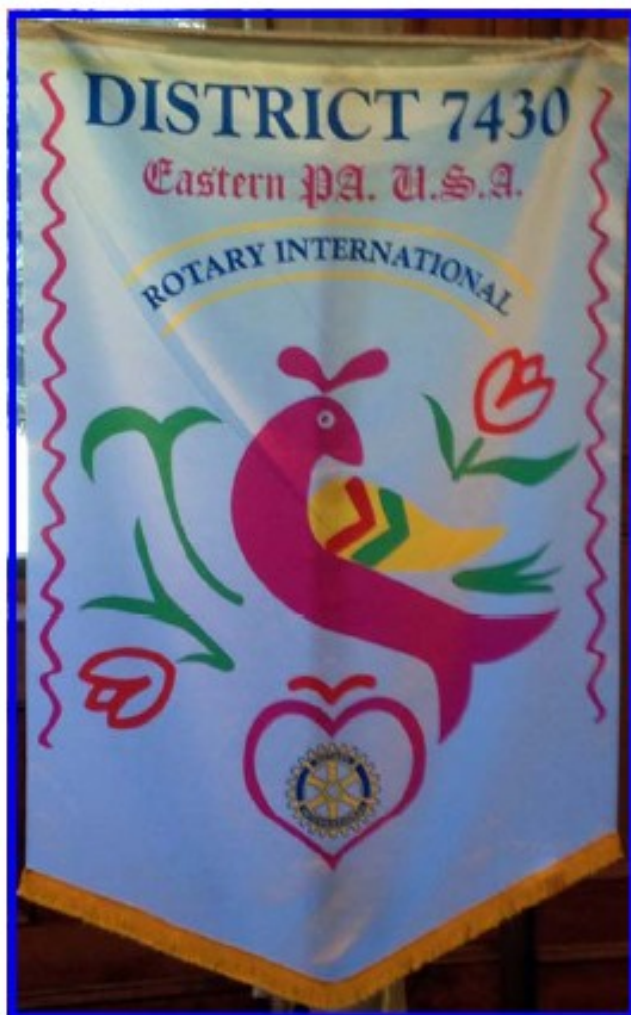
**Event Sponsors:** Special thanks to Hatboro Federal Savings, Doylestown Wealth Management, Kirkland Printing, North Penn Rotary Club, Susquehanna Bank, Moyer Indoor/Outdoor, and Vist Bank.

**Silent Auction:** A wide array of items in the House of Friendship raised a total of \$1,930 --- \$160 for ShelterBox, \$470 for Youth Exchange, \$700 for the Rotary Foundation, \$150 for Engineers Without Borders, \$450 for Rotaplast.

**Rotary Colors:** Many of the Rotary Conference signs were bordered with a distinct pattern which so happens to be the official tartan of Rotary International.

*For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne*

***See you at the Falls!***



**DG Tony & Rachel**



**RI Rep. Joe and Sonia Lauren**



**ROY Lisa Miller**





**An anonymous group of Scottish fashion models**



**Great strategy is needed for the Amazing Race**





**The 4 Way Test Winner**



**The \$1,500 Tie**



**BUSHKILL!!!**



**The Youth Exchange**





**Rachel's Sunrise Surprise**



**GSE Team Leader Bruce Dearnley**



**Past, Present, and Future**





**IT Guru Steve Smith**



**Gerry Timlin performs**



**The Youth Exchange team wins the Trivia contest**





**The Pipers from the Liberty High School Grenadier Band**



**No tap? No problem!**



**Peter Clayton demonstrates**





**The view from the crow's nest.**

**DG Tony and the staff of The KILT express their sincere thanks to BJ Metz and Chris Hornaman for their great work in producing the contents of this Newsletter.**