



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

OCTOBER 1, 2023



Another busy month in the lives of Bethel Rotarians! On September 10th, we co-organized the 3rd Annual Mahoosuc Art & Agriculture Tour, featuring seven area farms and more than a dozen artists! One week later, on September 17th, we hosted the 8th Annual Bethel Rotary 5K & 1 mile run where more than 110 participants, ages 2-75 enjoyed the event. Volunteers & starting line in photos above. More than \$10,000 was raised, earmarked for scholarships to after school and enrichment programming for the youth of the Bethel area!

We also had some fantastic meetings, including a belated President recognition for 2022-2023 club President, Jean Benedict. Rotarian Robin Zinchuk presented her with a President's pin and congratulated her for her year filled with success: events, new members, and dozens of service projects. Special guest speaker – Bill Green, long time TV personality from Bill Green's Maine. He was very complimentary of the work that Rotary does! These events in photos below.

For more information, photos and videos, see our Facebook page, imbedded on our website, bethelrotary.org



Biddeford-Saco

Rotarians Ken Farley and Jane Foley prepared freshly made popcorn for “Movie Night in Saco.” Club members served pizza, popcorn, and snow cones to more than 300 refugees recently arriving to the city. This is all part of the Goodwin “Kindness in the Community Day” created by the club to honor devoted Rotarian Earl Goodwin who passed in August 2022. This year the Club was awarded a District Grant to continue this program which focuses on Random Acts of Kindness to impact seniors, veterans and children. For more information about the program, go to <http://Biddeford-sacorotary.org>.





Bridgton-Lake Region

Oh what a day! Hurricane Lee was no match for our Rotarians, golfers and friends. Nearly 70 golfers took to the course this year in celebration of our 14th Annual Golf Classic at Bridgton Highlands Country Club. Rotarians were joined by Lake Region High School Interact Club which held a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will help fund a service mission to Colombia in the Spring of 2024. Several hundred dollars were raised. Golf Team Leader and President-Elect Lisa Ryan with her daughter Lauren managed the event, the club's biggest annual fundraiser.

An important speaker this month was Hilary Harper Wilcoxon of Team Long Run, which supports early childhood literacy by placing books in homes of Head Start children. Our club is partnering with them along with the Bridgton Congo Church and Bridgton Books.





Brunswick

Brunswick Rotary invited 93-year-old Claude Bonang to our weekly meeting on 11 September under somewhat false circumstances! Claude was under the impression he was performing for us, which he eventually did; but first we awarded Claude a Paul Harris Fellow. Claude, a local celebrity, received this recognition based on many years of sustained and exceptional service to our Brunswick community. While we looked forward to hearing Claude perform, we also were excited to give him this special and prestigious Rotary International award. After a long career as a high school teacher, his love of music blossomed into a vibrant second career as a volunteer entertainer at nursing homes, schools, and in fundraisers. Now he mostly performs for local nonprofits on an assortment of instruments he has acquired, including a standard musical saw, a bow tie musical saw, a Harmonica, a pan flute and a melodica. Claude was so appreciative during our ceremony and didn't miss a beat performing on his bones and saw.





Brunswick Coastal

BRUNSWICK COASTAL ROTARY PRESENTS

A Harvest Fall Dinner Buffet DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2023 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

DONATION: \$45.00 PER PERSON / \$50.00 at the door. Link: [FALL HARVEST DINNER BUFFET](#)

Menu: Pulled Pork (Jackfruit in BBQ Sauce vegetarian option) Baked Beans (made with local beans) Corn muffins and Buttermilk honey rolls Sweet Potato and Gruyere Gratin (Local Sweet Potatoes) Local Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette Pumpkin Pie and Pumpkin Sweet Potato Layer Cake Food prepared by Chef Sandy Holland of Union Street Bakery & Cake Shop

Live Music by Dan Blackerby & Cash Bar

LOCATION: TOPSHAM FAIRGROUNDS, 54 Elm Street TOPSHAM, MAINE

If unable to attend, comfortable donations are welcome and may be sent to: Brunswick Coastal Rotary P.O. Box 1010 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Photos feature a project in South Africa funded by the Club.



Honoring our own with Paul Harris Awards is always wonderful. Congratulations, Gregg Dowty and Nick Pellman. New Members can't be beat: Welcome, Ross Armstrong. But what could be better than seeing the results of our investment in youth.

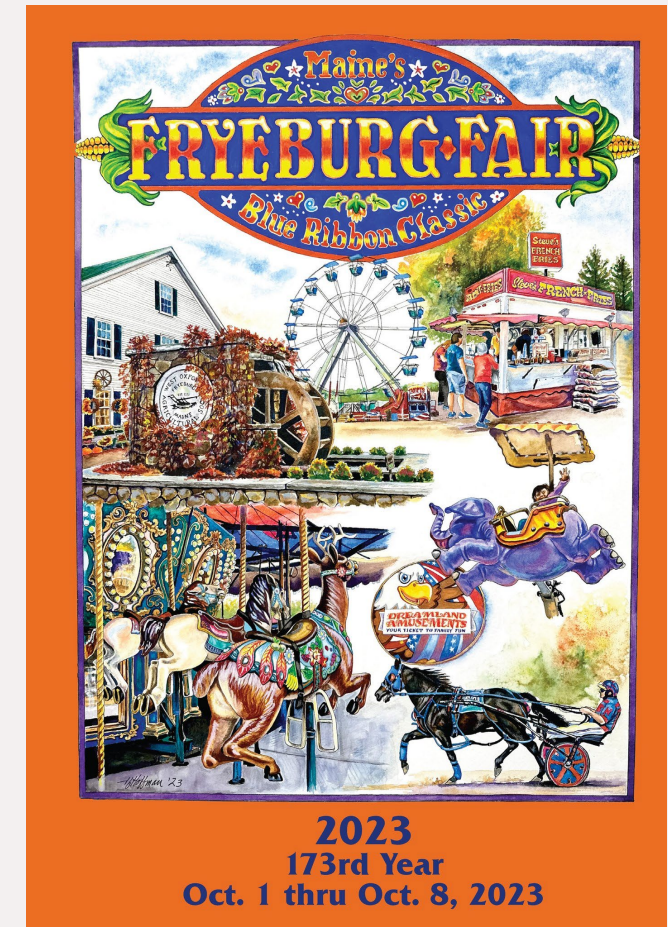
In September we welcomed the winner of the Dover Rotary's \$10,000 DeColfmacker Scholarship to speak to the club. Accomplished, confident, and excited are three ways to describe Dover High School graduate Emily Fraser. She is entering her senior year at Bentley University majoring in Information Design and Corporate Communications with a minor in Finance. She carries a 3.8 GPA and has made Bentley's President's List for the past 3 years. In her first year, she said she learned to never take anything for granted as the COVID epidemic closed classrooms, dining halls and most activities. All her classes were online. During her sophomore year, life changed again and many restrictions ended. As a former Interact student, she took advantage of opportunities to serve and became a peer tutor, a Relay for Life participant, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and joined Kappa Delta Sorority where she now serves as Director of Philanthropy and Community Service. In the Fall 2022, she studied for a semester in Italy, and toured seven other counties. Emily also managed to fit in two internships, one with TXS in merchandising and another in marketing with Medicus Health Solutions. After graduation she would like to get a job in marketing in a health-related field, hopefully in the Boston area. She ended her slide presentation with a Thank You to Dover Rotary.



Fryeburg Area

Want to attend the Fryeburg Fair? It'll be in full swing during the first week of October. But there may still be a few slots to fill at the Fryeburg Area Potato Booth, one of the healthiest and tastiest meals at the Fair. One of our club's biggest fundraisers, it's lots of fun. Ask anyone who has participated. Just reach out Nancy Boros at npb201@gmail.com or President Laura Naughton at fryeburgarearotary@gmail.com.

See you at the Fair!



Hampton

Hampton Rotarians worked the gate entrances at the Hampton Beach Seafood festival and enjoyed fireworks at the end of the night. Guests enjoyed all kinds of seafood from local businesses while listening to many different bands perform all weekend. (Photos left to right: Joan Correll, Bill Dibiasio, Marion Cheney, and Geoff Merrill then below Carolyn Eastman and Sherry Rand)

We will soon be having an event at The Brook Casino in Seabrook! Comedy Night on November 2nd, featuring three different comedians from Boston. Tickets are \$35 each and it should be a great time. We would love to have some people from other clubs join us. [Eventbrite Link](#). For more information, contact Charlie Davidson at chazmo67@gmail.com.



Kennebunkport

Goose Rocks Beach Cleanup

On Saturday, September 23rd, members of the Kennebunkport Rotary Club participated in the International Coastal Cleanup Initiative that is spearheaded by the Ocean Conservancy. Even small actions can make a big difference for our oceans and aquatic ecosystems. Members walked the 3-mile Goose Rocks Beach picking up anything that was not naturally created. This year we saw an increase in construction materials from recent storms and small plastic debris. A great morning making a difference in our corner of the world.



Ogunquit

Ogunquit Rotary Member Profile – Peter Woodbury

The Ogunquit Rotary Club is fortunate to have Pete Woodbury as a member and I hope this member profile gives you an idea of why. If I listed all the ways Pete contributes to our club and brings joy to meetings and events, it would take up the whole newsletter. Pete is the first person to volunteer to work at every event, and always takes the hardest shifts of early morning and cleanup. Pete is not currently on the board but brings pizza to every board meeting so that members can have dinner together and socialize. Pete manages a Clynk account to raise funds. He doesn't just report on the total funds in the account but writes a funny poem to share the total dollars raised. Pete is welcoming, humble, hard-working, smart, and an inspiration to the rest of us. If you are in OGT on the first or third Thursday of each month I encourage you to join our club lunch meeting and meet Pete in person – you will be glad you did! (Peter is in the center of this photo from BonAire.)





Oxford Hills

The Oxford Hills Club had a busy September. We spent 4 days at the Oxford Fair running one of the parking gates and parking cars, as well as staffing one of the admission ticket booths. Members were joined by Interact and high school students to assist in filling all positions needed to get the job done.

Photo top left: Admission gate attendants L to R: Dan Hart and President Beth Abbott

The Club wrapped up its final Lobsters for Scholars Raffle event and Club Member Lynne Schott was the winner of a Lobster Feed for 12 at a location of her choice. She chose her son's home in Bowdoinham and they were treated to lobsters, clams, corn, and chips for the event.

Photo on right: Lynne Schott, happy winner

Photo below: Lynne's son, Ben and the OH Club crew L to R: George Rice, Patty Rice, Tina Fox and Warren Spencer.





Portland

This year, Rotary honored 120 heroes at the Flags for Heroes ceremony at the Maine Mall on Sept 8th. Over the past five years, Rotary has honored over 500 “life heroes” who embody Rotary’s motto of “Service above Self,” making a difference in our community and in our lives as parent, spouse, teacher, coach, veteran, first responder, nurse, doctor, volunteer, charity, or friend.

A special thanks to Flags organizers, Charlie Frair and Paul Tully (bottom right), and their dedicated team, to our corporate sponsors including Rowe Ford, Hannaford, Northern Light Mercy Hospital and Health Care, MaineWorks, and Cianbro, and the many Rotarians and non-Rotarians who supported Flags. Team photo, bottom left, 1st row, Patty Byers, Dick Hall, Bruce Moore, Nannette Ranger-Duncanson, Mark Rajotte, Charlie Frair. 2nd row, Brian Nickerson, Kirk Duffy, Paul Gore, Marie Keefe, Paul Tully, Cyrus Hagge, Bruce Jones, Jan Chapman

Thirty percent of the funds raised will go to fight homelessness in the Portland area, and the rest to the Rotary club’s charitable work.



Portsmouth

The club celebrated 100 years of service at a barbecue. Aileen Dugan, Foundation Chair, recognized 18 Rotarians with multiple Paul Harris Awards. Also given a special presentation was the incomparable Mort Schmidt, a past club president and past district governor among numerous contributions to RI (photo top left). We are just a few thousand dollars away from reaching a goal of \$1 million all-time dollars in Rotary Foundation contributions.



Portsmouth Rotarian John St. Pierre, now living in Maui, received a \$10,000-dollar check from the Portsmouth club for Maui relief. (Photo of John, right, presenting check to Michael Lunque, President, RC of Maui Upcountry.) The St. Pierre family has been actively involved in relief efforts.

Presidential candidate Nikki Haley and UNH Head Hockey Coach Mike Souza highlighted a distinguished guest list over the past few weeks. (Photo at bottom, left, Nikki Haley and, right, Club President Yvonne Legg.)





River Valley

Tim Placey, Fellow Rotarian and Past District Governor, District 7782 presented Fellow Rotarian and 2022-2023 Club President Roger Whitehouse with his 8th Paul Harris recognition in September. (Photo top, left, Roger and right, Tim) Roger not only contributes financially, he has been the local Chairperson for collecting crutches, canes, and walkers for the “Crutches4Africa” Campaign, is the local Chairperson for the Clubs Winterization for seniors project, and chairs the Club’s Public Relations Committee. Congratulations, Roger!

Four new members were inducted into the Club in September. Pictured left to right. Club President, Dave Duguay; Amy Corey, Physician Assistant; Shannon Glover, River Valley Healthy Community Coalition; Catherine Ross, Thibault Remembrance Center Affiliate of The Fortin Group Funeral Homes; Joann Bisson, CEO OFCU; Kathie Williams, Larry LaBonty Recovery Center; and Tim Placey.





Sanford-Springvale

We celebrated our 100th anniversary at a Centennial Gala on Saturday, September 16, at a private hangar at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport. Senator Susan Collins, an honorary Rotarian herself, was the keynote speaker. She is pictured here with important Maine Rotarians and with Junior Civil Air Patrol. The event and club were well documented in the following article written by Shawn Sullivan from *Seacoast Online*:

https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/opinion/columns/2023/09/20/congratulations-sanford-springvale-rotary-on-a-century-of-service/70797415007/?fbclid=IwAR3LWJ35y2uHybH-BAx_8cb2uQuAMCITMtSYIs0kjsKzStbhcmde4nc3TY

Spoke at Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club's 100th Anniversary



On Saturday, Senator Collins delivered remarks at the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club's 100th anniversary celebration.

Senator Collins is an honorary Rotarian, and she received the Paul Harris Fellow recognition from the club's president, Elias Thomas. She spoke with Elias and his wife, Jane (pictured above left), and met with the first female Rotary member in Maine, Rosemary Guptill (pictured above right).



Westbrook-Gorham

Monday September 25th was a perfect day for golf. The 29th Annual Rotary Classic Golf Tournament was held at Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland, ME, with a record 23 teams registered, including a team from RC Kennebunkport. Pictured clockwise, l-r, PDG Peggy Belanger and W-G Rotary President Crystal Brown were all smiles while golfers checked in and enjoyed breakfast sandwiches courtesy of sponsor Rowe Westbrook and coffee courtesy of Aroma Joe's. Club member and PP Christine Johnson and DG Marion sold games! Chalmers team looking good and Underwriting Sponsor Idexx fielded two foursomes and even sent us three volunteers to help things run smoothly! We also enjoyed a great bag lunch courtesy of Amato's.

A complete list of our amazing sponsors, this year's Winner's Circle, and our fundraising results can be found on our golf website westbrookgorhamrotarygolf.org This was our fifth year using the EventCaddy website hosting service, and we continue to be very pleased with this tool which helps us better manage the tournament, easily invoice sponsors, and take payments.

Thanks to our fabulous resident photographer Scott Linscott of maineprophoto.com there are lots of great pictures of the event at [2023 WG Rotary Golf Classic](#) photo album on our Facebook page.



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

If you didn't see your Club's News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not hear from your President or PR person. We would love to hear from every club. Forward about 75 words in a Word document and a couple of separate photos with the identities of people in them, especially Rotarians. Keep photos flattering, please. Send your material to: RotaryNews7780@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do for your Club, the District and the World.

Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor, RC of Bridgton-Lake Region

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, RC of Portsmouth