



September 2025

Club News

Rotary
District 7780



Bethel

Our annual weeklong Yard Sale was a record-breaking success, to the benefit of the many community projects and organizations we support. The crew finished cleanup at the sale site on August 12. On the 19th we were visited by DG Emma Bodwell and Assistant DG Patti Smith. Emma brought great ideas for recruiting members and sustaining dedication. Thank you, Emma! Next up we volunteer at a local Monarch Butterfly festival and then at an Art & Agriculture event at local farms.



Bridgton-Lake Region

Join us for the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club's 16th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Saturday, September 13 at the beautiful Bridgton Highlands Golf Course. Registration opens at 7:45 a.m., Shotgun Start at 8:30. Enjoy coffee, lunch, prizes, and a \$10,000 Hole-in-One contest! Sponsors will be featured at our new Resource Table. "Ten teams are already signed up—space for ten more! Golfers from across the District are invited to register," said Rotarian Joe Barth, Golf Committee Chair, at right. Visit LakeRegionRotary.com for details about how to register.



Damariscotta-Newcastle

Summer is always a busy month here on the Maine MidCoast. And the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotarians have been here, there and everywhere! We raffled off a kayak, celebrated our friends at Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust (with whom we have collaborated on District Grants), held another successful golf tournament with the Damariscotta Lions, directed parking and sponsored another Community Plate Supper

(<https://www.yahoo.com/news/videos/good-news-strangers-share-food-232711513.html>) at Inn Along the Way (with whom we will be creating another pollinator garden thanks to another District 7780 Grant)

Karl's Kids participated in 3 Back to School Bash or Set for Success events in Lincoln County and we again provided parking control assistance for our corporate member, Central Lincoln County Y at their Bash!



Dover

President Cathy presented Kenna Johnston, of the Dover Parents Music Club, a check for \$500 to support the DHS Annual BandShow, on October 18th. This may be one of their biggest events ever. Please plan to attend.

Thanks to all Rotarians and friends who helped weed the Rotary gardens at Henry Law Park. Bottom Photo (l-r) Gregg Dowty, Doug Locy and River, Gary and Deb DeColfmacker, Malcolm McNeill, Becky Crowley, Rob Gagnon, Cathy Beaudoin and Harry Cheney (and Noreen Biehl taking the photo).



Kennebunkport

The Kennebunkport Rotary's Annual Duck Race was a sell-out success on August 23rd! Thanks to incredible community support, we sold out of ducks on race day and had a large crowd watching the race. Our duck race is our largest fundraiser of the year, raising vital funds that go right back into local programs. With 22 generous race sponsors and 8 businesses donating gift card prizes, this year's fundraiser was our biggest yet—showing just how much our community can achieve together.



Kittery

Nellie Young, Kittery Rotary's newest member, is launching a new international project in Peru. Building on her success raising \$18,000—including a \$4,000 District 7780 grant—for a school in Pachacamac, Nellie now aims to support a culinary school that trains youth in cooking and entrepreneurship. The school combats food insecurity and promotes nutrition. Partnering with the Pachacamac Rotary Club, Nellie is raising \$6,000 for equipment and infrastructure. She's speaking to clubs across the district to build support.



venmo



Nellie Young

Scan to pay Nellie Young

Oxford Hills

Oxford Hills Rotary recently had Gregg Dowty, District Protection Officer, for our annual Club Protection training. If your Club hasn't had their training, it is important to Clubs, the District and RI, that all Rotarians are trained in protection of children, elders, disabled and all vulnerable persons so there are safeguards in place to protect those we serve. The policy and details can be found on the RI website or contact Gregg FMI. Top Photo: Gregg Dowty

At a recent meeting, our guest speaker was Christy Gardner and her dog, Doug, from the non-profit, Mission Working Dogs, providing service dogs to veterans. Christy is a double leg amputee disabled veteran from the US Army, founder and President of the non-profit organization. They train both therapy dogs and service dogs. Mission Working Dogs has graduated 51 dogs in 5 years and there are currently 90 dogs in the program. Christy is a para athlete, and is a World ranked Para thrower aspiring to make the US Paralympic Team for LA2028. President Jeff Noblin presented Christy & "Doug" with a \$250 donation. FMI go to www.missionworkingdogs.org FMI about OH Rotary go to www.oxfordhillsrotary.org or find us on FB.

Bottom Photo: President Jeff presenting donation to Christy Gardner



Portland

Portland Rotarians joined Maine Sweetser's free Mental Health Awareness training, gaining tools to support those in crisis. Led by Jan Chapman and Doreen Rockstrom, the team explored listening skills, safety, and recovery programs. Rotarians are encouraged to participate—contact Mason Cashman at 207-701-7304 for details. Top Photo: Portland Rotarians Larry Gross (second from left), Tom Ronello, Jan Chapman (center) and Bruce Moore (pictured second from right) participated with Sweetser volunteers in Mental Health First Aid volunteer training. Not in picture is Doreen Rockstrom.



Six Portland Rotarians went by sea to Little Yarmouth Island Cundy's Harbor escorted by organizer Chris Walls of Maine Island Trails Association (MITA). The team spent a beautiful day patrolling the island's shoreline for sea debris, aka flotsam and jetsam, including two lobster traps, many lobster buoys and mass quantities of styrofoam. Every Rotarian had a great time of fellowship in service, and the result was a cleaner Casco Bay. Bottom Photo: Rotarians Larry Gross, Amy Chipman, Bill Blount, Mary Pat and Tim Donnellan, Jim Vincenzi. Led by Chris Walls, of MITA, the son of Portland Rotarians Kathy and Jerry Walls (not shown).



Portsmouth

We participated in a landscaping project at the Jarvis Center—a thank you of sorts for letting us host our annual Thanksgiving Dinners there. More than 30 arborvitaes were planted.



Past-President Yvonne is leading an initiative to field another Rotaplast trip, this time to Luxor, Egypt. Last year the club sent an impressive delegation to India. Already places are filling up fast. (Top Photo)

Dennis Moulton, former District Newsletter Publisher, who has moved to Spain, shares his blog with us. (Middle Photo)



President Ian has revived our bi-monthly member socials. He even picked up the tab for munchies that kept everyone fed during the inaugural outing at Paddys Restaurant on Pease. (Bottom Photo)

Among the month's speakers were Titus Dawson, corporate support manager at New Hampshire Public Broadcasting and District Governor Emma Bodwell.



Saco Bay

The Saco Bay Rotary Club enjoyed the summer with a variety of Fellowship events held to bring together Rotarians outside of the weekly meetings. A trip to Fenway Park to catch a Red Sox game, a meetup at The Lincoln in Biddeford to enjoy some conversation, and the annual Lobster Bake at the Scammans were all well attended!



Sanford-Springvale

The Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club had a fruitful August!

Rotarians teamed up with staff, students, and families from St. Thomas School for a paint project - refreshing their map of the United States originally painted by Rotarians thirteen years ago. The Club and the school have had a wonderful partnership this past year, collaborating on many special activities.

More recently, Rotarians took to the Acton Fair to sell their world-famous chicken livers! They sold over 400 lbs., bringing in a record \$7000 to support Club programming and activities. Next to our chicken livers booth, RYLA and Interact Club students scooped and sold ice cream, generously donated by Shaker Pond.



Sebago Lake

Pictured at top is Ingo Hartig of the Sebago Lake Rotary Club and Sue Pride, Museum representative. Ingo is doing a teaching on beekeeping and honey production at the Casco Historical Society Museum in Casco, Maine.

Photo below is of Ingo with his grandson Hugo learning how to care for the bees at Ingo's home in Raymond.

Ingo Hartig, a 30+ year member of the Sebago Lake Rotary Club, took up beekeeping 8 years ago. He has increased his hive count over the years and was eager to share what he'd learned with the public at the event held at the Casco Historical Society.



South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

On July 26, the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club and the City of South Portland celebrated the 150th anniversary of Portland Breakwater Light—affectionately known as Bug Light. Rotarian Jack Roberts, longtime steward of the lighthouse, appeared in costume alongside fellow celebrants. The event featured music, crafts, food, and a surprise water cannon. Bug Light, restored by Rotary over 40 years (before & after pictures at top) will be open for tours on September 3 and on September 13, Open Lighthouse Day.



Westbrook-Gorham

We were pleased to work with Westbrook Police Department again at National Night Out on August 5 in Westbrook. NNO is an annual community event held on the first Tuesday in August that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood safety through events such as block parties and cookouts. Many communities in Maine participate each year.

W-G Rotary handed out new and gently used children's books to children of all ages again this year. Any books not distributed that night were given to the Community Policing Center or Westbrook LEARNS programs. We are grateful to our partner, Altusa of Portland, for providing most of the new books.

Final Call for our 31st Annual Rotary Classic Golf Tournament, Monday September 22 at Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland, Maine. Our biggest fundraiser!! All are welcome to sponsor and/or play. For more info, or to sponsor or register:
<https://westbrookgorhamrotarygolf.org/>

