



# Rotary International District 7780

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## District 7780 District Newsletter May 2010



**Jeffery S. Pelkey**  
District Governor



*Service Above Self*  
A very special Rotarian  
Elias Thomas III

The following story is of a meeting which preceded our great District Conference by one day.

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**Regional District 7780 Club Meeting**



**Thursday May 13 Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club, York Rotary Club and the Kittery Rotary Club** joined the **Rotary Club of South Berwick-Eliot** for a regional meeting at Spring Hill in South Berwick. The combined meeting was a chance to honor two great Rotarians and their families, but first started with a presentation by the York County Police Elder Abuse Task Team.



The Task Team was recognizing the help provided by the South Berwick-Eliot Club making possible their ability to help abused elders who do not know where or who to turn to. The support was made possible through a District Simplified Grant written by Mike Maloney. The team stated that what struck them most about the SB-E club was their sharing their Happiness in reaching out to the community, so they presented the club with an engraved box to use when they collected their Happy dollars.



This was a lead-in into a presentation by Brian Beeler on behalf of the club. Brian shared how much Mike and his family has contributed to the club and the community. Some of the Haitian support fundraisers have been run entirely by the Maloney family. Mike was also the writer of the DSG grant for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade dictionary project and for initiating a Thanksgiving dinner for seniors at the community center which served over 100 people. Brian presented Mike with a Paul Harris Fellow and his wife and two daughter's flowers praising them as really living the Rotary motto of service above self.



That Presentation was then the lead-in to **District Governor Jeff Pelkey**, who called Mike to the front of the room to present him with a District 7780 "**Unsung Hero**" award. Mike has had to transfer to the Rotary Club of York and all agreed York was getting a great Rotary asset.

**PRIVP Mike McGovern** then asked DG Jeff and PDGx2 Marie Williams to join him in the next

presentation. They called upon **PDG Elias Thomas** and **his wife Jane** to come forward. PRIVP Mike talked about the Rotary Foundation and all it makes possible around the world. Mike said that there were very few Major Donors in the District, and those were almost all Level I Major Donors. He then presented Rotary International's recognition of Elias and Jane Thomas for their support as Level II Major Donors, a very significant contribution by a couple who are always giving so much of their time and resources to Rotary.



**District Governor Jeff Pelkey** took the podium again to talk about Rotary's highest award. Every year the District Governor's submit about 2000 nominations, and each year only about 100 or less are awarded by Rotary International. With over 530 Districts around the world most do not get a recipient. DG Jeff He then called upon **PDG Elias Thomas III** to come forward once again, and presented him with Rotary International's "*Service Above Self*" Award. We all congratulate Elias and recognize that he lives and breathes Rotary; giving of himself at all corners of the globe, while just as willing to help local clubs around our own District.



*Service Above Self*

Thank you to Gil Lutz for many of the photos used in this article

## District Conference 2009-2010

May 14-16 at the Sheraton in Portsmouth New Hampshire

DGN Gary Speers and PE Judy Speers, Conference Chairs joined DG Jeff Pelkey and his wife Julia in welcoming everyone to the 2009-2010 District Conference.



Friday we started at noon at the Sheraton



President of the Kittery Rotary Club Julie Perreault welcomed Rotarians with Conference co-chair DGN Gary Speers



The Hospitality room had a great view of the river Many thanks to PDG Mort Schmidt who reported for the first time he had to restock



The food was great



DG Jeff recognized many of our clubs "Unsung Heros"



The RI President's' Representative was Louis Piconi, Rotary Foundation Trustee



We were very fortunate to have as our Friday Night speaker, Gift of Life Recipient and Ambassador Grace Agwaru



Location of District 3030, our GSE partners ~



Lawyer, Doctors, Musicians: extremely talented and gregarious, the District 3030 team was a delight to share time and stories with



They got DG Jeff into a traditional India folk dance



Dr Choudhary's hobby is classic dance



Elizabeth Trice of the District 7780 team, partnered in a duet with Pritam Nikal, Master of Arts in Music



PDG Liz, District Foundation Chair led one of the many breakout sessions, this one on Fresh Foundation Ideas



Our Four Way Test Essay finalists and the Club sponsors join DG Jeff in a photo opportunity



Past Youth exchange alumni, Mrs. Maine, addressed the conference and current and outgoing Youth Exchange students



Things got a little hairy for a while as the sergeant-at-arms rep went ape



RI President's Rep Lois Piconi provided insights on where he thought the future of Rotary would be



Rotarian and humorist Glen Ward, kept you everyone smiling with his stories and have impersonations



As things wrapped up, DG Jeff had a very big thank for the great job DGN Gary and P-E Judy Speers done in organizing a great conference



District Governor 2009-2010 closed with a word of thanks and appreciation for the clubs work and a great future under the up coming leadership of DGE Ann-Lee Hussey, DGN Gary Speers,, and DGND Marty Peak Helman

### Why I give to the Annual Giving Program. What is your EREY Story?

Every year we are asked to give to the Rotary Foundation Annual Giving Program – EREY, Every Rotarian Every Year!

Why do you give to the Rotary Foundation? I give for a very selfish reason. My father could not read and write and it was a real handicap during his life though he hid it very well. My siblings and I were not told until we were in high school. When my mother

told me, I was told not to acknowledge it with him as he was ashamed and embarrassed. It was the hardest secret I ever kept. What he missed out on in life and with his children! After he died, I asked my mother if I could share his secret with others. She said if it will make a difference, do it. I have done it over the years but the first few times was very difficult. I have always had an interest in promoting literacy because of my father. I feel that I am very fortunate to be able to read and write! There are a lot of people in the world that are not as fortunate. When I give to the Rotary Foundation Annual Giving Program, I know that some child or even an adult somewhere in the world is being given the opportunity to go to school to learn to read and write, given their own book that they will be able to read. My donations every year are helping to open endless doors of opportunity to them to improve their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Once they can read, they can learn about hygiene, nutrition, safe water, immunizations, learn a vocation, fill out a job application and see the world through books! How can that not make me feel good!

In reading this month's EREY Newsletter, I read about someone else's EREY Story.

*"Manon Lennon is fond of recalling childhood summers when she and her family used to go camping. "One day, the campground owner decided to dig a well," says Lennon, a member of the Rotary Club of Laval, Québec, Canada. "Fascinated, I watched the process and realized how easy it was, with the proper equipment, to get drinkable water. At that moment, I wished that when I would be a grown-up, I would be able to afford to dig many wells in developing countries."*

*Lennon held onto her dream but says she found it difficult to fulfill, until she heard of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. She joined the Laval club in 2002. During a district Rotary Foundation seminar, Lennon learned that by contributing to the Foundation, Rotarians could provide safe water and other necessities where needed most. "That is why I started giving to The Rotary Foundation every year," Lennon says. "Thank you, Rotary, for making my dream come true!"*

**WHAT'S YOUR EREY STORY?** Please share your stories of why you give to the Rotary Foundation with others, don't keep them a secret! Your donations are changing lives of so many people, many of whom you will never meet.

Make your commitment now to the EREY – whether it is \$25, \$50, \$100 or more a year, remember ***"The Future of Rotary (and the world) is in Your Hands!"***

Marie A. Williams  
District 7780 Annual Giving Chair 2009-10  
[mawilliamspdg@comcast.net](mailto:mawilliamspdg@comcast.net)  
207-439-3761

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**"Crazy!" "Fabulous!" "Fine." "Wild!"**

These are some of the one-word answers I give to those who asked me "How was India?"

I spent five weeks at the beginning of 2010 traveling in India as part of a 5-person Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team. Rotary clubs around the world run a number of international exchange programs for non-Rotarians, and this one is open to professionals aged 25-40. The goals are cultural exchange, understanding of Rotary, and vocational development.

Rotary International is a network of clubs that meet weekly for friendship and service. There are over 32,000 Rotary Clubs and 1.2 million members in over 200 countries and geographical areas globally. Clubs are split into 33,000 regional Districts. In my case, I was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak, South Portland – Cape Elizabeth, Maine located in District 7780 which includes Portland and stretches from Newburyport, MA, to Bethel and Damariscotta, Maine. We were hosted by District 3030 in Maharashtra, India, that extended from the city of Nasik

northeast of Mumbai to the city of Nagpur in the center of India. Each District sends four young professionals and a Rotarian team leader for 30 days. In fact, I just had the pleasure of spending a day in Downtown Portland with the Indian team this past week.

Our trip in India was vigorous. We were sometimes changing location every two days. We were often met by a different group of Rotarians every morning to visit sites of interest, and were then expected to give presentations in the evening. Many of the sites were fascinating: a rare stone museum, a cotton factory, a deaf and dumb school, a newspaper, a motorcycle dealership, temples carved into a mountainside, a fruit puree factory, an agricultural college (with 200,000 students!), a meditation center. Other highlights included a visit to a morning outdoor laughter club, a music school where I got a sitar lesson, and hiking in a tiger preserve. Almost every visit would include a visit to the owner's office where we would be served chai (tea). Often, the places we would visit would be owned by a local Rotary Club member, or would be the chief cultural highlight in the area. We were astonished at the quality and care of our hosts and guides, who impressed us as being the most accomplished and articulate possible.

India couldn't be more different from Maine. It is dry, crowded, and experiencing exponential growth. Less than 1% of households have cars, but 10% of have motorcycles, and everyone else walks, bikes, or takes a 3-wheeled auto-rickshaw taxi. Everywhere we went there were also oxcarts, slow-moving trucks, and cows in the road, and without functioning traffic signals it was always difficult to cross the road. One of the ways the Indian government has handled rapid growth is by bidding out the creation of highways to private companies who must bring their own funding and may collect tolls for 20 years less the period of construction.

Many people in India live in slums, which can range from rough temporary camps under tarps on a highway median to semi-permanent sheet metal or concrete structures. People live on the side of roads and wherever the land is not actively being used for another purpose. At the same time, there is a massive amount of new construction of middle class condo developments, and real estate prices in Mumbai approximate those in Manhattan. I read that there are more millionaires in India than in the United States.

In some of the pricier urban areas there have been successful programs where a developer is allowed to build a multi-unit building to replace a slum. The developer provides one floor of small condos free of charge for all the original slum inhabitants, and the developer then gets to build several stories of market rate housing on top of that.

Most people own their homes rather than rent. The range of new housing starts from small one-story concrete units that are the first step up from the slums, usually 200 square foot row houses with windows on the short ends and a shared latrine. The next step up is small condos of 400 square feet with two stories and a roof deck. I visited a few developments of luxury condos – some with as many as 3,000 units planned. Business is booming right now. I had the opportunity to spend one day with a leading architect in Nasik, who was finishing up a business park and working on a 300 unit condo development as well as multiple other smaller projects. I was shown the zoning maps, and visited the government offices where three levels of government engineers must be consulted and paid to get permits for construction.

One major difference we noted is that Indians still live in what they call "combined families" – what we would call extended families. Most often one son and his wife and children will cohabitate with his parents, and frequently other brothers will live in the same house or very close by with their wives and children. This creates many other differences in the household, as someone is almost always home during the day. Parents are able to travel for study or work as other relatives usually can take care of their children. Some of the houses I stayed in had floor plans similar to American homes, but others demonstrated the needs of the family and subfamily. For example, a wealthy family might have four row houses or a triple-decker built on a property for brothers and their families. One house I stayed in was a maze of rooms including four kitchens!

The extended family system fits well with the high standard of eating that Indians have. My estimation is that the average household spends at least six hours a day on food preparation, which would be difficult for a U. S. nuclear family with two working parents!

Our hosts were amazing. We visited eight cities, and stayed with host families in six of them. Every family I stayed with was incredibly generous and hospitable, and I was extremely comfortable in their homes. I learned quickly which foods I liked best, and my hosts were only too happy to make sure they were available.

In all, I found the GSE to be a great learning experience. Our local District sends a team somewhere every year, and this upcoming year they'll be sending a group to Hong Kong, Macau, and Mongolia. The only requirement to apply is to be between 25-40 and have two years in a profession. Rotary pays for most of the travel expenses. This year, they'll specifically be sending



people who work in health professions. I highly recommend it!

Written by GSE Team Member, and team representative at the District Conference, Elizabeth Trice, who also is a great singer and she partnered with District 3030 Team Member Pritam Nakil to deliver a beautiful duet at the District Conference



The above picture is of Elizabeth in India, learning to play the Sitar Elizabeth Trice works for Cumberland County, where she coordinates and writes grants for new regional initiatives, including the county's Community Development Block Grant program. She is currently assisting with regional housing, energy, and sustainability planning.

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### Four Way Test Contest Finalists Inspire District Conference Attendees

Want to be inspired by the youth in your community? Interested in knowing the quality of leadership high school students have to offer? Get your Rotary Club involved with the **Four Way Test Public Speaking Contest**.

At the Saturday plenary lunch session of our District Conference, Rotarians were wowed by thoughtfulness, reflection, and poise demonstrated by the four finalists in our District's 4-way Test Contest. The Four Way Test Public Speaking Contest is an opportunity for clubs in our District to connect with high school students; promoting awareness of the 4-Way Test as a guide for personal and vocational decisions, and supporting literacy skills of research and oration.



Kirsten Nelson

Our District winner is Kirsten Nelson, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hampton. Kirsten spoke about addressing bullying and using the test as a guide for high school students' behavior toward one another. Kirsten is a freshman at Winnacunnet High School, an Honors student who is active in sports and music.



Crystal Farrington



Rachel Townsend



Meghan Gregoire

Finalists included Crystal Farrington, (sponsored by Bridgton Lake Region Rotary), Meghan Gregoire (sponsored by Rochester Rotary), and Rachel Townsend (sponsored by Damarascotta Newcastle Rotary). Each student had successfully competed for top honors at the club level. Their topics included bullying, slam poetry, and day to day decisions. Their passion for their chosen topic, research, and preparation were evident. Many Rotarians commented on how difficult it would be, even as an adult, to speak in front of a large group of unfamiliar people and do it with such eloquence!



Speeches were evaluated on content, delivery, organization, effective language, and overall effect. Our judges included Marion Cheney (Dover Rotary), Dan Colby (Biddeford Saco Rotary), Frank Helman (Boothbay Harbor Rotary) and Cynthia Laux (Bethel Rotary). The District Competition was organized by our able and energetic District Literacy Coordinator, Penny Jett (RC of Hampton).

Thanks to all who helped to make this District event such a success and congratulations to all four contestants and their sponsoring clubs. This was the second annual District 7780 Four –Way Test Contest. All clubs are encouraged to sponsor a contest – it's a great way to get involved with youth in your community and to promote Rotary's commitment to high ethical standards.

Awards were presented by Carolyn Johnson on behalf of District Literary Chair Penny Jett who was with PDG Brad who was the RI President's Representative in Ontario this weekend

## Rotary Clubs Respond to Community Needs Via District Simplified Grants

A total of just under \$20,000 was awarded to 14 clubs throughout the District last summer to help pay for local community projects that ran the gamut from literacy efforts to senior programs to community safety.

Now, those District Simplified Grant projects are being wrapped up, and it's not too soon to think about applying for a similar grant in the new Rotary year. To find out if your community project might be funded through a District Simplified Grant, check out the District website (<http://www.rotary7780.org/DSG.cfm>). General guidelines follow:

- \$19,659 of our Rotary District's Designated Funds ("DDF") are available as DSG funds for clubs in District 7780 to use to match club funds for qualifying projects.
- The club must contribute at least \$500 of the total cost of the project and the District may match between \$500 and \$2000. In the case of multiple clubs partnering each participating club will be required to contribute at least \$500.
- Grant Applications are due no later than July 31, 2010 in either hard copy, emailed (with scanned signature pages) or faxed format to the DSG Coordinator. No exceptions will be granted. Furthermore, you are advised to get your application in early and consult with the DSG Coordinator in advance of the filing deadline to ensure that you have a complete application by July 30. Recipient clubs will be notified of award no later than September 1 and it is anticipated (but not guaranteed) that grants will be funded by October 1.
- The project must be short-term and designed to be completed in the current Rotary year.
- District Simplified Grant Applications are available at [www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org). Additionally, you will also find the DSG report form (to be filed at mid-year and at the completion of your project) on the District's website. Progress reports are due January 15 (report form can be downloaded from this page); a final report is due June 1. Remember that you will need to include receipts/bank statements with your final report!

Application, guidelines and more are on the website, or email Todd Doolan ([todd.h.doolan@mssb.com](mailto:todd.h.doolan@mssb.com)) or Margaret Lonsdale ([melondsdale@aol.co](mailto:melondsdale@aol.co)) with specific questions. But don't delay – the deadline for applying is the end of July!

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vehicles were heard approaching the high school. The students were mustered out in the parking lot where they observed an apparent car crash across the street. A car with four occupants had smashed into the telephone pole and the front seat passenger was thrown through the windshield. A female passenger in the back was screaming hysterically for someone to help her friend. As the driver got out of the car a beer can rolled into the street. Fire fighters and ambulance crews tended to the wounded. The boy in back was determined to be dead and placed in a body bag. The wounded girl was transported to an ambulance and, with her mother following by car, headed to the hospital. The dead boy's father arrived and was taken by the chaplain to identify the body, the driver was handcuffed and taken off by police car.

The wounded girl was taken to the operating room at the hospital and declared dead at 9:23, her mother was in tears as she was called in to identify her. The driver was taken to York County jail. Booked and placed in an orange jump suit, driven to court where after a brief meeting with a lawyer, was arraigned before the judge, facing up to 30 years for two counts of manslaughter and OUI.

The grim reaper stalked the halls of Traip. On the quarter hour the PA announced "Every Fifteen Minutes" and the Reaper entered a classroom and took out another student. As they left the room a policeman entered and read an obituary written by the student's parents. A few minutes later they returned in white make-up, silent for the rest of the day.

At the end of the day the "victims" were taken to the Fire Station where they relaxed and started an overnight workshop on the DWI and it's impact.



Time to clean up! Arrival at the Firestation



Sgt Seole explains the details of the emergency responders actions



Trying to 'walk a straight line" with the DWI simulator goggles



Oops! Trying to drive a curved course with the goggles on



Sharing experiences - telling how it felt to be arrested and booked

In the morning the School's remaining student body were ushered into the gym for a funeral for the deceased. 18 chairs faced them, empty except for a picture of one of the students and a single rose. Two

caskets flanked grieving parents, a large screen divided the gym. Behind the screen the “dead” waited quietly. At the end of the service each student was called back to life. A newspaper reporter said “It seemed so real”



Two caskets flanked the service



The victims quietly waiting behind the curtain



Behind empty chairs with the students pictures the eulogy was given based upon discussions with the students the night before



The entire event was filmed. A "Victim" reads a letter to his parents telling of his lost hopes for the future, only his shadow appears on the screen



The "Dead" returned in silence, and took their seat, picking up their picture and rose and facing their classmates, as one student said "The gym has never been so quiet"

The event was made possible by a **District Simplified Grant** and the physical and financial support of many local organizations and businesses. The entire production was filmed by students with the help of PDG Brad Jett and his company. Over 70 percent of the Kittery Club participated hands on. Vocational diversification made connections much easier, the club includes the School Superintendent, Fire Chief, a police lieutenant, florist, funeral director, minister, a doctor, and Hospice Director. The neighbors and involved parents of the “victims were briefed ahead of time.

The commitment of the involved students and their parents was remarkable. The mortally wounded victim stayed in role even as her sobbing mother bent over her in the OR – knowing the cameras were rolling. Students from all four grades took part and each of the 18 will shared their experiences throughout their classes. The event was planned for just before the 2010 prom season.

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 ROTARIANS BUILD HANDICAPPED-ACCESSIBLE  
 GARDEN BEDS FOR WABAN PROJECTS

On Saturday, May 22, members of the **Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale** gathered at Waban Projects in Springvale for the purpose of constructing two raised garden beds for those who require handicapped access. The funding for this project was obtained from a **District Simplified Grant** from Rotary International District 7780.

According to club president, Patti Gulnac, "The beds have been constructed so that people who are confined to wheelchairs will be able to plant vegetable gardens, and tend to them, without having to leave their chairs. In addition, our Rotary Club will be working in cooperation with Waban Projects in order to instruct clients as to the nutritional value of various types of vegetables they might plant." Ms. Gulnac is affiliated with Partners for Healthier Communities, a program of Goodall Hospital and confirmed that all three organizations will work cooperatively to benefit the clients of Waban Projects.

Director of Waban Projects, Neal Meltzer, also a member of the Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale, was on hand to assist in the location and construction of these flower beds.



Pictured are club president, Patti Gulnac, John Tanguay and Neal Meltzer.

#### ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT SURPRISED WITH PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION

When Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club president, Patti Gulnac woke up on her birthday on May 20, and got ready for her Rotary Club meeting, little did she know what was in store. Although she may have thought the club members just might sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY, a bit more was planned.

It was very special at Rotary that morning, because the club was not only honoring Students of the Quarter (outstanding students enrolled in the Vocational School at Sanford High School), but the club was also awarding \$10,000 in scholarships to deserving graduating seniors, both from

Sanford High School and Massabesic High School in Waterboro.

During the introduction of the scholarship part of the program, Elias Thomas (past district governor) was asked to provide a bit of the history of Rotary to the visiting students and their families. While speaking of Paul Harris and his founding of Rotary in 1905, along with three fellow businessmen from Chicago, Elias explained how the organization has grown into the largest and longest-serving organization in the world. Rotary International is comprised of more than 30,000 clubs in nearly 200 countries and territories in the world.

In 1957, as a way of honoring the memory of founder, Paul Harris, Rotarians established the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. When a club or individual contributes \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation, the donor or his or her designee is recognized with a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. Such was the case on May 20.



Past District Governor Elias Thomas presenting Club President Patti Gulnac with a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

"In tribute to the many contributions she has made to her community, Patti has served in our community as a classroom volunteer within the schools; a volunteer and a certified tutor for literacy projects in the community; a coach and supportive parent for various sports teams in Sanford; a president of our own Rotary Club; and as a presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." With this, Elias Thomas presented Patti Gulnac with a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. Happy Birthday, Patti.

#### **INTERACT CLUB AT SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL SPONSOR DUNK-TANK MANIA FUN-RAISER**

On Thursday, May 20, members of the **INTERACT CLUB at Sanford High School** sponsored DUNK-TANK MANIA during all five lunch periods. Students and members of the faculty and staff were encouraged to support this fund-raising event by donating one dollar for three chances to "hit the target" at the side of the dunk tank, thereby releasing the platform and dunking the



“volunteer” into hundreds of gallons of water.



Two Interact Members, Bryce Lambert and Joseph Wallace,  
preparing to assist one of the "dunkers"

Among those who volunteered to sit on the platform were Vice-Principal Doug Roberts, School Safety Officer Mike Gordon, Vice-Principal Troy Watts, math teacher Adam Soule and Science teacher Joshua Delcourt. Among those who paid for the chance to dunk the “volunteers” were members of the INTERACT CLUB, as well as several other students and faculty members, including Marie Sylvain and Principal Al Young. The INTERACT CLUB expects to use this fun-raising and fund-raising project as an annual event.

INTERACT CLUB is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale and encourages students to serve others, both locally and internationally. Other activities of the Club include working at the Rotary Ice Cream Booth at the Acton Fair in late August, as well as fall clean-up projects throughout the community. According to faculty advisor, Jim Dumont, club members plan on contributing funds to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL for the purchase of several flocks of ducks, geese and chickens, which will be sent to villages where such resources will help in the sustainability of the village, providing a source for eggs and breeding more flocks. Students interested in more information regarding INTERACT may contact Mr. Dumont or any members of the club. The use of the Dunk Tank was provided by Marshall Rentals in Kittery.

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