



District Dispatch

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A Dominican Republic Welcome!

By Jamie Furbush

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Through our "Adopt a Village" initiative, the World Community Service Committee of the Frankenmuth Noon Rotary Club has committed to provide fresh, clean water and sanitation to the almost 700 residents of La Cumbre de Juan Veras, a remote mountaintop village, near Santiago in the Dominican Republic.

We are working with the Gurabito Rotary Club of Santiago, PDG Alexandra Martinez and Charles Adams.

Our first major grant, which is now complete, provided an aqueduct system which distributes fresh water to the more than 80 homes in La Cumbre.

The two ongoing grants, currently in progress, are providing water filters and latrines for each home and community area of La Cumbre. In addition, hygiene and hand washing training are an integral part of these two grants as well as follow-on training. Subsequent grants will encompass local school rehabilitation and educational needs for La Cumbre and other nearby villages in need.

Frankenmuth Club members have generously pledged approximately \$50,000 for these and subsequent projects. Thus far, twenty Noon Rotarians and their families have visited the Dominican Republic to assist with the effort.

One recent trip saw four local Interact Club teens spend time in La Cumbre, working on the aqueduct project with the Rotary Community Corps and local Rotarians from both of the two Santiago Rotary Clubs. Subsequent trips are planned by our Club.

See additional photos on Page 4.



A Star-Spangled “Blast” in Birch Run

By Louie Schultz

Greetings from Birch Run! I hope that all of our fellow Rotarians are having a fun, safe, and enjoyable summer. It's hard to believe that August is upon us and the start of school, football, and autumn are just around the corner. For those of you workaholics out there, take some time in August to go out, get away, and enjoy yourselves...you deserve it!



The Birch Run Rotary Club has been busy this summer with a couple of community events; one is brand new and one is a long standing tradition. The new activity that we undertook is the sponsorship of the entertainment tent for the Birch Run Summer Blast event. What is the Birch Run Summer Blast, you ask? Well, it's a BLAST! Besides that, it was a community event held from June 19th thru June 22nd on the grounds of the Birch Run Expo Center which featured carnival rides (by Wade Shows), a beautiful baby contest, Cirque Amongus (a hands-on program designed to build self-esteem, develop motor skills, and promote teamwork for kids), a Birch Run "idol" contest, and of course, the Birch Run Rotary entertainment tent. The entertainment tent ran for two nights, Friday & Saturday, and featured some great music by Seventh Hour (featuring our very own Scott Sawyer), Flea Flicker, Antique Garage Band, and Pole Barn Rebels. And of course there were a few adult beverages that were shared amongst friends. On Saturday, the Birch Run class of 1973 held a class reunion and a great time was had by all! Plans are currently being made to do this event again in 2014. We invite all our fellow Rotarians and their families to join us next year.



The long-standing tradition mentioned above is the annual 4th of July parade thru downtown Birch Run, and the Birch Run Rotary Club took on the coordination duties again this year. There were a few obstacles to overcome due to the construction projects within the Birch Run School grounds and the watermain work on Church Street. However, an alternate route was established and a new starting point was chosen which proved to be ideal going forward. The 2013 theme for this year's parade was "Proud to be an American" and approximately 3,000 parade enthusiasts showed up to celebrate the United States' independence.

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Ithaca Club Recognizes Members



Ithaca Rotary Club members who had perfect attendance for the 2012-2013 year. From left to right: Paul Hornak, Marci Browne, Mary Humm, Jim Wideman, Jeff Arnold, Jack Humm, and Dave Roslund.

Blast in Birch Run (cont.)

Birch Run is proud to boast that they host the only parade of its kind in Saginaw County. Awards were given out in four categories. The “Best in Theme” was awarded to the entry which best portrayed the parade theme and went to American Legion Post #125. The “Best in Show” went to the entry which is most entertaining and was awarded the St. Martin’s Lutheran Church. The “Grand Marshal’s Choice” went to the entry which caught the eye of the Grand Marshal, which happened to be a beautiful float by Frankenmuth Florist.

Finally, the “Shorty Fent Memorial” was awarded to the individual who best displays the spirit of the parade theme, and went to Alice Johnson. The 2013 Grand Marshal(s) were Charles and Duane Fent. For those not familiar, both gentlemen are long time business entrepreneurs and leaders of the Birch Run community. They also are the sons of Shorty Fent, who made his mark as a business pioneer and community leader during the infancy of the Village of Birch Run, and whose ongoing presence and involvement in the 4th of July parade led to the parade award listed above being named in his honor.



Following the parade, the Birch Run Fire Department hosted a community picnic at the Fire Hall with hotdogs, chips, and beverages. In addition, Fleschner Memorial Library hosted an ice cream social. The Birch Run Rotary Club sponsored a “baggo” tournament, and musical entertainment was furnished once again by our very own Scott Sawyer, along with his bride Christine.

I will end with an open invitation for all our fellow Rotarians and their families to join us for these events next year!

Photos from La Cumbre de Juan Veras in the Dominican Republic





One of a kind triathlon!!! The Bay City Morning Rotary is proud to be hosting the **Driathlon**. This is a signature fundraising event for our club, and we are excited to share it with you, the City of Bay City, and Rotary District 6310.

The **Driathlon** is a very unique event that changes the typical triathlon by canoeing instead of swimming. Last year's event was a huge success! We were close to reaching our max of 200 teams and are expecting to sell out this year!! Teams of two competed against each other in canoes, on bikes and in their running shoes utilizing the river, Railtrail and Riverwalk with the transition area stationed at Veterans Memorial Park on the west side of the Saginaw River.

We have received many great comments about the race and how people are looking forward to participating again this year. The people in the city are talking about how exciting and unique this event was and are recruiting others to join them this year. As a club we are very happy with the outcome and excited about the prospects of our now signature event. The club raised money for needy organizations in our area, raising over \$12,000 of which \$5000 was donated to Junior Achievement, the remaining will be given back to projects and organizations in our community; it also brought people from all over the state to experience Bay City and its surroundings.

This year we will be donating a large portion of the proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area! Help make this a big draw, allowing the Rotary club to disburse much-needed funds to local charities.

Registration. There will be one registration for the Team/Relay (\$120 per team/relay). Registration can be done on **ACTIVE.COM**. **Registration closes September 1st**. Late entries cannot be guaranteed a race shirt, register early so we can plan for you. The field is maxed at 200 teams/relays. Entry fee includes a long sleeve shirt, canoe rental, medal, bag, prizes, food, chip timing, and an opportunity to mingle with cool Rotarians...don't miss out!

5k Canoe. The canoe trek on the Saginaw River starts at Veterans Park boat launch Bay City MI. Two person canoes will be provided as part of your race entry fee. (NO PERSONAL CANOES WILL BE ALLOWED). Personally owned single blade paddles will be permitted (NO DOUBLE BLADE PADDLES). Life jackets will be available and **MUST** be worn during the entire canoe trip (feel free to use your own). Please have your race numbers on. The paddle will take a minimum of 35 minutes (south up river for approximately 1 mile, U-turn north to Liberty bridge approximately 1.5 miles, U-turn back to boat launch (keeping the buoys on your left). Plan on wearing shoes that could get wet. Canoes will be started in waves and leave about 10 minutes apart. The participant in the back of the canoe will hold a rope strung across the boat launch until the wave is started. We will have two power boats and some kayaks out on the river to help you if need be.

20k Bike. Leaving the transition area you will take a right on JFK Drive to the RAILTRAIL, onto Marquette Ave past Independence Bridge taking the curve, Wilder Rd left to Patterson right, continue to Shady Shore Rd turning right to the end turning around at the Bay City Yacht Club doubling back to the transition area. You go over a number of train tracks, so please slow down and be careful! This is an open course, which means you will share the road with cars. Be careful! Certain parts of the route will have bumpy roads. We care about you and want you to be safe.

5k Run. What can we say; it will be a very scenic run. The run course will be on the RIVERWALK from Veterans Park, and out and back along the Saginaw River, the turnaround will be at the Bay City Rowing Club parking lot and doubling back: conclusion will be past the canoe launch area, along the river, next to Liberty Harbor Marina and back to Veterans Park pavilion for the finish. Important!!! You'll want to finish before we eat all the pizza!

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Do I Really Need an Elevator Speech?

Elevator speeches tend to sound like — elevator speeches. Too rehearsed. Too stiff. Consider changing your approach. Instead of reciting your club structure, just talk about what you do. Prospective members want to be involved with service so your best response is to *describe* a recent project your club completed or is planning. It shows action. It shows engagement. It shows what people are looking for in a club. After all when was the last time a service project had anything to do with an elevator?

August is *Membership and Extension Month*. Spread the word about your projects. Wear your pin. Talk about Rotary in conversations with your family. Why is it important to membership? It's the first step toward getting others engaged. It's easy to do. Try it.!



**2013-2014 District 6310
Governor Duane Reyhl**

Driathlon (cont.)

If racing as a **TEAM** both partners will participate in all 3 events; canoe-bike-run, and the times will be combined for awards. If racing as a **Relay** both partners will canoe, one partner will bike and the other partner will run when the biker finishes or one person can bike and run.

- 1) Decide if you are doing it as a Team or Relay
- 2) Both male, both female or coed and
- 3) Combine your ages and you will either be in under 80 or 80+ divisions.



Register at ACTIVE.COM

Hope to see you there!

District Governor Club Visits

August 15: Midland
August 19: Alpena
August 21: Clare
August 22: Corunna
August 27: Cass City
August 28: Harbor Beach

Online District Directory

If you would like a printed copy of the District Directory, it is available for download on the District 6310 website. You'll find the downloads available in the lower left-hand corner.

A wealth of other information is available on the our website. Bookmark it, and check periodically for updates.

The District 6310 Newsletter is published monthly. Articles originate from various Rotary International publications as well as from events and activities within the District. Thank you to all contributors.

We encourage the submission of articles. Please provide information and pictures for a future District Dispatch to:

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