



Galena ROTARY NEWS

Serving Jo Daviess County Dick Laubhan, Editor April 2005

Centennial Community Projects Are "A-OK"



Under the watchful eye of Jim Kellar, Dwight Bischel, left, and Dan Ripley make certain that a fence post is as straight as possible.

At least for a time, U.S. Route 20 from Horseshoe Mound into Galena will be trash-free, and an attractive split-rail fence will grace the entrance to the city's new hiking/biking trail along the Galena River – thanks to energetic volunteers from the Rotary Club of Galena.

On Saturday, April 2, Galena Rotarians and their "assistants" installed the split-rail fence, with the much-appreciated help of Paul Jackson (Jackson Brothers, Galena), who provided a post-hole auger. Project workers were: Jim Kellar, Syd Sincock and his son, Nate; Lloyd Callaway, Dan Ripley, Dwight Bischel, Steve Hickie and stepson Logan Mackey, Carter Newton and then-proposed member Rich Austin.

On Sunday, April 10, seven valiant Galena Rotary "vultures" picked U.S. Rte. 20 clean, despite the aching backs of some volunteers "getting on in

years." Who knows what's in the mind of folks who toss junk out of their car windows? Beats us. Helping in the anti-litter crusade were (pictured below from L): Dick Laubhan, Mary Kelly-Train, organizer Brian Schoenrock, Don Campbell, Tom Saccomanno; bottom row: Julie Bruser and Jack Morehead.



Four New Members Are "Official"

The Rotary Club of Galena's April 15 noon luncheon at the De Soto House might well have been labeled "New Member Day," as Rotary President P. Carter Newton and Membership Chair Dan Ripley welcomed four new members and presented them with their Rotary pins.

Rebecca (Becky) Wolf, sponsored by B'Ann Dittmar, is manager of the new Galena Wal*Mart store. A native of Marion, NC, Becky began her Wal*Mart career there, but moved to Holy Cross, IA in 1999 as assistant manager of the Dubuque store. Soon she was promoted to co-manager, and when the Galena store opened her hat was in the ring for manager. "It worked out," Becky says, "and I'm delighted to be a part of such a wonderful town." Becky and her husband, Steve, have six children and four grandchildren. Becky thinks she can be helpful to us in dealing with local retailers.

Richard (Rich) Austin, sponsored by Jim Kellar, is a semi-retired computer systems consultant. He and his wife of 31 years, Hilary, live in the city of Galena. A native of Joliet, Rich received a bachelors degree in psychology from the University of

Iowa, but followed a different career path when he went to work for Harris Bank in the late 60's. "I got my computer training at Harris, and it's been all computers ever since," Rich says. He became an independent contractor in 1985, and he and Hilary moved to Galena five years ago. While "mostly retired," Rich has done some work in the local area, including projects for Wal*Mart and Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa. Nowadays, home improvements, gardening and some golf take up most of his time. But maybe Rich can help Andy Willis in solving Rotarians' home computer problems!

Richard (Rich) Mattas, sponsored by Bob Wehrle, spent 28 years with the Argonne National Laboratory, Batavia, IL, ending up as manager of its Fusion Power Program. Now retired, Rich and his wife, Laurie, are building a "woody" home just outside the Galena Territory. Rich has been a Territory board member, and is also active in area conservation activities. He's a graduate of Yale, where he majored in math and football. "I was on the last Yale team that made the top 20," Rich relates, "before they split up colleges into



New members, from left: Becky Wolf, Rich Austin, Rich Mattas and Ron Smith.

divisions." Rich also has an advanced degree in metallurgy from the University of Illinois. He is interested in our educational work, but if you need some kind of metal analyzed, contact him.

Ronald (Ron) Smith, sponsored by Duane Grenier, retired in 2002 as Superintendent of Schools, Glenbard Township High Schools – four of them – headquartered in Glen Ellyn, IL. Originally from Joliet, Ron attended Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, where he received bachelor of arts degree, masters in guidance and counseling and a doctorate in education administration. He began his career in the Valley View school district, Bolingbrook and Romeoville, IL. After holding administrative positions in finance and personnel for a number of years in the Lockport school system, Ron moved on to the Glenbard job.

This & That

Things are looking good for our April 30 “Rotary Roars for Youth” Auction, to be held this year at the Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa. Ticket sales have been good, and about \$11,000-plus from raffle ticket sales should net around \$8300.00 according to auction honcho Pat McCarthy. The auction committee has estimated a net of \$39,135 after expenses, but that figure might balloon to \$41,000 or so, we’re informed. As of mid-April about 100 auction items had been recorded, and close to 50 Jo Daviess County high school seniors were being interviewed for possible scholarships. “This auction should turn out to be one of our very best,” Pat stated. Other good news – tell your out-of-town friends that Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa has set aside some rooms for auction attendees – at a \$99.00 rate. Thanks, Ron Cadrette. You can’t beat that!

We’re expecting a big turnout for our 18th annual Seniors Day in the Country, slated for Wednesday, May 4 at the new Galena Territory Owners Club. Jo Daviess County seniors can register at banks and savings and loans all over the county, and the fee is still \$3.00 – “a real steal” according to organizer Dorte Breckenridge. A buffet luncheon will be served as usual, and guests will be entertained by Rotary’s “From the River Banks” Gordie Kilgore and the Galena High School Jazz Ensemble. There’ll be fun and games, too, with Brian Schoenrock calling bingo numbers – cards and other equipment “on loan” from Turner Hall, courtesy of the City of Galena. Volunteers are needed for the day, so contact Dorte to sign up.

At its April 15 meeting the Rotary Club of Galena’s board of directors decided unanimously to include Hazel Green, WI, in our club’s “Dictionaries for Elementary Schools” program. While Hazel Green is not in our Rotary district, there’s no rule about going outside the district for programs such as ours, and Hazel Green is even closer to us than some of the other participating schools. Welcome to the “world of words,” Hazel Green pupils!



Honored at our March 18 luncheon meeting at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa were our Jo Daviess County sophomore Students of the Quarter. Five of seven honorees were on hand for the meeting. They are, from left: Melissa Heller, Galena High School; Carl Bonvillain, Stockton; Gilda Gamez, Scales Mound; Brittany Weede, River Ridge and Andrew Timmerman, East Dubuque. The students all received a Certificate of Achievement, a \$50 savings bond and dinner for themselves and their parents at the De Soto House Hotel. Honorees from Tri-State Christian School and Warren High School were to be recognized at a later Rotary luncheon.



It’s a good thing that the new Galena Wal*Mart provided a large parking lot, because it’s pretty well packed whenever you drive by. “Business has been very good,” says new Rotary member Becky Wolf, the store’s manager.

Though new-Rotarian Rich Matas appeared in the new member photo, we’re publishing this shot because he says it’s the first picture in which he looks “nearly as good as the dog.” That’s Rocky in the foreground, adopted from the Dubuque Regional Humane Society.

Upcoming Programs

April 22 – Jane Newton, Girl Scouts of America
 April 29 – Rotary Web, Andy Willis
 May 6 – “Our Two Cents Worth on Golf,” Sandra & Paul Fullmer
 May 13 – “Teacher of the Year”
 May 20 – Student of the Quarter, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa
 May 27 – Jennifer Purdy Scholarship Awards, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa
 June 3 – Classification Talks: Carter Newton & Scott Lawlor
 June 10 – Club Assembly, Carter Newton
 June 17 – “India—Polio Plus,” Kent Renier, Dubuque Key City Rotary Club
 June 24 – Presidents Dinner (no noon meeting)
 July 1 – The New President “Sounds Off” – Ed Schmitt

Greeter Assignments

April 22 – Jim Sebanc/Mary Sheahen
 April 29 – Connie Shireman/Syd Sincock
 May 6 – Barbara Sloan/Joe Terry
 May 13 – Mary Jane Thorne/Vince Toepfer
 May 20 – Randy Vincent/Vicky Vondran
 May 27 – Doug Weeder/Bob Wehrle
 June 3 – Lois Wiene-Knautz/Andy Willis
 June 10 – Romer Wilsek/Dick Woodruff
 June 17 – Tim Zito/Dick Alexander

President’s Message: No message this month except: “My hat’s off to all of you who have done such a great job this year in our record-setting raffle ticket sales, and for coming up with auction items that will make our April 30 event one of the best yet.”

FYI

Galena Rotary Club, P.O. Box 52, Galena, IL 61036. Meets every Friday at 11:45 a.m. - DeSoto House Hotel

2004-2005 Officers

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 President Elect - Ed Schmit
 Past President - Romer Wilsek
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