



**Wilton Rotary Drummer** Wilton, Connecticut  
USA District 7980  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

**May 8, 2009 Volume 28, Number XLV**  
**Editor: Paul Burnham**

Guests/Visitors – Tom McManus – past president of the club.

Meeting held at Skye Bar

Announcements – Next week we are meeting both on Thursday with the New Canaan Club at the Roger Sherman to meet the incoming GRE team from Central America and also on Friday at the Greens of Cannondale (advertised as free). No one really sure which is the official meeting. Two Drummers?

Rose sale is happening. June 19, 2009. We are using Bay Street Flowers this year – they are the suppliers for Costco. Check your e-mail inbox for useful forms.

The Craft Fair in May 23 at the Gazebo at the Town Center. Richard reports about 50 crafters, approximately the same number as last year. Sign up sheet went around, but there is a need for more volunteers. Get your ads in immediately, and any help you can give Patty for the Silent Auction would be greatly appreciated.

Memorial Day parade time again. Rotary has helped set up Hillside Cemetery for the traditional ceremonies for many years – volunteers needed again. Talk to Karen S.

Larry reports that he has three additional CO2 detectors if anyone needs one.

Karen reports that a good time was had by all at the District Conference this past weekend in Newport.

Our guest today was Ron French, a Wilton Resident and president of Alteris Renewables – which is the largest renewable energy company of its type in the northeast. It is headquartered in Wilton. While largely concentrating on solar energy systems today, its efforts include wind, water and other forms of renewable energy.

Alteris is an implementer, meaning it does no manufacturing itself. Rather it designs and assembles renewable energy systems – purchasing the components from suppliers world wide. It has done work for many corporate buildings and private schools, including the new Yale School of Forestry building in New Haven. It is possible, in fact it may make financial

sense, for these systems to be owned privately, and for the systems then to be leased to the user. This allows the depreciation deduction and the tax credits to be enjoyed by taxable entities.

The same system works on the residential side since a homeowner cannot depreciate the system if used for personal purposes only. The State of Connecticut has been a sponsor of residential leasing programs – but ran out of the allocated funds for them, hopefully the legislature will find more.

The idea is that during the day the system probably produces more energy than the homeowner uses. The energy is then available to the electric company for it to resell to other customers. At night, when there is obviously no energy being produced by the solar system, the homeowner in essence buys the energy back. Once a year there is a “true up” with the electric company.

The cost of these systems, coupled with enhanced tax breaks, has caused the systems to pay for themselves in reduced costs. However, one needs to have a home with a roof with a southerly exposure and limited interference from trees in order for a system to be feasible.

And, of course, one is doing good things for the environment!

A very interesting and educational program!

See you Friday.

Paul