



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

August 22, 2008

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Editor: Stephanie R. Barksdale

ATTENDANCE: 23 of 50 (46%)

Guests/Visiting Rotarians

Victoria Koch, German Exchange Student; The McCurdy Family (host family #1); The Acwan Family (host family #2); Eric Glass, son of Bill.

Fun & Fines

Kristin M. fed her family a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE) and apparently they all survived. Don G. was sad to send his daughter back to school because now he will have to fix all his computer problems. Don B. was sad that his sister lost her third husband but happy to send his daughter to college. Bill G. was sad to have to pay the tuition for his daughter who is already back at school. lots of happy \$ for the exchange student and families. Pat R. congratulated Bill G. on his new position at the teen center and thanked the host families for their interest in Rotary. Mark K. was happy his daughter's braces had been removed so he could stop spending that money!

Announcements

1. President Pat announced that the carnival is September 12 – 14th and the sign up sheet is going around – lots of slots to fill so be generous with your time. Amber Alert will also be happening during the carnival – I believe Saturday and Sunday so help is needed there as well.
2. The Club Assembly originally scheduled for September 5th has been postponed. Will announce a new date soon.
3. October 4th is a Make a Difference Day where everyone is asked to clean up a waterway – river, lake, Long Island Sounds, Paul Burnham's basement (as long as it is wet!). We will be asking the town Conservation Commission for ideas of what we can do.

4. At the Board meeting it was determined there will be two initiatives – Membership spearheaded by John Lemke and Foundation giving spearheaded by Pam Lucas. There was some discussion about the matching grants that are available and since Karen S. is the grants committee chairman we should have an in! Rotary is going to make a big push to get GSE participants including leaders and members – leaders can be with Rotary, members cannot and must be between 25 – 40 years old.

Program

Victoria Koch who is an 18 year old German student will be with this district for this school year. She comes from northeast Germany near the Baltic Sea. She has a brother who is 20 years old, a Jack Russell terrier and 2 guinea pigs. Her town has a population of 24,000. She got involved with the program through both her parents being Rotarians.

Ann McCurdy, the first exchange family, said they got involved with the program through her sister-in-law. Her niece went to Venezuela and then Argentina (after some governmental disruption in Venezuela). Her nephew went to Japan. And now her son Taylor is in Chile (see blog below).

Julie Acwan, the second exchange family, got involved through the McCurdy's and are excited to be hosting Vicky starting in November. Her daughter Leah is a junior at the high school – future exchange student maybe?

Pat R. presented the Wilton Rotary flag to Vicky and Mark K. noted that both Chile and Germany have female leaders – no wonder they are in such good shape!

For those interested – Taylor McCurdy has a blog and you can view it at:
www.taylorgoestochile.blogspot.com.

His first blog is below:

First Impressions

August 20, 2008

Well, im in school now and easily confused by everything. Yesterday was my firsty day, however; I came with Nacho, my host brother, and now im on my own. I´ve learned quickly that Chileans dont heat anything. For instance, to take a shower in the morning you have to run down stairs and ignite a heater (a custom that I was not aware of for my first three showers). If only I had read the "Chile: Customs and Traditions" book I brought along, I might not be suffering from this small cold. I keep telling myself, "taylor you lived on a glacier for thirty days", but really I am cold, always. I have yet to be formally introduced to a principle or a teacher for that matter, which strikes me as strange and makes me wonder if they

even know that im in the school. For the most part we remain in one class and the teachers rotate through, but every once and a while everyone gets up and departs for another room- there must be a bell, but i have yet to hear even the slightest noise. Since I dont have an established schedule I usually follow the people that ive actually managed to maintain a fluent conversation with. Today that brought me to an all girls Art History class and I dove right into Renaissance art. Despite my initial interpretation, El Colegio Aleman de Los Angeles does have a strong German influence. When I first entered the Klasse Aleman (as its spelled on the door) the boy in front of me turned around, and in broken English said, "Do you know Ronald Macdonald??" Confused, I continued through the door to see the teacher dressed in a flamboyant orange sweater with massive orange hair- it was rather hilarious. As if she doesnt know how foreign I am, she asked me to read from the German story we were working with. I later learned she was a substitute and actually didnt speak Spanish either. Its too strange to sit through an English class and observe people trying to learn my first language. I think I finally understand why you cant truly learn Spanish, or any language for that matter, in the class room. You really do need to become emersed and use it daily. However, everytime I turn on the radio, TV, or use the computer im blasted with pop culutre from the states. I´ve yet to hear Juanes on the radio instead, I cant escape Britney Spears, Fallout Boy, Yellowcard, and more. Anyhow, I am enjoying Nacho´s selection of Dispatch and Bob Marley. Bueno, me voy, escribire mas luego.

POSTED BY TAYLOR MCCURDY AT [12:58 PM](#)

Next meeting Friday August 29th. Upcoming speaker list:

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| September 5,
2008 | Karen Birck
Wilton High School Bldg. Project |
| September 12,
2008 | Carnival |
| September 19,
2008 | Pat Sesto
Conservation Commission
Wilton Center Tree Plan |
| September 26,
2008 | Patrick Begos
Begos, Horgan & Brown |

See you at the SilvermineStephanie