

Rotary Club of Beaver

2004-2005 Annual Report

*Meeting the Vital Needs of Children and Families
in Our Communities, Locally and Worldwide*



The Beaver Area Historical Museum's "History By Trolley" program, funded by Beaver Rotary, educates hundreds of students, parents and teachers that history is right in their own backyard. Here, they visit Beaver's first cemetery, learn about colonial life and study the names of Beaver's earliest settlers.

Beaver, Pennsylvania

A Member of Rotary International District 7300



President's Message – A Strategic, Long-Term Focus

By Yvonne A. Connor and Victor G. Raskovsky



President Yvonne A. Connor – Rotary International's Centennial Year was filled with many exciting events and worldwide projects. Our landmark community sign boards were finished in May and will be a prominent reminder of Rotary's involvement in our community. The Mayor of Beaver honored our club by proclaiming Feb. 23, 2005 as "Rotary Day in Beaver." Our Rotary District 7300 bestowed special awards as part of the Centennial, and our club was very pleased to present business and community leaders Betty Sue Schaughency and Bob Smith with special recognition awards for their long service and commitment to our community. Our club was delighted that District 7300's highest award, "Rotarian of the Year," was given to Mark Miner. People like Mark set the example we should follow for the next 100 years of service to Rotary and remind us of why we are Rotarians.



President-Elect Victor G. Raskovsky – The Beaver Rotary Club looks forward to the next 100 years of service by beginning strategic planning for local and international projects as well as setting expectations for our membership. Our main objective is to conduct a structured review of local needs and then to find and apply resources to fulfill those needs. We hope to engage communities, and other clubs, in a focused attempt to improve the quality of life in Beaver County, and to support Rotary International's efforts worldwide. I invite people who are interested in participating in Rotary's motto of "Service above Self" to join us in our endeavors.

Who We Are:

Founded in Chicago in 1905, and celebrating its centennial in 2005, Rotary is a volunteer organization with more than 32,000 clubs in 168 countries, including Beaver. The organization initiates humanitarian programs that address today's challenging issues, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy. Rotarians represent a cross-section of business and professional leaders worldwide. These 1.2 million Women and men donate their expertise, time, and funds to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures. Rotary's flagship program is its effort to protect children against polio and ending the disease throughout the world.

The Quest to Eradicate Polio in Third World Nations



In 1985, Rotary made a commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Working in partnership with nongovernmental organizations and national governments, Rotary is the largest private-sector contributor to the global polio eradication program. Rotarians in Beaver, Beaver County and worldwide have mobilized hundreds of thousands of PolioPlus volunteers and immunized more than two billion children. In the ensuing two decades, Rotary has contributed half a billion U.S. dollars to the cause, producing an annual world savings of \$1 billion annually. With 2005 as the target date for certification of a polio free world, there are still pockets of polio outbreaks around the world.

(Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux)

Beaver Rotarians Deliver Weekly "Meals on Wheels"



Each week, since the 2001-2002 year, Beaver Rotary Club members have delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels program. Here, Dale Nine provides a nutritious lunch to a local resident. The mission of Meals on Wheels is to help older adults or persons with disabilities to stay healthy and independent longer and improve their quality of life.

(Photo by Bill Elliott)

In Memoriam – David E. Williams Jr.



Sadly, on March 16, 2005, the Rotary Club of Beaver lost a dedicated member, friend, former president (1974-1975) and longtime board director with the passing of David E. Williams Jr. His leadership and generosity were exemplary, and he is missed. We extended our condolences to his wife Penny and family. Be sure to read David's memoir, "Restoring Beaver's Historic Water Lot," on page 5 of this report.

(Photo by Marjie Smith)

Beaver Message Boards – Our Centennial Project and Investment into the Beaver “Streetscape”



Left: Beaver Rotarians at the dedication, front row, l-r: Yvonne Connor, Rebecca James, Jean Briancesco, Pam Webb. Middle row, l-r: Val Martone, Bob Nunamaker, Joe Forrester, Bill Wilson, Matt Copcutt. Back row, l-r: Terri Davis, Vic Raskovsky, Craig Nunamaker, Jon O'Data, Craig Baker, Bill Elliott and Mark Nelson.



The \$10,000 purchase and installation of two major message boards in May along Beaver's Third Street thoroughfare was the Rotary Club of Beaver's "centennial project" investment into our community. The prominent signs – one across from the courthouse, and the other at the busy corner of Third Street and College Avenue – are designed to provide high visibility for community, non-profit groups who post messages about upcoming charitable events. The Club wishes to thank the Borough of Beaver and the Beaver Streetscape Committee for their assistance in coordinating this long-term effort with us.

Hundreds of School Children Learn About "History in their Own Backyard"



For the second straight year, Rotary funded an innovative educational program in partnership with the Beaver Area School District, Saints Peter and Paul School and the Beaver Area Historical Museum. Hundreds of elementary age students visited the award-winning museum to experience life of the late 1700s and early 1800s, enjoy a trolley ride tour of Beaver's historic sites and take part in hands-on activities at the museum's log house focusing on meal preparation, schooling and clothing.

Helping New Brighton's Merrick Art Gallery Preserve Its Priceless Artworks



Yvonne Connor, left, presents our check to the Museum's Betty Tolbert.

Based in nearby New Brighton, the Merrick Art Gallery is home to a stunning collection of French, German, English, and American paintings from the 18th and 19th Century, housed in a 19th century building. The Beaver Rotary Club has supported the Gallery's capital campaign to upgrade the building's physical infrastructure and thus better preserve its priceless artworks. In December 2004, we provided a grant of \$1,500 for this vital purpose.
(Photo by Marjie Smith)

A Photo Album of Rotary Projects, Past and Present



Above: in 1998, the Club funded the development of Point Park in nearby Rochester at the intersection of Brighton Avenue and Pleasant Streets.



Above: in 2003, "frontier elm" trees were planted at the U.S. Post Office in Beaver, sponsored by Rotary, and marked with plaques.



The Johnstown Flood baby's grave – re-marked by the Beaver Rotary Club – and a stop on the 2005 walking tour of the Beaver Cemetery

In June, 1889, the body of a small child, three or four years old ... a sad reminder of the great Johnstown Flood of that year ... washed ashore near Beaver. Local church people arranged to pay Will Atkins, a local undertaker, to give the child a Christian burial. To pay for the modest headstone, photographs were taken of the child in her casket and sold to townspeople for ten cents each. In 1966, with wording on the stone becoming weather-worn and hard to read, the Beaver Rotary Club arranged for installation of the bronze plaque so there would be a permanent record of the original wording. It reads:

Johnstown Baby-Unknown Girl
Aged About 3 Years
Found in Ohio River at Vanport
June 1, 1889
From Johnstown Through
Flood and Wreck
It came from that dark vale
And Brothers and Sisters
There is none to tell the tale

Reprinted from The Saints At Rest – courtesy of the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation



Above: in 2003, the club made a major donation to support the expansion of the Beaver Area Memorial Library.



Restoring Beaver's Historic Water Lot

From 1845 to 1886, a stone reservoir at Fifth and Wayne Streets in Beaver provided a steady source of spring-fed water to the town through hollowed-out logs. But for the next 90 years, the site was in disrepair. The Beaver Rotary Club helped restore the site in 1974-1975.

"Without a doubt, the Beaver Rotary Club's most ambitious project was the Angel Rock Project during my term as president. It was suggested by John McLaughlin and involved stabilization of the old stone reservoir and converting Roosevelt Park from a swampy mess into a park area that families could enjoy. The first thing to be done after the stone work was completed was to channel the stream that came down the hill and flooded the lot. The Borough of Beaver paved a channel for the stream and provided the backhoe and operator to dig out the channel, while Rotarian Lee Atkinson engineered the project. The borough moved the old bricks to the site and assigned Job Corps youths to us. The channel is two courses of brick with a drain pipe in the bottom course to collect the spring water. The Job Corps laid bricks during the week, and Rotarians laid bricks and mixed mortar on Saturdays. We set as a goal equaling on Saturday what the youths had done during the week. Later that year we installed the bridge. A total of 30,000 bricks were installed in the process. The following year, the Beaver Rotary Club was recognized as the outstanding club in the district. The area now is an asset to the community and is where local children go to sled ride in the wintertime."

-- by the late David E. Williams Jr.

Above: the "Angel Rock" stone reservoir restoration (inset) and brick-laying project in the 1970s stabilized Beaver's historic water lot which dates to the 1800s and once provided the town's supply of drinking water.

Rotary's Permanent Mark in the Region

In this center section of our Annual Report, we are showcasing a photo album of Rotary projects in Beaver and nearby communities where Rotary has made its permanent mark since our chartered founding locally on Jan. 23, 1947.



Left: In 1995, the club sponsored all new streets signs, adorned by the Rotary logo, at a number of intersections in Beaver's business and residential sections.



Above: the Club has supported PennDOT's "Adopt a Highway" cleanup program along a two-mile stretch of roadway since the early 1990s.

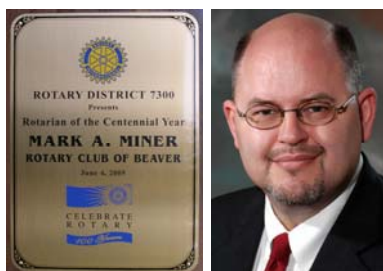
Below: In 1998, the Club made a major donation to fund the renovation of an old railroad freight station into the new Beaver Area Historical Museum, in memory of longtime member Harry Phillips.



Focus on Community Service and Public Outreach



Left: Club president Yvonne Connor welcomes District 7300 Governor Jon Maurer on his official visit to our club.



Key Awards - The Rotary Club of Beaver received three major awards at the District 7300 Conference in June. At top left, the award for “Best Newsletter – Electronic.” At top right, a Presidential citation for “demonstrating excellence and exceptional achievement to ensure Rotary’s transition from one century of service to another...” At left: club member Mark Miner, who is PR Chair of District 7300, was named “Rotarian of the Year” for all of Western Pennsylvania.

New Members (co-chaired by **Bill Elliott**) – During the year, the Club welcomed the following three new members:

- Craig A. Baker – Daniel C. Baker Associates, Inc.
- Grant Miller - MGSOFT-NET, Inc.
- Harold F. Reed Jr. – Reed, Luce, Tosh, Wolford & Douglass

Vocational Service (chaired by **Craig Nunamaker**) - Beaver Rotary provides an important educational outreach through its “Student of the Month” and scholarship program. Each month, two Beaver Area High School seniors are selected by the school guidance staff for their academics, leadership and community service. During the past year, “Students of the Month” were:

- Oct. 2004 – Jessica Albrecht and Andrew O’Neill
- Nov. 2004 – Jeffrey Bechdel and Amie Boes
- Dec. 2004 – Rebecca Fairley and Lucas Feldmeier
- Jan. 2005 – Nicolas Gutowski and Catherine Lacey
- Feb. 2005 – Joseph Lahr and Cheryl LOuce
- March 2005 – Alexa Ray and Erika Reed
- April 2005 – Sara Roper and Emily Rybak
- May 2005 – Andrew Spada and Taha Udyawar

Essay of Andrew J. O’Neill – the 2005 Beaver Rotary Scholarship Winner



Andrew J. O’Neill, a 2005 graduate of Beaver Area High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship as the student who best exemplified the Rotary ideals of “service above self.” He is attending Penn State University. His essay follows:

“Our country was founded on the principles of Democracy; that is, placing the good of the whole above the interests of a small group. I believe very strongly in the Beaver Rotary Club’s ideals of ‘service above self,’ and this is exactly why I will be serving as an officer in the U.S. Army after college. I will put my own personal desires and comforts second to the call of duty to defend and protect my fellow countrymen, and this is something I have, on a smaller scale, done to help my own community throughout my high school career as well.

In the past four years, I have participated in several noteworthy organizations with the overall hopes of better serving the Beaver community. The Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has perhaps been the most active vehicle through which I have served the community, and I have participated in it since my freshman year. Since that time, I have weeded and tended the grounds at Fort McIntosh Park, visited the elderly at Friendship Ridge Nursing Home, marched in parades in a variety of towns throughout the county, been a member of color guard teams before several Beaver sports events, delivered a speech to local veterans at the Monaca VFW, and completed many other acts of

service. Other clubs have allowed me to reach out to the community, as well: I pick up litter along a section of Tuscarawas Road with the National Honor Society as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, and I participate in car washes and serve as an usher for events held at the school through my membership in Key Club. However, my involvement in serving others is not limited to the borders of our town or even our country. I have twice traveled to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as part of a 20-person mission team from Park Presbyterian Church and will be returning again this year. While there, I worked in a soup kitchen, organized a Vacation Bible School for children in the slums, and spent time with church members in their homes. Also, in preparation for these trips (roughly 12 days each summer), I had to devote a lot of my personal free time to learning Portuguese in order to communicate and function effectively.

During the course of my time at Penn State University, I plan to major in international politics, and minor in Russian. My main interest in these topics stems from my drive toward military service, because I believe a good leader must understand how the governments of the world fit together and interact so that he can be sure he’s teaching his men to fight for the right reasons and not become insensitive to other cultures and political viewpoints. I would also like to assist people of different backgrounds wanting to communicate by being able to translate for them if necessary. However, I will never forget the mantra ‘service above self’ as I make my way through college and beyond.”

Beaver Rotary Reinvests More than \$22,000 to Meet Needs of Community, Children and Families

The funds raised by the Beaver Rotary are used to support a variety of worthwhile projects benefiting public and educational needs. In 2004-2005, we bestowed grants totaling \$22,310 for 22 projects, and in the past three years we have made 61 grants collectively totaling more than \$69,600. Recipients primarily are

in Beaver County, but also internationally as high quality opportunities are identified. This work is accomplished through our Community Service Committee (chaired by **Jeff Ingros**) and our International Service Committee (chaired by **Gerry Gloekler**). In 2004-2005, our bequests included:

Aliquippa Community Hospital – golf outing	\$250
Borough of Beaver – shade tree plantings	640
Williams Family Olympics Travel Fund – parents of Olympian Lauren Williams	500
Beaver Area Bobcat Fund – stuffed bobcat for school display	30
Rotary Rose Bowl Float	100
Festival of Trees	275
Merrick Art Gallery – capital campaign for facility infrastructure improvements	1,500
Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera – performance at Beaver Area Middle School/High School	600
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Beaver County – Bowling for Kids Sake fundraiser	1,000
Beaver Area Heritage Foundation – “History by Trolley” program for students	750
Beaver County YMCA	500
Boy Scouts	500
Beaver Rotary Club Scholarships	2,400
Crime Solvers	250
Beaver County Collaborative Action Network (CAN)	500
Outlook Point Senior Center – beautification project	150
D.A.R.E.	225
Operation Warm Coat	1,000
Girl Scouts of Beaver and Lawrence Counties	500
Salvation Army	500
Corporate Spelling Bee – Adult Literacy Action of Penn State Beaver	365
Beaver Borough Community Message Sign – centennial project	9,775
TOTAL	<u>\$22,310</u>

Enjoyable Social and Fundraising Events



*Above: Rotarian Bob Henry broadcasting the annual radio auction on WBVP-WMBA Radio.
Right: non-money gambling at our new fundraiser – Monte Carlo Night – held at Seven Oaks Country Club. Photos by Jim Oelschlager.*



Left: we supported the Pittsburgh Rotary Club Foundation's annual Ducky Derby fundraiser for the third straight year.



*Above: Bill Wilson and Bob Nunamaker share a laugh.
Left: the annual August picnic-feast at the picturesque McLaughlin farm.*





Beaver Rotary Board of Directors

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Yvonne Connor, President – First National Bank of Pennsylvania

Victor Raskovsky - President Elect – Beaver Area School District

Harry Kunselman - Vice President – Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Potter

Jon O'Data - Secretary – Merry Maids

Terri Davis - Treasurer – Sky Bank

Margie Smith - Club Service – Self Employed Writer

Jeff Ingros - Community Service – Janney Montgomery Scott

Gerry Gloekler - International Service – Sky Bank

Craig Nunamaker - Vocational Service – Insurance Unlimited

Alan Buncher - Sergeant at Arms – Beaver County Times

Mark Miner - Public Relations – Mark Miner Communications, LLC

Bill Elliott - Membership - Retired

Matthew Copcutt - Past President – Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania

Members:

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

*Geoffrey Anderson
Tod R. Arbutina
David Atcheson
Craig A. Baker
Kevin Bingle
Jean Briancesco
Alan Buncher
Lois Cascio *
Yvonne Connor
Matthew Copcutt
Terri Davis
Bryan Dehart
Dana Duff *
William P. Elliott*

*Norman Faulk *
Joe Forrester
Gerry Gloekler
Robert Henry
Nicole Hostetler **
Jeffrey Ingros
Rebecca James
John J. Knobloch
Phil Kreuscher *
Harry F. Kunselman
Robert Lewis
Mary K. Maljevec
Valerie Martone
Jacqueline C. McLaughlin*

*John McLaughlin Jr.
Grant Miller
Mark A. Miner
Norm Mitry
Faith Morrison
Mark Nelson
Homer "Dale" Nine, Jr.
Mark Noll
Craig Nunamaker
Robert Nunamaker
Jon O'Data
James Oelschlager
Stacia Pattison **
Victor Raskovsky*

*Harold F. Reed Jr.
William F. Smith, Jr.
Samuel W. Spanos
Edward Stephens #
Dorothy Tate *
Pamela Webb
David E. Williams Jr. ##
William R. Wilson*

** Honorary Member
** Joined after July 1, 2005
Passed away Sept. 26, 2005
Passed away March 6, 2005*

Where and When:

Rotary Club of Beaver meets at noon every Wednesday
At the Wooden Angel Restaurant
Leopard Lane, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact Us:

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Beaver, PA 15009-0513