



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

January 4, 2010

In This Issue

- China Trip Hosted by Chamber of Commerce

Guests

- Kristina Skornikova (Rotary Exchange Student from Slovakia)

Leaves of Absence

- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 1/9/2010)
- Robin Shih (10/1/2009 – 1/15/2010)
- Dan Donnellan (12/01/2009 – 1/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)
- Ron Dulitz (11/22/2009 – 5/10/2010)

The 4-Way Test

Of the things, we think, say or do:

1. Is it the 'Truth'?
2. Is it 'Fair' to all concerned?
3. Will it build 'Goodwill' and 'Better Friendships'?
4. Will it be 'Beneficial' to all?

Our Calendar

January 11 – Brian Amundson, City of Eau Claire Director of Public Works

January 18 – Mark Bradley, immediate past President of the Board of Regents

January 25 – Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Update by Airport Manager Charity Speich

China Trip by Chamber of Commerce President Bob McCoy

(Thanks to Bob McCoy for providing this Program Summary)

In November 2009, the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce hosted 55 people for a nine day visit to China. The purpose of the trip was to gain a better understanding of the Chinese people and their culture, and to view their



Bob McCoy, enjoying posing next to the sign that "Welcomes the American Chamber Delegation".

sites. Chambers of Commerce across the United States are using Citslinc International to organize these trips. They only do this for Chambers and limit the total number to 24,000 travelers per year. The Eau Claire Chamber has a second trip planned for October 2010.

The cost of the just completed trip was only \$1,899 from Los Angeles, which included all meals, transportation, lodging (at 4 and 5 star hotels), taxes, etc. The only extra costs were \$25 for a tip for the entire trip, a few optional side trips, bottled water, and any items you wished to purchase to bring home.

While in Beijing the group toured Tian An Men Square ("Gate of Heavenly Peace"), the largest square in the world, and the Forbidden City, home of 24 emperors with 9,999 rooms and the Summer Palace, known for many such things as

its Long Corridor with painted gallery and 17 Arch Bridge. The Great Wall was a site for all to see. It runs 4,000 miles and a million people died building the wall. The Ming Tombs has one tomb fully excavated and open for exploration. That evening the group enjoyed a dinner of Peking Duck.

The group then flew to Shanghai where they toured (and spent lots of money) the National Embroidery Institute to see silk embroidery, an important local craft with 1,000 years of history. Visits also included a tea plantation and silk rug factory. The tour proceeded to Suzhou and Hangzhou for more Buddha temples, boat tours through the canals and

Officers/Board of Directors for the 2009-10 Rotary Year

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- President-Elect – Jon Niebergall
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- Past President – Don Huebscher
- Avenues of Service:
 - Club – Angela Hite
 - Community – Bob Schmidt
 - International – Mark Morse
 - Vocational – Marcia Van Beek

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back into the local market place.

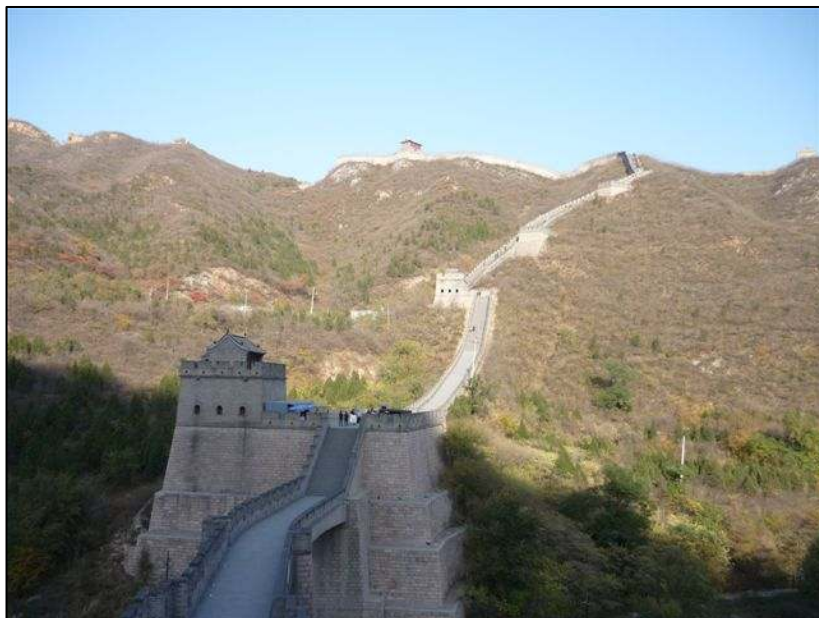
300 miles an hour on the train was quite an experience as China is building over 400 miles of new high speed rail. The outdoor market was something everyone should experience, along with the 'mosquitoes' (street vendors that follow you everywhere) selling knock off items of almost everything.

Going up 100 stories in just 60 seconds was breath taking as we toured the tallest building and then walked on a glass floor that allowed you to look straight down to the streets.

We flew back to Beijing and all 55 travelers said that "the trip exceeded my expectations"!



The **National Silk Institute** in Shanghai, where silk embroidery and other important local crafts have a thousand years of history.



The Great Wall of China