



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

March 1, 2010

In This Issue

- World of Professional Bicycle Road Racing
- Rotary Supports Altoona Police Department K-9 Dog Unit
- 85 Million African Children to be Immunized Against Polio

Guests

- Matt McCoy – Altoona Police Officer and Son of Rotarian Bob McCoy
- Kristina Skornikova – Rotary Exchange Student from Slovakia

Leaves of Absence

- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 3/31/2010)
- Jeanne Chilson (1/25/2010 – 3/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)
- Glenn Horejsi (1/13/2010 – 4/30/2010)
- Ron Dulitz (11/22/2009 – 5/10/2010)
- Peter Scobie (2/17/2010 – 5/11/2010)
- Dennis Vanden Bloomen (1/1/2010 – 5/31/2010)
- Dina St. Louis (1/1/2010 – 6/30/2010)

World of Professional Bicycle Road Racing presented by Rotarian Tom McCarty

(Thank you to Tom McCarty for providing this Program Summary)

Elite world class athletes competing in one of the largest annual single spectator sporting events on the planet. That describes the Tour de France, the epitome of competitive bicycle road racing that annually spans three weeks of racing and attracts over 10 million spectators. Rotarian **Tom McCarty** provided an overview of the world of professional bicycle road racing, including a description of the athletes, the teams, the tactics and rules of bicycle road racing.

Professional road racing athletes train up to 15,000 miles or more per year on the bicycles and, as a result, are in phenomenal physical condition. The professional road racers start training at preteen age and move up through competitions until they are skilled enough to be sponsored by the elite professional bike racing teams. The superstars of the sport are paid in the multi-million dollar range annually, and in Europe they are recognized as national heroes. Teams are sponsored by multi-national corporations; for instance, Radio Shack is the new sponsor for Lance Armstrong's 2010 team.

Tom listed a number of international level professional road races, including the Tour de France, held in July and covering 2,160 miles; the Giro d'Italia, held in May covering 2,050 miles; the Tour of Spain, held in August and September covering 2,012 miles; and the Tour of California, held in May and covering 810 miles. Tom also explained some of the terminology of bicycle road racing: peloton (the main group), domestique (the worker bee on the team), drafting (riding in the slipstream of the cyclist in front) and breakaways (a sprint by one or more riders to breakaway from the front of the pack).

Tom noted that there are many opportunities to ride in local organized citizen rides and races. The Sierra Century citizen ride is scheduled for



Tom McCarty... poised to lose the suit and tie, hop on his Kestrel Road Bike, and ride a quick 50 miles... or maybe it's a Schwinn Classic Black Cruiser.

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

March 8 – Literacy Volunteers
“Learner of the Year” Nou
Thao and Executive Director
Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe;
Youth Rotars Honored

March 15 – How the FBI
Serves Eau Claire by Special
Agent Dave Fitzgerald

March 22 – Classification
Talks by Darin McFadden
and Steve Driever

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

President – Jacqe Lahn

President-Elect – Jon Niebergall

Vice President – Sara Antonson

Secretary – Mary Knight

Exec Sec / Treas – Jerry Reinecke

Past President – Don Huebscher

Avenues of Service:

Club – Angela Hite

Community – Bob Schmidt

International – Mark Morse

Vocational – Marcia Van Beek

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May 23 at Beaver Creek Reserve and the Chippewa Valley Firecracker citizen mountain bike race, part of the Wisconsin Offroad Race Series (WORS), is scheduled for July 11 at the Eau Claire County Expo Center and Lowes Creek Park. Menomonie will host a stage of the Nature Valley Grand Prix, a regional professional bicycle race, on June 19, 2010. He also noted that there are a few bicycle clubs in the community that organize recreational and training rides during the biking season, notably the Overdrive Cycling club and the Pie Riders club.

Rotary Supports Altoona Police Department K-9 Dog Unit

The Altoona Police Department was recently approved for a grant from the St. Paul Police Department K-9 Foundation to receive a K-9 dog. Officer **Matt McCoy**, son of Rotarian Bob McCoy, will be the handler.

The German Shepherd will be trained in the St. Paul Police Department Training Facility over a 12-week period beginning this month.



Altoona Police Officer **Matt McCoy** was on hand to accept a \$500 donation in support of the new K-9 dog unit.

The Altoona Police Department is committed to using only non-tax dollars for the program, and since there are approximately \$20,000 in additional costs not covered by the grant, the Police Department is looking to the community for support. Our Club was pleased to assist by making a \$500 donation to the program.

In addition to the traditional drug detection, suspect tracking, building searches and evidence recovery functions, Officer McCoy will be using the K-9 dog in the Altoona schools to help educate students, parents and staff of the dog's capabilities and how it will serve the community and the greater Chippewa Valley region.

After the dog is fully trained, McCoy promised to return to a Rotary meeting with the dog and demonstrate its capabilities.

85 Million African Children to be Immunized Against Polio

According to an article published by the Voice of America, beginning March 6, 2010, the United Nations and international aid agencies are kicking off a mass polio immunization campaign across 19 countries in West and Central Africa. The agencies say they aim to vaccinate more than 85 million children under five against the poliovirus in an effort to stop a year-long polio epidemic in the region. The article concludes by stating that these immunization campaigns are made possible by a \$30 million contribution by **Rotary International**.

For the complete article published by the Voice of America, [Click Here](#).