

May 14, 2007

This Week's Program
Rotary Exchange Student – Yoshie Kine
Next Week's Program
Classification Talk – Ben Stowe

Important Dates to Remember

Rotary International Convention

June 17-20, 2007 Salt Lake City, Utah

Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival

August 3-4, 2007, Bemidji Waterfront

Upcoming Programs

May 28th – *Memorial Day – NO MEETING*

June 4th – **4-Way Test Essay Winner**

June 11th – **Paul Bunyan Playhouse**

Let's Go Fishing Rotarians!

Let's Go Fishing is hosting a Rotarian Day on June 26. Rotarians 55 and older are welcome to join Terry Matson and the Let's Go Fishing guides on June 26. Don't worry if you're 53, they won't card you and if you're 33 you'll probably be put to work, or so I've been told. If you are interested, sign up with Terry Matson 444-1579.

If you would like to go fishing any other time, Let's Go Fishing has weekly trips this summer, contact 766-0881.

Paul Harris Dinner

Fifty-six guests attended the 4th Annual Paul Harris Dinner at the Bemidji Town and Country Club on May 6. Bemidji Rotary recognized eight Rotarians with Paul Harris medals; Jim Hess 1st, Gary Johnson 1st, Steve Rith-Najarian 1st, Doug Cann 2nd, Ray Carlson 2nd, Tom Welle 2nd, Mark Shough 3rd, Martin Sathre 4th. Thank you to everyone that participated, especially those that donated silent auction items. The silent auction raised \$844.

GSE Team Visit Summary by Gary Johnson

On Sunday, April 29, the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from France was picked up in Detroit Lakes and transported to Bemidji by club members and GSE coordinators, Larry Young and Gary Johnson. The wonderful group from District 1740 in south central France consisted of team leader and Rotarian Henri Caquot, and team members Sylvie Gremeaux, Sylvianne Baron, Audrey Six, and Celine Vanclooster. Larry Young provided the team with an introductory tour of Bemidji prior to the team members spending the evening with their Rotarian host families.

Their first full day in our area began with a tour of Potlatch lumber mill. At noon, the team joined our club for lunch and then shared an interesting presentation about their home district with us. Then it was off to Itasca State Park, where a park naturalist led the group in an informative tour.

Tuesday started early with a presentation to the Bemidji Sunrise Rotary Club. After the meeting, while Curt Lundquist spent time with Henri, the team members and our own French translator Kevin Williamson spent the entire morning at the BCA Crime Lab. The team was especially excited to visit the "CSI-like" facility and had a great time. A wonderful French lunch and interesting tour of Concordia Language Villages was arranged and conducted by Kristen Addison. The group commented on the wonderful food and impressive facility. After a stop-over at Gary Johnson's house for a little relaxation, the team wrapped up their Bemidji visit at a potluck at the Lake Bemidji State Park organized by Amy and Kevin. There many Rotarians, friends, French club members, and others shared a beautiful evening of great food, weather, and friendship.

On Wednesday the group was transported to Grand Rapids by Gary and Kevin where they eventually traveled to Duluth. While in Bemidji, the hosts for our five guests were Roger and Gloria Muth (Sunrise Rotary Club), Duane and Elaine Christensen, Jim and Nikki Hess, Gary and Denise Johnson, and Larry and Sue Young.

In all, the group spent April 14th – May 11th in our district, traveling from town to town in both Minnesota and Ontario. The French team members were great ambassadors for their home district, and their American and Canadian hosts were equally fantastic. For anyone involved, the GSE program is another amazing way Rotary can create international friendships and build better understanding of varied parts of the world.

To see pictures from the France GSE visit, or to learn more about the Group Study Exchange program, please visit our club's website at www.bemidjirotary.org or talk to Larry Young or Gary Johnson.