

July 9, 2007

**This Week's Program**  
**Club Assembly**  
**Next Week's Program**  
***Re-dedication of Babe at the Waterfront***

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**Important Dates to Remember**

**Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival**

August 3-4, 2007, Bemidji Waterfront

**Recent Rotarian Visitors**

Steve DeKrey, Hong Kong

Gene Gordon, Dubuque, IA

**Sign up for Dragon Boat Festival**

Things are shaping up big-time for the Dragon Boat Festival! A 4<sup>th</sup> lane has been added to accommodate the 57 teams currently signed up, and of those teams, 24 are new to the event this year. Many volunteer opportunities are available to assist with this big event. Contact Shelly Geerdes for information and to fill one of the following slots:

**Dragon Boat Volunteer Opportunities**

<b>Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am – 9:00 pm</b>
Dock Installers – General Site Preparation – Team Practice Helpers	
<b>Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>3:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b>
Team Practice Helpers	
<b>Wednesday, Aug 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>3:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b>
Team Practice Helpers	
<b>Thursday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am – 10:00 pm</b>
General Site Preparation – Team Practice Helpers – Sanitation Helpers	
<b>Friday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00 am – 9:00 pm</b>
General Site Preparation – Team Practice Helpers – Sanitation Helpers	
<b>Saturday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 am – 6:00 pm</b>
Registration Booth – Race Result Runners – Floaters – Boat Drivers	
<b>Sunday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am – 2:00 pm</b>
Take Down Crew	
<b>Monday, Aug 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>
Dock Removal	

Also, if you are interested in helping out in the Beer Tent before and during the event, contact Melissa Vacek at the Chamber of Commerce, 444-3541.

**Playhouse Update**

Over \$1,500 tickets for the Playhouse were sold at the Independence Day Parade on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks go to all those Rotarians who volunteered their time to sell those tickets. The next big event sale will be the County Fair, and volunteers are needed for Fair days. See Scott Turn to sign up.

If you have not yet picked up your playhouse tickets, your help is still needed to put this fundraiser over the top. If you are able to help, see *Amy Saeland* for tickets.

**Rotarian Action Group Explores Poverty Fight**

More than 100 Rotarians from 16 countries gathered recently to discuss how they might help achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, aimed at halving extreme poverty worldwide by 2015.

According to the UN, about 1.1 billion of the world's population lived in extreme poverty (on less than US\$1 a day) in 2000, the year 189 countries adopted the goals.

The Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development convened the international development conference. Members of the group have been involved for years in projects aimed at improving women's health and economic situation.

The group's first goal is to help alleviate illiteracy. Learning to read and write is the most powerful tool for empowering women, fighting poverty, reducing environmental degradation, improving health, and creating jobs.

"Rotary International has proven to be able to move mountains; the polio campaign is a beautiful example," said Kristin Hetle, media services chief at the UN Population Fund. "It is my wish to see Rotary do the same for the health and rights of women worldwide – *the* challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The conference was scheduled to coincide with the 2006 Rotary-UN Day in New York City, where Rotarians discussed humanitarian issues such as hunger, water, health, and literacy.