



# The Ratchet



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 Meets Monday - 6:00 P.M. - Moonlight Restaurant on Fosterburg Road  
[www.altongodfreyrotary.org](http://www.altongodfreyrotary.org)

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #131 August 2008

## An Epistle From Our President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It's that time of year when fun in the sun is coming to an end and we all get back to a fall schedule. Children are back to school, swimsuits are being put away and it's time for Dick Jones to get out his sweaters. As the new season starts, Alton – Godfrey Rotary has become very busy. The Student of the Month program starts, and we have two new projects that I'm extremely excited about.

The first project is St. Baldrick's Foundation. St. Baldricks is the largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity with children fighting cancer, requesting donations of support from friends and family. Alton – Godfrey Rotary will sponsor a local event September 25<sup>th</sup> at Alton Square Mall. Your local Rotarians will shave their heads to support cancer research. Please come participate and watch your fellow Rotarians get their heads shaved. If you are not having your head shaved, please support the Rotarians who are by going online at [St. Baldricks.org](http://St.Baldricks.org) to sponsor a participant. This is a great project for Alton – Godfrey Rotary and a project that could make a difference in many children's lives.

The second new project is the mural project. On September 15<sup>th</sup> will be our Mural Committee report. The committee has put together a fantastic project, one the entire community will love.

**YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS MEETING!!!!**

Respectfully submitted  
 By your almost bald pres.

Scott



## Rotary Programs



**Sep 1 No Meeting**

Labor Day

**Sep 8 Moonlight Restaurant**

Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 p.m. District Governor, Richard Passmore, will present his message from the District. Students of the Month for September will be introduced.

**Sep 15 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. The Mural Committee will make a presentation to the Club on a proposed mural for downtown Alton. The committee has selected a building site, a mural for the side of the building, and a mural artist. They will also discuss the cost of the project, the time line and proposed fund raising efforts. In addition to the Mural Committee the artist of the proposed mural and the artist who will actually paint the mural will be on hand to answer any questions and/or address your comments concerning the project.

**Sep 22 Rolling Hills**

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details. First Quarter Club Assembly

## What is St. Baldrick's?

*St. Baldrick's began as a casual conversation between friends and has exploded into the world's biggest volunteer-driven fundraising program for childhood cancer! In eight years, events have taken place in 18 countries and 48 US states, raising over \$49.5 million, and shaving more than 71,000 heads.*

St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family.

At a St. Baldrick's event, something amazing happens. People who normally shy away from the very thought of childhood cancer find themselves compelled to support this cause after looking into the face of these brave children who are smiling broadly as their friends and family members proudly display their newly shorn heads.

Volunteers and donors see it can be fun to support a serious cause. Young cancer patients and survivors see how many people care. And researchers see St. Baldrick's funds helping to find cures!

In 1999, Tim Kenny challenged friends, John Bender and Enda McDonnell to find a way to give back to society. These three reinsurance executives turned their industry's St. Patrick's Day party into a benefit for kids with cancer. What could they do to really turn the heads - and the wallets - of their colleagues?

John suggested shaving Enda's head since kids typically lose their hair during cancer treatment. "People will gladly pay to see you bald, Enda!" Never one to miss an opportunity, Enda replied, "I will if you will," and St. Baldrick's was born.

The three planned to raise "\$17,000 on the 17th," recruiting 17 colleagues to raise \$1,000 each to be shorn. Instead, the first St. Baldrick's event, held on March 17, 2000, raised over \$104,000!

## Alton/Godfrey Rotary Update

Currently, there are eleven individuals and two teams registered as participants in the Alton/Godfrey section of the St. Baldrick's website. Eight of the individuals are local Rotarians. They are Dave Elson, Josh Farley, Jasper Fisher, David Hayes, Ed Morrissey, Bill Moyer, Scott Neudecker, and Brian Saenz. Go online and check out the website to see how things are progressing or to make a donation to any one of these brave individuals. Below is a sample from some of our members.

### Ed Morrissey



I'm shaving my head. Yes, shaving my head with other members of the Alton Godfrey Rotary club, which has taken on an excellent new cause by sponsoring our 1<sup>st</sup> St Baldrick's Foundation Event to help raise funds to cure childhood cancer?

Cancer remains the #1 disease killer of children in the US. St. Baldrick's Foundation, still in its infancy, has raised over \$34 Million to fund medical research grants, research fellowships and distributed grants to over 230 institutions for laboratory research and clinical research. St Baldrick's, raising the awareness of childhood cancer, has quickly grown into the world's largest fundraising event for childhood cancer.

While battling cancer, children lose not only their hair but years of their childhood, and many times their lives. In comparison to their struggle, shaving my head

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is a small sacrifice, and the money raised will make a difference for children with cancer now and in the future.

Will you help me raise as much as possible for this excellent cause? No amount is too big or too small and every gift will be appreciated in helping me exceed my \$5,000 goal by September 25, 2008.

An easy method is to donate online. Visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org), click on; 'Welcome', 'Donate Now', 'Search for a Participant', click on my name or picture and complete the donation transaction. You can also go directly to my webpage by clicking on the link below or copying and pasting into your browser:

[http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee\\_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008-54396](http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008-54396). It's that simple!

You can also donate by returning a check to me made payable to "St. Baldrick's Foundation".

My "new look" will be posted on my webpage after our Event.

Your participation will help discover a cure for childhood cancer and also help all the children and families battling this dreaded disease to know that they are not battling alone.

THANK YOU, in advance, for your willingness and generosity to help cure childhood cancer.

Edmund R Morrissey  
I'm shaving my head.

### ***Dave Elson***

Yes, I did say shave my head! I have recently registered to go under the clippers during a St. Baldrick's Foundation event to raise funds for childhood cancer research.

Worldwide 160,000 kids are diagnosed with cancer each year and despite tremendous progress, cancer remains the #1 disease killer of children in the U.S. and Canada.

St. Baldrick's research grants help fill crucial funding gaps at medical institutions where children are treated for cancer, ensuring the finest care for every child. Grant funds have been distributed to over 230 institutions for laboratory research and to help make clinical trials available to more

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### **Sep 29 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Bethany Boyer-Rechlin, a local student who participated in a Rotary-sponsored youth exchange program in Norway three years ago, will discuss the impact that experience had on her.

### **Oct 6 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Congressman John Shimkus will provide an update on legislation before Congress.

### **Oct 13 2008 Moonlight Restaurant**

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for October will be honored.

### **Oct 20 Rolling Hills**

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

### **Oct 27 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Bill Hoagland - Program Director



children than ever, giving those children treatment that offers the best chance for a cure.

While battling cancer, children lose not only their hair but years of their childhood, and sometimes their lives. In comparison to their struggle, shaving my head is a small sacrifice, and the money raised will make a difference for children with cancer now and in the future.

So, I am asking you to help me raise as much money as I can for the foundation – both to justify this crazy decision, and to fund as much research as possible! No amount is too big or too small – every gift will be appreciated. Please help me reach my goal of \$2500.00 by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

To donate online, visit [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org), click on “Donate” and search for me by filling in my first and last name under “Find a Participant.” Then click on my name and complete the donation transaction. You can also donate over the phone by calling 888-899-BALD. I will also be collecting pledges at the office at 1854 E. Broadway, Alton, Illinois 62002.

I hope you will join me at Alton Square on September 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to watch or volunteer as I help *Shave the Way to Conquer Kids’ Cancer!*

Sincerely,

David C. Elson  
Superintendent of Schools

**Josh Farley**

You heard it right - I'm shaving my head in solidarity with children who have cancer and typically lose their hair during treatment, while raising critical funds for childhood



cancer research!

In the US, more children die of childhood cancer than any other disease. Please make a donation on my behalf to support childhood cancer research so that all children diagnosed with cancer will have a better chance for a cure.

To make a donation, click on "Donate Online" or "Donate by mail or phone."

Thank you for your support!

**How Observant Are You**

The first person to email the newsletter editor with the two changes that have been made to the design of the newsletter will win a free meal this evening.

**August Report**

Previous Balance	\$23,578.61
cleared payments	2,425.06
cleared deposits	14,217.39
Cleared Balance	23,578.61
uncleared payments	6,376.02
uncleared deposits	0.00
Account Balance	28,994.92
New Payments	0.00
New Deposits	772.00
Ending Balance	29,766.92

**Club Officers 2008-2009**

President.....	Scott Neudecker 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Vice-President.....	Ford Phillips 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Secretary.....	Roland Hansen 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Treasurer.....	Mike Tillman 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

**Board of Directors 2008-2009**

Rod Elias-3rd yr	Ebony Huddleston-2nd yr
Dick Jones-3rd yr	Brian White-2nd yr
Sam Stemm-3rd yr	Dave Walker-1st yr
Ken Spells-3rd yr	Chris Fox-1st yr
Gail Weinrich-3rd yr	Brock Hendricks-1st yr
Jasper Fisher-2nd yr	Michael Osborne-1st yr
Martha Morse-2nd yr	Tom Turpin-1st yr
Alan McBride-2nd yr	Josh Farley-PP