



# The Ratchet



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Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap Restaurant

[www.altongodfreyrotary.org](http://www.altongodfreyrotary.org)

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #144 October 2009

## Rotary's Two Great Strengths

by John Kenny, RI President

My fellow Rotarians:

The playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire; you will what you imagine; and at last you create what you will."

There is no shortage in this world of people able to imagine a better future. But in Rotary, we do not just imagine that future -- we will it, and we work to create it. This we do through our two great strengths: our Rotary clubs and our Rotary Foundation.

Over the years, I have been privileged to witness firsthand the fruits of the outstanding work carried out by Rotarians all over the world, supported by the programs of our Foundation. One thing that impresses me is how these programs focus not on short-term satisfaction or reward for the giver. The best Rotary programs and projects focus on building for the future -- and making lives better for generations.

Two decades ago, we Rotarians made a promise: to make life better for the entire world, forever, by eliminating polio. It has always been an ambitious goal, but it has always been a realistic one. And now, thanks to our Rotary Foundation, we are closer than ever to reaching it.

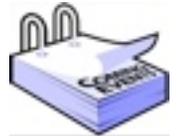
It is my hope that with the help of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#), there will soon come a time when we will be able to say that we have made polio a thing of the past. For if we fail now, we will fail all those who have gone before us, and every child to whom we made a promise. If we fail, we risk our own good name, and the good name of all the Rotarians who came before us. We will not fail. We can and we must succeed.

I know that each one of you recognizes that The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands -- and that the future of our Foundation is as well.

John Kenny  
President, Rotary International



## Rotary Programs



**Nov 2**

**Alton Sports Tap**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will feature Gary Hawkins, who is a local expert on the subject of ghosts and hauntings in the Alton area. He will present a brief history of the haunted buildings and homes in the Alton area and the newly created "Haunted History Tours" of those buildings and homes. Bring your goose-bumps.

**Nov 9**

**Alton Sports Tap**

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for November will be honored.

**Nov 13-14 LCCC Commons District 6460 Conference**

presented by the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club.

**Nov 16 Rolling Hills Golf Course**

6:00 PM. Steak Fry. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

**Nov 23**

**Alton Sports Tap**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of

## Student Essays

In this month's issue of *The Ratchet*, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

### *Daydreaming in French*

by Kelly McCormick



I am in a busy street surrounded by the most beautiful and most famous buildings in the world - the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame. I am scared and have gone to live with people I do not know who speak a language I can barely comprehend. Even though fear floods my body as I walk down the street, I know that this has been a dream of mine since I was young. I have always wanted to travel. When I went to France with the my French teacher and other French students, one of my dreams had been fulfilled.

When the trip was first offered to me in my sophomore year of French, I knew it was an opportunity I could not pass up. There was one problem - the cost. My parents offered to pay half, but I did not have a money hidden under my bed. So, I got a job that I am so thankful for has taught me and given me eventually saved enough



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### *Center Court*

by John Hoefert



Growing up I watched my older brother play tennis, from that moment on my goal was to learn to play and be as good as him. As a freshman at Marquette Catholic High School, I finally got my chance. While my brother played with me and taught me what he knew before I started playing in high school, this was my first chance to be on a team and compete.

During season, my days consisted of school, tennis, homework, bed, and then wake up and do it all over again. With practice, games, and traveling to away matches taking up a lot of time, it was difficult at times to manage school work and studying too. I never once complained or regretted it thought. This is what I had wanted since watching my brother play that first time. With hard work and persistence, I was able to complete my first year.

After playing tennis for three years now, I am still always ready to play and can feel the thrill and excitement at the start of each match. There is nothing like the feeling of walking on a court and getting ready to play. Feeling excited and nervous at the same time,

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# Rotarians in the News



A group of local friends and World War II veterans recently took an Illinois Honor Flight and visited the World War II and Korean war memorials in Washington, D.C. Two of them, Don Nicholson and Jack Jacoby are members of our club.



This picture must have been photoshopped. This couldn't be who it appears to be.

director members for 2010-2010. Committees report to the membership.

**Nov 30 Alton Sports Tap**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our speaker for November 30 will be Tad Armstrong, a lawyer based in Edwardsville. He will address the issue of the Second Amendment and our rights as gun owners. About a year ago, the US Supreme Court issued a ruling that seemed to clarify and broaden the rights of gun owners. Now there is a new case arising in Chicago that could affect those rights once again. If you are concerned about gun ownership rights, you should attend this program.

**Dec 7 St. Anthony's Health Center**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Annual Christmas Program - Spouses Night.

**Dec 14 Alton Sports Tap**

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for December will be honored.

**Dec 21 Rolling Hills Golf Course**

Regular Meeting 6:00 pm. Club Christmas Party. Family night. Special guest will be Santa Claus to provide a preview of his upcoming world tour.

**Dec 28 No Meeting - Holiday**



Daydreaming

for all the trip myself. The morning before getting on the plane went slowly, but when I arrived at the airport, I knew an adventure would begin.

Arriving in France, tired from the long flight, I was excited. I heard French spoken all around me. I will never forget the first day in Paris. I walked down the street, saw shops on every street, musicians playing their instruments on the street, and cafes on every corner. Everything was beautiful. When the day ended, I was off the stay with a French family, the most nerve racking part of the trip. Waiting for Cecile and her family forced be to face my shyness and open up to people I barely knew. Staying with a family, I learned more about the French culture and more importantly myself than I have ever learned in the classroom. Cecile showed my some of the most historical sights and beautiful sights. I walked around the magnificent palace of Versailles, the same halls and gardens that Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette walked down centuries before. Walking down streets, I saw the Paris Opera House, Notre Dame, and the Louvre. History was everywhere.

My trip to France not only let me see beautiful and historical buildings, I realized that learning is not limited to the classroom. After my time in France, I began to wonder, not only what was happening in Alton or the United States, but what the people were doing around the world. I am very thankful for my opportunity to travel. My adventure in France helped me overcome my shyness and see so much history. Months later, I still daydream about my trip to France.

Center



my heart starts beating faster, my blood is pumping, and I am ready. The first serve comes, and my instincts take over. I don't really think about what I am doing unless it is something I have been practicing at improving. By concentrating on my mistake and keep trying to fix it, I can overcome it and get better. Most important, I never give up.

While tennis is something that I really enjoy, it also is a great stress reliever and has helped me achieve success in education as well. I have learned how to manage my time well and it gives me a break to get away from everything for a couple of hours and have fun with the sport I love.

My goal is to go to state in tennis, and then go on to play in college and continue with the sport I love so much. As I grow older I want to continue to play tennis throughout my life. Hopefully, I will be able to take all of the things I have learned and can pass on my knowledge to others. Just as my brother helped me in to the sport that is part of my life, I want to do the same for others and help them the best I can.

***Don't forget 6460 District Conference  
Lewis and Clark Community College  
November 13 and 14***

**Club Officers 2009-2010**

President.....Ford Phillips  
1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769  
Vice President .....Roland Hansen  
820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970  
Secretary..... Mike Tillman  
1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928  
Treasurer .....Jasper Fisher  
3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177  
Executive Secretary.....Melissa Seymour  
3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

**Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Dick Jones-1st yr	Dave Walker-2nd yr
Ron Mayhew-1st yr	Jess Woodman-2nd yr
Ken Spells-1st yr	Bob Hamilton-3rd yr
Sam Stemm-1st yr	Ebony Huddleston-3rd yr
Gail Weinrich-1st yr	Don Moyer-3rd yr
Brock Hendricks-2nd yr	Jeni Thompson-3rd yr
Mike Osborne-2nd yr	Jeff Weber-3rd yr
Larry Spain-2nd yr	Scott Neudecker-PP