

# SPOKES

FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENN YAN  
BOX 512, PENN YAN, NY 14527

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pyrotary](http://www.facebook.com/pyrotary) Website: <http://py-rotary.weebly.com/>  
*Please Join Us! Tuesdays at Noon – Top of the Lake – 301 Lake Street, Penn Yan*



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<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098>

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<https://www.rotary.org/en>



## The Golden Era of Steamboats



Co-authors **Chuck Mitchell** and **Rich MacAlpine** hinted to a captivating story of how steamboats ruled Keuka Lake enterprise from 1835 to 1915. We also learned how two men's interests intersected through the Yates County Historical Center at the Oliver House, and gave birth to the book and program. The two have created an interesting book that covers not only the names and activities of the many steamboats, but helps us look at the agricultural and tourism importance of the boats. Rich says that he tries to capture the romance of the steamboat as told by countless riders who made wonderfully flowering

reports in local newspapers of an outing that they just completed on one of the Keuka Lake Steamers.

One chapter is devoted to the names, location and activities of the many landings up and down the lake. Many stopped at world famous inns and resorts on the lake, such as Grove Point. Another regales us with the exploits of the boat owners and sometimes captains. At one time, three competing lines operated on the lake; one from each of the principal villages, Penn Yan, Hammondsport and Branchport. Hammondsport and Penn Yan were connected to rail lines, the primary means of moving around the state. As the cities along the east coast grew and developed tastes for American wines and fresh table grapes, so grew the railroads, the steamers and the vineyards and wineries they served. Tourists flocked to the region by passenger railcar and transferred to the steamer on their way to an inn or one of their individual lake cottages. The Erie railroad left NYC and terminated in Chicago with smaller spur lines to Hammondsport and Ithaca. Penn Yan reached NYC, first by the Crooked Lake Canal and later by the railroad spur that connected in Geneva to the NYC.

Rich MacAlpine's great-great uncle lived in Poultney where he was a civil war veteran and was an active member of the Great Army of the Republic post in his home town. As a consequence, he took an excursion on the Steamboat Urbana from Branchport to the dinner inn, O-go-ya-go. The Urbana, that night, had on board a small orchestral group that played dance music late into the night. Moonlight cruise and romance were what caught Rich's imagination many years later. He and Chuck created an annual boat cruise that retraced the steps of the steamers from landing to landing to benefit the Historic Society. First, they cruised on the Viking Spirit, then later on the Esperanza Rose. Neither were steam boats, but it was reminiscent of the golden era in the 1880's and 90's. (continued next page)

Chuck became involved in the project because of his three books about Keuka Lake and the Guerrie prints of the several famous steamboats. Both are heavily involved in the Yates Historical Center (Oliver House).

The book closes with the demise of the steamers about the time of WW I. As was the custom of the late 1800's the great entrepreneurs (robber barons) set the stage for business. Wherever possible, trade tended toward monopolies, and one man eventually bought out the three competing lines operating from the three villages. Ultimately, he sold his neat package to the Erie RR. The Erie, a railroad business, did not regard the steamers as their bread and butter business. As an adjunct service, it was mismanaged somewhat, especially leading into the World War. Along with this shift, the automobile was making an appearance, there was a trolley line built between Penn Yan and Branchport, and roads that paralleled the lakeshore were built along both sides of Keuka. Prior to that, any roads were agricultural tracks from farms to various steamboat landings where produce was transferred to the steamers.

Today, the lack of boats on the lake is a consequence of very tight standards imposed by the State of NY following a tour boat tragedy on Lake George. One by one, our old excursion boats failed to economically meet the new standards and were removed from service. Hopefully, one will return soon.

A great pictorial session illustrated the talk; and the authors offered a Rotary Special...\$20/book. All profits go to the Historic Society.



## *News and Notes of interest*

**Whit Y.** was circulating sign-ups for his Squaw Point picnic. Be sure to get on the list so he can order your NY Strip steaks.

**KROSSIN' KEUKA** was a success for the Andersen Family Pod. Through the generosity of many friends and Rotarians, their Pod exceeded their \$1500 goal by another \$1500. Well done. According to Sue: "All the way across, the white caps were blowing over us. The going got really tough, but we managed to finish in 34 minutes, about double our usual crossing time. But, as you know, anything worth doing is probably

hard to do." Thanks again for your support of Keuka Comfort Care Home!

According to fill in President **John S.**, President **Bob** and **Jackie** are sojourning on Cape Cod for a family celebration (a bit before the September actual event) of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**Bob S.** was glad to have his oldest daughter here, and is looking forward to going to Rochester this afternoon to pick up youngest daughter. It seems the difference is all of 4 minutes.

**Ef A.** says he will put up a dollar next week for every volunteer that signs up to serve August 23 at the Camp ONSEYAWA Carnival. We are doing a photo booth and the usual ring toss game.

On the matter of **ring toss jar rings**...we have enough! Thanks for all the donations.

You snooze, you lose. Apparently, according to **Mary Ellen**, there was a great event last Sunday at Dave and Amy's **Rooster Hill Winery**. Was it Tunes on the Terrace?

**Chris B.** was very, VERY happy for spending several days with her 2 year grand daughter.

**Carl S.** wants to know where the time has gone. **Ruby Rose** turns 15 this week. After some struggle, Carl was able to get **Thorn** a great deal of more services.

**PDG John** is doing fifty mile ride next week...for cancer charity. He normally does the 100 mile event, but this year his daughter's (also 100 miler) husband is joining for the first time and they are cutting back so he can ride with them.

Happy dollars for **Perl** picnic....a thanks.

**Don O.** praises sunny weather of late. **Rob S.** was grateful as well for the sunshine...got his boat house roof sheeting on...waiting for the standing seam metal roof.

Evelyn E reported that the Concert in the Courtyard concession last week raised a nice \$76.05. She was assisted by **Ef, Ef's wife, Susan, Sandi P, Sarah C. Mary Ellen M and Tom H.**

We sang for **Bob Scharf**...#81 and going strong.

**Steve** and **Tina** were thrilled when visited by friends and his mother, past week.

**Gray** pulled a ticket worth \$6.00 for **Dave H.** What can you say....Rotary must be good for him? Got a business plug from a happy patron and won the 50/50. It pays to attend PY Rotary Lunch.

## *Fun and Fellowship this week*

Well, summer doldrums for some and exciting programs for those who make it to lunch. 5 guests met with 22 PY Rotarians and dined on Chicken Al Fresco and wonderful mixed greens. No rain, and temperatures in the mid-80s. Guests were:

- **John Hunt** – a very past DG
- **Tom Rogers** – a very new DGE
- **Gray**, the granddaughter of PDG John
- **Lucinda Scharf**, older daughter of Bob S.
- **Bob Smith**, friend of Stacy W.

## *What's Happening Next*

- 8/4 Regular lunch meeting – Surprise!**
- 8/11 Club Assembly**
- 8/18 Picnic at Yonge's**
- 8/23 Camp ONSEYAWA Carnival** Setup around 10AM, Contests begin at 11AM
- 8/29 Camp tear down**
- 9/15 Picnic** at the Branchport State Park

Thanks to our Club Service volunteers for the month of August:

Set up	Sue A and Rob S
Attendance	Witt Y
Pledge Song	John S.
Rotary Minute	Stacy W
Prayer	Evelyn E
Sergeant	Ef A

## *Birthdays in July*

Sue Andersen	8/19
Dean Morgan	8/21
Evelyn Emerson	8/23
Dave Hoffman	8/27
Stephen Miller	8/28
Jeff Krans	8/30

QUESTION – Who started the club traditon of signing Happy Birthday off-key?

## *A few District Events for Us*

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - Red Wing Game** @ Frontier Field in Rochester - Start 7:05 PM fireworks to follow - See <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098/SitePage/district-event-calendar#sthash.uyjfQ1Bm.dpuf>

**September 5<sup>th</sup> - District Golf Tournament** @ Lima Country Club - 1 PM start- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098/SitePage/district-event-calendar#sthash.uyjfQ1Bm.dpuf>

## *Rotary Minute –*

**Sue A** returned to her duties by sharing a wonderful long letter from Dick Brow's widow, PG Brow. She says: "A Boy Scout troop in Maryland built a bench which will be installed at our Boy Scout Camp Babcock-Hovey's beach." A plaque on the bench recognizes Dick as "Rotarian for Camp ONSEYAWA." The project was organized by son Roger who is active in BSA affairs in Maryland. He is joined by brothers Dick and Bob as they honor their father. The bench will be installed this fall, so stay tuned for the announcements of the actual date. The plaque recognizes Dick, as a father to three sons and grandfather to three grandsons, each of whom earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

You can find PG at [i2bmoxie2@gmail.com](mailto:i2bmoxie2@gmail.com). She mentioned the possibility of moving from Missouri to New Mexico...if I heard that right.

## *Join in a project – Feel good*

This is where you mention the needs of charitable organizations with which you serve.

## *A special invocation this week*

Almighty God, we invoke a blessing upon this occasion of Rotary fellowship. Make us aware of the deeper significance of our meeting as we develop our friendships as the source of Rotary service – Service radiating from this community to the wider community beyond.



## *Doing a Make-Up Meeting?*

Club members are encouraged to make up for missed meetings whenever possible. One can make up by:

- Visiting neighboring clubs or attending a club while on vacation.
- Log in on District 7150's Internet Club [www.rotaryclubNY1.com](http://www.rotaryclubNY1.com)
- Attend Interact or Rotaract meetings
- Work on a club or district committee
- Attend a district function
- When you have made up a meeting, please be sure to notify Chris Bergman for proper credit. [hatzcb@yahoo.com](mailto:hatzcb@yahoo.com)

## *Penn Yan's Friends of Rotary –*

Friendly's Dodge Chrysler Jeep

<http://www.friendlydodgechryslerjeep.com/>

Lyons National Bank

[www.bankwithlnb.com](http://www.bankwithlnb.com)

Roto Salt & Remeecasting

<http://www.remeecasting.com/>

Eaves Family Dental

<http://www.eavesdental.com/>

Birkett Mills

[www.thebirkettmills.com](http://www.thebirkettmills.com)

Carey's Farm and Home Centers

[www.careypennyan.com](http://www.careypennyan.com)

Steve Owens and Classic Café

<http://classiccafedundee.com/>

Rooster Hill Winery

[www.roosterhill.com](http://www.roosterhill.com)

Simmons – Rockwell

[www.simmons-rockwell.com](http://www.simmons-rockwell.com)