



**THE  
BETTENDORF  
ROTARY  
CLUB NEWS**  
Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Dec. 3, 2014, issue

***Next meeting:***

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, at  
**Tanglewood Pavilion,**  
**4250 Middle Road, Bettendorf**

**‘What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing...’**



... Or, probably, several of them – and maybe some Jingle Bells or a retelling of the First Noël – when musicians from the Pleasant Valley High School Chorus come to serenade us with music of the Christmas season. That’s our Dec. 10 program – and a traditional yearly treat.



***Last meeting:***

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014



**Dad, son star in ‘Mr. & Me’ strip**

**Jason Platt**, the speaker at our Dec. 3 meeting, was billed as a “cartoonist, artist, actor and father...” But when he began to speak, it quickly became apparent (pun intended) that he was going to concentrate on the first and last words in that list.

Jason – while nevertheless being all of the other words on the list plus some others, like “playwright” – is the creator of a cartoon strip, “Mister & Me”, which takes a usually light-hearted, yet often poignant look at life from the perspective of a single father of a young son (see “History with Harry,” below).



It all began when his son Wyeth was 3 and he created an illustrated book of

poems for him, Jason said. Over the 8 years since, the concept morphed into a comic strip – which appears on his Web site, [www.mister-and-me.com](http://www.mister-and-me.com). “They’re



not ‘knee-slapping’ funny,” Jason said, “but more personal, dealing with issues like divorce and being a single dad and other parent-child interactions.”

Being a Quad-Citizen, Jason incorporates local places – a glimpse of the Centennial Bridge, a reference to a favorite eatery – and names of friends into “M&M” strips. His acting experience informs dialog in the strip – and vice versa – as he explores life lessons of all sorts (in one strip, two kids on the playground realize “there’s no more recess after 5<sup>th</sup> grade”).

Interested in drawing since an early age, Jason nourished his talent at Black Hawk College and the Savannah (Ga.) School of Design. He creates about one strip a week – which “takes about 4 hours from pencil sketch to finished ink” – striving for what he describes as a M-A-S-H-like combination of “funny and heavy.”

## Announcements...

### →The FUTURE:

**Holiday Social:** It’ll be the evening of **Thursday, Jan. 22**, at the Davenport Country Club. More details to come. Last year’s party was an informal get-together with good food and an “ugly sweater” contest.

**Red Badge Meeting:** If your BRC member badge still has a small red patch on it, this is especially for you – it means you’re a new member, and this meeting is when you learn a whole lot more about Rotary and BRC. It’s scheduled for **6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10**, at Granite City.

**December meeting sites:** Noon each Wednesday – except Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 - *BUT* we will meet on New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31 – at **Tanglewood Pavilion**, 4250 Middle Road, Bettendorf.

**January meetings:** Since the new Hilton Garden Inn probably won’t be finished, plans are being made to return to the **Bettendorf Public Library** – with a *different caterer*.

→**Holiday baskets:** **Jonna Schuler** thanked all the members who volunteered



to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate Bettendorf families.

She passed out signup sheets to recruit volunteers to deliver Christmas baskets on **Saturday, Dec. 20**.

Five members signed up during the meeting – but 10 more are still needed, Jonna said. She and **Kevin Kraft** said that, in addition to the groceries, Yuletide recipients receive a Christmas gift for each child – and the club reimburses members up to \$35 each for the gifts they buy for the kids.

To sign up, contact Jonna immediately at [jonnaschuler@clearchannel.com](mailto:jonnaschuler@clearchannel.com).

→**LobsterFest planning:** The first meeting of the “committee of the whole”

to plan LobsterFest will be at 11 a.m. next Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Tanglewood Pavilion. The 2015 LobsterFest is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Rivermont Collegiate.

**History with Harry...  
(Harry Coin looks through BRC archives to discover what the club was doing in years past...)**



On Sept. 17, 2012, cartoonist Jason Platt's "Mister and Me" comic strip hero was sitting at his drawing board feeling exactly like I did this morning: "Gotta meet the deadline... gotta meet the deadline."

I had a few decades of Rotary minutes in front of me... and by December of each year **Chuck Mooney's** typewriter ribbon was so faint I had to squint. Connecting club history through the decades was just not happening for me today. "Gotta meet the deadline." OK... push...

Hmmm... Chuck Miller lost his hat, a Dobbs size 7¼, after the club Christmas party in 1962! Fail. We donated money for a bunch of Christmas baskets. Try a couple decades later. OK... two Rotarians, both named Chuck, none of them "Mooney," were cleared of all securities charges by a Davenport federal judge around this time of year a while back. Hmm... not your typical Christmas story... and... Christmas baskets.

"Gotta meet the deadline"... Jason's hero, "Mister," like me, sank a little closer to the desk... pencil in hand... "Gotta meet the deadline... gotta meet the deadline...."

Maybe the '70s. Our club Christmas party was at Circa '21 in 1977! Woo-hoo... more Christmas baskets. How about '95? Chris Stengo donated an automatic thermostat to a Christmas auction!! Dance and sing!! Baskets again.

"Gotta meet..."  
Finally Jason's character was... out cold at his desk. The comic strip ended there. But if there was more room on the page, I think it would have shown his hero "Mister" waking up inspired by what he needed, hiding in plain sight... Let's see... carry the 4....



Over just the last 10 years, Bettendorf Rotarians paid for and personally delivered more than 6,300 pounds of food in Christmas baskets to needy families. And accompanying the food were more than 420 individually shopped-for and donated gifts for those children.

And that WAS the news!



**Jon Ryan  
Happy \$\$...  
(Named in honor of the late Bettendorf Rotarian, punster, jokester and all-around good guy)**

**Past-president Decker** collected \$264 with special amounts from: **Jim Spelhaug** – Mother died last week at age 94; \$100 in her honor... **Glenn Kass** – kudos to **Joe Tirone** for his program to



bring severely wounded soldiers, free of any cost, to the QC to hunt and fish... **Joe Tirone** – told of two soldiers, both double-leg amputees, who shot buck deer and pheasants thanks to a special chair that supported them... **Tim Lane** – honored to be present at the send-off for those vets... **Tom Howard** – he and **Carl Loweth** and wives happy to be going to Purdue to see its Christmas show... **Jim Slavens** – 87-year-old uncle here for Thanksgiving; “what we do for others gives true happiness”... **Jennifer Garlach** – 3-generation family “reunion” for Thanksgiving... **Ann Rutherford** – fond memories of her high-school soccer coach at Rocky who has died... **Decker Ploehn** – 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so \$40 – “didn’t want the \$1 change” + the true story behind him and **Scott Naumann** and the “Penguins of Madagascar” balloon in the Thanksgiving parade (The ER said Scott was OK after his “lights-out” episode)... **Kelly Meyer** (visiting Rotarian) – “We blew up the balloons.”



### The meeting opened...

After ringing the bell, **Past-President Decker Ploehn** – subbing for **President Sharon**, who was “on a beach

somewhere” – called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard** – accompanied by **Scott Naumann**’s multi-talented laptop – led the singing of “God Bless America.” Decker returned to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moments of Silence, when we learned of the passing of **Pat Stopulos**’ sister.

After **Secretary Johanna** introduced visiting Rotarians and guests, Tom led some more songs: “Sing Rotarians,” “Jingle Bells” and – as he does the first meeting of every month – “Happy Birthday, Dear Rotarians.” In December, that means: 3, Theron Schutte; 5, David J. Franks; 8, Brad Morrison; 13, Bradley Boeye; 23, Jeff Hassel, Bob H. Gallagher, Greg Blaske; 29, Johanna Smith, Will Doland; 30, Mike Lizak

### Secretary Johanna Smith introduced:

#### Visiting Rotarian:

Kelly Meyer, North Scott Rotary

#### Guests:

Laurie Hutcheson, N2 Publishing

Mark Collier, Heartland Payment Systems (guest of **Bill Daley** and **Tim Lane**)

Jason Platt (speaker)

All together, 51 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 3 guests and 1 visiting Rotarian.

### And at the end...

... of the meeting, **Ann Rutherford** won a Happy to Have a Make-up in the drawing from among all those members who participated in Jon Ryan Happy \$\$\$. And we wished each other a **Happy Thanksgiving**.



## Upcoming meetings...



... Thanks to program chair **Scott Naumann**, [scottn@midlandcom.com](mailto:scottn@midlandcom.com), 445-4260:

**Dec. 10:** Pleasant Valley Chorus: Christmas music  
**Dec. 17:** Mark Smith: Hand-to-Hand

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve – no meeting

## Missing...

(Number in parentheses: total meetings missed since July 1, 2014):

Arndt (22), Bibik (13), Boeye (19), Bowe (22), Bush (23), Chambers (9), Daley, DeDoncker (17), Death (7), Dickson (14), Dobesh (9), Doresca (4), Duda (15), Eikenberry (20), Ellstrom (23), Erpelding (18), Felsing (9), Franks (16), Gudgel (16), Habenicht (17), Hartsock (13), Heninger (9), Hill (11), Hinton (20), Hurd (11), Kennedy (23), Limberg (11), Lizak (12), McGimpsey (10), McWilliams (20), Mannix (21), Miller, L. (10), Naeve (20), Nelson (23), Olson (9), Oswald (10), Piart (4), Powers (8), Ross (8), Salm (23), Sarver, Saul (10), Schutte (6), Scranton (21), Stopulos (9), Vollbrecht (18), Werner (23), Wessel (12), Willsher (20), Worley (22), Zachary (12)

## Make-ups...

Ann Rutherford (Happy to Have a Make Up)



## Make up at another QC club...

Monday, noon: Davenport – The Outing Club  
Monday, noon: Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline  
Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Arbor Village Club House, Moline  
Tuesday, 7:15 a.m.: River Cities – Brothers Restaurant, Rapids City  
Tuesday, noon: Rock Island – QC Botanical Center  
**Wednesday, noon: Bettendorf – Tanglewood Pavilion (during December)**  
Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Mini Meet – Lunardi's Restaurant, Davenport  
Thursday, 7 a.m.: Iowa Quad Cities – J-Bar, Elmore Avenue, Davenport  
Thursday, noon: East Moline – Christ United Methodist Church  
Thursday, noon: Milan – Pinnacle Country Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline  
Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

## BRC News staff...

**Editor, reporter:** Fred Anderson

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**Correspondent, Web-site host:** Johanna Smith

## For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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



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