



# Rota-Briefs



Rotary Club of Cohoes - A Subsidiary of Rotary International

April 15, 2009

**Invocation:** Al Pasinella  
**Song:** Chuck Ries - My Happiness  
**Anniversaries:** none  
**Birthdays:** Jack Farrell  
**Visiting Rotarians:** none  
**Guests:** none

## Big Bucks

**Mystery Raffle:** Tony Rivera  
**Powerball:** Mike Brooks was successful.  
**Sawbuck:** Mike Brooks, Jr.

**Rotarians Present:** Barrett, Brooks, Demers, Doemel, Farrell, Hull, McDonald, Pasinella, Ries, Rivera, Signoracci, E. Tremblay, and R. W. Van Alstine

**Good News/Bad News:** The following members paid happy/ sad dollars:  
Mike Brooks because of Jack's birthday; Al Pasinella for missed meetings, and glad to be back; Chuck Ries for missed meeting; Harry McDonald because his brother in law wrote a book about lumbering in the Adirondacks; Ed Tremblay because his 89 year uncle and his 90 year old bride had a commitment service; and John Doemel for missed meetings;

## Events/ Information:

- [The Rotary Club of Cohoes](#) will hold their Annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Cohoes Senior Center on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
- The District [Tropical Dream Conference](#) will be held May 1-2, 2009.
- Tony Rivera announced that he will be this year's Chairman for Rotary Alumni.

## Rotary Club Officers

**Colin Demers** - President  
**Marshall Barrett** - Vice President/Program Chair  
**Robert W. Van Alstine** - Secretary/  
Editor Club Newsletter  
**Michael Brooks** - Treasurer  
**Beverly Signoracci** - Sergeant At Arms  
**Mike Popolizio** - District Governor  
**Cohoes Rotary Web Site** - [www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org](http://www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org)

## Rotary Basics: Four Avenues of Service: Club Service

Club Service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the smooth functioning of Rotary clubs. Learn about effective club service in [Membership](#) and [Training](#).

## Vocational Service

Vocational Service involves club members serving others through their professions and aspiring to high ethical standards. Rotarians, as business leaders, share skills and expertise through their vocations, and they inspire others in the process. [Learn more](#).

## Community Service

Community Service is the opportunity Rotary clubs have to implement club projects and activities that improve life in the local community.

[Learn more about community service](#) and [assessing your community](#).

## International Service

International Service encompasses efforts to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the world and to promote world understanding and peace. It includes everything from contributing to PolioPlus to helping Rotary Youth Exchange students adjust to their host countries.

Learn more about [participating in World Community Service](#).

## Club Business:

Colin made the following announcements:

- Colin asked for extra donations for Polio Plus.
- Fliers and Rotarian assignments were distributed for the Spaghetti Dinner.
- See Linda Tremblay to purchase tickets for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

## Program:

Christine Garney, Ballston Spa Central School District spoke to our club about the Odyssey of the Mind Program. See attached. If anyone would like to volunteer, please e-mail Chris at [cgarney1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cgarney1@nycap.rr.com)

John Doemel responded on behalf of the club.

## Next Week's Program:

Henry Dufresne of SE Tax Prep - Tax Season, Observed Concerns of Tax Filers, and Tax Implications



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Attachment to April 15, 2009 Newsletter

## Odyssey of the Mind Program



Christine Garney, OM Coordinator for the Ballston Spa Central School District, spoke to our Rotary club about the Odyssey of the Mind program.

### What is OM?

Odyssey of the Mind Program (OM) was created in 1978 by Dr. C. Samuel Micklus, a professor at Rowan University in New Jersey. He used creative problem solving activities with students that focused on teamwork, creativity and risk taking. These activities grew into an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

### OM Philosophies:

Any participant who completes their problem is a winner. OM focuses on doing your best. There is not always one right solution to a problem or answer to a question.

### OM Competition Divisions:

A team can have up to seven students, under the guidance of one or more adult coaches. There are four divisions: I - K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, II - 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and III - 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and IV – Collegiate. Each division must solve problems that are designed for students in the grade levels within their division.

### Levels of Competition:

In New York State, the first level of competition is regional. These competitions are organized by BOCES District, e.g. Capital Region, or Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex. OM Teams from school districts in a BOCES district compete with other OM teams for the same division performing the same problem that they are. The winner moves to state competition.

The second level of competition is at the state level. All OM teams who are competing have won at the regional level. They compete with other OM teams for the same division performing the same problem that they are. The winner moves to International (World) competition. At World, OM teams who have placed first in their state compete with OM teams from other states in the US, and with teams from other countries.

### **Problems to Solve:**

An OM team must have a long term problem solution, and participate in a spontaneous problem. Each year, OM teams can choose to solve one of the following: a vehicle problem, a classic problem, a performance problem, a structure problem, or a technical problem. For example the structure problem usually involves designing a balsa wood structure that will hold a lot of weight.

The solution to the long term problem must be the idea of the OM team. Props or costumes must be designed and built only by team members. No adult (including coaches) can participate.

The specifics of a spontaneous problem are not known to participants ahead of time. This part of the completion measures how well a team can think on its feet.

Chris explained that this year the vehicle problem was called Earth Trek. This problem required teams to design and build a small vehicle that visited four locations. The OM team that she saw built a small vehicle that looked like a micro sized device. It traveled into the human body visiting different parts including the heart, lungs, and arteries.

Chris also explained that this year, the technical problem was called Teach Yer Creature. She saw a team that taught a parrot how to sword fight. The structure problem was called Shock Waves. Teams were required to design and build a structure out of balsa wood and glue that would balance and support as much weight as possible while absorbing shockwaves.

### **OM Opportunities for Students:**

Students participating in OM have a lot of fun. Team members work together, form friendships and remain close to each other. They learn how to solve complex problems together, learn how to listen and play off of one another's ideas.

The skills students learn from OM help them when they get to the work place. They have already developed and practiced creativity and team participation skills. Therefore, OM is an excellent resume builder. There are also scholarships that OM participants can apply for.

### **OM Opportunities for Adults:**

Adults can either be coaches or judges. A coach must commit time to guide students on an OM team. This commitment begins in the fall, meeting at least once a week, until regional competition in February or March. If a team places first then the commitment extends through state and maybe World competition. Chris explained that the most difficult part of being a coach is letting team members solve the problem themselves.

Adults can also be judges. Judges at regional competition complete a one day training class, after which they participate in judging activities at regional competition. Judging activities include: announcing OM teams when they present their solution, checking paper work that each team must bring with them in order to participate, time (measure the amount of time for a team to compete their problem), or judging the style of each team and their solution to the problem.

Adults can also help OM students raise funds to purchase materials for their long term problem, and for attending state and/ or world competition.

Anyone wishing to volunteer, can contact Chris Garney at [cgarney1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cgarney1@nycap.rr.com)

**Note:**1. Omer is the Odyssey of the Mind raccoon mascot

## When and Where Other Rotary Clubs Meet:

<b>Monday</b>	
<b>Corinth</b>	<b>7:15PM</b>
Agape Bed and Breakfast, Rt. 9N, Corinth	
<b>Hudson Falls</b>	<b>12:10 PM</b>
Pizza Hut. Rt.4, Fort Edward	
<b>Racing City Rotary</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
Olde Gaslight Restaurant, 12 Ballston Avenue, Saratoga Springs	
<b>Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
Bill Sewell Community Room, Town of Ballston Town Hall	
<b>Lake George</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
Holiday Inn Rt. 2223 State Rt. 9	
<b>Tuesday</b>	
<b>Northern Lake George</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Watson Arts Center, Silver Bay	
<b>Wilton</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Friendly's Restaurant, Route 50, Wilton	
<b>Latham</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
Century House, Latham	
<b>Watervliet</b>	<b>12:10 PM</b>
First Presbyterian Church, 819 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Watervliet Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks only)	
<b>Ballston Spa</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Manna's Restaurant, 17 Low St, Ballston Spa	
<b>Glove Cities</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Holiday Inn, Rt. 30A, Johnstown	
<b>Menands</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
The Corner Well Restaurant, 698 North Pearl St.	
<b>Scotia</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Turf Tavern, 40 Mohawk Avenue, Scotia	
<b>South Glens Falls</b>	<b>5:45 PM</b>
Humbuggs, Corner Bluebird Rd. and Rt. 32, South Glens Falls	
<b>Chestertown</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
O.P. Frederick's Restaurant, Rt. 8., Chestertown	
<b>Lansingburgh</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
Paradise Lounge, 630 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 117 <sup>th</sup> Streets, Troy	
<b>Northville</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
(Call for locations and directions)	
<b>Schoharie</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
Parrot House - Rt. 30 Main St. Schoharie	

<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>Niskayuna</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>
Route 7 Diner, 1090 Troy-Schenectady Road	
<b>Delmar</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Normanside Country Club, 150 Salisbury Rd., Delmar	
<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Senior Center, 204 Canal St., Fort Plain	
<b>Schenectady East</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Old Country Buffet, Crosstown Plaza, Rt. 7, Schenectady	
<b>Turning Point</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
General Schuyler Pantry 166 Broad St., Schuylerville	
<b>Champlain Canal</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Community Room, Mid-Rise Senior Apts, 180 N. Main Street Mechanicville	
<b>Albany</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Wolferts Roost Country Club, 1230 Van Rensselaer Blvd., Albany	
<b>Amsterdam</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Raindancer Steak Parlor, Rt. 30N, Amstgerdam	
<b>Cohoes</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Century House, Rt. 9, Latham	
<b>Colonie-Guilderland</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Western Turnpike Golf Course Rt. 20, Guilderland	
<b>Saratoga Springs</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
Longfellows Restaurant, Rt. 9P	
<b>Cobleskill</b>	<b>6:10 PM</b>
Best Western Inn of Cobleskill Rt. 7, Main Street, Cobleskill.	
<b>Granville</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
AJ's Restaruent, Quaker Street, Granville	

<b>Thursday</b>	
<b>Malta Sunrise</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>
Malta Diner Rts. 9 & 67, Malta (Exit 12 off I87)	
<b>Rotterdam Sunrise</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>
McLanes Restaurant, 2717 Broadway, Rotterdam	
<b>Shenendehowa</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>
Coburg Village Retirement Facility, Grooms Rd., Clifton Park	
<b>North Creek</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
Marsha's Restaurant, Main St., North Creek	
<b>Schenectady</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
Stockade Inn, 1 North Church St., Schenectady	
<b>Twin Bridges</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
Salty's, Northway Exit 8A, East of Rt. 9, Halfmoon	
<b>Glens Falls</b>	<b>12:10 PM</b>
Queensbury Hotel, 88 Ridge Street, glens Falls	
<b>Troy</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>
The Red Front Restaurant, 71 Division Street, Troy	
<b>Middleburgh</b>	<b>6:05 PM</b>
Middleburgh United Methodist Church, Rt. 145 Middleburgh Main St. & Bush Rd.)	
<b>Salem</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
Bunker Hill B&B on Bunker Hill Rd. Salem (5.5 mi. NW of Salem)	
<b>Southern Rensselaer</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
Holiday Inn Express, US 4 East Greenbush (Exit 9 off I 90)	
<b>Broadalbin</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
The White Holland House, 1520 Ste Highway 29, Gloversville	
<b>Fort Ann</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
Mountain View Java, Rt 4, Fort Ann	
<b>Sharon Springs</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
Pit Stop BBQ, Rts. 10 & 20, Sharon Springs	
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Glenville</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>
Turf Tavern, Rt. 50, Scotia	

**Rotary Club of Cohoes**  
**PO Box 81**  
**Cohoes, NY 12047**