

ROOSTER CALL

PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

MEETING 7:00 A.M. EVERY FRIDAY AT TAKE 2 RESTAURANT

Friday, February 27, 2015

Attendance: Twenty-six Optimists, with five (Bob, Hap, Charlie, Gary, and Steve) wearing their Optimist shirts.

Mystery Greeter: Bob Weier greeted Becky Schambow.

Joker Draw: Steve Lane's ticket was drawn again this week for the Joker Draw. He cut and received the 2 of hearts as well as \$2.00 for the time together. (He was just one card away from the joker!)

Business Meeting:

- ++ Gary Engelke received a pin for bringing five new members into the club.
- ++ Dennis Helbing and Kathy Hottenstein were installed as new members by Maxine Lane. Dennis Helbing was sponsored by Leon Neuheisel. Bob Weier stepped in for Leon during the ceremony. Kathy Hottenstein was sponsored by Maxine Lane. We welcome both of you to the club.
- ++ Tri-Star Basketball is scheduled for Sunday, March 29th from 11:30-2:00. Please contact Duane Borgen if you would like to help with the event.
- ++ The next upcoming Social event is scheduled for April 11th. It will be at the First English Lutheran Church and include a meal fixed by Gary Engelke. It will be BYO drinks.
- ++ We received a thank you from Dave Ross, Secretary of Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) for the nice time he had when he was our speaker on February 22nd.
- ++ Board meeting will be March 3rd at 7:00am. March 6th will be the business meeting. As decided by the Board, everyone is to bring a donation to the food pantry on the first Friday in March and June.



Newly installed club members, Kathy Hottenstein and Dennis Helbing, smile for the camera!

Program:

Our speakers today were Matt Heer, physics teacher at Platteville High School, and four of his students: Katelynn Hummer-Quario, Dean Loffelholz, Maxwell Frommelt, and Michael Donovan. These students belong to the HUNCH program which meets Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30-8:30pm and Wednesday before school. Matt became familiar with HUNCH (High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware) when he taught at East Troy. One of his former students went on to become an astronaut and asked him to help establish a program at East Troy, which took three years to do. Counting Platteville, there are two HUNCH programs in the state and 26 schools throughout the country.

The HUNCH program works with high school students to create experiments that can be used at the International Space Station. The goal for the Platteville 2014-1 team of twelve is to produce a device to stabilize and control the attitude of a GoPro camera. By stabilizing the camera, the astronauts will have a free hand to continue to work with as they record their information digitally. Eventually the students would like the camera to be controlled by a pointer or similar device.

At the beginning of the year, the students develop their idea which has to perfect the usability of gravity. They work on it and present it to be evaluated. If it meets the criteria, the team will earn the opportunity to evaluate their experiment in the “Vomit Comet” at the Space Center in Florida. This team is going down in April to test their experiment. The students who talked with us are excited about the chance to work with other schools and test their experiment. Katelynn will serve as the ground crew while the rest of the team will test the experiment. Two schools will go up at a time. Each experiment is safety protected in a box due to the nature of gravity.

It was interesting to hear they enjoy participating in the HUNCH program. Some of their reasons included: they learned how exciting physics is from Mr. Heer, became interested in space by watching Star Trek, were glad the group included women interested in space, and wanted the opportunity to experience the “Vomit Comet”.

For more information on the team check out their web site at << <https://sites.google.com/site/pvillehunch2014/home> >>. You can also google the Vomit Comet and see a YouTube description of the program.

Thanks to Mr. Heer and his students for a very interesting presentation. They agreed to come back and share their trip to the Space Center at a later date.



Students (LtoR) Katelynn Hummer-Quario, Dean Loffelholz, Maxwell Frommelt, Michael Donovan, and high school science teacher Matt Heer (center), explain their involvement with HUNCH.

Minutes taken and submitted by Fern Nall; edited for “Rooster Call” by Charlie Clark.