

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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June 17, 2015

*Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment: **Editor:** George Stockbridge, Chair; **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Peter Uhry, Bernard Schneider, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Fred Waldron; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz*

President RALPH VIGGIANO called the meeting to order almost promptly at 10:02 AM and introduced CHUCK STANDARD to lead us in the Pledge. With GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE at the keyboard, CHUCK did double duty by leading us in singing the Star Spangled Banner, Yankee Doodle Dandy, and Grand Old Flag. BOB LUCE was a swinging Corresponding Secretary with a story about a drunk who needed a push.

El Presidente RALPH instructed the attendees on where the Exit doors were in case of emergency.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RALPH transmitted a hearty Thank You from the Woman's club of Greenwich for the RMA volunteers who assisted in parking at their event last weekend. Generous RALPH then offered special recognition to BERNARD SCHNEIDER, GENE SCHWARTZ, LARRY SCHMITZ, NICK MECCA and HAROLD FROST for their continued service to RMA. Volunteers are needed for various writing assignments (CBB, RMA, other) and RALPH asked for those who like to write to help. RMAers were reminded by RALPH to recruit new members at every opportunity and direct people to our web site as well as invite them to attend a meeting. It was suggested by PETER UHRY that the RMA hat is good publicity and draws inquiries about the organization. Finally, RALPH reported that due to other responsibilities, he is relinquishing the chairmanship of Indoor Tennis that starts in September and asked for someone to take over that role.

PETER UHRY said that he is ready to submit an order for RMA hats and shirts and all orders had to be placed today. He reminded several members who had already ordered to pay up! (You know who you are.) BILL DYNAN then offered a memorial for ROBERT C. JOHNSON, a long time RMA member who died on June 4th at the age of 87. ROBERT is especially remembered for his organizing the RMA golf activity from the outset. Memorial contributions should be made to Greenwich Hospital Hospice Care or Meals-on-Wheels. For another of our recently departed members, Jim Daniel, a memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd at the First Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. An RMA memorial will be given at the June 24th meeting.

RETURNEES: Welcomed back were GEORGE DIPPY from Charlottesville, VA, ARTO SZABO from Mill Valley, CA, MIKE BALINT from Vero Beach, FL, and BOB CAREY from London, by Jove.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that GRAHAM WHITEHEAD, DON O'KEEFE, AND RICH LIMBACHER were still at Nathaniel Witherell; GRAHAM and DON are improving slowly; and RICH is feeling better and is hoping for good news about a recent biopsy on his knee infection. MEL MARGULIS is out of rehab at Osborne and is back home with his girlfriend.

PROGRAM: GEORGE UBOGY gave us a preview of today's speaker, Sherman Bull, MD, who spoke about his mountain climbing exploits, especially Mt. Everest; see details below. STEPHEN MEYERS announced that next week's speaker will be Denise Savageau, Conservation Director for the Town of Greenwich, who will speak on potential effects of climate change on the Town.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported that about 110 members, 2 candidates and 3 guests were in attendance. **Guests:** Kimm Dittrich (BOB LUCE), Mike Ambrosino (BILL SALTSMAN) and Keating Hagmann (RUSS HARDEN). He also mentioned that over 200 members have paid their dues, but 69 have not; those who have not paid by the next meeting will have their names posted. **Birthday boys** were: PAUL SETTELMAYER (70), DANIEL BARRETT (81), J. ROBERT CAREY (83), JOHN B. MARGENOT (87), RALPH MASTOLONI (93), WALTER KIRKMAN (88), and ARTHUR ROBINSON (84).

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK announced that the trip to Belmont Race Track is tomorrow (Thursday, June 18), and that the bus will leave at 10:30am from St. Catherine's Church parking lot; men without jacket and tie will not be admitted to the Club Room for lunch. See details on the next trip below.

VOLUNTEERS: DOUG FRANCEFORT reported that for the week ending June 17, 2015, 59 men reported a disappointingly low 394 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 26 men reported 88 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA.

FUN AND GAMES: BRIDGE: GRANT PERKINS reported that the June 10, 2015 game drew 9 players. KURT SCHAFFIR and TOM McEVOY tied for first with 4,150 points and BOB UNDERWOOD was second with 3,760 points. GRANT invited all those interested in learning how to play or in improving their game to lessons ("bridge clinic") given after the regular game is completed. Time for that is 3:15pm Wednesdays on the second floor of the YMCA. **GOLF:** MIKE SMITH gave the results for June 16th. He and RICH BARTHOLOMEW scored 87 while 5 players were in the 90s. Closest to the pin on 7 FRANK SCARPA, on 15 DICK BARTHOLOMEW. TOM HEALY had the longest drive. BOB PHILLIPS will be Captain next week.

TENNIS: TED SPOOL reported a rain-out on Monday but invited all comers to play weather permitting every Monday and Thursday, 9-11am, at the courts on Loughlin Avenue in Cos Cob. Note the new-new court location.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Sherman Bull, a retired surgeon from the Greenwich-Stamford area, regaled the audience with his stories of grit and endurance in mountain climbing, a hobby he undertook at age 40, and which took him to the tallest peaks on all 7 continents with successful climbs to the top. With slides illustrating the various places and steps along the way, he described how after 5 attempts over a 9 year period, he was able to climb to the top of Mt. Everest in 2001, becoming the oldest man (64) to date to accomplish that feat. Two other records were achieved on that climbing expedition: his son accompanied him, making them the first father-son pair to reach the top; and that was the expedition during which the first blind man, Erik Weihenheimer, made the climb to the top as part of the team. The base camp for the climb is 17,000 feet above sea level with another 12,000 feet to the top (officially 29,028 feet). As a large, atypical geologic structure, Mt. Everest and its surroundings have their own, often unpredictable weather, making for some very challenging and dangerous encounters. Dr. Bull and the entire expedition team were greeted at the White House by President G. W. Bush in recognition of their singular accomplishments. Dr. Bull's excellent talk with the fascinating and exciting details he covered will soon be available on Vimeo via the RMA website: www.greenwichrma.org. Don't miss it.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA.

Tanglewood: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Sunday August 9, lunch at Apple Tree Inn. \$125 per person. Status: Open – 8 places available. Departure 9:00am from Eastern Civic Center.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451)

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

The RMA will welcome **Denise Savageau**, Conservation Director for the Town of Greenwich.

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

Respectfully Submitted: Arnold J. Gordon

