



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

Fairburyrotary.com



2009 - 2010 Officers

President Charlie McDonald
 Pres. Elect Becky Whitfill
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas/Editor Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/PLACE: July 6, 2010 - 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

ATTENDANCE: 22 + 5 guests and Herb Stevens

LOTTO: J. Capasso and S. Weeks

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 7/13 - IAJHSC Leadership Camp (*training student leaders for tomorrow's world*)
- 7/20 - Mark Steffen - Retired Air Force Mechanic
- 7/27 - OPEN

Membership:

Dues will be sent out as soon as I get them from the District - hopefully soon! The new fiscal year started July 1. I assume everyone is coming back - if not please let us know.

8/31 - Dist. Gov. Ropp will be here. Mark your calendar. Board will meet with Gov. Ropp before or after meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reminder - July 8th - Rep. Tim Johnson will be having a Town Meeting at City Hall (12:00 noon).

Bit's & Pieces

Sure the world is full of trouble, but as long as we have people undoing trouble, we have a pretty good world.

...Helen Keller

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:45 a.m.	Wednesday	The Country Kettle
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center

Illinois National Guard Black Hawks Herb Stevens



Herb has been with Illinois National Guard for 26 years and flying for 20 of those years. He lives in Normal with his wife and two daughters. Herb is a trainer for the National Guard Black Hawks. He has been to Iraq two times.

They also help law enforcement in the drug war. Presently at Decatur they have 10 Black Hawks (helicopters) 2 jets and 1 King Air airplane. In Chicago they have 10 Black Hawks that fly out of Midway but are moving to Kankakee. Peoria is their headquarters. They have four CH47 Dual Rotary Helicopters. This is their Work Horse. They will be getting some new UH72 LoCoda Helicopters. All their aircraft are named after Indian Tribes. In 2004 they went to Iraq. Domestic things are keeping them busy in Illinois - with rivers flooding, sandbagging, inspections and hauling people out of floods. Their battalion headquarters are in Peoria. They are divided into four regions. Most of their action is from 64 North due to the larger population. A lot of their command is transport. They used to do a lot of E.M.S. but St. Francis and contractors have taken over this phase. They train for air assault, movement or air support in the field. They have a crew of four plus fifteen troops. The helicopter weighs 14,000 pounds. Up to 8,000

pounds can be added and still fly. One of the stranger cases was in Rockford where they had to lift an 800 pound man out of a house and fly him to the hospital. They deployed on Nov. 3 to Iraq. They had 30 days of active duty first before shipping out. They were a senior unit and trained two months at Fort Knox. They landed at an air base in Iraq which had 19 miles of fence around it and the runways were two miles long. They were the air movement of people. While there they had to train with other units. The Guard personnel you could trust because they had worked together for 10-15 years. In Iraq they had 26 Black Hawks that they logged 18,000 flight hours in 11 months. This is equivalent to 5 years wear and tear in the States. In the States, they have to fly FFA rules, 500 feet and above due to noise. In Iraq they were flying 50 ft. at 150 knots or 180 MPH. They had to fly this low due to surface to air missiles. The unit then shipped back and had two years to get their stuff back together. Some of the pilots in this unit had flown in Vietnam, a lot of them retired. They had to train 24 new pilots. Before, they may have trained 2. In 2008 they had to go back to Iraq. It is one of the hottest places, temperature is 125-130 degrees in the day, 95 at night. When the wind blows it heats up the air. They had a lot of bad dust storms and could only fly 7 out of 31 days. They changed their tactics and flew at 800 ft. and slower. They replaced 2 engines this time, compared to 31 before. In June, they were redeployed back here for 3 years. It cost around \$1.5 million dollars to repair an aircraft. In Iraq, they were known as "Task Force Illinois".