



# The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

*Fairburyrotary.com*



2008 - 2009 Officers

President . . . . . Josh Clemons  
 Pres. Elect . . . . . Charlie McDonald  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Sec/Treas/Editor . . . . . Leroy McPherson

**DATE/TIME/ PLACE:** March 31, 2009, 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

**ATTENDANCE:** 25 + Dan McMinn, Doug Williams, Murray Rhodo

**LOTTO:** Dean (Steve) Moser and Fred Wing

## ACTION ON THE AVENUES

### CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

4/07 - FFA - H.S.  
 4/14 - OPEN  
 4/21 - Katrin Sanders & Deb Moran - Platelets  
 4/28 - Technology H.S.



4/07 - John Rich 4/28 - Tracy Taylor  
 4/17 - Bill Orth 4/30 - Louis Retter  
 4/19 - Ed Palen 4/30 - Joan Smeltzer

### Quips & Quotes

Struggle is a form of education.

### 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

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Is this something we want to look at?

Biking to Build Schools is a 6,000 mile fund-raising bicycle tour from the tip of South America to Paraguay. Our goal is to increase access to education in rural Paraguay with the funds raised during our trip.



The Team!



From left to right: Karina Bianchi (CECTEC), Ada Rosa Martinez (CECTEC), David Miranda (CECTEC), Charles Brennick (Inter-Connection), Karen Schlatter (Biker #1), Joel Correia (Biker #2)

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# P.T. Alliance

Doug Williams



This industry and economy are in dire straights. PT provides steel tubing. Last year was a big year but is steadily going down. The auto industry drives the market. Steel last year was \$1,200/ton. It is now \$350-400/ton. This has caused a lot of grief with raw material when you buy high. They are all in the same boat. Last year scrap metal was \$700-800/ton. Now it is \$100-120/ton. Last year they used 110 million tons. They are at 25-30 million this year. They have shut down some of the blast furnaces. This is a problem because it takes 2 to 3 months to start one back up. P.T. has 9 plants - the one in West Virginia is idle. They are running one shift now. Production last year was one of their largest. Presently they are at about the 25% level. One of their competitors have left the industry. Their outlook is they will be running at this level for the rest of

this year. Fairbury has 3 lines - a draw line, welded tube and components. Their business consists of about 35-40% auto industry, 33% O.E.M. (Caterpillar, etc.) and the balance is service center. They currently are running 3 crews. They were at 8 before. They plan on being at this level the rest of this year. They will weather the storm and come back. They are in a good position with steel on hand and a cash flow. They are putting investments in their plants. Fairbury is getting a \$250,000 upgrade. They are doing no speculation business. Fairbury has laid off 50 people since December. Overall P.T. had over 800 full time employees of which they have laid off 450.



## Biking to Build Schools (Cont'd)

### Mission & Goal

Paraguay's educational system is the second worst in the western hemisphere. In rural areas, communities frequently lack primary and secondary schools, and children of all ages must walk from 3 to 10 miles round-trip to attend class. Many existing schools are dangerously dilapidated and do not have sanitary bathrooms or potable water, making for very poor learning environments. The average drop-out rate after the 6th grade in rural areas is over 60%.

We want to change this situation in as many rural Paraguayan communities as we can. We are biking from the tip of South America back to Paraguay in order to raise awareness and funds to improve the educational opportunities of countless Paraguayan youths. Education enables people to make their own decisions and take control of their lives. It creates opportunities where before there were none. It is crucial in improving lives and generating positive social change.

### About The Trip

On January 1st, 2009 we began our bicycle trip in Ushuaia, Argentina, the Tierra del Fuego. From there, we will weave a trail through the southern Andes in Argentina and Chile. We will ride through Patagonia, up the famous Carretera Austral, through the Argentinean Seven Lakes District, across to Chile's Pacific Coast, and cross the Andes in the shadow of the Anconcagua Mountain into Argentina. From there, we will ride through the Argentinean pampas to Buenos Aires and up through Uruguay until we reach our home, Paraguay. We will ride roughly 6000 miles over the course of 5 to 6 months to meet our *minimum* fund-raising goal of 35,000 USD.

### How Donations Will Be Used

We are teamed up with a Paraguayan organization that has over 23 years of work experience. [CECTEC](#) (Centro de Educación, Capacitación y Tecnología Campesina or, Center for Education, Capacitation, and Technology for Farm Families) is a Paraguayan not-for-profit NGO. CECTEC's primary goal is to serve impoverished Paraguayan farming communities; the organization gives rural youth the education and tools to become leaders and positive elements of change within their communities. Their work focuses on rural youth education, sustainable agriculture, gender equality, and community organization, with an emphasis on local participation. To achieve their goals, CECTEC constructs schools and community centers, runs an educational radio station, and offers courses in leadership building, communication, and gender rights.

With the donations raised from our bike trip, CECTEC will build schools and sanitary bathrooms, improve existing schools' infrastructure, provide needed didactic materials, furnish classrooms, and install playground equipment.

In addition to CECTEC, we will be working with an American counterpart, [InterConnection](#). InterConnection provides low-cost computers to schools, nonprofits, and other organizations in developing countries. They will be donating refurbished computers to all of the schools involved in our project.