



The Rotary Club of Prince Frederick  
February 2010  
The



# Spokesman

Website: <http://web.chesapeake.net/rotary/pf>

## Looking Ahead

- Feb. 1: Regular Meeting at Stoney's  
Speaker: Stovy Brown  
Trip to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon
- Feb. 7: Octava Duo – College of So. Md.  
(Sun) Wei-Der Huang & Hsien-Ann Meng  
Concert Pianists  
3 PM Prince Frederick - Campus C.S.M.
- Feb. 8: Regular Meeting at Stoney's  
Presentations by new members  
8:00 PM Board Meeting
- Feb. 11: B.A.H. – Chamber of Commerce  
(Thur) Calvert County D.S.S. Employment Team  
At Adam's Rib, Prince Frederick  
5:30 to 7:30 PM
- Feb. 15: **No Meeting**  
**President's Day Holiday**
- Feb. 22: Club Assembly – Pres. Jean presiding

## Looking Further Ahead

- Mar. 1: Regular Meeting at Stoney's  
Speaker: Tim Hepler, Mgr.  
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

**Statistics: January 2010** (21 Members)

**Attendance:**

**Make-Ups: ( )**

## Visiting Rotarians

None

**Guests:**

None

## Bits & Pieces

**Al Schwencer** and **Philip Yeats** will now be working on collecting money for the Food Bank for the next three months. Please be generous.

**Pres. Jean** will have information on how Rotary is supporting the relief efforts in Haiti. Usually, Rotary has a more long range objective.

Two members of the Patuxent High School **Interact Club**, Melanie Stangl and Miracle Washington, will be attending RYLA at Camp Letts on Feb. 12-15. The club is also collecting books for the B.I.G. project with a goal of 100 books.

Our local **4-Way Test Speech Contest** will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Trinity Methodist Church.

### 1/3-1/3-1/3 Raffle

Carry over Jack Pot \$ **220** !!  
Interim raffle boss: Mike Zorn

### Echo House Meal Providers

Feb. 5: Warren & Carol Prince  
Feb. 20: Nick Graziano

Thanks for January Meals:  
Canfield - Damerell  
Stovy & Ann Brown

The 7620 District Conference will be held  
April 22-25 at Gettysburg, Pa.  
You can register on line at the District 7620 website.

**The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands**  
**2009-2010 Motto**

## **A Rotary Project where one of Marsh's Rotarian Friends was a Worker**

(Taken from the Tidewater News)

For several years Marsh Damerell has known Bill Billings, a Rotarian in Franklin, VA. He is a very capable fellow and worked for many years in the paper making industry. He is also a great traveler and has been around the world twice plus many, many other places.

Bill joined 16 volunteers with the "Bridges to Prosperity" charity group in Ethiopia recently to build a suspension bridge over the Blue Nile River.

Though the bridge work was going to be accomplished under the blistering sun and other tough condition, it was a 13-mile trek from Mota, Ethiopia, down to the Blue Nile River Gorge and back that really had Billings worried

"I was worried about diseases and accidents," Billings said. "When you leave the river and get back to civilization, you're going to make about 23,000 accurately placed footsteps. Any one of them can be a disaster.

"The bridge trip was my first real adventure trip since I had two surgeries for thyroid cancer two years ago, so that made the trek down into the Blue Nile River Gorge more important to me."

Billings, who is 65 years old, made it with only a few blisters, but "it was still

one of the hardest things he has ever done," he said. Some of the guys with me had hiked down into the Grand Canyon, and they said this was tougher.

When they reached the remote area where the bridge would be built, Billings and the other volunteers, with the help of the locals, put wood decking on already established steel cables to make the meter-wide suspension bridge for people and donkeys to pass over.

Without the crossing, the people in remote villages nearby were cut off. Another bridge upstream was 50 miles away. Villagers would have to travel 125 miles downstream to get to another crossing.

"When you build a bridge in a remote area, the economic impact is staggering. It gives people access to education and markets. It is astounding what it can do." Bill said.

Billings estimated that 200,000 people in the region would benefit from the bridge. "That's really making a difference." he said. "Where else can you help that many people at once?"

Billings is a Rotarian and former president of the Franklin Rotary Club, and he found out about "Bridges to Prosperity" through the club. "Rotary is such an awesome force in the world. It's a tremendous organization that does all kinds of good", Billings said.



Bill at work high above the river



The bridge almost completed