



## Waunakee Rotary Club

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Driving accidents are the number one cause of death for youths ages 15-19, but the Teen Safe Driver Program is trying to change that statistic.

Sam Geraci, manager of strategy and development for American Family Insurance, explained the program at the April 12 meeting of the Waunakee Rotary Club.

Overall, teenagers take more risks when driving, which drives up the cost of their insurance.

Teenagers' driving habits are greatly affected by who is in the vehicle with them, Sam said. Without their parents, teens tend to take more risks.

Edgewood High School tried the Teen Safe Driver Program. With a Drive-Cam filming any risky situations and a coach to rate driving, the participants' habits improved.

The Drive-Cam records footage of the interior and exterior of the car. The driver's behavior is scored.

At first, teenagers in the program regarded the cameras as an invasion of privacy, Sam said. But as their driving habits improved, they enjoyed greater driving privileges, he said.

The program also noted a 70 percent drop in dangerous driving events among participants.

The cameras will detect sudden stops, starts and other reckless driving which are sent to a coach to review. Clips are also available for parents to see and there is feedback to be used by parents.

In two pilot programs, teens were found to exhibit a significant drop in risky behavior.

After a four-month period, teens – with a better reaction time – should drive better than most adults. The seat belt usage also goes up.

Drive-Cam will also notify parents if they identify teens in the top 5 percent of the risk group.

The Teen Safe Driver Program is available to clients of American Family Insurance through Fritz Durst, the local agent (and yes, Fritz did get fined). The company is not privy to the teen driver's habits, and participation in the program will not result in a higher insurance rate.

The company hopes it will result in a reduction of accidents, which will allow the company to make more profit in the end. Sam said a reduction of accidents is good for everybody.

#### Other items:

- The Russian visitors were expected to arrive April 12 and will be the program at the April 19 meeting.

- Phil Willems reported that the Community Awards Banquet is April 22. The Rotary Club sponsors the Business Person of the Year, and Neil Kruschek will be honored this year. Tickets to the banquet are available.

- Sandy Taylor has received \$1,200 toward the home building project in Haiti. She's hoping to receive the full \$1,800 needed for the project by May 1 when Phil and Bill Erickson give their presentation of the project at the District Conference.

Guests: James Tye, guest of

### OFFICERS

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### Calendar of Events:

April 12-28, Russian visitors

April 22, Community Awards Banquet

May 4-6, District Conference

May 30, Madison Breakfast

Rotary Golf Outing

June 17-20, RI, Salt Lake City

Ellen Schaaf.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: April 24, Leonard Allen; April 25, Jim Steffenhagen.

Anniversaries: April 22, Kathy and Mark Cefalu.

Prayers: April 19, Pat Durden; April 26, Msgr. Kramer; May 3, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: April 19, Russian exchange visitors; April 26, Relay for Life, DJ Niemuth and Jennifer Stangl; May 3, club assembly.

Greeters: April 19, Danny Miller, Rich Murphy; April 26, Daniel Muxfeld, Bob Nicholson; May 3, Ed Niebuhr, Ron Niesen.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.