



Waunakee Rotary Club

June 17, 2010
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Supagorn Chantaramanee – known as Byrd in the United States – experienced a lot of firsts during his school year here in Wisconsin.

Byrd was hosted by the Waunakee Rotary Club as an exchange student. He came from Thailand, and now that school has ended, he told the club about his experiences.

Byrd said he arrived at the Dane County Regional Airport exhausted last August after first flying to Japan and then to Chicago, then finally to Madison.

He has stayed with four families in Waunakee – the Reises, the Hutchinses, the Schaafs and the Schlittlers.

During the first few weeks here, Byrd traveled with the Reis family to Minnesota to visit Lake Superior and do some fishing. He took a private airplane and said he felt as if he might throw up.

But he also caught his first fish on the trip. The family also visited Wisconsin Dells.

On another trip, Byrd met up with other Rotary exchange students in Janesville.

Byrd also took a canoe trip for the first time and had the experience of flipping over.

And he went on a yachting trip in Chicago with 100 other exchange students in the region.

In school, he took shop and built a shelving unit which he gave to the Reis family.

He also went to prom and took Anna, a student at West High School whom he met during an orientation for exchange students. Anna did not get the country of her choice and has since opted out of the exchange for next year, he said.

Byrd participated in sports at Waunakee High School. He said he would have rather played football, but the coach said it was too late to

get on the team and he thought his language skills were not strong enough. Byrd had previously played quarterback for a year in Thailand.

So instead he joined the freshman soccer team. It was a good experience with a good coach, he said.

In the winter, he picked up swimming and chose the backstroke. While his time in the 100 meters wasn't the best, it was pretty good for him during his first season, he said.

Byrd really enjoyed playing lacrosse, and his team won the championship. The trophy for Byrd was another first, he said.

Byrd returns to Thailand on July 23, and he said he wants to try something else he has never done. He plans to go to Grand Rapids for a student exchange conference.

He said it was "a good year – good experience for me," Byrd said.

He plans to finish his last two years of high school when he returns home then to attend college and study Spanish and psychology. And he may have to work for his father.

Harriet Statz provided the club with a list of youth exchange activities and responsibilities. She asked the club to think about whether the club wants to continue its exchange program.

Other news:

- John Cullen announced that Service Club Olympics is coming up July 26-27.

- Phil Willems said the club needs two more golfers for the Chamber outing June 17.

- Bill Erickson said school supplies will be sorted at his house, 5506 Sunset Trail, Wednesday, June 16, at 5 p.m.

- President Tom Reis announced that the club donated \$1,000 for the Badger Honor Flight.

- Nick Kliminski, a Rotary scholar-

OFFICERS

TOM REIS, PRESIDENT • BRENT ZIEGLER, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

ELLEN SCHAAF • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

Calendar of Events:

- June 22, *changing of officers.*
- July 13, *pontoon cruise on Lake Wisconsin.*
- July 14, *senior citizens picnic*

ship winner, thanked the club. He will attend Lake Forest High School where he will major in international business and play B3 soccer.

Guests: Derek Fuerstenberg and Gary Hutchins, guests of the club; Alan Langeteig, guest of Jim Tubbs; Mike Jasinski, guest of Shelley Moffatt.

Visiting Rotarians: Art Drake, Normal, Ill.

Birthdays: June 20, David May
June 22, Jim Ableidinger.

Anniversaries: June 23, Frank and Joann Bucaida; June 23, Kim and Margo Kalepp.

Prayers: June 17, Susan Vergeront;
June 24, Leonard Allen; July 1, Pat Durden.

Programs: June 17, Harriet Statz, youth exchange; June 24 ???

Greeters: June 17, Brent Ziegler and Mike Ableidinger; June 24, Peggy Acker-Farber and Leonard Allen.

Make up meetings online

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