



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Some people commute to Madison for a living; other people's jobs take them to the ends of the earth where the temperature gets up to minus 30 in the summer.

Dave Glowacki of the UW-Madison Ice Cube Project told about his work in the South Pole.

Glowacki, a self-described "computer geek," talked to the Waunakee Rotary Club about the international project to study neutrinos, tiny particles believed to be emitted from space.

In 1930, physicist Wolfgang Pauli invented neutrinos as a way "to make the math work out," Dave said, and their existence was later proven.

The particles can be detected by the muons, or blue light, they emit as they crash into atoms. Holes are drilled 2 kilometers into the ice, and cables are lowered with digital optical modules or DOMs attached that magnify the light. Some 86 holes have been drilled in all, and the DOMs send information to the scientists.

Dave said the altitude is 10,000 feet, so South Pole visitors have to take medicine and adapt. In the summer, temperatures get up to minus 30; in the winter they vary from minus 80 to minus 100 degrees. About 280 people are at the research center in the summer. Forty-five brave souls stay on for the winter, when there is no transportation to and from the South Pole.

Each resident there gets two showers a week, two minutes each. And at the south pole there is one sunrise, one sunset per year, each lasting weeks at a time.

"The light shows are just spectacular," Dave said.

To get to the research center,

Dave has first traveled to Chicago, then flown to Los Angeles then New Zealand. From there, the National Guard flies researchers to McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

The scenery is impressive, Dave said, and if you're lucky, you might even get to see penguins.

The next National Guard flight is onto to the South Pole. The research team now operates out of the third base that has been built; the first one was buried in the snow, and the second began to be crushed by snow. This current base is elevated. Dave said many summer residents have spare sleeping quarters in heated Quonset huts. There is also a warehouse district where all of the supplies are stored.

Tourists sometimes ski in and are allowed on the station for a tour, he said. There is also a greenhouse to grow the only greens residents there will get all winter.

Dave shared pictures in PowerPoint presentation that showed a stark landscape with brilliant skies.

Other news:

- The club presented a check to Barb Hoeft of the girls' lacrosse team for their help with the Rotary in Lights project. Barb said the goal is to launch a varsity team and funds will be used to further the team's goals.

- President Brent Ziegler inducted Helen Brausen and Jim Kattner as new members. Welcome, Helen and Jim.

- Scott Cochems is rejoining the club. Welcome back, Scott.

- Harriet Statz said the club could use another home host for the youth exchange students in town for the Waunakee Winter Weekend.

- Phil Willems invited club mem-

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Calendar of Events:

- Feb. 18-20 – Waunakee Winter Weekend with Exchange Students
- Feb. 19 – Waunakee Community Foundation Mentalist Show
- Feb. 22 – Whitetails Unlimited
- March 2 – Super Raffle
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Party

bers to come and help with the Lion's Club Camp Rosholt fix-up effort April 29-30.

Guests: Quinn Schmitz, guest of Jim Schmitz; Mackenzie Buroker, guest of Jonny Buroker; Barb Hoeft, guest of the club; Wes Arnett, guest of Brent Ziegler.

Visiting Rotarians: Steve Heck, Madison Downtown.

Birthdays: Feb. 24, Danny Paul; Feb. 26, Sandy Taylor; March 1, Rex Endres and Duwayne Statz.

Anniversaries: None

Prayers: Feb. 24, Pat Durden; March 3, Leonard Allen; March 10, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Feb. 24, Joe Henry, whiskey distillery, Town of Vienna; March 3, Club Assembly; March 10, Dan Muxfeld, Dane County Mental Health; March 17, State Sen. Jon Erpenbach.

Greeters: Feb. 24, Don Tierney and Luke Tierney; March 3, John Townley and Jim Tubbs; March 10, Bob Tucker and Bill Tygum.