



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Tucked away in the Town of Vienna is a new Greater Madison BMX Track where extreme bicycle racers come to compete.

Just opened in July, the track has been in the planning for about year, said Ben Lick, general manager.

Lick described BMX racing to the Waunakee Rotary Club at its meeting Oct. 20. BMX stands for Bicycle Motocross, and while no motors or engines are involved, the competition is structured like NASCAR racing is, where competitors earn points.

One year ago, Ben and others began getting donations for the track. Wisconsin has several tracks throughout the state, but the Vienna track is located right in the center of them all, what Ben call a hub on 10 acres off of Hickory Lane.

All genders and ages compete in BMX racing, and the Greater Madison track has members ranging from 4 to 69, Ben said.

Larger tracks like the one in the Town of Vienna draw state championship competitions. An article in the Oct. 16 Wisconsin State Journal calls the track "the longest and one of the most challenging BMX tracks in the Midwest."

"Vienna has a very good chance at getting a state championship," Lick said, adding that such competitions draw lots of people.

One of the benefits of BMX racing is that it keeps kids out of trouble and gives them a place to go, Ben said.

BMX racing has been around since 1977 and Ben has been racing since the '80s, he said. People Ben's age now race with their kids. BMX racing has been an Olympic sport since 2008, and the USA team has between 10-12 people.

Right now, Ben is trying to make people aware of BMX racing and to get more sponsorships. More

improvements are planned for the Vienna facility, according to the State Journal article, including a well for bathrooms and water, parking lot improvements and track work itself.

BMX competitors are members of the American Bicycle Association (ABA). For information about joining ABA and competing at the Greater Madison BMX track, see the website, madisonbmx.com.

Other items:

- The club inducted Richard Brewster, former Sun Prairie Rotary member, and manager at Skalitzky Jewelers in Waunakee. Welcome, Richard!

- Bill Erickson said work is under way with the Rotary Lights, as members are testing strands and displays. Anyone who wants to help out can join them from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays and Tuesdays at Qual Line Fence. Bob Ziegler is also repainting some displays at his home and could use help. On Nov. 14, the committee will begin getting the larger pieces out, and lots of help is needed Nov. 19 and 26 when lifts will be available to hang lights at the park.

- Speaking of the Rotary Lights event, Phil Willems said ad sales for the brochure have reached a profit. Phil also mentioned that Piggly Wiggly will donate \$2 from every Bellatoria pizza sold between now and Nov. 23 toward the Rotary Lights event.

- Ed Niebuhr said the Christmas party is planned for Dec. 15.

- John Cullen reminded the club that the Food for Kidz event is Oct. 23 from noon-1:30 p.m. Mick Holm, who organized the event, suggests people show up a little early to get signed in.

- John also mentioned that he received a note from the District Governor thanking the club for our

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Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 23, Food for Kidz, noon-1:30 p.m. at the Village Center.
- June 8-9, Rotary District Conference, The La Crosse Center on the Mississippi.

hospitality. The club also received a thank you for its donation from the American Red Cross. There is also an online initiative to raise funds for Polio Plus Oct. 24-28 where donors receive recognition for donations of \$100 or more.

- Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the Oct. 27 meeting when Natalie Dresen from the Waunakee Food Pantry will speak.

Guests: Shayna Borakove, guest of Tony Hellenbrand; Paul Gradian.

Visiting Rotarians: Kevin Piette, Downtown Rotary.

Birthdays: Oct. 29, Lori Derauf; Nov. 1, Anthony Hellenbrand.

Anniversaries: Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King.

Prayers: Oct. 27, Leonard Allen; Nov. 3, Pat Durden; Nov. 10, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Oct. 27, Natalie Dresen, Waunakee Food Pantry; Nov. 3, Club Assembly; Nov. 10, Robert Schuettpelz- FOCCUS- Executive Director, Chernobyl Consequences Efforts and Fukushima Lessons.

Greeters: Oct. 27, Todd Schmidt and Jim Schmitz; Nov. 3, Katie Shephard and Eugene Smith; Nov. 10, Daniel Statz and DuWayne Statz.