



THE GYROLOG THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

President

John Plunkett
Res. 435-7011

OCTOBER 2008

1st Vice-President

Leon Lubin
Res. 454-9712

Those celebrating their birthdays in October are **Gordon Robertson** on the 2nd, **Roger Russell** on the 5th, **Greg Scherf** on the 12th and **Mike Matei** on the 28th.

2nd Vice-President

Bill Taylor
Res. 430-0330

The October wedding anniversaries are **Marty and Shirley Larson**, 48 years on the 8th and **Gerry and Alice Glassford**, 51 years on the 12th.

Imm.Past President

Jack Brown
Res. 434-0392

President John Plunkett welcomed 27 members and six guests on another sunny day in Edmonton to the luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club on October 7th,

Secretary

Barry Walker
Res. 475-0983

Dick Nichols led the group in Cheerio and **President John** presented the grace.

Treasurer

Mike Matei
Res. 930-1780

Chuck Gerhart introduced his guest **Dennis Cook** and **Fred Schulte** his guest **John Packman**. Four members of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club were also in attendance; these included **Bill Austin**, **Sid Slade**, **Jim Copeland** and 1st Lieutenant-Governor, **Bernie Kropp**.

Directors

Bill Clarke
Res. 437-4678
Peter Carter
Res. 488-2403
Sam Gruden
Res. 488-5520
Ari Hoeksema
421-7776

President John formally welcomed our two new members, **John Boyd** and **Ken Willan**.

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
Phone 434-0925

Val Pohl reported on a very successful Northland's Races Event on Sunday afternoon, September 28th. A prime rib of beef dinner with all of the trimmings was enjoyed by 38 Gyros/Gyrettes and 28 guests. The usual winners and losers crowded the balcony rail to watch the colourful horses and jockeys on a fast dry track under beautiful sunny skies. Thanks to the team of **Val Pohl** and **Harry Nash** for organizing this special event.



Geoff "Beetlebomb" Brewer

Chuck Gerhart introduced our guest speaker **John Ross** who joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton in 1982 and was President in 1992-93. John completed the Tour de Canada bicycle trip over an 11 week period in the summer of 2003 and recently completed a much more ambitious bicycling adventure in June and July 2008 in Europe. John and 39 other riders traveled 4000 km's over 50 days through eight countries following the general path of the famed Orient Express train route. In 1883 the first Orient Express trains traveled from Paris through Austria, Hungary and Romania to Istanbul, Turkey.

The Orient Express Bike Expedition consisted of 28 men and 12 females who cycled 39 days with 11 days of rest and sight seeing. The oldest rider was 81 and the youngest 27. Most of the riders had road bikes and a few had mountain bikes but with smooth tires. One couple from South Africa traveled together on a tandem bike. There were 18 Canadians, including three other riders from Edmonton as well as nine Americans.

The bicycle tour route included portions of France, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. The organizers of the bicycle trip provided accommodation, van support and cooking. Staff included a bike mechanic, a full time chef and a nurse. On rest days the priority was to e-mail family, followed by bike maintenance, laundry and then sightseeing. The group stayed in hotels half the time and the other half in campgrounds.

On June 1st the group circled the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and then traveled south and east through Provence and the Champagne region of France. In the southwest corner of Germany the group traveled through Freiburg and linked up in the vicinity of Ulm with a wonderful paved trail known as the Danube River Cycle Way. This cycle way led the group through Linz and Vienna in Austria, then Bratislava in Slovakia and Budapest in Hungary. The cyclists then traveled south through the Carpathian Mountains in Romania to Bucharest and then east through Bulgaria to the Black Sea. The final destination of Istanbul, Turkey was reached on July 20th.

Three of the riders did not finish the tour due to bike crashes. Four other riders joined the group part way through the journey and completed various segments.



Harry Nash thanked **John Ross** for his descriptive and entertaining presentation. The free lunch was won by **Mike Matei**.

President **John Plunkett** welcomed 106 Gyro's, Gyrettes and guests from the Edmonton, Sherwood Park and St. Albert Gyro Clubs to **Founders Night** at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club on October 21st.

Cheerio was led by **Roger Russell** and **Gerry Glassford** presented the Grace.

Bernie Kropp our First Lt. Governor spoke to the gathering about the three founding members of Gyro International, Paul Schwan, Gus Handerson and Ed Kagy who met in Cleveland, Ohio in April 1912 to establish a friendship organization. Bernie then directed his presentation to recognize the importance of the founders in the Edmonton Area who established the Edmonton Club in 1921, the Edmonton Crossroads Club in 1957, the Sherwood Park Club in 1975 and the St. Albert Club in 1992. The Crossroads Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2007 and Harf Watson, a founding member is still a member of the club after 51 years. Marty Larson of the Edmonton Club, Rick Little of the Crossroads Club and Keith Bradley of the Sherwood Park Club were instrumental in establishing the St. Albert Club.

David Burnett introduced our other guest speaker, **Albert Karvonen** and his wife **Pirkko** who founded Karvonen Films in 1976 and have been specializing in Natural History Films since that time, producing over 110 film, television and multimedia titles distributed in over 100 countries. Mr. Karvonen has been the recipient of many awards for his lifelong contribution to the documentation and preservation of wildlife, to the arts and education.

A thirty minute film was presented which documented the habitat and behaviour of black, grizzly and polar bears. Mr. Karvonen then answered a number of questions about bears and the filming of them. Wildlife films are very expensive to produce and require major assistance from broadcasters, governments and the private sector. A typical wildlife film shot in the arctic would require three weeks of filming with three photographers and three guides. The logistics to undertake these shoots would require extensive advance planning including the caching of fuel and food a year in advance. Mr. Karvonen has worked with bears up close and talks to them in unthreatening ways to establish his presence. Wildlife photographers are continuously filming and he has accumulated over three million feet of film in his career. The future of wildlife photography will be through the use of computerized online data bases.

Marty Larson thanked Albert and Pirkko Karvonen for an excellent presentation which demonstrated their great love and respect for these creatures.

Thanks to **David Burnett, Gerry Glassford, Marty Larson and Keith Bradley** for organizing this excellent event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 4th

Speaker: Randy Garvey, Executive Vice-President Corporate Support, Canadian Western Bank. Mr. Garvey is responsible for a number of groups including Treasury, Audit, Systems, Marketing and Human Resources.

Topic: What is going on in the financial world?

District VIII GYRO Curlarama, Friday, Nov. 7th to Sunday, Nov. 9th

Banff, Alberta

Sponsored by the Stampede City Gyro Club

Gyrette Dinner Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 11th

Speaker: Jim Hutton, Board Member, Centre for Family Literacy

Four out of 10 Albertans struggle with literacy; the Centre offers a variety of family and adult programs to improve literacy. The Gyrettes are looking forward to a great turnout to hear this engaging speaker.

Regular Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 18th

Induction of new members: **Bruce Houston, Ken Willan and John Boyd**

**Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, River View Room, Shaw Conference Centre,
6 PM Tuesday Evening, December 2nd.**