



OPTIMIST CLUB OF LAURINBURG

BULLETIN

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 CLUB #43-425 FEBRUARY 2005
HTTP://WWW.LAURINBURGOPTIMIST.ORG

Program Schedule

February

- 3 Bill Floyd
- 10 Business Meeting
- 17 Harry Covington
- 24 Fred Fox

March

- 3 Ken Harrell
- 10 Business Meeting
- 17 Essay
- 24 Phillip Hayes
- 31 Wayne Hobbs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Website and Newsletter	2
Fall Fundraiser Update	2
Baseball Committee	3
Essay Contest	3
Membership Drive	4
Caught on the Fly	4
Presents News	5
Creed	6

Optimist Park News

As most of you know our club is in the process of upgrading our ballpark facilities. In the fall (2004) we did an informal club interview to address what the club members thought we could do to improve the ballpark. There were many suggestions. Some have been completed and others are in the process of completion. The club considered about

20 ideas. All were good ideas and have been addressed by the club the following is an update.

- A complete renovation of the **Joe Donaldson Field (#2)** is under way. All new sod for the whole field and rebuilding the infield area with sand and clay.
- On the **Ken Malcolm Field (#3)** the infield will be redone with sand and clay also.

- Concrete pads have been installed under the bleachers at fields #1 and #3.
 - There is under consideration a plan to upgrade the bleacher sections for #2. More on that at latter.
 - Batting cage upgrades include new netting around the cages and concrete pads for the batter and pitcher positions.
- Continued on page 5...

37th Annual Oratorical Contest

This years oratorical contest will be held on March 22, 2005 at A.B. Gibson Education Center (Board Room) 7:00 P.M.

One boy and one girl from each of the three middle schools plus one boy and one girl from the

high school will compete for cash prizes of \$100.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place, and \$25.00 for third place. Plus a chance to move on to the zone contest to be held in Whiteville on April 5th, 2005.



Laurinburg Optimist Club 37th Annual Oratorical Contest

**March 22, 2005
A.B. Gibson Education Center (Board Room)
7:00 P.M.**



WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

This is our first newsletter and the announcement of the website. The two work together in that the newsletter is downloadable off the site. For those of you who have a computer you will be able to read and or download it from the website. If you have an e-mail address and it is not in the directory you will be able to post it on the message board or you can e-mail it to me at champs123@adelphia.net. For those of you who don't use a computer it will be sent to you regular mail address.

The newsletter is a tool to keep everyone informed, especially for those great Optimists who can't make the lunch time meeting. Events, programs, news, fundraiser updates, membership news, etc. will be included—there is much to learn about this process and hopefully it will improve as we go along. Committee and fundraiser chairmen need to relay all news so that it can be included as well as any news that any Optimist may have concerning the club and its' members.

This is not a job I am interested in keeping. My title is that of interim editor (which means temporary). I hope someone will step up and take on this very important job. As the newsletter evolves it will become an invaluable tool for the club. Ideally there needs to be an editor and an assistant editor. Website duties could/would include ballpark schedules (umpires, concession stand, ballgames, scorekeepers, maintenance). Event schedules, scores, fundraiser schedules and duties, optimist meetings, notices, news among

HELP WANTED

League commissioners-the club needs some new folks to consider being commissioner of one of our leagues. There will support and mentors at the park most of the time. If interested contact Phillip at the meeting or give him a call (384-3888).

Editor and assistant editor-The website and the newsletter needs a couple of people willing to keep everything updated. If you have any interest or any questions concerning what is involved in this job contact Ron (280-4788).

FALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

The Annual Fall Fish/Shrimp Fry went very well this year. The crowd and weather were great. The participation of the club, especially from some of newer members, was inspiring. One area of concern was cleaning up, something we can address for the spring fish fry. Our numbers equaled last year almost to the penny. Each fundraiser netted about \$8200 and change---not bad for one day!!

The 2004 Christmas tree sale was also a success. The trees looked a little better this year mostly in

part to all the rain the hurricanes dumped on the mountains. Our 20% increase in net profits was due in some part to raffle, although I think about half of the increase (approximately \$1000) was created by the raffle, half of that came directly from **Optimist members**. More thought and planning needs to go into this before next year (there are a few ideas we can pursue to improve it if we decide to continue). Final results were an \$1800 increase over the year before and a net profit of \$10,000. The weekly captains did a

great job this year. Brian Shatswell, Kevin Birchfield, Mike Clark, and Robert Starner thanks. The set up committee, clean up crew, Schneider Trucking, The Clinton Inn, the boys from Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home, Precision Computer Outlet, maintenance crew from Scotland Inn, Scotland High baseball players, WLNC, Silvestry Chevrolet, and the cooks at Domino's and Nicks Pic Kwik all contributed to the success of the fundraiser-we appreciate it.

Baseball Committee News

Committee Chairman **Phillip Hayes**

The baseball committee has begun meetings on most Thursday nights at 7:00pm, the meetings are held at the park and everyone is invited to participate.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS

- Eleven year old Cal Ripken Southeastern Regional Baseball Tournament (July 21-26). The committee has procured the tournament (\$2500 fee was provided by TDA grant) and the organizing and planning are in the developmental stages. Ten teams will represent eight state teams and two from North Carolina with the winner going to the Little World Series. **THIS WILL BE A GREAT EVENT FOR OUR CLUB AND SCOTLAND COUNTY!!**
- A meeting for the regional tournament will held Feb. 5th in Myrtle Beach (see

Phillip for more details.

- BC is involved in park upgrades that directly relate to the playing fields. These upgrades include replacing batting cage nets, cement in cages for batter and pitcher with rubber mats, concrete pads under the bleachers, tarps for the fields, a complete renovation of field #2 including the outfield and the infield and sand/clay improvements to the infield on #3. Some have been completed and others have been started.
- Expansion and upgrade of the bleacher section for field #2 has been discussed.
- County Parks/Rec Dept. has decided to charge for playing baseball. BC has discussed how this might affect our program. BC feels that at the present time our league should stay a non-charging program, but charging is a consideration as is putting some type of limits on the amounts of players our pro-

gram can handle. More discussion on this later within committee and the club.

- State Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken meeting at Champs Feb. 13th at 2:00 pm.
- **BC is looking for league commissioners for the upcoming season. Step up to the plate.**
- There has been a system wide change in birthday cut off dates for little league baseball. It was July 31st and it has been changed to April 30th. This takes affect in the 2006 year, it seems to have added 9 months to the current system. Reminder: If you're a member of the Babe Ruth Baseball National Umpires Association and you received your renewal forms you need to send them in before May 31st to keep your credentials. If you haven't been certified and would like to be you can do it on line at www.baberuthleague.org and clicking on "attention umpires".

"County Parks/ Rec Dept. has decided to charge for playing baseball. BC has discussed how this might affect our program."

2005 Essay Contest Underway

Participants are now being solicited from the local schools. The theme this year is " The Power of One". We are looking forward to receiving 15-20 essays from the teachers at Scotland School after they have paired the numbers down for our optimist judges. We expect to be getting the essays to our judges by February 17 and then to the District by February 28.

As usual, local winnings will be awarded medallions and a cash prize. The first place essay will then be forwarded to our District competition for a possible \$650 college scholarship for the first place winner. The District winner will then compete on the international level for a \$5,000 scholarship, expense-paid trip for student and parents to the Optimist Con-

vention for a reading of the winning essay. Second and third place winners will be awarded \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

Our three winners are scheduled to read their essays at our weekly meeting on March, 17. Please plan to attend and listen to these fine essays. I think you will be impressed with our local writing talent.



2005 Essay Contest

March 17, 2005
Our three winners will read their essays at our weekly meeting.

“Membership is the driving force behind the growth, strength, prosperity and ultimately the continued success of this outstanding civic organization.”

JUST ASK---

Would you like to become a bona fide certified Optimist?

Purpose of the Optimist Club

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life;

To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;

To inspire respect for law;

To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;

To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of man, his community and world.

Membership Drive

It was announced at the beginning of January that the club was instituting a membership drive. Membership is the driving force behind the growth, strength, prosperity and ultimately the continued success of this outstanding civic organization. The membership drive consists of a contest of sorts like in past years. The net goal for this year

is a net gain of 10 new members. A weekend at Myrtle Beach, a Caribbean Cruise, and a year annual dues are the items up for grabs. Each sponsor of a new member will get a name in the hat for each person that is sponsored. The drawing will be held on July 31st. I challenge each member to bring a guest (potential new member) to the

meeting once every month or two. It would have great benefits for our club and the individual.

Anytime you are around someone that you think could be, would be or is an optimist then ask—JUST ASK--- Would you like to become a bona fide certified Optimist?

Caught on the Fly



Recent Stuff and Other Stuff

Ken Malchom made a generous donation to the club to be used as it sees fit—thanks **Ken!**

The club passed the hat for Josh McQuen. Josh was a recent ballplayer in our program. He has been diagnosed with cancer. The club during a meeting passed the hat to help Josh's family with their medical bills. The club contributed over \$450 in it's' effort!! Baseball Committee meetings are as exciting as ever, but there is a new kid on the block. The long range planning committee-----NUFF SAID. The Board of Directors approved on Jan. 27th the new criteria to

become a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.

If I elaborate any further I'll be corrected so that's it.

Carl Clark was sighted at a meeting on Jan. 27th (good to see you Carl)

The zone meeting at Champs Jan. 26th had 4 members attend, thanks **Joey, John R., and Bear.** There is a district meeting in Raleigh at the Sheraton Imperial on Feb. 18th if you're interested in going please get in touch with Ron.

If you know someone interested in the oratorical contest for the hearing impaired let **John Ridge** or **Ron** know

there is some grant money available.

Shane English won the computer in the Christmas raffle. Happy Computing **Shane!**

BASEBALL

PRESEASON ITENARY

MARCH 7TH - REGISTRATION

MARCH 12TH-PLAYER EVALUATION

MARCH 14TH-17TH- DRAFTS

MARCH 21ST-FIRST OFFICIAL PRACTICE

Park News - Continued from page 1

- The batting cage between fields #2 and #3 has been moved to the other side of field #2. The batting cages sit side by side and are not around cars and spectators. This makes for a much safer situation and a team can get more done faster with the being close together.
- The area between the concession stand and field three is no longer a parking lot. Pylons have been moved into new positions to control automobiles and spectator movement. This also creates a much safer situation.
- Rubber mats for concrete pads in the batting cages and tarps for the fields are in the process of being obtained. **The baseball committee** has worked hard on getting these upgrades accomplished.
- The club voted Feb. 10th for a plan to build a new

kitchen facility on to concession stand. This would also create a much needed new meeting room and storage room. The existing kitchen would become 29'X16' meeting (all purpose) room and a storage room of approximately 16"X 8'. The new kitchen will be adjacent to the old one. All the old windows will be blocked in. The new kitchen will feature a screened in wall from end to end. There will be a sink and equipment washing area along with ceiling exhaust fans. The whole kitchen facility will be in one room. Production will flow from the back toward the serving area. **Randy Johnson** is overseeing this construction project with the help of the **fish fry** committee.

- Our public bathrooms are getting new tile treatment. **Ken Adams** has secured from Mohawk enough ceramic tiles to do both

bathrooms. Hooks and benches are being added. A side walk to the bathrooms as well as a new block wall entrance is underway. The female bathroom is receiving two new stalls for a total of four.

- The old concession stand is being re-groomed so that it can be put to better use. Tentative plans include the existing umpire room, fixing the bathroom so that it can be used and making a storage room. **Ken Harrell** is helping on this project.

The LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (**Jim Ellis**-chair) has taken the suggestions of the club to their meetings and after much thought, many meetings, a lot of discussion and due diligence on their part have put forth a plan that will affect the club in a positive manner for many years to come. See his report in this newsletter.

Schedule of Events

- } Feb. 5th in Myrtle Beach Cal Ripken Southeastern Regional Baseball Tournament Meeting.
- } February 10th - Long Range Planning Committee Meeting at 6pm at the Park.
- } February 10th - Baseball Committee at 7pm at Park.
- } March 22, 2005 - Laurinburg Optimist Club 37th Annual Oratorical Contest A.B. Gibson Education Center (Board Room) 7:00 P.M.
- } **February Birthdays**
 Stan Smith 2/11
 Phillip McRae 2/15
 Kevin Birchfield 2/27
 Bill Smith 2/28

Announcement:

Night time meetings are now 2nd Thursday every month
 Next meeting March 10, 2005.

Presidents Comments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the club for having the confidence in me to perform this important job. At the beginning my term the club faced many new challenges, most of those challenges stem from the fact that our club has been success-

ful in accomplishing the goals previously set forth. The Laurinburg Optimist Club has great track record of success. Evolving, changing, growing, enduring are part of the many traits of our club that have made it a success. To continue down that path we

need to keep evolving and growing. The club has been ambitious this year with its thoughts toward the future of our facility and the local youth. Our membership drive is also so an important part of the plan and I challenge each of you to attempt to bring a guest/

potential member at least once this year. "If we never tried new things, would we be where we are and could we really call ourselves Optimist." Optimist Club members, the youth it serves, and the community as a whole have benefited from our Optimistic outlook on life- we should all be proud!

The Optimist Creed



Promise Yourself - -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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FRIEND  OF YOUTH