

# Northwest Words

The Official Publication of *Northwestern Toastmasters* Club 2946/37

We meet each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC

## OFFICERS (2009-2010)

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VP-Membership	Barbie Morgan CC	336 813-5206
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**For more information  
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***The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.***

## That's the Way it Was on October 6, 2009

by **P. Fantum, asst. Secretary**



President Don Barnett

welcomed our newest member Florian Neuhauser, only to have him lose that title before the evening ended. He also

welcomed two guests: Tahirah Williams, who came to learn more about Ernst through his Ice Breaker, and Pam Whitley, who took Florian's title.

Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting Marcia Barney chose "Nothing Is THAT Serious" as the theme of the meeting. Zoltan Rab was the Wordmaster and the Timer. Table Topics Master Brian Davidson gave topics to:

- -Barbie Morgan confessed to indulging in a salty little Halloween prank.
- -After also asserting that he, too, did not indulge in practical jokes, Zoltan Rab told about a trick on his sister.
- -Florian Neuhauser discussed a kid's joke.

Prepared speeches were given by:

- We learned a lot about Ernst Bonaparte as he gave his Ice Breaker, "This is Ernst." He was evaluated by his Mentor Barbie Morgan.
- Craig Thrift gave #1 from the Advanced Specialty Speeches Manual "The Way to Travel" and was evaluated by Don Barnett.
- Jeff Walker gave his "Adventures of a Redhead", #3 from his Advanced Entertaining Speaker Manual and was evaluated by Butch Barney.

Barbara Schanker served as General Evaluator. Elaine Wiles was the Grammarian and noted that, in the words of his evaluator, "Craig got up off the cuff and gave a speech off the cuff" which made us wonder upon whose cuff he was parked. Now this reporter wants to know: should we make our speeches on the cuff?

The very gentlemanly (he broke the tie between him and Barbie) Florian Neuhauser counted the votes:

- Best Table Topic - Barbie Morgan
- Best Evaluator - Butch Barney
- Best Speaker - Craig Thrift

Finally, in the spirit of the meeting: What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

## New Members

**Florian Neuhauser** and **Pam Windley** are our two newest members. Be sure to make them feel welcome! All of us at Northwestern Toastmasters hope that you will be able to meet your educational goals and have a good time while you are doing just that!

## Meeting Guest

**Tahirah Williams** was a guest at our last meeting. Tahirah, we look forward to seeing you again.

## New Terms

English is a living and evolving language. To help you keep up, here are some new terms.

Relativity: Family get-togethers at Christmas.

Gravity: Strength of a glass of beer.

Time travel: Throwing the alarm clock at the wall.

Black holes: What you get in black socks.

Critical mass: A gaggle of film reviewers.

Hyperspace: Where you park at the superstore.

Table Topics



by Barbara Schanker, AC-S

Joel and I cruise a lot, and enjoy talking with our fellow cruisers. Often, our conversations lead to Toastmasters. Joel will talk about NWTM and VIPs and his participation in speech contests.

Many people have heard of the organization, but non-Toastmasters have one principal misconception about TM's mission. Before joining NWTM, I had the same misconception even though Joel had been a member for five years prior to my joining.

The mistaken belief is that the TM focus is improving one's speechmaking ability. No, Toastmasters is so much more than that. Toastmasters' focus is communication, whether that communication is before a large audience, during a cocktail party, or in a discussion with your boss.

It is true that a supportive club, such as Northwestern Toastmasters, does help you become more comfortable before an audience. Through constructive criticism, your speechmaking abilities will improve by learning how to (1) use hand gestures, (2) structure your speech content, (3) pace your speech, and (4) choose descriptive words.

To me, however, Table Topics is the most important aspect of Toastmasters. It provides help with real world communication. Most communications that we have are not through prepared 5-6 minute speeches. Instead, they are conversations with real people about real feelings, real topics, and real situations. They don't necessarily have a clear-cut beginning, middle and end, but with Toastmasters we can learn how to effectively discuss any topic extemporaneously.

So, the next time that you are called upon to answer a Table Topics question, sincerely thank the Table Topics Master for giving you the opportunity to hone your real life skills

Ponderisms

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

Speech Contests

Two times a year, Toastmasters holds speech contests. In the fall, there are Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests. In the spring, we have International Speech and Table Topics contests.

Each contest is held first at the Club level. Then the winners of each Club compete in the Area level contest. Those winners then compete in the Division level contest.

This year Jeff Walker won Our Club level humorous speech contest and went on to compete in the Area level, where he placed high in the rankings.

Our Club level winner in the Evaluations contest was Brian Davidson, who went on to win the Area level contest. Brian was unable (due to a prior commitment to go on to the Division level contest.

Congratulations to these Northwestern Toastmaster members and congratulations to Northwestern for providing the opportunity to learn and grow.

Strange Facts

Gravity was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

You can listen to thunder after lightning and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.

The moon is more useful than the sun, because the moon shines at night when you want the light, whereas the sun shines during the day when you don't need it.

To remove air from a flask, fill it with water, tip the water out, and put the cork in quick before the air can get back in.

Isn't it meaningless to speak of a 45 degrees angle unless you specify Fahrenheit or Celsius?

An object at rest will always be in the wrong place. An object in motion will always be headed in the wrong direction.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

Doppler effect is the tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Thank You

I was amazed, and flattered, by the cards, letters and emails after my sojourn into the murky realms of hospital life. If you did not receive a thank you from me, then please forgive me. There were just so many that I was afraid that I would clog up the internet if I responded to all of them.

I did take the advice of Jeanne Robertson and look for the funny stuff. Right now, it looks like those four days have provided me with enough material for at least five speeches. - Your fellow NWTM, John Clark.

