

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 15 NO. 1

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Page 1*

**In Praise of Volunteers**

*Page 2*

**"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15 In Rutland**

**On Demand At PEGTV.Com**

**Committee Corner**

*Page 3*

**Sponsor Members and Donors for 2007**

**"Have Programs Will Travel"**

**Web Site News**

*Page 4*

**Loyalty Day Parade**

**Spring Cleaning Day**

**Rutland Baseball History Roundtable**

## IN PRAISE OF VOLUNTEERS

The Rutland Historical Society is completely volunteer based. There are no employees. Recently the Society has had some older volunteers finding it necessary to reduce their time commitment. Fortunately there have been a number of new volunteers who have stepped in to fill the void.

Currently there are three volunteers working on Collections tasks on Wednesday afternoons (1 - 4 pm.), five working on Wednesday evenings (7 - 9 pm.) and six working on Thursday afternoons (1 - 4 pm.). Although volunteers are encouraged to work each week the commitment is flexible. Currently, volunteers on these workdays are given some specific individual task(s) once they are acclimated to the general process and comfortable with the Society's needs.

On Saturdays there is a host schedule which rotates so that these volunteers work one Saturday afternoon from 1 - 4 pm. about every seven or eight weeks. Some other volunteers are present every Monday evening and Saturday afternoon to assist guests with their needs while pursuing their own personal research. Most folks have found the Society welcoming to their research and socially supportive of their interests.

Other volunteers work regularly and actively to maintain the high quality of the Society web site. Another writes a weekly Rutland historical column often supported by information from other volunteer researchers.

Volunteer authors and editors keep an award-winning Quarterly magazine on schedule with a varied menu of topics. The editor of the companion

"News From Nickwackett" attempts to keep news of current activities before the membership. The Publications Committee oversees these activities.

Not all volunteer work is historical. Members of the Building Committee keep busy clearing the walks of ice and snow, cleaning the interior of the Society, removing trash and making the little and unexpected repairs that always seem to crop up.

A Program Committee is responsible for live and television programming and special events such as parades. It also tries to respond positively to programming requests from local organizations.

An Exhibit Committee is responsible for current and new Society exhibits and exhibits at other sites such as the Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge.

The Membership Committee, led by the Membership Secretary, has worked very hard to bring clarity and efficiency to the membership/subscription functions which are a major source of financial support for the Society.

A relatively new committee, the Technology and Telecommunications Committee, is fortunate to have professionally trained and experienced people. Rapid technological changes require folks with up to date technical knowledge.

The hours of work that are going on behind the scenes at the Society are quite impressive. If you have the interest and a few hours, perhaps you too would like to be one of these volunteers. Being a member of a highly successful organization is very rewarding. And they do have fun!

## "HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the DVD. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website at [rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing.

Episode # 92 - Dr. Richard Brown of the Rutland Herald offers a new selection of photographs taken by Aldo Merusi. Aldo Merusi was the chief Rutland Herald photographer for thirty years. His widow left a large collection of the negatives of his photos to the Rutland Herald. Dr. Brown has been placed in charge of the project to scan the negatives to provide viewable prints and to attempt identification of the people, places and events in the photos. The Rutland Historical Society has agreed to help in the identification process. This is a second episode bringing additional photos to the attention of the public through the medium of television. It is hoped that the public may help in the identification process. Dr. Brown includes a short biographical sketch of Aldo Merusi and his work. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 93 - Chuck Piotrowski presents "The Pico Raceway, 1951-1952" which is a visual story of a short-lived stock car race track in Rutland, Vermont, that on occasion drew over 4,000 people at an event. Although a product of Rutland's recent history, there is still much to be learned about the Pico Raceway from those with memories of the track. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

## ON DEMAND AT PEGTV.COM

To view the "Historically Speaking" episodes on your internet computer, go to "Historically Speaking" on the Society's web site ([rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com)). In the second paragraph click on the access line which will bring you directly to the over 100 local shows available. Among these are two episodes from the Society's "Historically Speaking" series. Scroll down to the program you want and click on the image. If you don't have the Quicktime Player, you can easily download a free copy at this site. You need do this only once. It takes only a few minutes.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Chairpersons

### Building Committee

Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

### Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

### Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-0286

### Exhibit Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

### Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

### Membership Committee

Robert Perkins - 773-0184

### Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

### Program Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

### Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

### Research Committee

### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

### Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Scott Ludwig - 287-8225

### President

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

### Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

## SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2007

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2007 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (\*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2007.

\*Altrui Realtors, Inc.  
 Casella Waste Systems  
 Clifford Funeral Home  
 John & Judith Crowley  
 Dr. Francis J. D'Auria  
 Lawrence & Karen Dell Veneri  
 Downtown Rutland Partnership  
 Hugh Duffy Coal Company  
 Michael Dwyer  
 \*Margaret M. Elwert  
 Factory Point National Bank  
 \*First Night Rutland  
 William & Charlotte Gillam Jr.  
 \*Grace Congregational United Church of  
 Christ  
 Heritage Family Federal Credit Union  
 Dr. & Mrs. John & Glenda Hinsman  
 Holiday Inn of Rutland  
 Initial Ideas

Mr. & Mrs. Lee & Mary Keirstead  
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas & Linda LaPlaca  
 Richard & Angie Lavictoire  
 Virginia Lindholm  
 Anthony Marro  
 M/M William Mather Jr.  
 NBF Architects  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Noble Jr.  
 Owner Services  
 \*Rachel B. Rosenthal  
 \*Ellen B. Russell Estate  
 Rutland Products  
 \*Rutland's Magic Brush/Paul Gallo  
 Smalley Contractors  
 \*Silver Sneakers, LLC  
 Wilfred E. Thompson  
 Anne P. Walker  
 \*Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences

The following became new Life Members of the Society in 2007:

Margaret M. Elwert  
 Marcia C. Flanagan  
 Cheryl Hooker  
 George E. Hooker

Kathleen Walsh Krevetski  
 Peter A. Miller  
 Symantha Miller  
 Jacob R. Sherman

### "HAVE PROGRAMS WILL TRAVEL"

Jim Davidson, Chairperson of the Program Committee, got to travel to a number of locations to present historical programs to a wide variety of audiences. On Tuesday 15 January he presented "The Rutland Fires of 1868" for the residents of The Meadows. On Thursday 24 January he was at the Fourth Grade at Lothrop School in Pittsford talking about Revolutionary War forts. On Monday 2 February Jim brought the video program on "The Flood of 1927" to the folks at Interage. On 10 March he initiated a series of programs called "Memory Days" for the residents of the Loretto Home. This series will alternate between the Kervick Center and the Loretto Home. The first program was

a group discussion of "Home Deliveries". Other members of the Society will join in presenting the programs for other segments of the series.

### WEB SITE NEWS

New Historical Miscellany material and new "Tidbits From Then and Now" are regularly added. "Historically Speaking" episodes are now on the internet On Demand (see page 2 on how to access the On Demand feature.)

The Rutland Encyclopedia of History and Biography needs contributors of brief biographies of Rutland people, brief summaries of Rutland events and overview essays on general topics. For details on how to prepare and contribute items click on Rutland History Encyclopedia and on how to contribute. Samples of topics and essays can also be found by clicking on the appropriate link.

## LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Rutland Loyalty Day Parade will be held Sunday afternoon 4 May 2008. The Society, as it has for many years, will be a participant. This year a pickup truck will transport "The Talegatorz", an old time jazz band performing music from the 1920s.

The Society invites members and friends to bring a strong presence to the parade by marching or dancing along in 1920s costumes. This should be great fun with some great and lively music. Contact Jim Davidson, Program Chairperson, at 773-7525 for details.

## SPRING CLEANING DAY

**Saturday 10:00 am to Noon  
10 May 2008**

Annually the Society has a Spring cleaning day to clean all windows, inside and out, vacuum carpets and clean floors, clean bathroom and kitchette, wipe down all woodwork, clean blinds, and dust as needed. There is something for folks of every age and ability to do. In the past, a group of 10 to 12 folks have completed all these tasks within two hours. Most work is inside. Only the exterior window washing might be postponed because of the weather. Come and join other Society members to accomplish this Spring cleaning task in less than two hours. Many hands make light work.

*NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Publications Committee of the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023. Tel. (802) 775-2006. Jim Davidson - *Editor*

## DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students \$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	Senior Citizens \$8.00
Regular \$10.00	(62 & up)
Life Membership (Individuals only)	\$200.00

## RUTLAND BASEBALL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE

**10:00 am Saturday  
17 May 2008**

Rutland has had a long and rich baseball history from the late 19th Century up to today. The Society is interested in documenting and developing the many aspects of this history. In the Society's collections there are many bits and pieces of baseball history which need to be expanded into a more complete history. The purpose of the roundtable is to share what we do have and draw upon the community for more information. The Society seeks interested folks who have memorable experiences that may help to develop a more complete history of baseball in Rutland.

If you have pictures, scrapbooks, or other memorabilia, please consider bringing them to share with the roundtable. The Society may ask to make arrangements with you in the future to make copies of your material for the Society's collections.

If you just have an interest in this subject, you are welcome to the roundtable.

President Chuck Piotrowski, himself a baseball researcher, will provide an introductory overview and chair the roundtable discussion.

**IF THE DATE ON YOUR  
LABEL IS 2007 YOUR  
DUES FOR 2008 ARE  
NOW DUE**

**THE FACILITIES OF THE  
RUTLAND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:  
MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM  
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**