

The Roundtable

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Data Mining and Getting Organized

Club Secretary **Karen Schaller** presented her paths and trails in her classification talk this morning that led to her current work. She told how she found an answer to what many of us ask ourselves, “What do I want to be when I grow up?”

“It was not as a data specialist for non-profit organizations!” she said.

The North Waldoboro native moved to Chelsea and graduated from Cony High School. Rural living appeals to her, and she spends summers on a farm in Bremen (your editor, who is from away, learned from Karen the correct pronunciation of the town). She lives in Exeter.

“After high school, what was I going to do? I like art, but you can’t support yourself with it,” She found a job in graphic arts in the printing industry, but it involved mostly press preparation and little or no actual designing.

A position as volunteer coordinator at the Owls Head Transportation Museum opened; she took it. “It was the most fun I’ve had,” she said. Her fun was enhanced by meeting Kurt Schaller, a volunteer at the museum, and now her husband. As the relationship grew, they had to resolve the problem of his residency in Bangor and hers in the Rockland area. The museum’s requirement that she had to work three out of four weekends a month helped firm up the decision to move to Bangor. Her experience with databases grew in her position as an administrative assistant to fundraising consultant Gary Friedman. She learned more about databases and “it just clicked,” she said. While working for Mr. Friedman, she learned how to be an instructor in software programs. Campaign consulting dried up in 2008, and Karen found herself in 2009 looking for work. A colleague suggested that Karen go out on her own and become a trainer for software programs. “And I have been doing this for ten years,” she said.



Rotary: Service above... hands.



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