

The Roundtable

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“Chess on Wheels”

That’s how Jennifer Eastman, also known as Miss Anthrope, described the fast-paced and bruise-inducing sport of roller derbies. She didn’t skate during this morning’s meeting, but she showed her equipment and described her history getting involved.

“This is a full contact sport for women,” she said. “It’s a flat track derby in which we work as a team.” There are five players on each team, four of whom are “blockers” and one is the jammers. The jammers do the scoring while the blockers do, well, try to prevent scoring.

Ms. Eastman’s husband alerted her to a Texas roller derby that was documented on television. “As soon as I saw that, I knew I wanted to do that.” Her pregnancy in 2010 with her third child delayed donning skates.

It took about 1-2 years to get the Central Maine Roller Derby started and running. “This is a huge athletic event for females only who skate,” she said. Fifty women showed up for the first class. Various athletic builds of the skaters are put to good use- large, tall women make good blockers. Smaller, more petite players perform well as jammers where speed can be of value. “We accept everyone into our ‘Skate, Don’t Hate’ program.

The League practices at the Old Town/Orono YMCA on the old wooden floor on which the derby skaters played before it was removed from the Bangor Civic Center. The Central Maine Roller Derby’s first game was the last athletic event to be held at the Civic Center. The Cross Center has been very helpful to the league and is where they play their tournaments. “Teams from other cities see the Cross Center and think they are in the Disneyland of roller derby!” she said of the venue.

“We do have disagreements with each other, but when we hit the floor, we are a team,” Ms. Eastman said. “We build empowerment, self-acceptance and confidence.”



She stressed the community involvement of the league. Every member is required to give two hours a month to some entity in the Bangor area. There are six leagues in Maine that play from New Brunswick to Connecticut. Teams from farther away would be welcome, but costs are prohibitive; each player must fund her own expenses. There are 800 roller derby clubs in the world.

The league plays two seasons, September-December and January-July. (“We do need some family time!”)

The next home game is October 26 at the Cross Center.

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And that wheels us into the business part of the meeting, gaveled to order by **President Ken Nagle**. The American Folk Festival Beer Tent needs six more volunteers. for the shift that runs 11:30 am- 5 pm.

Steve Harrison reported that the Membership Committee will focus on getting young people involved with Rotary. Area 9 clubs will meet tomorrow, August 9, in a “lunch and learn” event to talk about Rotary, specifically to raise awareness about what Rotary does.

We gave away some money! **Ken Kimball** presented a check for \$4,000 to the Boys and Girls Club that represented proceeds from the *All That Jazz* program.

An opportunity to do something you have always desired, jumping out of an airplane, is coming up (or down). The Waterville Rotary Club is sponsoring a skydiving event in mid-August. Check with Ken about details.

“They defy aging!” So declared **David Zelz** about his attendance in Asbury Park, New Jersey at a Rolling Stones concert. “God bless the Rolling Stones,” he invoked.

Jennifer Khavari announced good news from Eastern Maine Community College. \$112,000 in scholarships will be awarded to 127 students. The college exceeded its dollar goal. Jen will celebrate by heading for vacation on Star Island, New Hampshire.

The 50th Estabrook family reunion happened recently. **Lucie Estabrook** was, appropriately, part of the celebration. **Ken Huhn** thanked the club for its good wishes after his hip replacement surgery. His appearance today marked his second day off crutches. He may want to examine some roller derby activity soon.

The Roundtable will be on vacation for a while. Gossip amongst yourselves.



Hannah Boutin, Catherine Myatt, Ken Nagle, Ken Kimball



She got the REAL check!

Les Myers- August 8, 2019