

# The Mecklenburg Missile

Comin' Atcha

Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Inc.

Organized August 5, 1952

P. O. Box 33573, Charlotte, NC 28233-3573

Missile Launcher: Bob Swanson

Meeting: Monday, May 7, 2012

Attendance: 7 Members; 6 guests

Next Meeting: Monday, June 4

## Today's Program

Amy Dang, Lieutenant Governor, Key Club Division 7B  
Amy is a rising senior at Olympic High School, has been in Key Club for 3 years, and is now in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as lieutenant governor.



Her talk today centered around the upcoming Key Club International Convention in Orlando,

Florida.

Key Club International is organized in a manner very similar to Kiwanis International. They have international officers, just as we do, with District and Division structures just like ours. Key Club International has about 260,000 members, in more than 5,000 Clubs. 30 countries have Key Clubs. Key Club International has more members than Kiwanis!

Key Club had its start in 1925 in Sacramento, California. Some students wanted an alternative to High School fraternities. Key Club, like Kiwanis, is NOT a fraternity; though sometimes we act like one. But we have no secrets and no rituals.

Other youth organizations sponsored by Kiwanis:  
**Kiwanis Kids** - elementary school level. Three programs fall under this umbrella: K-Kids, Terrific Kids, and Bring Up Grades (sometimes referred to as BUG).

**Builders Clubs** - ages 12-14 - Middle & Junior High School (Kiwanis Kids and Builders Clubs do not have organization above the Club level.)

**Circle K** - similar to Key Club, but at College level.

It's been said over and over that if Kiwanis never did anything more than sponsor these youth groups, it would all be worthwhile.

## Mecklenburg Kiwanis & Youth

Some years ago we were very active in sponsoring these organizations. We had five (5) Key Clubs and one (1) Circle K Club - at UNC-C. We now sponsor just one Circle K Club - at Queens University, thanks to John Downey.

The UNC-C Circle K Club TWICE had Circle K District Governors.

East Mecklenburg High Key Club was famous for its annual Round Ball tournament, held in early spring. Teams would pay a fee to participate, and would be assigned a time slot. Play was continuous - yes, around the clock! - from late Friday afternoon until early Sunday evening. Play-offs began on Sunday afternoon, and a prize was awarded an overall winner Sunday evening.

Proceeds - around \$4,000 annually - went to Cystic Fibrosis, in memory of an East High student who had died of the disease.

There was such a clamor among students to join the East Mecklenburg High School Key Club that it felt the necessity to limit its number to 75 members.

But as member rolls of Mecklenburg Kiwanis began shrinking, we were not able to fulfill our obligation to provide the sponsorship services necessary to maintain these viable youth Clubs.

Sad, but true - -

## Kiwanians of Mecklenburg:

Once upon a time . . . . No, this is not a fairy tale: Mecklenburg Kiwanis was 150 members strong. And we were quite well known in the community - largely resulting from our 38 years of sponsoring travelog programs. We stand now at 22 "Active" members, plus 2 Honorary. And attendance at meetings has been abysmal. Community-service aside, it is embarrassing to bring in high-powered speakers. I understand the Board will broach this subject at its next meeting. GOOD! We need to do **something!**

**Meets 12:00 Noon, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays: Villa Antonio Ristorante, 4707 South Boulevard**  
Web Site: <http://www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org>