

# The Mecklenburg Missile

Comin' Atcha

Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Inc.

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

Organized August 5, 1952

Missile Launcher: Bob Swanson

**Meeting Monday, February 10, 2014**

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2014**

## Today's Program

President Val, plus Secretary Frank, and Past Pres. Matt - our three who attended - gave a brief summary of this past weekend's District Mid-Year Conference, just concluded at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. They all reported on the level of knowledge about Kiwanis that was discussed; and all highly recommended such meetings were excellent venues for new members of Kiwanis to learn about the organization.

Also Present - and the Saturday noon banquet key-note speaker - was Past International President Wil Blechman. Wil talked about Kiwanis from the International level - plus a bit about his personal pet project, "Early Childhood Development" - which now has Kiwanis International backing.

President Val also conducted a "pop quiz" about our organization. Because several questions were - and some discussion ensued - about the origin of Kiwanis, your Missile reporter is repeating on the right an "About US" column which first appeared in The Mecklenburg Missile of February 18, 2013 - almost exactly one year ago.

\* Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

\* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time - because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, at Villa Antonio Ristorante. After that, we'll be back on regular "1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>" Mondays schedule.

## About US!

January 21, 2013 went by with hardly a notice. Why is that date significant? Because it was the date on which Kiwanis was "born." How did it happen???

A lawyer by training, but a professional organizer for the Loyal Order of Moose, Allen Browne had ideas for a "health benefit feature" for groups of working men. So one hot 1914 August afternoon he stopped in and talked to a Detroit, Michigan tailor named Joe Prance. Joe was not especially interested in what Allen Browne was "selling," but he was impressed with Allen Browne. And so he listened, but did not "buy." Allen Browne returned the next day, however, and managed to persuade Joe Prance to "sign on the bottom line." The name Browne gave for the new organization was "Benevolent Order Brothers,," and Joe Prance became Member #1. Thus Kiwanis was born!

But as more members came onboard, the name was summarily rejected. A committee was formed to consult with a Detroit historian who suggested an Indian phrase "Nunc Kee-wanis," which conveyed the thought "We get together" or "We Trade." From that the word KIWANIS was coined and adopted.

Very soon the new organization had 200 members in Detroit and organized a 2nd Club in Cleveland. Both Clubs were sponsoring charitable projects to benefit disadvantaged children - a purpose which lives to this day.

The Charter was granted by the State of Michigan on January 21, 1915 - which now is recognized as the "birth date" of Kiwanis. So, you see, in two more years we will be 100 years old!

By 1916 Kiwanis had 32 Clubs, including one in Hamilton, Ontario - and so that quickly becoming truly International.

**Meets 12 Noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays: Villa Antonio Ristorante, 4707 South Boulevard**

Web Site: <http://www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org>