

GODDARD TOASTMASTERS --- CLUB 3496, AREA 42, DISTRICT 36

# The Oracle

Volume 3, Number 1, August 28, 2001  
Bigyani Das, Editor

[http:// toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov)



*The mission of a Toastmasters Club is mutually supportive learning in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self confidence and personal growth.*

## ***Toastmasters International***

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## ***Editorial*** ***Bigyani Das, CTM***

*Last year we kept our goal to make our club as a SELECT DISTINGUISHED CLUB. We fulfilled seven goals and earned the credit for our hard work. What did it take to get into that level? We had 5 CTMs, we had 5 new members, we had 2 CLs, we submitted our semi-annual report on time, we had our membership renewals on time and our officers were trained. Can we do better this year? We can! If each one of us can make a promise for ourselves as Toastmasters and through that promise we can help our club achieve its goal. So Friends, let's all work together and help each other to achieve our Individual Goals as Toastmasters and then we all will win.*

*Our Goddard Toastmasters Team participated in the Spring Fun Run Event as a group. Congratulations for a great Team Spirit.*



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## ***2001: A Speech Odyssey*** ***Michael K. Heney, CTM***

Well, here we are at the start of a new Toastmasters' year, with a new set of officers at the helm, and a serious challenge ahead of us to match the accomplishments of last year. Under the leadership of Jeff Bolognese as last year's President, we earned the designation of Select Distinguished club (only President's Distinguished is higher.) Congratulations – and thanks – to Jeff for running a tight ship last year!



So what's coming in the year ahead? As I mentioned, we have a new set of officers for the 2001-02 year; they are: Mike Heney, President; Carolyn Ng, VP-Education; Bigyani Das, VP-Public Relations; Kathleen Fernandez, VP-Membership; Mike Rilee, Secretary, Stephen Palm, Treasurer, and Don Moore, Sergeant-At-Arms. We're working on a Club Success Plan that we hope will make sure that you can get what you want from Goddard Toastmasters, and in turn lets you help the club have a banner (pun intended) year.

In the immediate future, our Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest winners will go on to represent Goddard Toastmasters at the Area 42 contest in September, and hopefully move on to the Division D and then District 36 contests the following months. These contests are a lot of fun – both for the speakers and the audience – I'm looking forward to a good turnout and a lot of laughter later this month.

Farther out on the horizon, we have our Halloween "theme" meeting in late October and our Holiday party in December. And in January, it'll be time for a birthday party, as Goddard Toastmasters turns 30! We'll be looking for ideas on ways to celebrate; hopefully, we can do some sort of Center-wide event to help mark this milestone!

Speaking of milestones, congratulations to Chris Scherer for earning his Competent Leader (CL) award in July! Chris sets a good example for all of us in working towards meeting individual goals and helping the club at the same time. I'd like to encourage ALL our members to actively participate in Goddard Toastmasters (after all, that's what you joined for, isn't it??) What I'd like to see is every person do every job – Toastmaster of the Day, General Evaluator, Grammarians, etc. – at least once during the course of the year. It's good for you as a member – each job presents the opportunity to develop certain skills – and it's good for the club – with our 20 regular meetings per year, we'd never have to worry about filling the agenda if everyone takes each job once!!

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year – it looks to be filled with both challenges and opportunities (which are often the same thing). The District 36 slogan this year is "Go the extra mile" – let's do just that, and have some fun in the process. I'll see you each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 11:30 to 1:00!

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## ***Goddard Toastmasters Help SHARP Students***

*By Jeff Bolognese, ATMB/CL*

This summer, several Goddard Toastmasters put together a series of training sessions to help SHARP students become sharper in their presentation skills.

Each year, 20 or so exceptional students from around the DC metropolitan area are chosen to participate in the Summer High School Apprentice paired with Goddard scientists and the center. At the end of their stay here, the help those students hone their presentation asked for the assistance of Goddard putting together a 5-session course that presentations.



Research Program (SHARP). Students are engineers and work on research projects for students give a poster session. In order to skills, SHARP coordinator, Myrtle Brijbasi, Toastmasters. The Toastmasters obliged by touched on various aspects of technical

Martha O'Bryan and Jeff Bolognese led off the first week with a special "Jeopardy" style table topics session to warm up the students' impromptu speaking skills. For the second session, Jeff Bolognese gave a presentation on some of the special issues involved in giving a speech on a technical subject. Jane Liu presented the "Organize Your Speech" module to the students at the third meeting and answered a variety of questions on speaking skills. For the fourth meeting, Mike Heney revived his presentation on the perils and pitfalls of using Power Point as a visual aid tool. Dan Mandl wrapped up the training series with a discussion on "Take the Terror Out of Talk". At that last session, Dan and Jeff also helped critique the dry run on one of the student presentations.

The SHARP students held their closing ceremonies and poster session in the Bldg. 28 atrium on August 9th and are now preparing for the beginning of the academic year.

The SHARP program has already requested that Goddard Toastmasters participate in training next summer's crop of SHARP students. Next summer we hope to conduct a full Youth Leadership session with the students. The Youth Leadership program is an even more in-depth public speaking and leadership training program. For that, we'll require the help of a lot more Goddard Toastmasters. So, next year, when the call goes out for volunteers to help with the SHARP program, why not be a part of training the next generation of scientists, engineers... and Toastmasters!



### ***Food for Speech?***

*Don Moore, CTM*

Last summer my family and I traveled to Salem, Massachusetts for our summer vacation. Intrigued by the history we found there, we lingered for the better part of a week poking into the psychology of the infamous Salem witch trials of 1692. When I returned home, I shared my experiences with my fellow Toastmasters in an impromptu speech which I can sincerely say came from the passion of experiencing the aftermath of an event which preceded my visit by more than 300 years.

This year we returned again to Massachusetts to vacation and to look at prospective colleges for my step-daughter who will be a high school senior this year. I had some personal goals in mind too. I was determined to float my canoe on Walden Pond. The nineteenth century writer and philosopher Henry David Thoreau lived for two years on the banks of Walden Pond and described in detail his communion with nature there. The book he published about his experiences, *Walden*, was a landmark for its recognition of the place of nature in life or perhaps more accurately, the place of life in nature. His keen sense of observation and his ceaseless efforts to record those observations gave the world a new perspective on the world in which we live. Early one morning my wife and I slipped the canoe onto the glassy waters of the pond after the sun had barely cleared the horizon. Mist was curling off the water's surface like smoke from a thousand tiny chimneys as we paddled quietly across. It was a special moment.

But this was only one facet of our trip. In Boston we walked the Freedom Trail through that city which led us to North Church. It was here that two lanterns were hung high in the steeple alerting Paul Revere to the arrival of the British troops. This legendary signal: "one if by land, two if by sea" sent him on his journey to warn the angry citizens of nearby Concord that British Regulars were arriving to confront and disarm them. We later bicycled on the "Battle Road" where Paul Revere was captured before reaching his intended destination. His journey from Boston to spread the alarm was immortalized in the words of American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere..." On the morning following Revere's alert colonists clashed on this road with British soldiers. A number of British and American colonists were killed in the confrontation. Along the "trail" we also visited Paul Revere's house as well as the meeting houses and other sites where rebellions against Britain were hatched. These were the birth pangs of American independence that set the stage for a long and bloody war with Britain.

One day I paid homage to an icon of my childhood, the USS Constitution. As a child I was fascinated by the stories and legends of the great ship. It was one of the nation's first naval vessels and subsequently immortalized by Oliver Wendell Holmes in his poem "Old Ironsides" which was instrumental in saving it from retirement and the scrap yard: "Aye tear her tattered ensign down, long has it waved on high . . ." It was like a pilgrimage, a promise fulfilled to the boy long ago who became the man. In my mind's eye I think I saw him grin from ear to ear as my wife and I walked the deck and I peppered the crew with questions.

At the Bed and Breakfast where we stayed for the last part of our trip I sneaked into the attic to see how the house was constructed. It had been built sometime in the early or middle part of the eighteenth century and I wanted to examine the underside of the roof. I am building a log house in West Virginia and trying to use period construction techniques for building, bracing and fastening the roof together in a manner as authentic as possible. With my flashlight and my camera I did my best to document what I discovered. It was clear that most of the timbers and planking were original. There was not a single nail in any of the major structural pieces. It was held together exclusively with wooden pegs, just as I am fashioning my own house.

So where does all this lead? I cannot help but believe that there is at least one and maybe several speeches lurking in all this newfound knowledge and experience. Only time will tell.

***TM Membership***  
*Kathleen Fernandez*

**A reminder to all Toastmaster Members:**

We need your help in getting in our renewal membership/training forms to TM Headquarters. One of the ways we earn points in becoming a "distinguished club" is by having our paperwork in on time. So, please, for the good of the club lets all get those training forms in early! Thanks!

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***Toastmasters Dues Statement***  
*Steve Palm*

Please make your checks payable to **Goddard Toastmasters** and mail to: Steve Palm, code 912, GSFC. For membership dues:

<i>TMI dues from October through September 2002:</i>	<i>\$36.00</i>
<i>Goddard Toastmaster Club Dues:</i>	<i>\$ 6.00</i>
<i>Total Dues:</i>	<i>\$42.00</i>

*For those members who are contractors, mail a check payable to 'Goddard Toastmasters' for \$42.00 to Steve Palm by the due date. The civil servants need to fill out a training request form, which takes care of the TMI dues (\$36.00). They can send the check of \$6.00 for the Club Dues to Steve Palm.*

***Announcements***

**Our Club Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest** was held on August 18, 2001. Congratulations to Jeff Bolognese for winning the Humorous Speech Contest and Chris Scherer for winning the Table Topics Contest..

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***Congratulations to the New Representatives of Our Club***

We congratulate the following volunteers for the Club Leadership Positions for the Upcoming Toastmaster Year:

***President - Mike Heney- x4-6267***  
***VP Education - Carolyn Ng - x6-1359***  
***VP Membership -Kathleen Fernandez - x6-3675***  
***VP Public Relations - Bigyani Das- x6-8090***  
***Treasurer - Steve Palm - x4-6276***  
***Secretary - Mike Rilee - x6-4743***  
***Sergeant-at-Arms - Don Moore - x6-9195 .***

**Reach for the Stars:** 

**Congratulations to** Chris Scherer for getting his CL certificate.

**July and August Meeting Minutes:**

On July 11th meeting Toastmaster of the Day was Jeff Bolognese. Jane Liu presented the second speech from the Specialty Speeches Manual and talked on the topic "Who Moved My Cheese". The objectives of the speech were to inspire the audience by moving the audience to adopt the speaker's views. Mike Heney spoke on the topic "Moonstruck", the manual speech from the "Entertaining Speaker Manual". Mike spoke on the scientific logics to state his points on why an elevator can't be used to reach the Moon directly from the Earth. Mike Rilee spoke on the topic "Anatomy of a Market Crash", speech no. 3 from the Basic Manual. The Table Topics Master was Bigyani Das. She asked a very simple but important question to the audience and invited views of different people on the "Exact definition of Mother Tongue". General Evaluator was Don Moore. Maureen Armbruster evaluated Jane Liu's speech, Carolyn Ng evaluated Mike Heney's speech and Chris Scherer evaluated Mike Rilee's speech. Mike Heney was selected as the Best Speaker, Maureen Armbruster was selected as the best evaluator and Don Moore was selected as the Best Table Topic Respondent. It was a great meeting.

Jane Liu was TMOD of July 25th meeting. Kathleen Fernandez gave the Word of the Day as "vulpine (foxy)" and the Thought of the Day was given by Don Moore. It was a great thought "Read, Read and Read: Read as Listeners and Write as Listeners". Chris Scherer presented his second speech from the "Successful Club Series" on "How to be a Distinguished Club" and received his CL completion pin. Table Topic Master was Carolyn Ng and she discussed many interesting events that had happened in July through her questions to the audience. Mike

Rilee was the General Evaluator. Jeff Bolognese evaluated Jane Liu's performance as TMOD that was the Speech No. 5 for Jane Liu from the Advanced Manual on Specialty Speeches. Don Moore was selected the Best Table Topics Correspondent.

Martha O'Bryan was TMOD of August 8th meeting. Word of the Day was given by Martha O'Bryan as "Motivate". Mike Heney presented the speech on "Closing the Sale" from the Successful Club Series". Table Topic Master was Jeff Bolognese and he had a very interesting session where he asked the people to choose a book from his collections of Dr Sues, Lewis Carroll etc. and let the people read. Don Moore was the General Evaluator. Bigyani Das evaluated Mike Heney. There was a tie between three people, Kathleen Fernandez, Pat McHale, and Martha O'Bryan for the Best Table Topic Respondent and three of them got the ribbons.

Our Club's Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest was held on August 22, 2001. Chris Scherer was the Contest Master. Don Moore was the Chief Judge for the Table Topics Contest and Kathleen Fernandez was the Chief Judge for the Humorous Speech Contest. Don Moore asked the Table Topics Contestants to express their views on "Where I Call Home; Where I Call Home". Chris Scherer was selected as the winner of the Table Topics Contest. Chris told that his home has become a function of time and the Retirement Community is his present home. Jeff Bolognese was selected as the winner of the Humorous Speech Contest for his exciting speech on "Let's build a Deck". Congratulations to Jeff and Chris.

<b>President:</b>	Mike Heney	<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month
<b>VP, Education:</b>	Carolyn Ng	<b>Place:</b>	Bldg. 28, Rm E210 (90% of the time)
<b>VP, Membership:</b>	Kathleen Fernandez	<b>Time:</b>	11:30am-1:00pm
<b>VP, Public Relations:</b>	Bigyani Das	<b>Contacts:</b>	Any officer or the WWW at: <a href="http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM">http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Steve Palm		
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mike Rilee		
<b>SGT at Arms:</b>	Don Moore		