



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

April 9, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
www.charlotterotary.org

Billy Packer **The Consummate Storyteller** By: Suzanne Bledsoe



We enjoyed a very special treat with Billy Packer as our guest speaker today. If what they say is true about laughter being the best medicine, then we are all feeling pretty good after our meeting this afternoon. David Erdman introduced Billy with a short summary of his accomplishments including tidbits from his high school and college sports careers as well as his 34 years as an Emmy award winning sports commentator and lead basketball analyst for the Final Four, covering every NCAA Men's Division Basketball Championship from 1975-2008. David summarized it all by proclaiming Billy a "superstar," which he defined as someone with great popular appeal, who is widely recognized and highly esteemed for exceptional talent.

No stranger to the spotlight, Billy jumped right in, with a couple of digs at the Chapel Hill fans in the audience as well as some kudos for his fellow Wake Forest alums. He recognized and honored a couple of our venerable and longtime fellow Rotarians, Ralston Pound and Ray Killian, and having dispatched with the warm up, began doing what he does best: telling stories!

Billy's love for the history of the game is catching. And his stories are colorful, irreverent, touching and real. He gave us a glimpse into the drama of the sport of basketball and the personalities of the coaches and their players. And he told us that what is important is ultimately not whether the team won or lost but rather the joy of having had the opportunity to participate in the experience itself. His stories illustrate that concept well and it is clear in the telling—Billy's recounting of the events are full of colorful and interesting details combined with thoughtful and insightful commentary.

Billy has poured his knowledge and history of basketball into several books including Hoops, College Basketball's Greatest Teams, History of the Final Four and Why We Win. He was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the Wake Forest University Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial National Basketball Hall of Fame as the Curt Gowdy Media Award and the National Polish Hall of Fame. He makes his home in Charlotte and while he enjoys watching the games (and commenting occasionally), his interests are varied and many.

We can consider ourselves very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear from a real pro—and an expert raconteur.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

APRIL 2013

16th **Youth Exchange Students**

Aliisa and Juan Carlos

23rd **Brad Lambert**
UNCC Football Coach

30th **Congressman Robert Pittenger**

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

CLUB NEWS

- **Brenda Lea** read this week's Rotary message: Since 1947, Rotarians have contributed almost three billion dollars to The Rotary Foundation to help do good in the world.
- APRIL is 'bring a guest to Rotary' month. Your efforts may be rewarded by membership chair **Terri DeBoo**.
- BBB Moment from **Tom Bartholomy**: remember last week's reference to calls from area code 809 or 876....there's a new twist to this scam called blue bugging. If you are using a hands free device with your smart phone, scammers can hack into the Bluetooth, which allows your phone signal to remain active after you hang up. Thus, calls to the 809 or 876 area codes in the Caribbean can happen. This can be avoided by turning off the Bluetooth when not in use.
- **Meg McElwain** has taken a three-month leave of absence to better focus on Mitchell's treatment and to run her company, Magnolia Marketing. Mitchell is still in remission, but has had a rough month dealing with his treatments and elevated liver enzymes. The family is half way through Mitchell's journey to beat leukemia and have a difficult road still ahead. Your prayers are appreciated.
- Thanks to **Jill Santuccio** and **Lynn Wheeler** for their comments and speaking on behalf of the Mayor's announcement to not seek re-election; **Gregg Walker** commented on the Panthers stadium renovation in this week's Forum; **Dale Gillmore** was named to this year's class of rising stars – Forty Under 40; **Bill Nichols** participated in a program on a rainwater harvesting project at Queens University of Charlotte last week.
- **Bill Constangy** has been under the weather and just received word that he has pneumonia; **George Cochran** and **Tod Thorne** invite you to the Seventh Annual "Digital Film People" event on April 16. 5:30 PM reception, CPCC's Arts & Communication Building; program at the Halton Theater, 7:30 PM (all free!).
- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Elizabeth Berry thanked Charlotte Rotarians for supporting her time of study in Chile. Elizabeth has a Master's of Economics from Universidad Diego Portales with a focus on environmental economics and is currently finishing up her thesis, which is an econometric study of integrated conservation and development projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. She heads off for a new job with an active travel company in Berkeley, California today!
- The Rotary Club of Davidson has a new meeting location – The Brickhouse, located at 209 Delburg St. The group still meets on Tuesday's at 5:00 PM.

CLUB PROJECTS NEEDING YOUR SUPPORT

- **Biff Virkler** reminded everyone of the club's environmental project with Goodwill Industries. Basically, anything that uses electricity can be recycled. A drop-off table will be set up in the hotel's parking lot and this effort will continue through the month of April.
- **Alice Harrison** thanked those that brought toiletries to benefit clients served at Hope Haven. Items needed include soap, lotion, shampoo, toothbrush/toothpaste, etc. This collection will end on May 7th.
- **Herb Harriss** and others are looking into the details of setting up an account to accept donations that will help defray the cost of the air transport used to get Gloria Hintz back to the States from Peru. More to come.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments/questions to the Rotary office by 4/16/13)

Thomas Mussoni

Commercial Property Advisors
Real Estate, Commercial
Sponsor: John Tabor
Endorsed: Dilworth Rotary, Tom Wright

Tony Pinkard

Johnson C. Smith University
Education, Public University
Sponsor: Eric Davis
Endorsed: Natalie English, Floyd Davis

Heath Morrison

Char-Meck Schools
Education, Public Schools
Sponsor: Eric Davis
Endorsed: Frank Martin,
Natalie English

Bryan Mermans

Jenkins Peer Architects
Architecture
Sponsor: Tony Zeiss
Endorsed: Phil Van Hoy, Benton Bragg

Ken Harris, Jr.

Council for Children's Rights
Law, Juvenile Defense
Sponsor: Edwin Peacock
Endorsed: Byron Bullard, Martin Waters

Attendance	04/09/2013	04/10/2012	Membership		New Members:
Visitors & Guests	18	39	07/01/2012	316	
Club Members	178	170	04/09/2013	315	
Total Attendance	196	209	Net Increase	-1	Resignations: Chris France, Chris Linscheid
Percentage	62.7%				
Birthdays April 16 - 22			Anniversaries April 16 - 22		
16 Will Barnhardt	18 Charlie Pitts		16 Barbara & Bob Knight		17 Elizabeth & Bill Bartee
20 Stephen Smith	21 Holly Rash		20 Jessica & Warren Graham		