



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

October 9, 2012

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

Six Days Above the Clouds on Kilimanjaro Jambo.....Jambo By: George MacBain

Today, we had the pleasure to hear from Macon Dunnagan and Charlotte Rotarian John Tabor about the recent 26 member Rotary climb to the peak of Mt Kilimanjaro. Kilimanjaro, one of the worlds seven summits reaching 19,340 feet, is a non-active volcano located in south central Africa in Tanzania. The plans for the trip started with three goals in mind: increase awareness of Rotary's fight to eradicate polio, raise \$100,000 for the cause and be the 1st Rotary team ever to climb Kilimanjaro. The team was identified, each seeking sponsors to support their efforts/the cause and Zara tours were contacted for help with the climb. This is where John was made aware of Macon and his association with Zara and his passion for Kilimanjaro.



Briefly, Macon grew up in Belmont, is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and has worked for Piedmont Airlines/US Airways since 1986. He has traveled Europe and Africa extensively and first climbed Kilimanjaro in 1999 with his wife Michelle. He published the book "Sons of Kilimanjaro" in 2002 after his 2nd climb about four men, each with his own reason for wanting to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Sadly, in August 2007 his wife Michelle died after a valiant fight with ovarian cancer. Two weeks later Macon traveled to Tanzania to place her ashes on top of Kilimanjaro. From that point forward, he became a part-time tour director with Zara tours and would lead climbs to fund ovarian cancer awareness annually in the month of September. To date Macon has climbed Kilimanjaro 25 times and was recognized in September 2010 for being the first person to climb three times in 28 days.

Their power point presentation showed beautiful pictures of the 26 participants, the 65 porters and the incredible views on the way up and down. There are five climate changes along the route with temperatures ranging from 80 degrees to just below zero at the summit. There are seven route options to climb the mountain and this crew took the Rongai route. This route started at the 6,398 foot mark, took six days and covered 54 miles and 12,943 vertical feet (2.45 miles).

The climbers were first treated to a reception with the nine local Rotary clubs surrounding Kilimanjaro and next morning it was all business.

Day 1 was 4.9 miles and 2,622 feet vertical. Each member would have a 30 +/- pound backpack to carry. The porters would carry backpacks along with tents and supplies on their heads. Day 2 was 7.4 miles and 2,300 vertical. The attire was still shorts though a few long sleeves were noticeable. Day 3 was 4.3 miles and just 1,380 vertical. This was the last moderate day as the temperature was falling and the altitude change commanded the drug of choice, Diamox, to be used. Macon complained it has caused his hair to turn gray as a side affect...John's hair agrees!! Day 5 (late Day 4) was the big one when they traveled 18 miles of which 3,940 feet was ascending to

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

OCTOBER 2012

16th **Chris Jones**
District Governor
Rotary District 7680

23rd **Pat McCrory**
Republican Gubernatorial
Candidate

30th **Major Sherie Pearsall**
Head of Police Academy

NOVEMBER 2012

6th **CANCELLED so**
Members can attend
District Foundation
Banquet on 11/8/12

12:30 Tuesday
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

Gilmans Point (18,640 feet) and the summit, Uhuru Peak (19,340 feet). The 20 minute photo shoot and sunrise looked so spectacular....and chilly!! Highlights included two hikers getting engaged, John playing through with his 7 iron and John carrying banners in honor of Marilyn's daughter Vickie and Meg's son Mitchell to the top!! Day 6 was 12.4 miles and 6,100 feet down to complete the journey.

So to recap the pre climb goals; awareness was increased about Rotary's mission to eradicate polio, over \$102,000 was raised by these awesome Rotarians and yes, all 26 that started completed the climb!! Be on the listen out about return trip opportunities in September 2013!!

Congrats to all on this huge accomplishment and to John and Macon for bringing back the photos and memories to share with all of us.....

Head Table: Tom Wright, Jessica Brasington, Marilyn Bowler, John Tabor, Mark Norman, Bill Bartee; Invocation: Carson Dean
Visitors & Guests: Herb Harriss; Song: Pam Jefsen; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ **John Cantrell** needed a coat; **Bill Bartee** had a blanket; **Jenn Snyder** had a child's jacket. The skit to promote Crisis Assistance Ministry took a sharp turn when **Jenn** suddenly fell to the floor in obvious pain and distress. Within seconds, she was surrounded by Drs. **Bruce Darden, Harriman Jett, Dick Reiling**; Retired Fire Chief **Luther Fincher** and **Joe Penner**, head of MEDIC. Others rushed to the front to get Jenn in a chair and literally carried her out of the room where she was whisked away to Carolinas Medical. The leg is broken and she is in a cast for six weeks. The need to support Crisis Assistance Ministry continues. Remember, tables will be set up in the hotel's parking lot each Tuesday during the month of October. Your donations of warm clothing for men, women, children; sheets & towels; pots & pans; gloves, hats, etc are much needed and appreciated. Last year's collected surpassed all others with donations of 1200 pounds. The goal is to do even more this year.

→ Thanks to **Colleen Brannan** who pitched the idea to hold a club social at VBGB last Thursday. Seventy-five attended and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and facility.

→ **John Snyder** recognized officers from the Myers Park Interact Club, as well as school advisor Joanne Pugsley. All four officers attend Rotary's Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders this past spring and thanked the club for providing this opportunity.

→ Madison Ayers, one of the club's outbound exchange students to France this past year, has established a Rotaract Club at Queens University of Charlotte. **Lee Tabor** was delighted to introduce several members of the Club and we look forward to working with this group on future projects.

→ Group Study Exchange (GSE) candidates for team leader or team member should be discussed/directed to Paul Schmidt, schmidt@paulschmidtpa.com.

→ **President Marilyn** received an International Toast from the Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong (New South Wales, Australia). The wife of one of their club directors met the group climbing Kilimanjaro during their safari in the Serengeti Plain in Tanzania. Small world!

FOUNDATION BANQUET – NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Charlotte Rotary is CANCELING the November 6 meeting to give everyone a chance to attend the District's Foundation Banquet, November 8th at the Embassy Suites (near Concord Mills). Charlotte Rotary will pick up the cost (\$45 per person) for ROTARIANS planning to attend. Contact Sandy if you plan to attend.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to Rotary Office by October 16, 2012)

Kelly Mirt (Charlotte Observer) – Sponsor Lynn Wheeler – Endorsed David Zimmerman and Lynn Johnson

Holly Rash (Charlotte Works) – Sponsor Karen Price – Endorsed Natalie English and Nikki Keith

Angela Mauldin (Johnson C. Smith University) – Sponsor Ron Kimble – Endorsed Bob Hagemann and Nikki Keith

Attendance	<u>10/09/2012</u>	<u>10/11/2011</u>	Membership	New Members:
Visitors & Guests	49	18	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	164	158	10/09/2012 316	
Total Attendance	213	176	Net Increase	Resignation: Pat Gray, John Howman, Curtis Watkins
Percentage	57.5%			
Birthdays October 16-22		Anniversaries October 16-22		
17 Mike Hummer	17 David Engler	19 Cheryl and Will Hadley	19 Diana and Mark Turner	
17 Bob James	18 Henry Cantrell	20 Shelley and Chris Kemper		
19 George Page	21 Leland Park			
22 Louis Watts				