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HOBBYISTS  UNLIMITED

Officers for 2023 President – **Bob Mosher**

1st Vice President – **Mark Singer**

2nd Vice President – **Don Peterfreund**

Secretary – **Peter Weinstein**

Treasurer – **Gary Engelhardt**

Church liaison – **Lew Dickinson**

Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, NJ

<http://www.hobbyists-unlimited.com>



PAST PRESIDENT **BILL HEALY** PASSES THE GAVEL TO PRESIDENT **BOB MOSHER**.



PAST PRESIDENTS

FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear friends,

I am excited to take on the responsibility of Editor of the Hobbyists Unlimited Quarterly Newsletter. Following in the footsteps of my predecessor, **Mark Singer**, will be no easy task, as he has established a high bar. But I'll give it my best shot. I'm grateful that I'll be working with **Bill Carbone** and **Bob Cestola**, both of whom are continuing the Newsletter Committee in their capacities of laying out the newsletter and making sure it gets distributed to our members in a timely manner. I don't know whether I'd be able to undertake this position without their advice and assistance.

As of this writing there are thirty-six (36) separate committees under the Hobbyists Unlimited umbrella offering a tremendous and diversified group of activities and interests for our members. Each activity has a chairman; several are assisted by additional committee members. Some members have even taken on the challenge of chairing more than one committee. Kudos to their dedication. It's obvious to see why we are able to continue year after year with so many of us volunteering our time, efforts and organizational skills toward our success, contributing to the variety of activities to our over 400 members.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you in 2023. As we come to the close of another year, I want to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season: Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Joyful Festivus (if that's your thing), Happy Any Other Celebration, and a Wonderful, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Rick Pascal

Membership-Ed Lundell. Membership: 414. Life Membership: 41 including new Life Member **Jim Newman**. Attendance: 84 (9 on ZOOM).

New Members:

- **Jim Albes**, 31 Valley Forge Way., HHK. His wife is Gayle. Bocce, Fishing, Golf, Habitat, Investments, Movies, Music, Sci & Tech., Wine Appreciation.
- **Dennis DeBenedetto**, 63 Pine Hill Dr., USR. His wife is Andrea. Golf, Pinochle.
- **Marty Gruber**, 229 Irving St., Ridgewood. His wife is Ellie. Books, Bridge, Camera, Public Affairs, ROMEO, Wine Appreciation.
- **Jim Harte**, 25 Falling Waters, Oakland. His wife is Debbie. Golf.
- **Steve Weinstein**, 502 Tether Lane, Paramus. His wife is Dora. Bowling, Fishing, Investments, Military History, Music, Poker.

Archive (Joe Suplicki, 201-316-3262, jssuplicki@aol.com)

Audio/Visual (Bob Mosher, 201-689-9651, rmosher895@aol.com, Ed Daly (201-447-4603, eddaly386@yahoo.com.)

Blackjack – (Ray Litwitz reljr@optonline.net) Blackjack meets every other Thursdays from 12 - 4. The games take place at rotating hosts' homes. It involves \$5 to give to the host for snacks. Games on Dec 1 and 15 and 29

Contact Ray reljr@optonline.net to join.

Bocce (Roger DuBroff, 201-327-7014, dubroffr@yahoo.com) Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at the Waldwick Boro Park. Join us and have lots of fun.

Book Club (Peter Philip 201-666-0105, pjphilip37@optonline.net, Jon Sterling <jbsterling@optonline.net>) Friday, 10:00 a.m., at the Church.

Bowling (Gary Don, 201-574-3506, garydon@verizon.net), Charlie Tuch, 973-636-9211, clt976@optonline.net, Don Peterfriend, 201-739-8672, dpeterfriend@yahoo.com, John Pensec, 201-447-1317, jpensec@optonline.net, Mike Doherty, 201-447-4625, mikedoh@aol.com, Mark Singer, 201-446-6809, msinger@ramapo.edu) Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. at Montvale Lanes.

Bridge (Ray Chuebon, 201-652-4586; Mike Murphy, 201-334-7284 and Jim Deaver, 201-666-2066) Thursdays, 11:45 a.m., in the East Room of the Church. Play concludes at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Camera Club (Giancarlo Bisone, 201-983-3015, gbisone@optonline.net) Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Church Auditorium. Throughout the year, photo field trips to several different locations/events are also scheduled. Each meeting usually covers photography subjects and photo management/editing on the computer. Members also work on a variety of assignments and their submissions are presented and analyzed at the meeting. No prior experience is required to become a member.

Chess (Rick Pascal, 201-208-7191, rickpas@optonline.net)

Our newest club began in 2022 with more than twenty Hobbyists expressing interest. Regrettably, many have been unable to attend to play chess because our time slot, i.e., Wednesdays from 10 am until noon at FPC, conflicts with some other Hobbyist activities. Consequently, attendance comprises only about four to eight (sometimes ten) players on any given Wednesday. The Chess Club has been set up so that we do not keep records of wins and losses, nor do we maintain any skill level rankings. Participants compete at random based on who shows up, often resulting in players sometimes competing at different skill levels. The benefit to playing with someone above your skill level enables you to learn, develop and improve opening, mid-game and end-game strategies. Since we began the Chess Club, most everyone has, in fact, improved their game, and skill levels seem to be closer. When the club began, most of the participants claimed that they “hadn’t played chess in decades.” But once they began again, it all started to come back. You don’t need to make an appointment to come and play; just show up. You’ll be guaranteed a game. For the present time, our Chess Club season runs from September 1 through June 30. We hope to see greater participation in the new year.

Dances (Bill Healy, (201-652-5868, whealy3741@aol.com, Gary Engelhardt, 201-670-9185, garye569@msn.com; Bob Mosher rmosher895@aol.com, 201-615-5603)

Eva's Village (Dave Smilon, 201-707-5572, davesmilon@yahoo.com)

The Community Kitchen at Eva's Village on Main Street in Paterson, NJ is a charitable organization that provides meals to those in need. It is part of a larger group that provides a wide range of health services, work assistance, education, shelter housing, counseling and many other social services. For more information, see their website: evasvillage.org.

In 2022, four Hobbyists volunteered at Eva's Village twice per month to set up for two lunch sittings, serve meals and beverages, and clean up after each sitting. The 12:00 pm lunch was normally attended by approximately 150 guests; the 1:00 pm sitting by about 75. The "guests" consisted of homeless and/or food insecure members of the Paterson inner-city community. We appreciate the dedication of the Hobbyists who volunteered for these activities in 2022. Thanks to all of them: **Phil Ceppaglia, Dick Field, Tom Lewis, George Millington, Patrick Mulry, Bob Reilly, Ido Rossi, Ray Rubin, Joe Savitcus, Dennis Schoen, Dave Smilon.**

We plan to continue in 2023 with the same pattern of participation in the Eva's Village Volunteer Program.

Fishing (Gene Boyle, 862-377-9016, gbrealty@optonline.net)

With Covid curtailing our activities two years ago, we worked diligently to restart the club this past year. We had from four to eight men venturing out on the *Sea Tiger* at Atlantic Highlands. The fluke were not friendly at all during the summer months. But we still had fun catching sea robins and dogfish interspersed with a couple of fluke that were keepers. In Gene's absence this fall, Peter Weinstein and other Hobbyists returned to Atlantic Highlands and caught a few sea bass. Gary Engelhardt caught a striped bass. We are now moving in a good direction for 2023 with loads of good cheer to all who made these trips as well as, hopefully, some potentially new members. We plan on some spring fishing next year.

Gourmet Cooking Group (Jim McKeown, 201-327-3411, jimmckeown@optonline.net)

Meets bi-annually in the home of one of the members. Meetings were postponed during Covid, but now have been scheduled to resume. The Gourmet Cooking Club allows each participant to demonstrate his culinary skills by preparing part of the meal, whether it's an appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert. Or bring the wine. Each meeting has a specific theme; our next one will be Cold Poached Salmon with the appropriate side dishes. In the not too-distant past, event themes enjoyed were Beef Wellington, Roasted Lamb on a spit, and Roasted Cornish Hens. Over the years we created many French and Italian specialties, fish, and an Irish cuisine dinner specialty (and it was not corned beef and cabbage). Jim is holding the key to the Irish cuisine close to the vest. If you're interested in learning about it, feel free to contact Jim directly.

Golf (Paul Fazio, 201-445-3426, faz90@optonline.net) Golf committee: **Mike Doherty, Gary Don, Gary Engelhardt, George Giaquinto, Charlie Tuch, Tom Desmond, Paul Richart, Bob Norelli.**

Paul expresses his appreciation of the hard work of his committee and the participation of 117 golfers that resulted in an outstanding year. The annual end-of-the-year luncheon was celebrated on Tuesday, Nov 8, at Fiona's Restaurant in Midland Park, and was attended by 70 golfers. During the luncheon, the club championship trophy was renamed the **Bob Norelli** Trophy in Bob's honor, who is loved by all, and for his dedicated service as past president as well as past winner of the trophy. Congratulations Bob! We are looking forward to another fantastic year in 2023.



Atlantic City Golf Outing

Habitat for Humanity (Rich Edelman, 973-427-7647, edelmanr@optonline.net and Ed Daly, 201-447-4603 or cell, 201-960-7069, eddaly386@yahoo.com)



Activities and volunteer opportunities with Bergen Habitat continue to be limited. However, Paterson Habitat is pursuing an ambitious new construction program. The current work focuses on five single-family homes under construction on Governor Street (four units are shown on the accompanying photo). The volunteers, mostly retired men, are installing walls, doors, trim, flooring, cabinets and building decks. The work is very rewarding, even fun. Give it a try. For how to volunteer, contact Rich Edelman.

Hiking (Ed Collins, 201-445-5158, edward5158@aol.com) The Hiking Club visits local sites each Tuesday morning. The Club has a regular group that takes on more challenging hikes, and a flex group for easier hikes.

The Hobbyists Hikers recently took a tour of Sterling Forest led by Doc Bayne, an Environmental Educator. The tour examined sites of old iron mines and buildings and homes that serviced the iron ore industry that began more than 200 years ago. Mr. Bayne maintained that the Sterling Forest site was instrumental in our fight for independence because it produced a great iron chain that was used to cross the Hudson to prevent the British ships from taking West Point.



Hobbyists Concerned (Peter Philip 201-666-0105, pjphilip37@optonline.net) If you are on the e-mail list, most communications, illnesses, hospital stays, and deaths will be reported to you through an e-mail message. Those without e-mail will receive a phone call. If you prefer to be on the calling list rather than notified by e-mail, contact **Joe Savitscus, 201-661-8469.**

At this time, we would like to recall the memories of those Hobbyists whose friendship we treasured and appreciated who have passed away during 2022.

We remember: **Walter Johnson, Roy Lucas, Peter Fan, Harold Sylvester, Curts Cooke, Thomas Folger, Don Liebreich, Bob Dressen, Wilber Stiles, Jim Griffith, John Workstus, Dom Policano, Stanley Kaplan, Ron Weiscarger, Lou Maffei, John O'Brien, Bill Kirk, John (Jack) McCambridge.**

In addition, Honoré Fontes, Hobbyist **Bill Fontes' wife**, passed away in Florida, November 27.

Italian Club (Don Togneri, 201-445-0679, dj2dm2@hotmail.com) Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2 pm at the church. A 'Basic' group will meet at 2 pm on the 4th Thursday. We are now calling ourselves the *Italian Heritage Club*. We started out as *Parliamo Italiano* to learn / practice / relive speaking Italian. The language aspect was generally where we concentrated. Over time we have moved to enjoying YouTube [and other] episodes, in Italian, about travel, history, dialects, food, wine as well as language items. We discuss our 'home towns' and trips we have taken and where we found wonderful cannoli or great authentic ossobuco.

For those of you who have **any** family history related to Italy, *you may be an Italian Citizen and not know it!* Here's why:

By Italian Law, if you are a descendant of an Italian citizen, you and your children and grandchildren could be an Italian citizen. You do not have to apply for citizenship, you have the right to claim it.

I am now a proud citizen of La Repubblica Italiana. I was successful in claiming my Italian citizenship and am in the process of getting this recognition for my children and grandchildren. By claiming your citizenship, you preserve your Italian heritage and retain the rights of being a citizen of the European Union which include the rights to stay, live, study or work in any country in the EU - this also applies to your children and grandchildren. Most countries in the EU have much stricter requirements to obtain citizenship through descent or disallow it entirely. The basic rules for claiming Italian citizenship are:

- male Italian ancestor emigrated after 1861
- descent through male line [female descent for persons born after 1948]
- never renounced Italian citizenship.

If you want to discuss your specific situation, or need help or guidance in dealing with the process, contact Don Togneri.

Investments – The Investment Club is looking for a leader. There will be no meetings until someone steps forward. Contact President **Bob Mosher** if interested.

Jazz Bunch (Bob Stevenson at 201-615-1202, robtstevenson@hotmail.com) The Hobbyists Jazz Bunch consists of Hobbyists who enjoy all forms of jazz and swing music and periodically attend interesting concerts in the metro NY/NJ area. If you are interested in joining, please contact Bob Stevenson.

Lunch Bunch Sunday (Bob Sayegh, 201-670-6010, bobsay14@gmail.com).

Membership (Ed Lundell , 201-857-1992, edlundell4@gmail.com, Steve Hochman, 201-424-9701, shochman@gmail.com)

Military History Club (Tom Heed, 845-534-8695) 4th Monday of each month at the Church.

Movie Lovers (Dick Oswald, 201-447-4053, ddoswald@verizon.net) Movies are shown from September to June on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Senior Lounge of the Ridgewood Village Hall. This year we've shown *The Singing Revolution*, *The Frisco Kid*, and *On the Waterfront*. Scheduled for December through March of 2023 are *Tampopo*, *The Mudlark*, *Mrs. Brown* and *Somewhere in Time*. Spouses are welcome.

Music Lovers (Jim McKeown, 201-327-3411, jimckeown@optonline.net) 2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m. at the Church.

Originally focused on classical music, presentations have been expanded into a diverse format that now include many additional musical types. Recent programs have featured Broadway (Sondheim and Shakespeare-related musicals), a Folk approach to a history of Ireland, and the impact of Drums in music. In keeping with the Classics, we recently presented A Baroque Christmas, Diversity of Russian Music, and lectures by the New Jersey Wind Symphony and the All-Male Orpheus Chorus. Additional programs are being planned that will include the music of Leonard Cohen, Irish III, and Mega-musicals. We are desperately seeking some assistance with the development of a program on Jazz, and encourage anyone who might be in a position to help in this area to contact Jim McKeown as soon as possible. Happy Holidays to all.

Pinochle (Jim Atieh, 201-315-5346, atiehlj1@verizon.net) On Mondays, a group plays double and triple deck Pinochle in Mahwah. On Wednesdays, single deck and double deck Pinochle is featured at the church in Ridgewood. On both days, the groups meet at 10 a.m. and play until 2 p.m., with a snack break at noon.

Poker (Dan Wolf 201-825-7769)

Programming

- ◆ October - FDU Professor Pat Schuber provided the details of The Battle of Monmouth Court House, fought on June 28, 1778. Although the outcome was inconclusive with both sides claiming victory, the key was that it firmly established General George Washington, who previously was under fire from political foes, as the commander-in-chief. The battle was the last of the Philadelphia campaign, begun in 1777, during which the British had inflicted two major defeats on Washington. Today, the site of the battle is a [New Jersey State Park](#) that preserves the land for the public, called Monmouth Battlefield State Park located on the border of Manalapan and Freehold.
- ◆ November - David Barclay of New Life Hearing, our November guest speaker, gave a dynamic talk on the latest advancements in digital hearing aid technology. With 40% of people over age 65 with significant hearing loss, the topic was of main interest to many members who later took advantage of New Life Hearing's offer of a free hearing test. Loss of hearing is listed as the third-most disabling ailment behind hypertension and arthritis. Untreated hearing loss can result in short-term memory loss, increased chance of falling, worry and anxiety, and less social interaction, Barclay said.

◆ December – Ridgewood High School Choral Group Christmas presentation



PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Don Togneri, dj2dm2@hotmail.com, 908-347-2820) Wednesday 12/14/
[Note that this is a different date than shown on the Hobbyists calendar] **2:00 pm**

ZOOM only. Topic for open discussion is: B R I C S

Brazil Russia. India China. South Africa

This organization is appearing in the world news a lot lately. What started out as a western journalist's description of 'emerging' market countries, has evolved into a formal, structured organization that is increasingly evident on the political, economic and financial world stage.

What is it? Why is it important? [and it definitely IS important!]

Where did it come from? What does it do? What are its goals?

On 12/14, click here to join the meeting: **JOIN MEETING**

Call me or e-mail if you have a specific aspect that you want to lead the discussion on.

ROMEO (Cliff Matthews, 201-447-9040, cematth48@optonline.net)

ROMEO meets at different moderately priced BYOB places on the 3rd Friday of the month and is a pleasant way to meet and socialize with fellow Hobbyists.

Science and Technology, 3rd Wednesday, 2:00 p.m., Church auditorium. Looking for a leader.

Tennis (Al Ianacone, acianacone@gmail.com , 973 650-1738 or Bob Kozar, bkozar1@aol.com) Competition begins on September 12 in Fair Lawn and ends on May 22, 2023. We play every Monday at the Fairlawn Racquet Club, 11-19 Saddle River Road in Fairlawn. We start at 12 noon and end at 1:30 pm. The cost is \$12 per session.

Trips & Tours, Extended - Complete details are available on the Hobbyists website.

Trips & Tours, Day (Bob Sayegh, 201-670-6010, bobsay14@gmail.com)

Volunteer Services: (George Millington, gzmillington@gmail.com)

Please contact George for information about volunteering or for more information about any activities in this area.

Walking (Pete Seibel, 201-573-8350, peterams@aol.com) The group walks from the Ridgewood Duck Pond to the Dunkerhook area, a distance of four miles, every Thursday morning starting at 9:00 am. The Walking Group walks 52 weeks a year weather permitting.

Wine Appreciation Group –WAG: (Bob Stevenson, 201-615-1202, robtstevenson@hotmail.com)

The Wine Appreciation Group (WAG), a long-standing Hobbyist activity, meets for lunch and wine tasting on a bi-monthly cycle, excluding July and August. Our luncheons are typically scheduled for the fourth Friday of that “every other” month. The chairman and a committee composed of **Jim Cinquina** and **Jerry Schott** selects an upscale Bergen County BYOB venue and negotiates a custom menu.

Winemaking (Paul Richert, 201-967-1347, phriche7314@gmail.com)

This year the Winemakers’ Club has been busy making two wines. Early in May we crushed and pressed grapes grown in Chile making a combination of 70% Syrah and 30 % Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine is now resting in a 60-gallon barrel and will be bottled early next year. Bottling will yield 24 cases of wine with 12 bottles in each case. In October, we created another unique wine blend known as a SUPER TUSCAN. This wine has its origins in Tuscany, Italy and uses the Sangiovese grape as the dominant blending grape and is most often combined with Cabernet Sauvignon. It is slowly maturing in a 50-gallon barrel which will yield a total of 20 cases. Bottling will take place in July or August of next year. Finally, we have another wine sourced from Tuscany, an Amarone, also maturing in a 60-gallon barrel. This wine uses four grapes unknown in this country - Corvina (65%), Rondinella (25%), Corvinone (5%) and Negrara (5%). After it is pressed, the juice will be shipped to our winery, the Wine Experience in Tinton Falls, NJ. The wine will have been in the barrel for 1 and 1/2 years when we bottle it next July or August. Typically, when we make a new wine, we will drive to the winery (Exit 102 on the Garden State Parkway), crush the grapes one week and press them to yield the juice the following week. The Winemakers’ Club is open to all Hobbyists. No purchasing of wine is necessary to take part in the club’s activities at the winery. I encourage all who are interested in either making wine or just learning about the process to watch for our emails on Constant Contact announcing the making of a new wine. Just respond to the email and start enjoying this new venture. For more information and specific details, contact **Paul Richert**.

Hobbyists Alert - If you ignore robo-calls from a Caller ID that you don't recognize, you may be missing important calls from the Hobbyists. The service we use is **CALLING POST**, although at times the calling number with an area code of 405 is used instead. So, unless you have voicemail or an answering machine, we suggest you take the call.

Hobbyists News Staff – **Rick Pascal**, Chairman (rickpas@optonline.net, 201-791-9526,)
Bill Carbone (201-652-6693, becarbo@optonline.net); **Bob Cestola**, (201-785-0634,
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