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Bolo

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

July 23, 2008

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This Week's Speaker: David Blossman President, Abita Brewing Company

David Blossman is President of the Abita Brewing Company, one of America's top 20 breweries with over eighty percent of the micro brewery market in Louisiana. Abita is the oldest and largest craft brewer in the Southeast. Under his direction, Abita Beer produced 74,500 barrels of beer last year or the equivalent of 24.6 million 12-ounce bottles of beer. David fully expects to reach his goal of producing 100,000 barrels a year in the next 4 years.



The corporate vision at Abita Beer is to provide the highest quality and full flavored beer that is a good value to consumers, to create a product as unique and as wonderful as Louisiana itself. Abita currently produces seven flagship beers (Amber, Turbodog, Purple Haze, Golden, Light, Jockamo IPA, and Restoration Ale), five seasonal beers (Bock, Red Ale, Wheat, Fall Fest, and Christmas Ale), two harvest beers (Strawberry Harvest Lager and Pecan Harvest Ale), one big beer (Andy Gator), and one soda (Root Beer). Other new beers are under development.

Under his leadership, Abita Beer profits have grown by

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more than fourteen hundred percent and began the transition from a small town microbrewery to a high profile regional brewing company, increasing output, quality, consistency, and efficiency. Abita Brewing Co. now has 45 employees and distributes beer in over 37 states. Representing Abita Brewing Company, David proudly holds the Eastern Brewer Association Competition Gold and Bronze medals and has placed 2nd and 3rd in the American Home Brewer Association National Competition. Abita Brewing Company is also a strong corporate citizen having formed a new product known as "Restoration Ale" which has raised over five-hundred fifty-thousand dollars for Louisiana hurricane victims.

David was born in Covington, Louisiana, near Abita Springs. He graduated from Mandeville High School and then went on to Louisiana State University where he received his BS in accounting and served as a member of the accounting society Beta Alpha Psi and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. David began his career in accounting as a Staff Auditor for the accounting firm Ernst & Young LLP. David joined Abita Brewing Company in 1996. He is married to the former Caroline Segar of Eunice, Louisiana and the proud father of two sons.

P.S.: We are scheduling a tour of the brewery this fall and will let you know more about the details as the time approaches.

Let's give a warm Rotary welcome to David.

[Read more about Abita Brewing Company](#)

Report on Rotary Outing With The Zephyrs

A great time was had by all!

Last Saturday, July 19th we had our first "Family" event for the 2008-09 year. Several Rotarians attended the day with the Zephyrs and some even had their kids or grandchildren with them. Ron Swoboda, announcer for the New Orleans Zephyrs baseball team, and Boudreaux (Big Boudreaux Nutria) the Zephyr's mascot, gave us a special welcome!



Thanks to club member Josh Danzig for arranging our first outing of the year and to the Zephyrs for showing us a great time!

[More on the Zephyrs...](#)

Message from District Governor Greg Lier

Make Dreams Real

Our theme this year is "Make Dreams Real". I think this theme describes what we do best. We take an idea and turn it into a course of action that helps people in need. Whether its feeding the hungry, literacy, disaster relief and recovery, scholarships, or countless other projects, our efforts turn dreams into reality. I look forward to working with you this year as your District Governor.

[See more about DG Greg](#)

Rotary/Interact Feed the Hungry Project

Help Needed to Fill Grocery Bags

Rotarians, Interactors, and community members meet every first and third Friday of every month to fill grocery bags for this critically needed project. They meet at the Covenant Presbyterian Urban Ministry Institute, 2128 Felicite Street starting at 4:45 p.m. and running no later than 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to help prepare the deliveries, visit with our own Mary Beth Arceneaux at Capital One (504) 533-2167 T32167.

Last Week's Speaker: Paul Vallas, Superintendent, RSD

Upcoming Speakers:

Today: David Blossman, President, Abita Brewing Co.

July 30th: Rotary District Governor Greg Lier

August 6th: Johnny D'Bartolo, Boys and Girls Clubs

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