



# The Sunrise

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## Sunrise Calendar

Subject to change

**All January meetings at Northern Illinois University 161B**

**January**

- 2-3: No meeting – Naper Lights takedown
- 9: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NIU - Bridge Communities
- 13: Board meeting, 7:15am, virtual
- 16: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NIU - **Marion Ruthig**, Inside-Out Club
- 23: Regular meeting, 6am, NIU – **Patrick Gilhooly**, Know Your Rotarian
- 30: No meeting

*direct ideas for speakers  
and Club projects to **Nick Niemi***



## Ho Ho Ho

Yes, Virginia, there is a **Kerstin Claus**. His workshop is in South Dakota, and he makes his appearance several times a year, but not from a chimney. We caught up with Kerstin Claus at Naper Lights.



(More)



January 2026 (cont.)



A couple pause for a Naper Lights photo op



Our annual Christmas party meeting featured festive music and dance performances by the Road Show Starlights and Dynamites.

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Proceeds from our 2025 Rotary Ride were distributed to three local non-profits represented by: **Joni Wilt** (Loaves and Fishes, center); **Jason Altenbern** (Little Friends, white sweater); and **Mike Niederman** (Three Fires Council, Scouting America, right). (At left), presenting the checks were **President Marion Ruthig** and Rotary Ride Chairman **Jim Ensign**.

## Christmas Gift Project

**Deb Newman** reported that 25 Sunrise Rotarians donated 65 gifts to the Holiday Gift Mart. The total value was \$2,500. Deb said, "that means we can use District matching money to donate an additional \$1,049 to Compass Church to provide even more toys for children in District 203 and the West Suburban Community Pantry."

## Know Your Rotarian

Ron Amato

Lisle Attorney **Ron Amato**, who joined our Club this past July, has experience with several local nonprofit organizations. The list includes the Exchange Club, Firefighters Pension Fund, Kids Matter, the Naperville Jaycees, the Last Fling, the Century Walk, and the Naperville Art Forum.



Ron and his wife, Amy, have been married 25 years. They have two children: **Alex**, an aspiring musician, is an incoming freshman at North Central College, and **Ellie**, who attends Naperville North High School.

Ron has fond childhood memories of riding his bike around DuPage county, saying his parents often had no idea where he had gone. "We kids would ride all the way to Woodridge. We didn't have cell phones or other electronic distractions." But they did have the community swimming pool, athletic facilities, the creek that was eventually displaced by Interstate 355, and hanging out at McDonald's.

After graduating from Northern Illinois University in 1993, Ron earned a law degree from the Chicago Kent College of Law and passed the Bar Exam on first try. Then came a job doing financial services litigation and a chance meeting with Amy in a bar following a Cubs game. They were married in 2000 and moved to Naperville in 2003. Nine years later, Ron started his own law firm specializing in insurance and professional liability claims for financial advisors.

(End)