

# Rotary



# Club of Sylva

## Years of Service

David R. Baker  
10-01-2003  
21 Years

Jay Pavey Jr.  
10-30-2003  
21 Years

Matt Saenger  
10-06-2011  
13 Years

## Birthdays

Joyce M Pope  
October 8th

Larry Hinton  
October 15th

Christina H Paxton  
October 16th

Todd Vinyard  
October 20th

Sunita Wright  
October 28th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Courtney T Umphlett  
October 30th

## Club Leaders



Joyce M Pope  
President



Michael G. Wade  
Past President  
President



James M. Spiro  
President-Elect  
RYLA Point of  
Contact  
Past President

Holly Guyer  
iPast President

## News for October 24, 2024

### Greetings to the Greatest Rotary Club in the World (and the Center of the Universe)!

Service is at the heart of the Rotary Club of Sylva, and last week's Hands On Jackson event showcased that spirit. A huge thank you to our amazing club members who joined me in our part of the effort: **Roy Burnette, Ann Pearre, Ben Pendry, Matt Saenger, Todd Vinyard, Eddie Wells**, and myself. What a crew!

Matt bravely tackled an icy roof to blow off leaves in true "Service Above Self" or as it is now called "Service Above Saenger" fashion, Ben cleaned gutters and shared valuable WCU gear to keep us warm, Ann expertly handled leaf-blowing duties, Roy took care of everything—including a surprise bees' nest—and Eddie, as always, led us with his dedication and heart. Together, we made a real difference for those in need in our county. Well done, team!

It was truly inspiring to see so many volunteers for Hands On Jackson from our community, including many of you from our club with several groups, coming together to help our neighbors in Jackson County. Thank you!

Speaking of teams and well-done efforts. How about our Western Carolina University Catamount football team? Leading the Southern Conference, what a win over Furman. Good luck this week on the road again at Mercer.

### Go CATS!

**No noon meeting this week. This week's social meeting** will be held at Mad Batter from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The weather looks great to spend time with good folks having fun. I hope everyone can take a well-deserved break and enjoy the fellowship.

**Reminder:** Our club meets at noon on the first three Thursdays of every month at First Baptist Church in Sylva, with a social gathering on the fourth Thursday (location TBA). Be sure to check our website for the exciting speaker lineup coming in November!

*Please keep these items below in mind coming up for participation -*

- We will have our **Bury the President at the Nov. 7th** meeting. Please bring plenty of blankets to bury me and help those without. There is a huge need as always with winter months coming, especially now after Hurricane Helene.
- We are beginning to work on a partnership with the **Haywood County Rotary Club** to assist in Hurricane Helene relief efforts. The Haywood County club has always been one of the first to get involved with us in efforts like Rise Against Hunger. It's time to do what WNC does best and help neighbors in need. Part of this work will include applying for a grant. If you have any interest in being part of this effort, please see me. Thank you!

Finally, a celebration of life service will be held at **2 p.m. on Oct. 26th at Sylva First United Methodist Church** for our good friend and club member **Phil Haire**. Please wear Rotary pins if possible to show our club's gratitude for Phil and to support Connie and his family. Phil will be missed. We're thankful to have had him with us, and his spirit of service continues to guide us. We hope to make him as proud of us as we are of him.



Matt Saenger  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair  
iPast President



Nancy G. McConnell  
Secretary  
Past President



Ann M. Pearre  
Treasurer



David R. Baker  
Membership Chair



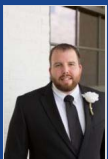
Jay Pavey Jr.  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Todd Vinyard  
Club Public Image  
Chair  
Past President



Eddie Wells  
Club Service Chair  
Past President



Scott Baker  
Past President  
Webmaster



Charles William Wolfe  
International  
Service Chair  
Past President

## Club Meeting

Sylva  
Meets at First Baptist  
Church of Sylva Fellowship  
Hall  
669 West Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Have a good week,  
Mike

### Quote

*"Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it's important."*  
—Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy

## Club participates in Hands On Jackson

Proud to have been part of a super day of service in our community with Hands On Jackson. Thanks to all who made it happen and showed a Service Above Self attitude. Great job!



## Thank you Nancy McConnell! Paul Harris recognition for supporting Rotary Foundation

Congratulations to our incredible club member and friend, Nancy McConnell, on receiving her Paul Harris Fellow recognition today! Nancy has served as our club President and secretary and has been a driving force for good in many ways. Thank you, Nancy, for your unwavering support of the Rotary Foundation and all you do for our club and community. We truly appreciate you!  
One of our best [#PeopleofAction!](#)



## WCU Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL) visits club

We were thrilled to have Joy Mischley and Natalie Newman from the [WCU Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning](#) (CCESL) with us at today's meeting! CCESL strengthens the connection between WCU and the wider community, serving as a central hub for resources and collaboration to drive social responsibility and positive impact. We're excited to partner with them and [Rotary District 7670](#) to revive our [Western Carolina University](#) Rotaract Club - more details to come!

Thank you to District 7670 Assistant District Governor Angela Dills and others for helping us relaunch this club to serve our community. For more about CCESL, visit: <https://www.wcu.edu/.../about-the-center-for.../index.aspx> WCU and CCESL are providing a webpage with links to how to get help or offer it in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Learn more at <https://www.wcu.edu/.../emer.../hurricane-helene-relief.aspx>





## WCU Chancellor Brown speaks to club

We were thrilled to have fellow Rotarian [WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown](#) speak at the 'Greatest Rotary Club in the World' about the 'Greatest University in the World' - [Western Carolina University](#)! Thank you, Chancellor Brown and WCU, for being [#PeopleofAction](#) and for your incredible impact on our region and beyond. We're excited for [Mountain Heritage Day](#) on Sept. 28th. Go CATS!  
Pictured: Chancellor Brown (right) and Club Membership Chair Dave Baker.

