



MARCH 2008

CURRENT CLUB OFFICERS
JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2008

- President**
Edwinna
VP Education
Jerry
VP Membership
Kevin W
VP Public Relations
Gloria, assisted by Thom
Secretary
Ellery
Treasurer
Giri
Sergeant at Arms
Ann, assisted by Cathy
Social Chair
Galina
Contest Chairs
Josephine and Rajnish

IN THIS ISSUE

Distinguished Club Program	1
Contest Results	1
Fall District Conference Report	2
In-depth: Website	3
Educational Achievements	6
Events and Acknowledgments	6
Special Awards, Comings & Goings	6

DOGWOOD BARKER

WE MEET EVERY SATURDAY AT 8 A.M. AT FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH,
2512 N. DRUID HILLS ROAD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329.
VISIT US AT OUR REGULAR MEETINGS OR ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.DOGWOODTOASTMASTERS.ORG](http://www.dogwoodtoastmasters.org)
TO FIND OUT WHAT IS NEW, WATCH MEETING VIDEOS, AND LEAVE COMMENTS ON OUR BLOG.

DISTINGUISHED CLUB PROGRAM

The Distinguished Club Program is an annual program, running from July 1 through June 30. The program consists of 10 goals a club should strive to achieve during this time.

At year-end, World Headquarters calculates the number of goals the club achieved and recognizes it as a Distinguished Club (5 out of 10), Select Distinguished Club (7 out of 10) or President's Distinguished Club (9 out of 10) based on the number of goals achieved and the number of members it has.

With 9 credits, Dogwood has again made President's Distinguished Club!

	GOAL	
[1] CCs	2	√
[2] Additional CCs	2	
[3] ACs	1	√
[4] Additional ACs	1	√
[5] CL, AL, or DTM	1	√
[6] Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	1	√
[7] New Members	4	√
[8] Additional New Members	4	√
[9] Officers Trained (both required)		√
June-August &	4	
December-February	4	
[10] Submitted on time (both required)		√
October or April Renewal &	1	
Officer List	1	
Total Goals Achieved as of Feb. 11:	9	

CONTEST RESULTS

Club Table Topics (TT) and International Speech (IS) contests were held on February 9, 2008. 13 Table Topics contestants and 4 International Speech contestants competed. Dr. Gee (TT) and Jerry (IS) represented our club at the area level on March 8, 2008 and placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.

FALL 2007 DISTRICT 14 CONFERENCE REPORT

JOSEPHINE ATTENDS THE EVENT IN AUGUSTA GA, UNAWARE OF THE SURPRISE ABOUT TO UNFOLD

The District 14 Fall Conference was held in Augusta, GA in October 5 & 6, 2007. Because it was held in Augusta, the theme was "Golf" (surprised?). The conference site was Marriott in downtown Augusta. For those of you who have never been to a district conference before, it has a variety of events including education classes, contests, and district council meeting.

The conference started early Friday (Oct. 5), but Edwinna, Yolande, and I did not get there until the dinner and the evaluation contest. 11 contestants were in the Evaluation Contest. The target speaker was a relatively new to Toastmasters but delivered a wonderful and inspirational speech. Most of the contestants added a lot of humor to their evaluation, so much so that I thought it was the Humorous Speech contest. The outcome of the contest was a little disappointing, as it seemed to be more about the humor the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners incorporated rather than the actual evaluation of the speech.

The Humorous Speech Contest was held on Saturday (Oct. 6) night and they were very funny and reflected the breadth of different topics and styles. I was very glad that I was not a judge because I could not have picked a winner. The 1st place winner David Biloz had given his speech to our club weeks earlier. This time, his speech was much more polished and funnier. The 2nd place winner talked about taking her teenage nephew to Six Flags. The 3rd place winner talked about being a flight attendant.

There were a range of educational classes spread out through the day. The classes I choose were Caddy Shack Humor and Word Power. While I did not learn anything new, I was reminded of what I should add to my speeches.

At the Hall of Fame Luncheon, awards were given out to the club and individual Toastmasters who have achieved Toastmaster's goals. It was at this event that Edwinna received her DTM award. It was wonderful to see veteran DTM Yolande congratulate DTM Edwinna. Also, Dogwood received Toastmaster bucks for submitting in our dues early, thanks to Tom, our wonderful club treasurer.

It was at this time we had an embarrassing experience. As the announcement for the club who placed 3rd for the Best Website was being made, Yolande told Edwinna and me that we did not enter the Website Contest because our president did not think it was necessary. As the 2nd place winner was announced, we were still discussing this with people at our table which was in the front. Briefly, we paused long enough to hear the 1st place winner: Dogwood Toastmasters! Ellery certainly missed a fascinating object to photograph for his upcoming show: The surprised looks on our faces were priceless. All three of us looked at each other in shock and relief in how/who submitted our website. Edwinna and I proudly walked up to the stage and accepted the award.

Our president, Rajnish, and VP of Education, Jerry, gave me a proxy to vote for them at the District Council Meeting. My contribution was to vote the Fall District 14 Conference be held in Savannah, GA. It will be a big meeting because the International President will be attending.

I had a great time and would recommend Dogwood Toastmasters to attend the District Conference at least once.

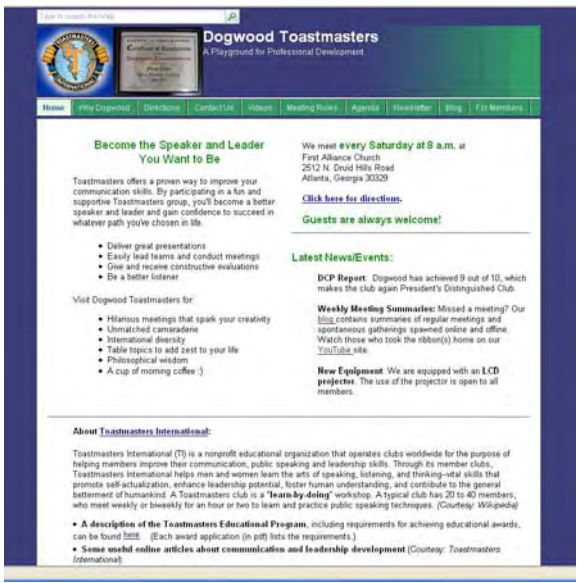
EDITOR'S NOTES

- Dave's September 22, 2007 version of the speech and Ann's evaluation are available at <http://www.youtube.com/dogwoodtm>
- The Spring 2008 District 14 Conference will be held in Peachtree City GA in May 2 & 3. For further information, go to <http://www.gatoastmasters.org/mainwebsite/html/conferences/conferences.html>

WWW.DOGWOODTOASTMASTERS.ORG

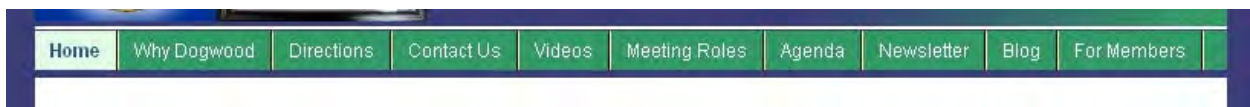
GLORIA PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE CLUB'S AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE

In Summer 2007, the club web site underwent a dramatic transformation. The purpose of this redesign was to increase our visibility to guests/perspective new members and provide useful content to existing members. With the help of a team of members - Rajnish (initial template), Tom (hosting site suggestion), Dr. Gee (YouTube input), Hal (domain name registration), and Yolande (former webmaster) - I was able to establish a platform to achieve those two goals. Winning First Place in the District 14 Website Contest was an unexpected honor that I will continue to savor. In this article, I will be highlighting some features of the award-winning club website.

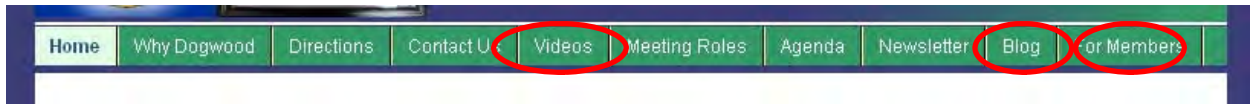


First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that the only link you need to remember is www.dogwoodtoastmasters.org. All the information can be accessed from there.

The website contains several submenus:



The focus of this article will be on "Videos", "Blog", and "For Members".



DIGITAL VIDEO ARCHIVES & EQUIPMENT AT DOGWOOD TOASTMASTERS

- Table Topics, Speeches, and Evaluations (given and received) are recorded at regular meetings. To pickup your own copies, contact the VP of Public Relations and bring a USB flash drive (min. 1GB) to the meeting.
- The club is equipped with an LCD projector. The use of the projector is open to all members.

WWW.DOGWOODTOASTMASTERS.ORG (CONTINUED)

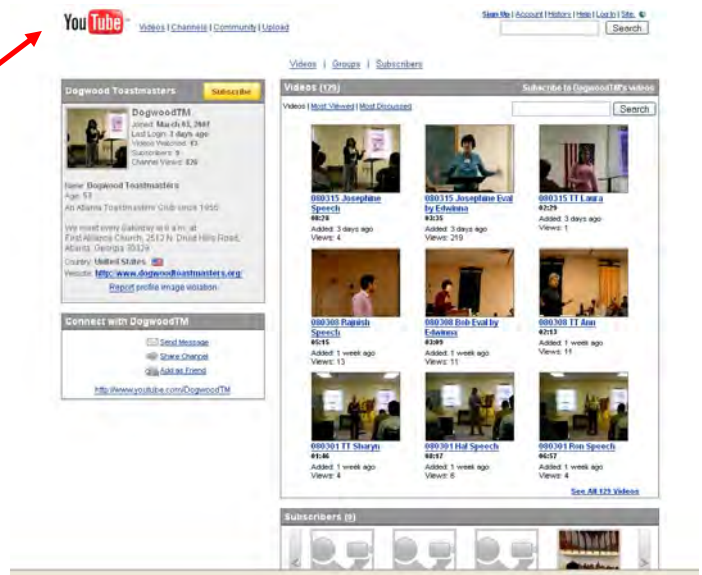
Let's take a look at the "Videos" section first. When you click on the menu, you will be taken to the following page, which contains select footage and more importantly, the link to the club's YouTube site. It is at the YouTube site you may access archives of meeting videos. New videos of the winners at the regular meeting are uploaded usually weekly. It is not necessary to sign up to view the videos.



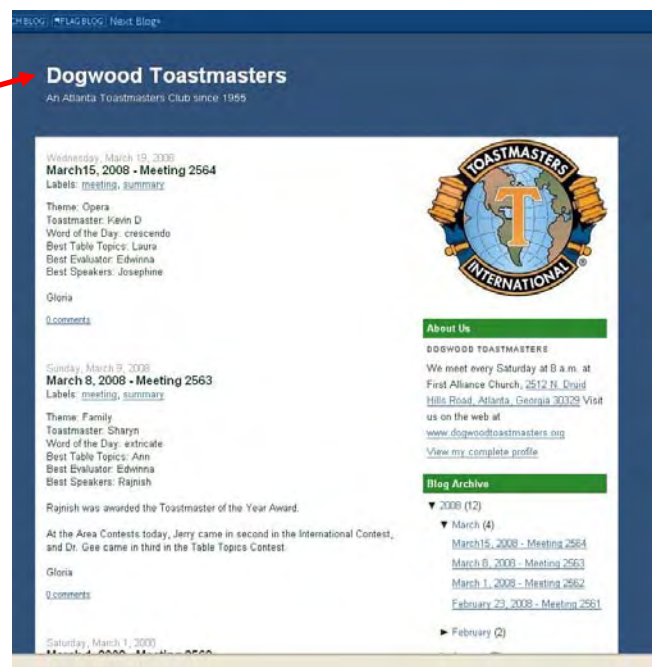
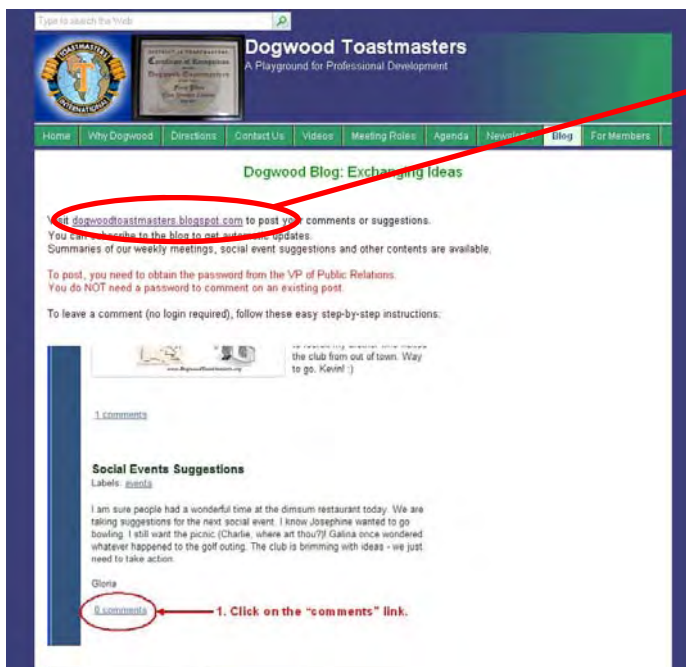
Meeting Videos on YouTube

For the entire collection of our regular meeting speeches, visit www.youtube.com/dogwoodtm. New videos are added weekly for the Best Table Topics, Best Speaker, and Best Evaluator at the end of each weekly meeting. Below are some examples.

100 International Speech Contest Winner: Jerry (February 2008)

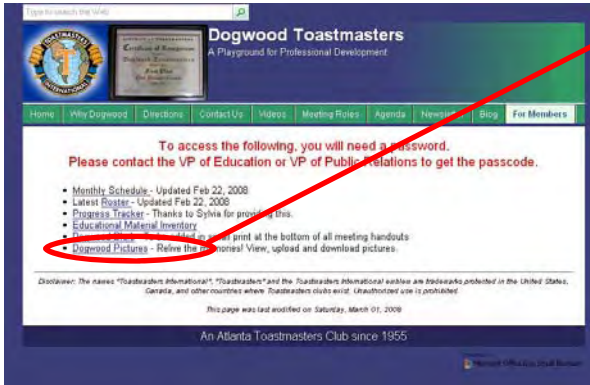


The blog contains summaries of regular meetings and spontaneous gatherings spawned online and offline. This is intended to be the most interactive part of the website that has yet to fully live up to its potential. For now, it is being updated weekly with meeting summaries. Possible other uses include feedback about the meeting, suggestions that you may not want to air through group e-mail which can be on any topic. A while back, Tom had sent an e-mail about a speech that deeply impressed him. You can look for it by searching within the blog. Detailed instructions on how to leave a comment on the blog is on the website.

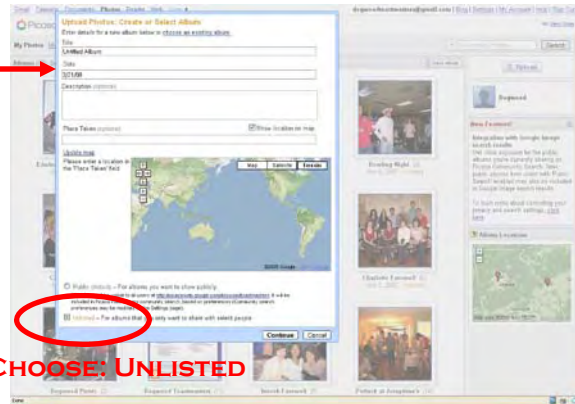
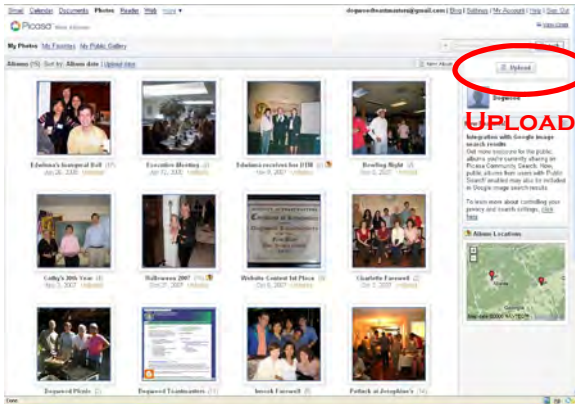


WWW.DOGWOODTOASTMASTERS.ORG (CONTINUED)

Finally, the “For Members” section contains downloadable copies of the monthly schedule, member roster, progress tracker, and an inventory of educational material (most notably, manuals). The newest addition to this section is the link to our picture album hosted by Google’s Picasa.



Upon login, you will gain access to pictures taken at various Dogwood events. Members are welcome to download and/or upload pictures. When you upload new pictures to an existing or a new album, please make sure to choose “unlisted” to prevent the general public from viewing the pictures. Not everyone wants their pictures published on the web, and this little extra step ensures this wish is respected.



I hope this article has shed some light into the features of the club website. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to direct them to me.

Newsletter, Web Site & Media Publicity Contest Winners

<p>Congratulations to the following clubs for their Excellence in Action!</p> <p>Newsletter Contest Results:</p> <p>1st Place -- SunTrust Toastmasters The Sun Spot</p> <p>2nd Place -- Plaza Presenters Plaza Presenters Post</p> <p>3rd Place -- High Noon</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club News at High Noon</p> <p>Website Contest Results:</p> <p>1st Place -- Dogwood Toastmasters</p> <p>2nd Place -- SunTrust Toastmasters</p> <p>3rd Place -- Healthy Voice Toastmasters</p>	<p>Media Publicity Contest Results:</p> <p>Winter 2007 A Quarterly Publication Issue 4 www.gatoastmasters.org</p> <p>1st Place -- Voices of Aaron Toastmasters</p> <p>2nd Place -- Rome Toastmasters</p> <p>For information on the current publicity contests go to: http://www.gatoastmasters.org/mainwebsite.html/public%20relations/PR%20Contest winter.pdf</p>
--	--	---

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/5
Callaway Gardens
Outing

4/14
Rajnish & Nilima's
Wedding

4/26
Party at
Edwinna's for
Rajnish & Nilima

4/29
Science Café
Contact Dr. Gee

5/2 & 5/3
Spring 2008
District 14
Conference

**DOGWOOD
BARKER**
MARCH 2008
Publisher
Edwinna Spivey
Editor
Gloria Kim

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Cathy: 30 Years with Dogwood Toastmasters
- Rajnish: Toastmaster of the Year

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

SINCE LAST ISSUE

- Annie, ACB
- Ellery, CC

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO EVENT HOSTS

- Charlie: Dogwood Picnic, September 29, 2007.
- Josephine: Charlotte's Farewell Dinner, October 2, 2007, Bowling Night, November 3, 2007, and Holiday Party, December 2007.
- JG: Game Night, October 27, 2007.
- Edwinna: Inaugural Ball, January 26, 2008 featuring our own belly dancer Josephine.
- Dr. Gee: Dimsum at Canton House, February 23, 2008.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Hugh: A future Toastmaster born to the Ryder family.
- Hiroko: Moved to Ohio.
- Charlotte: Moved to Virginia.
- Kevin C: Coming back after a long break.
- Malini, Joe, Ron, Dominic, Giri, Shane, Nisa, Li, Nicole, and Bob: New members.

SNEAK PEAK AT NEXT ISSUE...

HISTORY OF DOGWOOD TOASTMASTERS