



Crow's Call



Board of Directors

Tom Port

President

(510) 878-2744

Gary Daniel

President Elect.

(925) 785-9237

Barry Toby

Secretary

(925) 224-7780

Jeff Disch

Treasurer

(510) 410-4090

Judy Lewis,

Sgt. At Arms

(925) 648-0308

Hermann Welm

Club Administration

(925) 838-8261

Bill Harlan

Membership

(925) 457-6589

Fred Nevarez,

International Foundation

(925) 838-4334

Marc Stillman,

Service Projects

(925) 648-4376

Kathe Mitchell

Public Relations

(925) 998-2310

Don Jones

Past President

(925) 277-9090

Rotary Meeting - February 5th by Kathe Mitchell

Our own "Sully" the **Aviator** called the meeting to order. He welcomed all, with a reminder that this year's theme is "Make Dreams Real"

Greeter **Marie Galbo's** thought for the day was a list of attributes that can more easily be associated with our pet dog than others in our lives!

Marie led all in the salute of the flag. **Don Jones** followed by leading us in the singing of "God Bless America."



Our own **Aviator**, no bird kill on his record, welcomed **Mel Crusere's** return. Mel introduced his lovely caretaker and then thanked all for the visits and calls of support.

Visitors: Dan Calic, Mrs. Krash aka **Sandy Kubal** observed frequently displaying her radiant smile, Steve Renfro, speaker, John Coleman, Jim Birch, Heather Vilhauer and Ryan Mortenson.

The Welcome Song was lead by **Marc Stillman's** table. The undercover judges representing American Idle voted thumbs up.

The only Good Times/Good News/Fine Free was seeing the lovable and enduring **Dr. Bill**. Always a delight having our future President where he belongs each Thursday.



John Sims presented a Paul Harris 3 ruby pin to **Kathe Mitchell**.

Announcements:

Don Jones updated all on his current state of health. He has a new doctor. Dr. Duran performed a new laser treatment procedure on Don's lungs, at John Muir last week. The prognosis is very positive. What great news! Don thanked **Gary Sloan** for his and San Ramon Regional Medical Center's guidance and support.

Dave Larsen: May 2nd same day as the Kentucky Derby, what a coincidence, is the next San Ramon Rotary Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields. We will be at the Turf Club on the Finish Line. So keep that date open. Women are encouraged to wear appropriate My Fair Lady hats. Men: optional.

Kathy Gailey reported the next Member Night Out will be 2 hrs of Bocce Ball in Livermore. Date: Wednesday March 18th. Cost \$30 per person. Mark your calendars this should be a fun filled time. Sign-up next week.

The next 6 Club dinner meeting: Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 at Roundhill CC. Speaker will be Jeff Tedford, who is always a dynamic and uplifting speaker.
Reminder: The Club is dark Thursday, March 12th

The ever so shy **Chris Gallagher** asked **Don Jones** to report on last Saturday's Snow Day for the local Special Olympic group. Don reported that it was injury free – good job Don! Or was Chris' position as Safety First Officer the real reason?? The explanation for this event was that Special Olympics, due to financial issues, pulled funding for their annual weekend winter competition. The athletes had been in training so this was a welcomed rescue on the part of our club and the Danville/Sycamore club. Don read a letter of deep appreciation. *Another example of our club responding to local needs.*

The Aviator reviewed the efforts of local Portland Rotary clubs responding to the tragedy. The gallant **Geoff Johnson** stepped forward and passed his hat for the cause. \$398 was collected and will be divided equally between the Ashley Wilks Scholarship Fund for International Studies and Portland Rotary Charitable Trust for Youth Exchange.

District 5160 Awards Banquet will be at Rolling Hills Casino, Corning, Sat., July 11th. Tom encouraged all to make our reservations early.

Mark von announced that the Peace Scholarship Program at UC Berkeley will be held Sat, April 26th 9 – 2. He encouraged members to attend as it is a remarkable, international program initiated by RI.

Bob Desautels reminded us each to bring our Valentine to the meeting next week. He guarantees each sweetheart will leave appreciating one another. Promises, promises, promises. . .



Guest Heather Vilhauer was representing the New San Ramon Valley Rotaract Club. Local young professionals will meet at the Pyramid Brewery in Walnut Creek twice a month. Heather asked us to refer any potential members. Details will be on the District website but she also provided flyers. A great opportunity to bring in younger new Rotarians.

Fletcher: The Rotarian Magazine Quiz.

Fletcher educated the club on a couple of little known facts on Rotary meetings. A club in Oklahoma City holds a 1 hour meeting at a local bar. Fletcher asked if Elliot's would be a good local alternative to meet. Perhaps "fine free" status could be given to anyone with a tattoo of the 4-way test or a Rotary wheel. How about the 14 clubs that meet on-line and can count the meeting as a make-up! You just pay by credit card.



Concerned for the international Rotarian set, **Fletch** then explained that RI wants all members to understand that certain hand signals are not well received in certain cultures. He proceeded to display the gestures - probably more details than we needed, except for members like **Dennis G** who frequently travels internationally and needs to be aware.

Fletch then had the renowned **Steve Hart** and dapper **Mark von** competed in the acronyms finals. Many believed the letters were just preliminary eye exams if either failed were required to appear in Fletch's office at 3:30. Fortunately, many assisted the 2 competitors = no eye exams required today.

Today's Program:

John Coleman was introduced by **Bob Desautels**. John was elected to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006. He came to discuss EBMUD's Drought Management.

First, we are in the 3rd year of drought. January, 2009 was the driest in California history. Voluntary rationing has saved 13 – 14%, the goal is 15%. Five good storms are needed this spring and change this need. The rest of the state has not had voluntary rationing in place therefore; they will be on mandatory rationing this year.



The EBMUD staff has recommended a 21% rate increase. Issues to be considered are that revenues are going down. Average usage has been 195M/gals/day but currently is 174M/gals/day. Home building has stopped; therefore no fees are coming in. 97% of budget are fixed costs: labor (hiring freeze), chemicals (increased costs), capital projects (on hold) and all sponsorships have stopped. He believes a 21% rate increase in the midst of a recession is a poor decision. Perhaps a 7% increase. Currently EBMUD rates are at the bottom 2/3 of statewide water rates. Rates directly affect the viability of business remaining in Calif., taxes collected and employment.

Good News: The Freeport Project located on the Sacramento River will be completed December 2009. EBMUD is paying 60% of the costs from budgeted reserves.

Misc: EBMUD has been approached by other water districts to purchase their water rights. Talks are pending.

Decreasing usage further by customers is very difficult due to efficiencies with toilets, drought resistant landscapes, sophisticated sprinkler systems with timers and moisture readings. It will be hard to cut usage another 20%. What is more realistic is a 10% reduction.

Water is a \$600M industry to local government; this includes yard care, plant sales, landscape sales/design, again local taxes and jobs.

A future de-saltination project is planned in Pittsburg. This may have to be funded without partners. Local water districts are showing signs of not being able to participate.

Los Angeles has had no voluntary rationing, therefore mandatory rationing is coming. That will be difficult for them and the State of California. De-saltination cost is about \$600/acre ft which is close to the costs of other water delivery. This is the future, especially for So Cal.

Raffle: The lovely **Kathy Gailey** gave **Bob Desautels** & the always "Bell of the Rotary Ball," **Anna Dominguez** each \$20 for winning. Winner **Garth Riopelle** contributed his winning to the Portland Rotary fund. Now Garth does not need to declare his winnings on his taxes. . such a clever businessman. How did **Hermann** miss winning this week???

Next weeks Greeter is **Dennis Garrison**



San Ramon Rotarian of the Week



This week, February 12th, 2009, you will be greeted by Dennis Garrison

Here are some things you should know about Dennis:

Dennis has been a member of our club since, April 1998

Classification: Health Club Management

Dennis was born and raised in Roodhouse, Illinois, a farming community of 2,000. The town had no street lights, one factory and a railroad switching station. Live was good, but boring, so he escaped to Bloomington, Illinois, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1976 and a Master of Science degree from Illinois State University in 1977. After passing the Certified Public Accountants exam in 1977, he taught accounting at Illinois Wesleyan University for one year.

In 1978, Dennis was hired by renowned Economics scholar, Jay Tontz, to teach in the School of Business and Economics at Cal State Hayward. It was there that he met the Captain John Sims, PHD and first heard the phrase, "THE Rotary Foundation." That experience convinced him that he could never afford to be a Paul Harris Fellow on a teacher's salary, so he decided to try a career in business.

Since 1989, Dennis has managed ClubSport of San Ramon. Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette was added in 1999. He has held many community positions in the last 20 years, including President of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, President of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and President of the East Bay Chapter of the American Heart Association. In 1991, he briefly served on the San Ramon City Council, before he was mercifully deposed by Hermann Welm. He is very grateful to Hermann for that defeat.

Dennis and his wife, Sally, just celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary. They have three children, Jason, Kelly, and Matt, and two grandchildren, Luna and Daden. On February 7, Dennis became eligible for the Senior Citizen discounts at Marie Calendar's and the International House of Pancakes.

In October 2005, Dennis was appointed as the Honorary Consul in San Francisco for the Republic of Lithuania. This position gives him the opportunity to participate in outreach programs with children in the rural areas of Lithuania, where he has visited many Rotary clubs and developed many friendships.

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of
San Ramon

Jim Livingstone, Publisher
(925) 216-1898 cell phone

e-mail: jwl459@comcast.net

San Ramon Rotary

Greeter Protocol

When you are blessed with the duty of being our greeter, you should remember the following: (1) You should be at the meeting by 11:45 am in order to greet everyone as they come to the meeting. (2) You should bring a "greeter's gift". The gift should be approximately \$20.00 in value. (3) You will be leading the flag salute, giving the inspiration, and introducing the visiting Rotarians. It is a good idea to watch the visiting Rotarians sign in, so that you can ask them about any complicated names or classifications, or just plain BAD handwriting. mwb

Future Programs:

February 12th	Valentine Celebration, Newlywed Game
February 19th	To be Announced
February 26th	Jonathan Lee - Surviving Current Economic Storm

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

February 12th	Valentine Celebration, great fun!
March 11th	6 Club Dinner @ Round Hill CC 6:00
March 12th	Dark - No Meeting
March 18th	Members Night Out - Bocce Ball
May 2nd	Day at the Races
July 11th	District 5160 Awards Banquet, Corning

Schedule of Greeters:

February 12th	Dennis Garrison
February 19th	George Gaylor
February 26th	Chris Gallagher
March 5th	Ray Giles

