



Crow's Call



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Rotary Meeting — April 28th by Garth Riopelle

President Dennis, The Menace, Garrison called the meeting to order. He welcomed all present. The Rotary International President is **Ray Klinginsmith** from Kirksville, Missouri. His theme for this month is "Building Communities-Bridging Continents". The Rotary International theme for this month is "Magazine Month"

Steve Glaski was introduced as our greeter. **Steve** gave us a Thought for the Day: The thought of the day was "The world suffers a lot not because of the violence of bad people but because of the silence of good people." *Napole-an Bonaparte*

Steve then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Salute.

The club then sang a patriotic song, led by **Dr. Bill**. **PP Dr. Bill** led us in a rousing rendition of "This Land is Your Land."

Visiting Rotarians: There were no visiting Rotarians.

Visitors: **Gary Sloan** introduced **Lad McDonald** who is a Consultant for Medical Anesthesia. **Gary** briefly introduced the speaker for the day **Sam Spear**. **Carolyn Degnan** introduced **Alan Ward**. **Guy Greco** introduced **Chris Erbe** who is a Guest of Rotary.



Guy Greco was then asked to come to the podium for the induction of **Chris Erbe** as a new member to Rotary. Guy mentioned that he met **Chris** through **Candice Pearson**, the former executive director of Kids Country. **Chris** was a teacher in Las Vegas before he and his wife moved to Kuwait where they worked for several years. Upon returning to the States he became the current director of Kids Country in Danville. Both Herman Welm and Guy Greco pre-

sented the Red Badge to Chris. The club welcomed him!

Service Above Self

Announcements:

The San Ramon Valley Education Foundation will honor **Terry Koehne** on **Monday, May 2**. Tickets for the evening event have been **sold out**.

The **May 5 Rotary meeting** will be at **Forest Home Farms**. Mark your calendars. The program will feature Dr. Bill and the topic for the program will be "The Watsonville Purchase".

Mike Gunning announced that he is taking nominations for **Honorary Rotarians**. He needs the nomination by Monday, May 2 in order to qualify.

Chris Gallagher announced that the last **Rotary hike** would be held Sunday, May 01, 2011. The hike will feature the waterfalls of Mt. Diablo, which **Chris** checked out recently and said are flowing steadily. Meet either at the trailhead at 9:00am or at the Danville Park and Ride on Sycamore at 8:00 if you would like to carpool.

Paula Silva announced that plans for organizing a **float** for the **Fourth of July Parade** are underway. The **San Ramon Valley Interact** students have now volunteered to help with the float.

Robin Stevens will still take "gently worn" shoes for Soles4Souls. All the shoes given to Soles4Souls will be sent to areas in need in the United States, Haiti, Tanzania, and Honduras.

Dennis Harvey reported that the "**Smoke Alarm Project**" at Sunny Glen was again a big success. 33 participants went to over 100 homes and installed 345 batteries. The **Cal High Interact Club** helped in the project.

Patti Hennigan is coordinating a second **Shadow Day** for May 19. Cal high has ten student shadower's signed up and ready to visit Rotarians businesses. Please consider hosting a student.

President Dennis announced that the **Rotary International Convention** will be held May 21-25th in New Orleans, Louisiana. Looks like **Robin Stevens** and **Dennis Garrison** are our clubs representatives.

Dublin Rotary will be hosting "**Top Chef's Grand Tasting**" on Friday April 29th. Two tickets are available.

Lastly, on behalf of **Paula Silva**, please vote for **Olive** online before next week!!!

Recognitions:

President Dennis recognized **Gary Sloan** as **Gary** was recently named to the CEO Circle of Excellence. This award was given to **Gary** by **Tenet Healthcare** as the San Ramon Regional Medical Center was ranked in the top 15% of hospitals in the country. Under **Gary's** leadership San Ramon ranked 4th overall in the United States. **San Ramon regional Medical Center** is now investing 10.7 million dollars to open a new emergency room at their campus.



Program:

Gary Sloan introduced our speaker **Sam Spear**. **Sam** produces and hosts a nightly TV show on horse racing. Sam is also the host of "At the Track" which is a radio talk show on KNBR-680 AM every Sunday morning. Sam has spent time in baseball with the Oakland A's and World Champion San Francisco Giant's. He spoke about the history of horse racing in preparation for our "Day at the Races" visit to Golden Gate Fields. In 1899 Tanfaran Racetrack was the first horse track to open in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was located in San Bruno and operated from 1899 until it was closed in 1964. The track hosted great horses such as Sea Biscuit and Citation; both were inducted into the "US Horse Hall of Fame." Most of what drew the San Francisco spectators was the opportunity to bet on the racing horses. In 1909 the government made betting on horse racing illegal in the State of California. Horseracing became less popular and the racetrack struggled.

In 1933 California passed the **Paramutual Wagering Bill** that once again allowed gambling on horse racing to be legal in the state. The bill allows gambling against other betters, but gambling against the house is forbidden. Typically a gambling pot is divided and 80% goes to pay the winning betters and 20% is divided among the race-track and government. **Bill Kyne** and **Doc Strub** took advantage of the new bill. **Bill Kyne** founded and opened the Bay Meadows Racetrack in San Mateo. On December 25, 1934 **Doc Strub** opened the Santa Anita Racetrack in the Los Angeles area. Two other Southern California race-tracks followed and opened later in 1938. Mervyn LeRoy opened Hollywood Park and Bing Crosby opened Del Mar.



Golden Gate Fields, in Berkeley, opened briefly in 1941. It was forced to close due to World War 2, but resumed operations in 1947 once the war was over. The Southern California racetracks do very well taking in three-quarters of the states horse race gambling money compared to twentyfive percent of the states horse racing revenue in Northern California.

Horse racing jockeys are very unique athletes. Most are very small and weigh around 115 pounds. Interestingly, Bill Shoemaker wore only a size 3 shoe. They must be in great shape. The typical day for a jockey may be to work out six horses in the morning, hit the sweatbox after lunch, and then work out six more horses in the evening. This way they keep strong, yet lean. Many notable jockeys have raced locally or have been products of the San Francisco Bay Area. **Russell Baze** raced at both Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows. **Russell** holds the title for the most horse racing wins in North America. Another notable jockey, **Martin Garcia**, was a cook in Pleasanton. He was a very small man. One day the owner of the restaurant he worked at asked him to ride and work out some of the racehorses he owned. **Martin** rode the horses bareback and because he was so good at it was offered a job as a jockey. Last year, **Martin** won the Preakness. Another great Jockey, **Bill Shoemaker**, won his first race at Golden Gate Fields in 1945 riding **Shafter V**.

This year marks the 137th running of the Kentucky Derby. The one and a quarter mile race held in Louisville, Kentucky at Churchill Downs began in 1875. 10,000 people showed up for that first race. This year 150,000 spectators are expected for the event know as "the most exciting two minutes in sports." Most of the horses that race in the Derby are bred and raised at Calumet Farms in Lexington Kentucky. Calumet Farm produced eight Kentucky Derby winners, more than any other horse farm in U.S. racing history. The most notable horse raised at Calumet was **Citation**, who won the Triple Crown in 1948.

Each year roughly 35,000 baby horses (down this year to 28,000 due to the poor economy) are born and raised for horse racing. Of those only 20 make the cut to race in the Kentucky Derby. Only 3-year-old horses are eligible. There is one running of the race so each year produces only one winner. This year **Jeff Bonde**, a local horse trainer whose horses regularly run at Golden Gate Fields, will have two horses entered into the Kentucky Derby. **Calvin Borel** has won the derby three of the last four years and will be riding one of **Jeff Bonde's** horses. Keep an eye out for that tandem.

RAFFLE

Robin Stevens won the greeter's gift.

Paula Silva won the chance to answer the club progressive raffle "Rotary question of the day". The question was "what is the elevation of Mt. Diablo?" **Paula** answered 3849 feet. Close enough (3850') to win her the raffle pot of \$185. Way to go **Paula!**

Meeting: Thursday, 12:15
Crow Canyon Country Club
711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville

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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. cff

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Future Programs:

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

Schedule of Greeters

