



Crow's Call



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Rotary Meeting — April 7th 2011 by Dr. Bill Harlan

After a delay for technical reasons, President Menace (**Dennis Garrison**) clunked us to a semblance of order as food riots broke out. In honor of his 68th birthday Greeter **Mark von Hoetendorff** quoted Mark Twain on age: "It's a matter of mind over matter: if you don't mind your age, it doesn't matter." **Don Jones** led us in "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in recognition of the Giants' opener, and our exchange student **Felipe Moya** led us in the short version of the Welcome Song to commemorate his recent trip to Hawaii.

Our visiting Rotarians included **Tom Eager** of the San Ramon Valley Club and **Janine Payton** of the Campbell Club. Guests of Rotarians were **Sydney** and **Garry Allison** of San Ramon; **Barbara Komas** who handles **Gary Sloan**, **Marsha Smalley** who puts up with **Stan** and **Renee Gallagher** who employs **Chris**; **Fred Glaski**, the father **Steve Glaski**, our newest member, joined us, as did **Alan Ward**, State Farm Insurance.



Paula Sue Silva, the birthday girl, introduced the last of the Unsung Hero Award-ees, **Garry Allison**, who started the Shoppers' Shuttle for the San Ramon Senior Center, ferrying seniors to local businesses. Garry got a nice plaque and thanked his wife. The San Ramon Senior Center Foundation got a nice check for \$200. Cash it quickly!

Hermann Welm and **Guy Greco** led the induction of our new member **Steve Glaski**, Steve has belonged to other Rotary clubs and looks forward to working with us. He attended local schools, worked with his sponsor **Guy Greco** for Heritage Bank and is now a commercial banker for Wells Fargo, The tradition continued of Steve learning 42 different secret handshakes as the members filed by to welcome him.



Service Above Self

Announcements:

- * **Kathy Gailey** says people are slow to sign up for e-scrip which could raise several thousand a year without our having to do any more than eat. **Kathleen Larsen** will help the technologically terminal, like this correspondent, sign up.
- * **Gary Sloan** reminds us the comedy show at Tommy T's is April 8. Gary is also cutting a ribbon at the new ER at San Ramon Regional, which will have a special padded area for Rotarians.
- * **Paula Silva** says the Interact kids are really getting into designing the float for the July 4 parade; she will need help constructing it, besides Phil.
- * **Robin Stevens** needs help on April 27 interviewing possible Interact officers for next year.
- * **Dennis Garrison** commented on the contrasting styles of De La Salle coaches at 6-Club meeting on March 30.
- * **Patti Hennigan** needs Rotarians pretending to work so kids can observe on Shadow Day 5/11.
- * **Robin Stevens** reminds her incoming Board that they should plan to attend District Assembly on April 16 at Solano Community College in Vallejo. Breakfast at IHOP in Martinez.
- * **Glen Weber** is planning Key Employee Day on April 21 with a special program; let him know.
- * **Dennis Garrison** invited all members to join him and others at the RI Convention in New Orleans on May 21 – 25.
- * **Terry Koehne** will be honored at the SRV Ed Foundation dinner on May 2, the second consecutive member of our club so honored; contact Dr. Bill if you'd like to attend.
- * **Dennis Garrison** announced that the Board in honor of the "non-event" of the District Foundation Day of April 9 had voted to give the District a "non-donation."
- * **Horace Crawford** announced that he and **Mike Gunning** are accepting nominations for Honorary Rotarians. President Garrison announced that an age limit of 85 had been established for such honors; don't nominate anyone older than that, no matter how colorful.
- * **Ira Hillyer** lost his badge at the 6-Club meeting and paid a recognition, kicking and screaming and then only in honor of the national championship won by the Texas Aggies women's basketball team.
- * **Glen Weber** says that next week we will be joined a former Rotarian, **Blaine Anderson**, known in the day for his collection of used beer cans, the largest in the Tri-Valley.

Gary Sloan introduced our speaker, **Mahbod Seroji**, the author of *Rooftops of Tehran*. Mahbod, who has a doctorate and has worked for a number of software companies, began his informative talk with an observation that when Westerners talk about Islam, they dwell on the perceived abuses of its adherents. As an Iranian-American who has lived in this country for about 40 years, he pointed out that the government of Iran is not the same as the people of the country. About 70% of Iranians are under 30 years of age. 99% of this group are literate and most use the Internet and smart phones. Among university students, over 60% are women, many of whom are studying science and engineering. In other words, our commonly held stereotypes about illiterate



hordes oppressing women are incorrect. When we carelessly demonize others, we ignore the universality of humanity and ground our national policy on errors. Mahbod cited two such examples of such demonization: John McCain in 2008 rejected the common charge that Barack Obama was an "Arab" by declaring, "He's not an Arab; he's a good family man," a whopper which most Americans thoughtlessly passed on. Then the former Fox Network commentator, Glen Beck, announced that only about 10% of Moslems were terrorists, which Mahbod said should make us leave the planet, since that would mean there 157 million terrorists gunning for us. In questions, Mr. Seroji made the point that the oppressive government of the mullahs in Iran is not going to last long with pressure of all those young people yearning for change and contact with the outside world. Iranians care passionate about being friends with Americans. The regime is already bowing to pressure and recently allowed the celebration of the traditional holiday of Persian New Year which the Islamists had tried to suppress. Asked about the power of the Moslem Brotherhood, he observed that the organization varies considerably from country to country. In fact, in Iraq the Moslem Brotherhood is financially supported by the U.S. government. One of the few things all the different Moslem Brotherhoods have in common is the abiding opposition to Al Queda. It was a deft and enlightening talk.

The greeter's gift, of questionable taste and supplied by **Mark von Hoetendorff**, was won by **Marie Galbo**. **Stan Smalley** won the progressive raffle but guessed the wrong date for **Joel Harlan's** arrival in the San Ramon Valley. My work here in spreading the Harlan saga has not been successful. Look for more programs on the history of the Harlan wagon train. (It was 1852, Stan!)



Hike Information

This last hike is one not to miss. Please note this hike has been rescheduled for various reasons. The new scheduled day is May 1st. This last scheduled hike was specifically selected for our club/group to view the wonderful waterfalls on the back side of Mt Diablo. An obvious safety requirement is being in good health. Some degree of conditioning is always desirable for all these hikes. This hike is comparable in difficulty as the last one we did up to Rock City. This *hike will be approximately a 6 mile key-hole hike and will lead you through varying terrain and elevation.* The hike has approximately 1500' elevation gain with 3 miles of narrow single-track trail with some poor footing, steep drop-offs and a half dozen stream crossings. This description is posted for information purposes, not to scare you away. We believe in full disclosure. With our wet winter and spring the water should be flowing nicely. We most certainly will be rewarded with abundance of wildflowers, stunning vistas and of course, a series of waterfalls.

Join this hike only at your own risk. No dogs please. Mt Diablo State park does not allow dogs on designated trails. This trail in particular is not dog friendly due to the nature of the trail.

Advisory: Make sure you break in new hiking footwear before you hit the trail. Failing to do so will likely result in blistering, which, as you favor the sore foot or feet on the trail, could lead to falls and worse injuries. In addition if your footwear has been over the hill a few times it is advisable to check the condition. Hiking boots may need to be replaced and how to determine when this is necessary, such as examining sole tread, lack of comfort and worn linings.

The Hike will begin at 9:00am. Please be at the staging area around 8:45, we will be on the trails promptly at 9:00.

May 1, 2011

Donner Canyon/Water Falls Trail

Meet: End of Regency Road, street parking

Directions: From CA 24 or Interstate 680 in Contra Costa County, exit Yg-

nacio Valley Road (exit 46b, at the 680 split). Drive east on Ygnacio Valley Road about 7 miles, then turn south (right) on Clayton Road. Drive south on Clayton Road (which becomes Marsh Creek Road in Clayton) about 3 miles, and turn right on Regency Road (this road is easy to miss -- begin looking for it after you pass the junction with Marsh Creek Road). Drive to the trailhead at the end of the road. Fee: None

Following is a list of what to bring and how to prepare.

Good Attitude

If you go hiking alone, then you can have any grade of attitude you want. Otherwise, complaining about a hard hike is one of the best ways to ruin a fun trip for everyone else that you're with. Therefore, make sure that you plan properly for the trip. This means that you bring the right stuff and that you're in decent shape.

Day Hike Checklist

Use the following checklist as a general guide to planning what to take on the half-day hiking trips.

- Good Attitude
- Water
- Sturdy Shoes Suitable for trails, trail-running shoes or hiking boots
- Day Backpack
- Food/snacks for the hike
- Napkins/Toilet Paper/plastic Bags
- Sun Glasses
- Camera
- Sun Block
- Insect Repellent (specifically tick repellent)
- Shade Hat
- Knee Support (if necessary)
- Sandals for Afterwards

Tips & Warnings

- If you're not used to hiking, make your first few hikes short to help get your body in condition for longer hikes.

Maintain awareness of your surroundings so you don't get lost. Do not deviate from your route. If you or a member of your hiking party is injured or lost, you'll stand a much better chance of rescue if you are on or near the route the rescuers expect you to have taken

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

Jim Livingstone, Publisher
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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. 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:

April 14th - Karen McNamara Police and Public Safety
April 21st - John Tatum “Key Employee Day”

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

April 23rd - Smoke Alarm Project - Dennis Harvey

Schedule of Greeters

April 14th

Walt Trembley

