



Flywheel

"Service
Above
Self"

A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California

Program for Friday January 21, 2005

Wild Fire Suppression at the Urban/Forest Interface

Capt. Paul Curtino will describe the East Bay Parks Fire Dept. and the Park District effort to prevent a future firestorm situation like the Oakland Hills Fire through vegetation management.

Door Duty: Barry Gordon and Bud Martin

Program for Friday January 28, 2005

"Bad News, Good News, Your News"

Michael Collier, East Bay Bureau Chief, "The San Francisco Chronicle", and Cella Vega, Chron. ace reporter for West County and graduate of Salesian HS.

Door Duty: Elof Granberg and Norm Lundberg

Program of Friday January 14, 2005

"The Russian R coming, the Russian R coming"

Prez Herb introduced our very own Dr. Dan Tanita to give us the scoop on the 2005 Russian Dentist Exchange Program, organized by the Center for Citizen Initiatives (CCI) as part of their Productivity Enhancement Program with Russia. The Exchange is sponsored by the West County Rotary Clubs in conjunction with the Contra Costa Dental Association.

Dan started, off the subject, remembering that it was ten years ago when he was Rotary President, following the infamous Presidency of Earl Brown, which most of the members remembered with a cheer. The program started in 2002 when the El Sobrante Rotary decided to sponsor the program for dentists, but asked Dan to step in at the last second to make it work. Well maybe it wasn't the last second, six months early?. Anyway the whole thing came together even if it sucked all the money out of the budget requiring the David Brown Presidency to weave straw into

Last Week

Prez Herb began the meeting of the "Tsunami Conscious, Reno Train Trip" Richmond Rotary Club by calling on past Pres Stony for the invocation for Freedom and Peace, which was recognized in silence. The writer missed everything else until the Sunshine Report below.

Visiting Rotarians

Prez Herb asked Bill Frank from the Hercules club to introduce himself, which he did.

Rotarians with Guests

The writer introduced Maria Catenzaro, VP Relationship Manager from the Danville Office of Mt. Diablo National Bank, specializing in professional financing. Ms. Catenzaro is also a member of the San Ramon Valley Rotary Club.

Sunshine Report

The elusive, mysterious and often fishing David K. reported that nobody has said anything to him so everyone must be OK. Prez Herb observed that while that is generally true, he was glad to see Charlie Wong who had a disagreement with his cane and took a tumble down some stairs. Charley retold the story for the assemblage including the part about his separated shoulder, which produced many sympathetic groans.

Recognitions

See Happy & Sad Dollars below.

Happy/Sad \$\$\$

- Dandy Don Lau had Happy Dollars in celebration of his parent's 60th anniversary which could only be happier if he was in Hawaii with them.
- David Ninomiya, not sure if this was the right spot had but recognizing Stony's Malaria Net Project and Prez Herb's recent wheel chair delivery trip to Mexico, had what might be called Happy To Be Here Dollars in recognition of these projects and his past December birthday, 120 of 'em, for the Rotary

greenbacks. But everyone seemed to agree that it was worth it, especially David because the Russians brought the best vodka with them, which they share liberally, and, they are generally great house guests. David did observe that language can be a problem, but not after the third drink.

This gave Dr. Dan a chance to talk about the home stay portion of the project:

- Rotarians/folks host a Russian or two in their homes as guests.
- During the work week, 8 AM to 4 PM they are gone working with dentists on professional enrichment.
- The hosts provide breakfast and dinner and on the weekend provide the Russian guests with sight seeing around the Bay.

Dan allowed that the visit to the Bay Area is a big deal for the Russians as they might have gone to Kansas or Texas instead. Dan invited the members to consider hosting a Russian guest.

Dan noted that the exchange is important to the changing socio-economic structure of Russia. When the very first dentists came in 2000 only 10% of the profession was operated privately. That has increased to 30%-40% in 2004. Programs like this exchange and the exchanges for all the other profession and industry groups hosted under the CCI banner are providing the motivation and visions of success that the Russian do not otherwise have.

The current schedule:

- Day One – An orientation to the three week program, hosts, the East Bay etc. and an overview of the dental profession in the United States including trade organizations and societies.
- Day Two–On – Visiting five different dentists to see and work with the equipment (on each other) and review each business organization as well as the forms used for record keeping and paying and receiving. They really like demonstrations on patients and usually video tape everything. The program will also tour clinics at Brookside Medical Center in an effort to show how the US system tries to meet the needs of all people. The Russian system still provides dental service to all citizens although the quality is not dependable. The Russians are very interested in how Americans

Foundation. Thank you David.

- Prez Herb then repeated his lame excuse about not recognizing birthdays because nobody has given him a 2005 birthday list. This caused X-Prez Stony to say that He'd give herb his Birthday list from last year, which was a very positive suggestion irregardless of its intention, i.e. the geefaws it elicited from the members.
- Otherwise, there was a dearth of Happy & Sad Dollars

Announcements

Good to his word, Prez Herb then told everybody to get out their check books, as it was time to support the Rotary's Tsunami relief effort. After what seemed like an eternity of discussion two things were established:

1. Checks should be made out, "Rotary Foundation/Solidarity in South Asia", and;
2. They don't count for Paul Harris.

The Albany Rotary Club, as part of the 100th Year Anniversary activities will be hosting a dinner/dance and will have someone here next week to tell us about it and encourage participation.

Raffle

For all the talk about Russian and "D. Brown", Earl Brown's name was pulled out of the can and Earl got a free lunch.

And the meeting was adjourned.

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Your Acting Editor,
Jim Young

Where to Make Up

San Rafael	Mon	12:15	Seafood Peddler
Albany	Tue	12:30	Solano Grill
El Sobrante	Tue	12:15	Joe's of El Sobrante
Berkeley	Wed	12:15	His Lordships
Hercules	Wed	7:15 am	Hercules Sen. CTR
San Pablo	Wed	12:15	La Strada
El Cerrito	Thu	12:15	Mira Vista G&CC
Pinole	Thu	12:30	Outback Steak House
Vallejo	Thu	12:15	World Holiday Inn

Upcoming Programs

01/28 – Michael Collier, East Bay Bureau Chief, "The San Francisco Chronicle", "Bad News, Good News, Your News".

provide for public health and general medicine given the fact that our generally good medical service system is not available to those without funds or insurance.

- Day X-Y – The social part of the program will be interspersed throughout the visit and will include participation at our club as well as the San Pablo and El Cerrito Rotaries, There will be a welcoming reception the first Saturday as well as a Farewell Dinner currently scheduled for March 4th. Dr. Dan graciously thanked Mt. Diablo National Bank (with whom the writer is affiliated) for their generous \$1,500 sponsorship of the Farewell Dinner, taking some pressure off the sponsoring clubs so that they can stay within their shared budgets of \$1,500 each. Dr. Dan invited additional companies sponsorship. Dr. Dan noted during the last visit Stony took it on himself to host a spaghetti dinner for the Russians and took the whole crew to the symphony.

02/04 – “Alien Invasion!” They’re green, they’re mean. If you kill one, 10 pop up in its place. Robert Case, County Agricultural Agent (ret) and representative of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) discusses the impact and management of invasive exotic plant species on the environment.

Door Duty Reminder

01/21/05	Gordon Barry	Martin Bud
01/28/05	Granberg Elof	Lundberg Norm
02/04/05	Hardison Don	Lugo Oscar
02/11/05	Harris Rhonda	Levy Leslie
02/18/05	Hill Ralph	Lawlis Jon
02/25/05	Hiramoto Joni	Lau Don
03/04/05	Hodgen Paul	Kuchenthal David K
03/11/05	Howe Mark	
03/18/05	Johnston Gloria	Kelman Joe
03/25/05	Jones Pam	Kelman Henry

Important Dates

01/20/05 Board Meeting – 12 noon Mira Vista G&CC
 01/23/05 – 01/24/05 Annual Reno Train Trip
 See John Nicol for info

The program concluded with a presentation about the Center for Citizen Initiatives, the whole presentation of which can be reviewed in color by visiting www.ccisf.org , and, numerous stories about the last visit, lessons learned and vodka drunk.



Thank you Dr. Dan and CCI for the time and effort to make this great international exchange program and learning opportunity reality here in West County.

Don’t forget to volunteer to host a Russian by calling/contacting Dr. Dan.

