

eCone

Meeting: May 13, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Inductions & Honors

Jason Matlock was inducted into the club, presented with a Rotary pin by **Dean Fender**, whom he presented with a Sponsor pin. Jason's wife and younger daughter were present. Welcome aboard!

Updates

Interact Minute: Trudi Angel announced two big events for our Interact-ers. On May 25, they will participate in the "Teen Jeopardy!" competition at the library, starting at 4. The next day, May 26, starting at 2, they will hold their end-of-the-year party at Bille Park, then head indoors for bowling. Rotarians are most welcome at either or both—please come out and support our youth!

Foreign Exchange Minute: Justin Miley let us know that there has been a change from what he told us about our arriving exchange student. Scratch from your mind the notion of a girl from Germany; we will be hosting a boy from Spain "who looks a lot like Harry Potter." If that influences your willingness to volunteer as a host family (say, if you're particularly partial to the Goblet of Fire), please contact Justin.

Public Relations Minute: Casey Taylor invited all current and potential P.R. Committee members to a meeting next Thursday (May 20) after our regular club meeting.

Fake Bonus Points: 500 to anyone who went to the Black Bear Diner on Monday (see below) and "a bazillion" to Mary for the article in the Post in which she mentioned Rotary 16 times!

Announcements

Relay for Life: Larry Lash unveiled the total raised Monday at the Black Bear Diner — \$386! The next happening is the Poker Tournament at the Eagles Lodge this Saturday, May 15 (registration at 10, “shuffle up and deal” at 11). Meanwhile, he is selling Luminaria bags at the diner, and still has a few slots open for working the booth June 5-6.

Sale for Josefa: Want to help Josefa tour the southwestern U.S. before she heads back to southwestern South America? The stop by the Carpet Galleria on Saturday for her yard sale! The pricing and sorting of items will begin at 7 a.m. Josefa says: “I want to thank everyone who gave,” and if you didn’t have an item for her to sell, “I take money too!”

Cleaner community: Just a reminder that May 22 is Community Cleanup Day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The starting point is the bike path behind Paradise High. Local firms have donated the use of equipment — “we need bodies,” Keith McBride says.

Mary, Mary, Mary: Tom Gagne reminded everyone that our illustrious president will return to civilian ranks on the evening of July 1. “We have lots of sign-ups,” he said, “so it looks like lots of people are looking forward to Mary’s demotion.” After first eschewing the idea of prepayment, he opted to take the president’s advice and will begin collecting the \$20 per person next week.

Speaking of reminders ... : The Second Annual Humboldt Fire Memorial Shootout will be held June 11 at Tuscan Ridge Golf Course. “A good tournament will staff the Sawmill Peak Lookout for a month,” Kent Rasmussen explained, so if you are a golfer and/or someone with vivid memories of the summer of 2008, consider playing and/or sponsoring. Brian Gray pointed out that the Board is donating \$200 to help offset the entry fee of \$100 per player — that’s \$50 per person for a team of four (or use your division skills if our club yields get more entrants).

District stuff: Pam Gray relayed that a girl from Willows won the 4-Way Speech Contest in Chico and will represent our area at the District-wide Foundation Fun Day on May 22.

Presidential Trivia

Here is Mary’s challenge for this week:

What are the names of the 4 team captains for the 2009-2010 year?

Remember, **first e-mail reply to Mary** with the correct answer yields a coveted Wild Card Make-up Card!!!

Last week’s winner: Jerry Laskey, who knew Tom Gagne was our president in 2005-06.

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Jim Johnson: During introductions, forgot to mention former member Dick Howard sitting at his table. **2 bells**

Mary Bellefeuille: Daughter is graduating from college this weekend. Tom Gagne suggested she give herself 2 bells, but Mary said, “I’m prouder than that!” — so: **3 bells**

Chris Griego: Email and announcement of a non-Rotary ribbon-cutting. **1 bell**

Tom Sinclair: Shelli’s first anniversary as a Paradise Rotarian. **1 bell**

Rob Anderson: Mary recognized his 20th anniversary as a Paradise Rotarian, then assessed him an additional 3 bells when we learned he was named Broker of the Quarter among 1,700 nationwide and is heading to Omaha to meet with bigwigs. (That explains his stated vocation: “Profitable Investments.”) **4 bells**

Casey Taylor: On an evening when she was supposed to meet with fellow club members for dinner, she forgot that she was also supposed to be hosting her in-laws for dinner following a game. Her explanation: “Who can keep track of the baseball schedule?” Maybe this sound will help her remember: **1 bell**

Bulletin Board

Family Wellness Day: Sunday, May 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Feather River Health Center on Skyway, have fun while learning about local resources for overall wellness.

Program

Larry Hartt and John Jans

Topic: Costa Rica revisited

It was home movies day at Paradise Rotary, when Larry and John reminisced about a service trip they, George Siler and Johann Klempa took along with members of the Redding club in March 1994.

It was the first such trip for our club, Larry said — “This kind of kicked the whole thing off.” They went to Matapalo, Costa Rica, a town roughly five miles from the Pacific coast and 200 miles north of the Equator. They stayed in a beach house owned by one of the Redding Rotarians, with a view that Larry described as what you’d imagine the island where Robinson Crusoe was stranded.

John said there were no paved roads for 20 miles, and the electrical grid consisted of “festoons of lamp cords all over town.” Special recognition went to Johann, who “saved our bacon,” John said. “The Spanish in South America is different than the Spanish we hear,” so Hansi acted as the translator and ambassador for the group.

The Rotarians worked on renovating a school — clean-up, wiring the building for electricity, installing an air conditioner — before a cadre of dental-health professionals arrived. “The people were neat,” John said, and we got to see a number of them in the movie.

Stuck in the muck

How many Rotarians does it take to extricate a truck from the muddy shoulder of the Elks Lodge driveway? At least a half-dozen, as demonstrated by Don Peck, Jim Johnson, Kent Rasmussen, John Touchette, Dean Fender and Rob Anderson after the meeting.

Your humble correspondent found that rear-wheel drive was not enough to get his Tacoma out of the great parking spot he found: in front of the telephone pole by the entrance to the parking lot. While said embarrassed driver was on the phone with AAA, Don came by and offered to push the pickup with his bigger truck. Long story short: Don’s vehicle plus John’s towing straps finally equaled success. Thanks to everyone who pitched in!

(Note to self: Never again pull off to the right to park!)
