

# eCone

**Meeting:** May 27, 2010

**Presiding Rotarian:** Mary Bellefeuille

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**eCone correspondent:** Evan Tuchinsky

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## Inductions & Honors

A week after Chris Griego traded in his Red Badge, **Phyl Peltier** received his Blue Badge from Mary. Congratulations!

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## Updates

**Exchange Committee Minute:** Justin Miley has fliers ready for businesses to display and distribute. If you are willing and able to help promote this great program, without which we'd never have met Josefa, please see Justin.

**Salsa de Border Minute:** Trudi Angel asked for a show of hand to determine how big an obstacle for attendance the noon meetings presented for potential committee members. The response encouraged her to rethink the schedule — the next Salsa meeting will be in the evening (date TBA).

**Relay For Life Minute:** Larry Lash thanked everyone who stepped up either to walk or work our booth June 5 and 6, but noted he has a few openings for booth volunteers (i.e. nacho vendors). Please see him if you can spare an hour. Meanwhile, Mary held up a Luminaria bag and encouraged people to attend the ceremony at dusk on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## Announcements

**Pics clicked:** Dave Bermann estimated he shot around 50 portraits for the District Web site during his Photo Day fundraiser. People who didn't participate will have another chance at the June 3 meeting. For just \$5, all proceeds going to the club, you can look

like your 2010 self in your District profile. (If you'd rather NOT look like your 2010 self, negotiate PhotoShop opportunities with Dave!) Mary reminded everyone that updating your District information and photo are now requirements for turning Red badges into Blue. (Asked Kathleen Dwyer: "If we don't do it, do badges go back to red?" Mary's reply: "Sure.")

**Demotion in motion:** Tom Gagne is still taking sign-ups for Mary's demotion dinner July 1. Ninety (ninety!) people already have RSVPed. Please pay your \$20 per person in advance.

**Clean-up I:** Art Pollock congratulated the dozen Rotarians who participated in the Community Clean-up along the Bike Path at Paradise High School. The group helped clean a wide swath from the end of the field to the bleachers, just ahead of graduation. "It was a great day and a great turnout," he said.

**Clean-up II:** Kathy Maxwell reported that 11 Rotarians participated in the Skyway Clean-up and were so productive that they finished by 9 a.m. John Backues came away with two license plates; as for the animal carcass they found, the less said the better. The most common items were empty Marlboro packs — "they were found by everybody along the whole stretch."

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## **Presidential Trivia**

Here is Mary's challenge for this week:

*When was Arne Hartjen first elected Secretary of our Club?*

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

**Last week's winner:** Doug Martens

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## **Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)**

**Larry Miller:** Plugging his own band by promoting a PPAC event. **2 bells**

*Just one this week!*

*However, Mary made an offer that four people couldn't refuse: Commit to taking a bear on vacation, and the fine will only be \$10. Tom Gagne and John Backues took bears for the weekend; Ron Jones and Dave Bermann have dibs for upcoming weeks.*

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## **Speaker**

### **Steve Arrington, Dream Machine Foundation**

#### **Topic: Diving into Fiji**

Club members may be familiar with Steve, as he's spoken to Paradise Rotary before. He formerly served in the Navy, with a bomb disposal unit, then made a "marijuana mistake" and got convicted of trafficking narcotics. After his release from prison, he began speaking in schools, then got hired as chief diver for Jacques and Jean-Michel Cousteau, for whom he worked 8½ years. He's now a youth minister and runs the Dream Machine Foundation. "I'm an ex-felon — went to prison, deserved to go to prison — but God put me on a new path," he said.

He focuses a lot of his efforts on Fiji. He first became involved with the country when he'd take people there for scuba diving excursions and to work in a clinic. Supported by a Rotary club president there, he was able to put together \$195,000 to buy 850 acres. The land, which previously housed a small Christian school, now has a medical complex funded by a \$4.5 million donation from a Southern California couple. Over 2,400 people have volunteered at the facility, which performs an array of procedures including cataract removals and general surgery. Clinic personnel also visit outlying communities to offer medical and dental treatment.

"All the work is free," Steve said. "We've never charged in 12 years." Noting that a treatment for scabies costs just \$2 per child, "it doesn't cost much money to save lives in Fiji. Even a little can make a big difference."

The Dream Machine Foundation, based in Paradise, may identify itself as a Christian organization, but "the bottom line is doing the work," he said — then asked: "Does Paradise Rotary want to be involved in a big way ... on a deeper basis? I'm making a serious knocking on the door right now."

He summed up by saying, "I'm having more adventure now than when I was chief diver for Jacques Cousteau. This stuff changes lives."

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