



# Lamorindan



The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise  
Meetings Friday 7AM at Postino's Restaurant in Lafayette

March 16, 2007

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Dave Dickson — Pictures  
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## AH, DISCOURSE

Pat Flaharty explained that the art of conversation is not only saying the right thing at the right time, but leaving unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. At that moment, George Chaffey tardily entered, having been deprived of this education.

## MODEST AESTHETICS

We were greeted by a new furniture arrangement, courtesy of the Alta Mesa Gang, Flaharty and Edwards. Mostly it was rectangular replacing round, table-wise. There seemed to be general approval, but if the objective was to quiet everyone down, it didn't succeed.



Mike Edwards himself was an aesthetic explosion. His Hawaiian colors were compared with Joe Metcalf's honest working drab. The Mainland won out, and the Hawaiian was relieved of \$5. Joe modestly declined Brad Davis's offer of \$5 for a shirt removal.

Speaking of modesty, Ken Kosich may have incurred the first false modesty fine in our history. He claimed all he did for the Auction was furnish his little office. He did allow as how the Auction did OK, but the figures aren't completed. Continuing the false modesty theme, he and Patti did celebrate her birthday with a week at Tahoe, but when breathlessly asked what they did, he mumbled that they read a lot. No wonder \$40 was assessed.





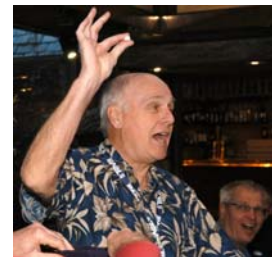
## OCCASIONS

Paul Fillinger has been PETted. In other words, he's undergone intense President-Elect Training. He's so pumped up that when he uttered the words "level of enthusiasm" he could hardly continue. He presented a "Rotary Share" (this year's RI theme) pin to Rich, claiming that a short theme is the best kind. He also flaunted a new banner. Losing no time, he announced a Leadership Training session on April 28th in Vacaville, brunch and lunch included. The cost is \$65 whether it's one person or the whole club, so how can we not go.

Tom Black took a bow, revealing that our winning 4-Way Speech contestant of last week, Nico Kirk-Giannini of Miramonte, was the District winner and will now head for the State finals. Tom of course taught him everything he knows.



Thomas Raeth has always been an alarming fellow. Daughter Simone spilled the beans when she related that Thomas set off the burglar alarm and her little brother Stefan rushed into her room thinking there was a burglar in the house. An outraged Pres levied \$20. Instead of lying low like a sensible man, Thomas admitted that he'll be in the Sun next week regarding the big flower show at the Cow Palace. Blatant advertising cost another \$5. Stay tuned to see what happens to him if he fails to mention our glorious club to the newspaper.



## SPECIAL

A special guest today was Ken Kosich's godchild, Alissa Conner, who will be our emissary to Camp Royal. She's a junior at Carondelet, and in her spare time only does peer counseling, diving team athletic council, preschool gymnastics teaching, youth leadership and volunteer work. But can she handle heights? She'll find out at Camp Royal.

Special for John Fazel was a white ball he unerringly picked up today.





## AIR CONTROL

It figured that slow-talkin' Georgian Buddy Burke would bring a rapid-fire union rep as our speaker. Mark Sherry is an air traffic controller at SF airport and represents the National Air Traffic Control Association, aka union. Both as a rep and as a controller, he has to be able to talk fast, and he proved that he can.

He represents 60 facilities in CA, AZ, NV and HI. His own SF tower has 27 controllers and 3 flow folks. They mostly try to keep planes from crashing into each other, and it sounds like the planes have plenty of opportunity to do so. The rhetoric between controllers and pilots is such that it's as wonder he and Buddy tolerate each other, but they seem to do so quite well.

The challenges are endless. The controller's mission is safe, orderly and expeditious movement of aircraft. The "expeditious" part apparently goes largely on the principle, 1st come 1st served. He didn't say this, but it's apparent that we innocent dumb passengers have no idea what-all's behind those stops and starts on the runway or those delays in landing. Mark played a few recordings of crisis discussions between controllers and/or pilots, but the fidelity was somewhat unclear, maybe luckily. One incident out the LA tower featured one plane suddenly jumping over another. Foreign languages can also create interesting situations. The toughest group to make allowances for is the Blue Angels.

The foregoing has been woefully inadequate and doesn't do Mark's amazing spiel justice. However, you can learn a lot by checking three websites: [NATCA.com](http://NATCA.com), which is about the controller industry generally; [avoiddelays.com](http://avoiddelays.com), which shows the current delay situation in gripping detail; and [LIVEATC.NET](http://LIVEATC.NET), where you can hear live talk.

Mark is required to retire from his controller life at age 56. It was appropriate that the speaker's book he's donating to a local school is called "Almost Gone".



## GUESTS

Jim Terril, member from the Bad Old Days  
Hayes Inglehart, still practically arrived  
Alissa Conner, Camp Royal camper-to-be  
Kira Wheeler  
Simone (tattletale) Raeth



## UPCOMING

3/23: Jenny Oorbeck, Central C.C. Waste Authority  
3/30: New Member Talks  
3/30: TGITLFOTM, Yeager's, 5:30  
4/6: Dr. Peter Corona, educator and consultant  
4/13: Mike Muir, grandson of John Muir  
4/20: JoEllen Peterson, Raphael House and Sophia Project  
4/28: District Leadership Training, Vacaville  
5/4: Jill Buck, GoGreen Initiative  
5/18: Amy Worth, MTC (formerly Orinda City Council), regional transportation  
6/8: Shelley Sandusky, attorney, death Penalty in California  
6/17-6/20: International Convention, Salt Lake City

