



# Lamorindan



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

May 16, 2008

Tom Black – Pictures  
Ron Brown – Editor  
Kevin Croak – Publishers

**Thought for the day:** “Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that women could be admitted to membership in Rotary. LSR was one of the first in the district to bring in a woman member. Deb Johnson led the charge for a foreign student exchange program, and Zuzka is the 14<sup>th</sup> student to receive this honor at our club. Let’s hear it for women in Rotary.” John Fazel

### Guests and visiting Rotarians

Mike Wilson: Final welcome. Outcome to be announced soon.  
Debbie Cooper: New Manager Mechanics Bank  
Chris Pasman: Concord Club  
Jerry Irwin: Moraga Club  
Simone Raeth

El Presidente Paul displays hot-off-press copy of new edition of club member directory produced by Secretary Chuck Yeager



### Other Stuff

Prez Paul unfairly fined PR chair Tom Black because the Contra Costa Times dumbed down a picture and press release in the Friday morning paper. His real beef was that the Lafayette Club had a bigger picture and longer write-up in the same edition! A light chorus of boos accompanied this proclamation. Tom took a further hit to his bank account because of his wife’s birthday and their anniversary during the past week. Tom’s comments were too priceless to print.

Dave Watson saved the Lafayette noon club from a potentially embarrassing “silent” concert at the reservoir on Sunday, by generously provided them with all of the audio “green power” they could ever hope to have. Way to go Dave!



Walt Nelson demonstrates to guest speaker Linton Johnson, chief spokesperson for BART, how he pushes his way onboard in crowded conditions. Ron Brown looks on in bemused amazement.



After meeting, a despondent Pat Flaharty confides to Brad Davis his secret addiction to gambling on rubber chicken racing. Brad said he knows of a psychotherapist who specializes in the treating the rare condition. Pat blamed one of the club-sponsored train rides to Reno for getting him hooked.

George Chaffey distributed a letter from former foreign exchange student Joerg upon whom he reported so eloquently the week before. George reminded us of the three most important things regarding Joerg's experience, and all other students as well:

- It's the small things that matter
- Weekly club involvement is very important
- The student is primarily influenced by the people they meet, not the places they visit.

Pat Flaherty really likes the rubber chicken award. The perpetual winners are Don Reichert for most make ups, and Dan Herbert for farthest away. At least Dan is currently being challenged by two other club members to be named later. No one has a chance against Reichert.

Jerry Irwin is prepared to return the barrel of wine stolen by Moraga earlier. He was advised to forget about it since we had previously stolen it from some other club.

John Fazel suggested a fine for Chuck Yeager for not putting the 4 way test or the website email address on the draft of the updated roster. Someone kindly explained to John that it was only a draft, and that Chuck was requesting input from the membership before going to the final version. The betting is that Chuck won't pay!

Brad Davis was the only serious person at the meeting. He reported on his mystical experience in various places in New Mexico's Monument Valley, etc. When queried about his feelings regarding the trip he said that it was "really a 4 way test kind of thing."

Thomas Peeks struck it rich in the fictitious white ball drawing courtesy of banker Debbie Cooper's deft drawing selection. I hope he went to see her later to make a deposit.



**Program:** Bob Becic introduced Linton Johnson, Chief Spokesperson and Department Manager for Media and Public Affairs at BART. He showed a video chronicling 35 years of BART history in the Bay Area. The video can be seen on the BART website at [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov). He reported that BART's ridership is 340,000 passengers per day. BART has the capacity to handle 500,000 riders daily, but only during 22 hours of the day. The only way it can reach that projected capacity by the fall is if businesses will agree to stagger start and stop times in the morning and evenings.

Exultant Thomas Peeks, already physically fit, becomes more fit fiscally by winning bounty from day's raffle



George Chaffey to Joanne Luscher: "Remember the good old days of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary?"

Joanne: "George, these ARE the good old days?"

The 25 year BART plan is to replace all 669 rail cars and change car design in order to handle more passengers, and move passengers on and off the trains faster. BART is already reducing the number of seats in cars in order to provide more standing room for passengers. Ernie thought this was a really bad idea. Linton said you wouldn't think that if you lived in Oakland or San Francisco where a passenger ride is shorter, and where getting on or off the train faster and easier is highly desired.

BART, like almost any other public agency in California, is taking serious budget cut hits. All of its sources of revenue are being reduced. It now faces a \$2.5 billion shortfall in funding over the next 25 years. The fire at the Hayward station was due to the fact that the equipment is 35 years old and was in great need of upgrading. That can be said for much of the other BART infrastructure as well.

Linton explained the new Easy Rider Card which acts much like Fastrak. The card is funded by a personal credit card, and only needs to be tapped on the turnstile to open and charge the credit card account. The beginning balance is \$45 and is replenished automatically when the balance reaches \$10. It is strictly a convenience feature, which does not have any positive influence on the BART capacity problem.

The only possible expansion plans for BART are in the South Bay, Antioch and Livermore.

### Current Calendar

#### Club: Weekly Meeting-Program

Friday 05/23/08 7:00am

Christing Herbert, niece of our very own Dan, shares her Peace Corp experience in Zambia which involved the Luanshya Zambia Rotary Club and Pat Coleman, the then District Gov for 9210. For her work in her remote village she was made a member of the Paul Harris Society by the Luanshya Club.

#### Club: Weekly Meeting-Program

Friday 05/30/08 7:00am

Expose Yourself!! Dave Dickson & Ron Brown.



Guest speaker Linton Johnson, chief spokesperson for BART, fields question from audience.



John Fazel



Ever-ebullient Zuzka, exchange student from Slovakia



Don Reichert

## Briefly Noted

By Prez Paul  
May 17, 2008

I call the picture below, "The Messenger." It is kind of a Mad Max who has gone half mad trying to get through WWI enemy lines with important news about Allied forces coming to the rescue...or

...or a Rotary Club president, who has gone half mad, racing to the finish line of his term as president.

***Only five weeks left!***



If a picture is worth a thousand words I don't need to say any more.

See you Friday. Bring a friend,

Paul