



Lamorindan

The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda
Sunrise



August 15, 2008

Krysten Laine — Pictures
Rich Shearer — Reporter
Kevin Croak — Publisher

GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

John Sherry - Lafayette, Club President
Larry Duson - Lafayette, Immediate Past President
A.C. Webb - Lafayette, Past President
Sherry Glover
Josh James - Hiking the American Discovery Trail, guest of John Fazel's (of course)
Don Dierkes - Orinda
Tracy Burke - Buddy's wonderful sister

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

None of the usual B&A stuff today, but there were a couple of publicity busts to announce. First, there was Jim Brennic, doing his best impersonation of Harley Jensen in the firm photo. No pin on the lapel equaled some sort of fine, but of course this reporter didn't catch what it was.



Next came Thomas Raeth's write-up in the local Chamber of Commerce profile. Again, no pin. This resulted in \$20 for the Club's coffers - \$10 from Thomas, \$10 from Patti Witalis for no particular reason.

Later on, Thomas was fined another \$10 for failing to turn in his Mystery Rotarian 3 items about himself thingy. I guess Prez Pat was serious about that.

MYSTERY ROTARIAN



This week's mystery Rotarian attended 14 different schools, including a one-room school house, studied Jumping and hunting (equestrian variety), and lived pretty much all over creation. Who else could this possibly be other than our very own Lt. Col. Patti Witalis, USA (Ret.)? Nobody else, that's who.

A MAN WHO KNOWS HIS JOB



Gillett Johnson is unquestionably destined for getting into the Sergeant-at-Arms Hall of Fame on the first ballot. Today, another example of why. Gillett announced that we needed two more \$10 fines. In order to make our weekly income quota? No, because we needed change for a twenty. You da man, Gillett.

WRAP-UP OF THE STAND DOWN

Paul Fillinger, Brad Davis and Patti Witalis reported on their long weekend at the East Bay Stand Down at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The verdict was unanimous: it was a moving, incredibly satisfying experience. This was a gathering of vets who need a helping hand, with medical, dental, social services and legal problems. And they got it, thanks to hundreds of volunteers, including our intrepid members. Oh, and Don Reichert took some great photos, which he shared with us all.



TIME TO BELLY UP TO THE WINE FESTIVAL



Alex Arnold is in charge of our annual efforts at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, and he needs our help. And no, this is not our usual Ruht Beer Float stand. This year, we are helping all weekend with parking directions and security. For this, the Chamber of Commerce will be paying the Club a chunk of change, something on the order of \$1,000. This is the weekend of September 19-21. Yes, that's Friday evening through Sunday closing time.

Oh, and we are, along with the Lafayette Club, manning a Rotary info booth, conveniently located in the Round-Up's parking lot.

This all adds up to one thing: we need your help. Seriously. There are a *lot* of work slots to fill, so please block out time to help out. And stay in touch with Alex. He'll appreciate it.

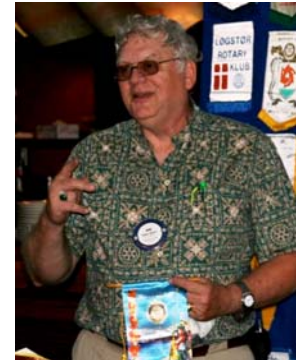


YOUR HAMSTRINGS ARE SAFE . . . FOR NOW

The great Softball Game and Groin Muscle Pull has been postponed from sometime this Fall to sometime next Spring. This reporter suggests you start stretching right about . . . now.

PULL UP A CHAIR AND SET A SPELL

Bob Heinen was back for a bit. As you might recall, he has spent a good chunk of time in Iraq and Libya. He's still spending chunks of time away from home, but now he crosses the Pacific Ocean, not the Atlantic. Nowadays. His homes-away-from-home now include, Guam, Hawaii and Okinawa. Good to have you home, Bob, whichever direction you fly in from.



RSVP, PLEASE

This month's TGITLFOOTM takes place a week early - as in, this coming Friday, 8/22 - at Casa de Raeth, and has a unique focus - preparing the famous dictionaries for the famous dictionary distribution project. There will also be some serious eats after the work part is over. Thus, Thomas and Tamara need to know how many of us are going to be there. So please, please, PLEASE let them know whether or not you and/or your Significant Other will be there. Thank you.

YOU HAD TO BE THERE



Don Reichert gave a copy of "The Proving Ground" to Pat Flaherty. It was written a survivor of a disastrous sinking during a major yacht race. Apparently, Don thought Pat would want to know how to sink a boat. I could be wrong about that, of course.

RENO ON MY MIND

Chuck Kenney has Reno on his mind. The Annual Reno Rotary Train Trip, more specifically. Sunday, January 25 to Monday, January 26, 2009. Mark your calendar.



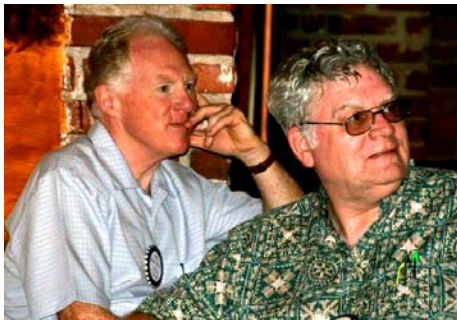
DUST OFF THOSE OLD PLUS-FOURS

John Sherry, President of the Lafayette Club, came by to announce the special golf tournament. And announce it he did. October 6 at the Rossmoor Golf Club. \$125 per. Call John for more info. Oh, and there are raffle tickets available, too. And guess what? If you call him, John will be happy to sell you some of those.



ANOTHER SEPTEMBER PROJECT

Buddy Burke let us know that we will be doing some work at Las Trampas in September. What we are doing and exactly when we are doing it? Buddy didn't say, but he promised to let us know in due course.



CONSIDER IT A VERY PALE BLUE

Prez Pat, back from his one week sabbatical (and reinstating sanity after last week's President Pro Tem foolishness), announced that we will all be getting new Lamorinda Sunrise "I Get It" shirts. They will be blue. Very, very pale blue. So pale, you might call it white.

So what size will you get? That depends. If you tell Pat what size you need, that's the size you'll get. If you don't tell Pat what size you need, you'll get whatever is left over. Consider yourself warned.

PROGRAM:

The history of California is, in significant part, the history of moving water from here to there. Without dams, reservoirs and aqueducts, the California and the Lamorinda area that we know simply could not exist. In our case, it's the East Bay Municipal Utility District that keeps the water taps flowing.

Today's speaker, Katy Foulkes, has been a major part of EBMUD, serving on its Board of Directors since 1994, including several years as the President of the Board. 1.3 million people (including we Lamorindans) get their water courtesy of EBMUD, which comes from the Mokelumne River watershed, courtesy of the Pardee Reservoir. Because there are no major users upstream from Pardee, the water we get is exceptionally high quality.



As Ms. Foulkes explained, there really are two reservoirs storing EBMUD water. The first one is the aforementioned Pardee. The second one? Snow. Pardee Reservoir first fills up from rain fall and run-off. It then refills as the snows upstream melt and run off into the Mokelumne River.

That's how it works most years. This past year had a very dry late winter. That means not much snow. Also, since the ground was unusually dry, a bunch more than normal of the snow was absorbed into said ground. Net result: Not a whole lot of snow to melt into the Mokelumne and run down to Pardee Reservoir. Translation: Less water than usual for EBMUD users.

That is why EBMUD is in a drought emergency. We can squeak by this year, but if there is another winter like the last one - and there is no way to say there won't be - we will be in a world of water hurt.

So what is being done? In the short term, EBMUD customers have to cut back. Really. There were questions from the audience about the way this is being enforced (basically, everybody has to cut back a set percentage, based on an average of the past three years' average usage, with some specific exceptions). The basic answer is that there is no answer that is 100% fair in everyone's mind, EBMUD simply does not have quick access to info such as lot size, number of occupants, etc., and there are time constraints in setting and changing rates that made it necessary to do it this way, at least for now. If the drought continues, the EBMUD Board will likely revisit how rationing levels are set, but that will have remain to be seen. (And hope that rain and snow fall amounts make it a moot point.)

In the longer term, there are a number of things, some certain, some in the investigation or experiment stage, some still conceptual. Recycled water? There's an experimental program in the San Ramon Valley. Desalinization? EBMUD is working with the San Francisco Public Utilities District and the Santa Clara and Contra Costa water districts. As it stands, desalinization is crazy expensive, but the work to make it less so goes on. How about working on increased ground water storage capacity? Working on it, with a test project in the development stages in the San Leandro area where EBMUD injects some Pardee water into an aquifer for extra storage. If it works, it could lead to a significant increase in storage, which means increased ability to store excess water in wet years for use in dry ones. Merger with other water districts? Not politically feasible.

But there is one option that will reach fruition soon. Even before she first was elected to the EBMUD Board 14 years ago, Ms. Foulkes was actively urging EBMUD to find alternate sources of water. And it is about to happen: After 30 years of litigation, at the end of 2009, the Freeport project comes on line. No, it's not a low-budget scary movie, but a system for taking water out of the Sacramento River near Freeport (*i.e.*, just south of Sacramento), transporting it to the Mokelumne Aqueduct, mixing it with Pardee water to maintain the quality, and sending it on its way to us. The good news is that this project is a reality, not a possibility. The potentially less-good news is that it will not be on line soon enough to save our proverbial bacon next summer if we don't get more rain and snow this winter. The year after that, though, EBMUD's ability to provide water even in drought years will significantly improve.

Many thanks, Ms. Foulkes, for taking the time to update us on what's happening at EBMUD. And thank you for your years of effort to increase EBMUD's water capacity while maintaining its high water quality.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our website Calendar (<http://www.rotarycoco.org/cgi-bin/caldisp.pl?club=53>) will have even more info, but here is a fair sampling:



Club: TGITLFOTM

Friday 08/22/08 05:30pm

This month at the Raeth's where we will all get to prepare dictionaries for distribution.

Club: Weekly Meeting-District Governor Jim Campbell visit

Friday 08/22/08 7:00am

District Governor Jim Campbell and his wife Linda visit the Lamorinda Sunrise group to present what's happening district wide this coming year. Do not miss it!

Club: Weekly Meeting-Expose Yourself

Friday 08/29/08 7:00am

Club: Weekly Meeting-Dictionary distribution to local third graders

Friday 09/5/08 7:00am

Our own George Chaffey gives us the history of the program, and shares some responses from the local community. Not to be missed, this is a special day for Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.

Club: Board Meeting

Tuesday 09/09/08 07:00am - 08:00am

Join the board for the monthly meeting at John Fazel's office in Orinda. The Prudential office is right across the alley (same side of street) from Peets (up stairs). Stop by Peets if you want a cup of coffee &/or something to eat.



Club: Weekly Meeting-Michael Mendonca, creator of the LN-4 prosthetic hand

Friday 09/12/08 7:00am

Michael Mendonca, creator of the LN-4 prosthetic hand program shares his experiences in designing, manufacturing, and distributing the hands.

Club: Tentative "Help out" day at Las Trampas

Saturday 09/13/08 7:30am

Club: Weekly Meeting-Booked, info on program forthcoming

Friday 09/19/08 7:00am

Club: Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

Friday 09/19/08 07:30pm - Sunday 09/21/08 05:30pm

The club will provide support for the festival this year during the whole event - Contact Alex Arnold for your time slot.



District 5160 Event: Group Study Exchange ... next meeting!

Tuesday 09/23/08 12:45pm

The next hosting meeting will be held on Sept. 23 at 12:45 at the Hampton Inn and Suites on 800 Mason Ave , Vacaville, CA. [Click here](#) for details. Posted by -Zoomie-

Club: Weekly Meeting-Expose Yourself

Friday 09/26/08 7:00am

