

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”

Volume 96, Number 14

4,649th Meeting

Friday, September 26, 2014



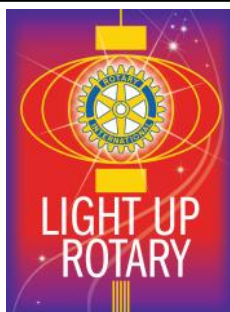
Sunrise on the Pacific Ocean during the voyage from Hawaii to Vancouver Island.

Photo by Charles Ramos

**Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.
at the Coast Bastion Inn**

CLUB OFFICERS 2014-2015

President Bob Wilson
Vice President Brent Stetar
Secretary Bob Janes
Treasurer Lynne Pankratz
President Elect Lila Tanner
Immediate Past President Douglas Anderson



**Serving Our Community Since
May 1, 1920 - Charter Number 43**

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Meeting Notes from Sept. 19th

By Mike Herold

President **Bob Wilson** began the meeting today with our National Anthem and **Doug Cowling** gave a very good invocation.

Susie Walker introduced our visiting Rotarians which included **Russ King-horne** from Cranbrook and **Derek Rickwood**, past president of Nanaimo North Club.

Our one guest today was **Sari Saunders**, wife of club member and today's speaker **Charles "Ancient Mariner" Ramos**.

"Mr. Rotary"

Bill Horman attended today's meeting and gave us the Health of the Club. Club member **Ed Borisenko** is improving in hospital and doctors have determined that Ed's back pain is caused by a blood disorder. Ed's wife Iris said that he was slowly improving.



President Bob was shy on President remarks today.

Bob Fenty announced a one week early motion to support giving Tour de Rock \$3,000 for their campaign. Seconded by **John Salem** the motion passed. This money is to be used either to help an individual child from Nanaimo suffering from the effects of cancer to attend lower mainland camp or to put the money toward helping others at the camp.



Frank Shoemaker announced that our contribution to the Sleeping Children Around the World campaign helps these children with safe and comfortable shelter.



Douglas Anderson reminded us to bring our old Rotary magazines to Douglas and he will use them to pass onto the non-Rotarians.

Richard Finnegan announced that the proposed car rally has been cancelled due to low participation and may be planned again for the spring.

Janeane Coutu asked if any members could help with building a fence at *Hospice House* this weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

President Bob announced that there is a movement by the Tumwater Washington Rotary Club to have "Service Above Self" as the annual and only Rotary theme. A notice will be sent out by Bob and the club will vote on it next Friday.

Bob also noted that the book sale is coming up October 17 to 26th at Nanaimo North Town Centre.

Sgt-at-Arms John Heisterman and his trusty partner **Bob Patrick** started by fining **Joan Ryan** because she needed to have her phone on during the meeting for medical reasons and Joan subsequently reminded John that she is also a Sergeant At Arms—so look out John.

John, in the spirit of today's program, asked the Club numerous questions about the poem *The Ancient Mariner* by **Samuel Taylor Coleridge** with some



Ass't Sgt Bob Patrick collects from Lila

being answered correctly but mostly wrong. John passed out his traditional M&M candies to the winners.

Happy and Sad bucks flowed into the bucket including \$20 from **John Salem** for his 40 year anniversary,

Joan Ryan for hubby Bruce's one week anniversary of his angiogram, **Susan Gerrard** for her chicken slaughter, **Douglas Anderson** for Scotland's referendum results,



Lynne wins candy with the correct answer.



Wendy Pratt \$20 to thank those for painting help at Hospice, **Lila Tanner** being proud of club member **Janeane Coutu** for her great speech at Travellers ground breaking ceremony

this week and **Bill Horman** for attending *Travellers Lodge* lunch with Susan recently.

Table Stakes were won by **Frank Shoemaker** and **John Shillabeer** won the chance to draw the Ace of Spades but the deck of cards could not be located. So John got substitute M&M's as a consolation prize.

Sailing Adventure: Young man and the sea

by Janeane Coutu

"Captain" **Charles Ramos** was introduced by **Mike Herold** as the seafaring engineer who took up sailing four months ago when he left for **Hawaii**, determined to be the first engineer from *Herold Engineering* to sail naked from Nanaimo to Hawaii and back.

There were numerous times when most humans would have given up, but not Charles. He is finally back at work so he can pay for the four outboard mo-

tors that he wrecked. Charles is still married to **Sari** and they have two children, **Alex** and **Abigail**.

Charles is a hunter and a fisherman, and his favourite movies are *Moby Dick*, *Flipper* and *Lost at Sea*. In his spare time, Charles watches re-runs of *Gilligan's Island*. "Seriously though" said Mike, "it's great to have you back at Rotary and work".

Charles is glad to be back too, but corrected Mike that he actually took up sailing two years ago when he purchased his 27 foot sailboat, the **Flagfish**. The **Albin Vega** sailboat is meant for open ocean sailing, he researched it carefully before making his purchase – from an 80+ year old man who had owned it for over thirty years and watched it be hauled away with tears in his eyes. The 4-month trip began on May 20th, with Charles and his friend **Adam** sailing to Hawaii with a route that took them first to San Francisco and then to Hawaii. On their second day of travel, the outboard engine died (*I believe the 3rd at this point*), so the decision was made to buy a brand new one – enough of the old and used! (*But alas, it was not going to last the voyage either, it died in San Fran.*)

The clockwise route was selected to follow prevailing winds. The 2100 mile trip to Hawaii saw the two sailors travel on average 100 miles a day. The return trip was a slightly longer route, 2700 miles and was completed solo by Charles in 31 days.

Charles had a few slides to show us the boat and an impressive shot from a kite with GoPro camera attached (*this later went overboard, along with many*



other items from the boat). The weather did get a little rough at times – there is no avoiding a storm the size they experienced which were moving 200 miles in 12 hours. The boat is only travelling 50 miles in that time. Good rainwear is a must have!

The two kept in contact with family via an emergency beacon that could pinpoint their position when they remembered to set the signal at 12 hour intervals. Adam also had a satellite phone so they were able to email when seas were calm.

Charles remarked they learned not to rely on electronics, that manual simplicity was best having gone through a few engines and a broken electric autopilot that forced them to hand steer for 24 hours/day, 5 days straight which was exhausting. Charles used his 2 hr rest time to put together a self steering mechanism kit he had brought along "just in case" which was a life saver for them.

Sights along the way.... a Japanese glass ball that took 5 passes and 1.5 hours to grab it out of the water (*don't call Charles & Adam if you need marine rescue*). Lots of wildlife – pelicans, whales, porpoises, albatross, fish of all varieties including pilot fish, but no sharks. A neat experience was the flying fish that travel up to 70 kph and can go for a mile. They fly like hummingbirds, make a similar noise, and go up to 30 feet in the air. They were hitting the sails at night and landed on the decks.



Charles shared some excellent photos for his presentation to the club.

Are they edible?– Absolutely! At all times there were mahi-mahi or tuna around the boat but they caught very little on the way there. Once in Hawaii Charles spoke to a fisherman who advised on the right lures and gear. Now he was catching a fish every minute, more than he could eat. Days were spent swimming, sleeping, monitoring the weather, fishing and reading. Not a lot to look at, didn't see any other boats but they did appear on radar, just no visual, it's a big ocean. Not a lot of eating, just didn't feel like it while on the boat which was just as well since they weren't catching anything on the trip down.

The biggest winds 40-45 knots off the coast in California caused the sailors to contact the Coast Guard to let them know if an emergency beacon goes off, it's real. And a personal scare (*and shared for the first time with wife Sari*) was being swept overboard by a breaking wave in 30 foot seas. He grabbed a lifeline on the way over the side and

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**District 5020
Conference
June 19 - 21**



Vancouver Island Conference Centre
NANAIMO, B.C.

ATTENDANCE

By Janeane Coutu

Attendance for **Sept 19th** was **56%**

We missed these Rotarians;

Blinston, Borisenko, Brand, Lucie and Yvan Gosselin, Hais, Hammond, Hewitt, Holzwarth, Janes, King, Lessan, Lewis, McIver, Narver, Raedler, A. Smith, J. Smith, K. Smith, Welch

Visiting Rotarians;

Derek Rickwood, Nanaimo North
Russ Kinghorn, Cranbrook

Guests of Rotarians;

Sari Saunders, guest of hubby Charles
Ramos

Make-ups;

Knutsson, committee meeting
Coutu, Hospice work party

Birthdays:

Bob Wilson on September 27th
John Shillabeer on October 1st

Spouse Birthdays:

Ron Willis [Joyce Smith] Sept. 28th
Marie King [Bill] on October 2nd

Anniversaries:

Dave & Pat Connolly, 58 years on
September 29th
Guenter & Rita Raedler, 48 years on
October 1st

Club Anniversaries:

John Heisterman, 19 yrs., Sept. 29th
Art Vanidour, 47 yrs., Sept. 29th

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS

Friday, September 26th

GREETERS	Brent Stetar, Bruce Samson, Bob Janes
CASHIERS	John Shillabeer
SGT-AT-ARMS	Joan Ryan
INVOCATION	Bob Fenty
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Rebecca Kirk, Alan Smith, Lila Tanner, Brent Stetar, Bob Janes, John Shillabeer, Bruce Samson
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Sharon Welch
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Alan Smith
PROGRAM	LITERACY: PROGRAM SUCCESS <i>Rebecca Kirk</i>
THANK SPEAKER	Lila Tanner

Friday, October 3rd

GREETERS	John Shillabeer, Charles Ramos, Bill King
CASHIERS	Eric Brand
SGT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Samson
INVOCATION	Richard Finnegan
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Erin Lee, Debbie Narver, Lila Tanner, Kathy Smith, Bill King, Charles Ramos, John Shillabeer
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Ross White
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Debbie Narver
PROGRAM	ROTARACT: Our Youth At Work <i>Erin Lee</i>
THANK SPEAKER	Kathy Smith

Friday, October 10th

GREETERS	Kevin Cantelon, Frank Shoemaker, Derek Lewis
CASHIERS	Eric Brand
SGT-AT-ARMS	John Shillabeer
INVOCATION	Susan Gerrand
HEAD TABLE	President Bob, Douglas Anderson, Ross White, Kevin Cantelon, Derek Lewis, Frank Shoemaker, Ian Williams
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Ian Williams
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	-----
PROGRAM	CLUB ASSEMBLY <i>President Bob & Douglas Anderson</i>
THANK SPEAKER	-----

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also had a tether line attached. Charles said it took about ½ a second to get back onboard – talk about adrenaline!

Charles' wife Sari and the kids joined him in Hawaii for a family vacation. After a three week break, Charles headed for home solo. The most nerve racking time was the first night, going to sleep and trusting the boat to autopilot. During the entire voyage, the only time they felt uneasy was anticipating the storms – once in the storm Charles says they were so busy there was no time to think about the danger. And

once it was over, total exhilaration!

Charles arrived back to port in **Ucluelet** on the evening of **August 16th** safe and sound, to the relief of his wife and children to be sure.

Douglas Anderson thanked Charles for his great presentation and stories. When asked "what next?", Charles wisely answered "Family Vacation".

Quotes from **President Bob**:

A small craft in an ocean is, or should be, a benevolent dictatorship.

Go small, go simple, go now.

Rotarian Support for Sleeping Children Around The World



Sleeping Children Around The World acknowledged donations from our Rotary club with three photos of recipients of the Bedkits. Each Bedkit contains a sheets, mattress, mosquito net, T-shirt, school shirt, uniform fabric, flip flops, school workbooks, pencils, pens, Khango, schoolbag. This year our club contributed \$1,490. to the Bedkit program in Tanzania.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 17 to 26—Rotary Fall Book Sale at Nanaimo North Town Centre. *We are in need of Quality Used Pocket Books.*

Oct 18—Rotary District Foundation/Grant Management Seminar, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. VIU Campus, Nanaimo. More info on website at www.rotary5020.org

June 19-21, 2015—Rotary District 5020 Conference, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo, BC



Winner of
District 5020
Best Bulletin
Awards

*"COGS" is the official bulletin of the
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