

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday

Sep 23: Mark Vosper

Happy Anniversary

Sep 25: Adrienne & Warren Dale

Sep 26: Mark & Linda Vosper

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Sep 21: Dale Shea
Rotary World Help Network

Sep 28: Shashanka Vangari
Who's Who

Oct 5:

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Guests: Charan Sekhon – a friend of Brenda Jenkins



Speakers: **John and Holly Mikulik**

John and Holly Mikulik have been travelling extensively since about 2006. They are legitimately “bipolar”, meaning they have been to both the south and north geographic poles. To date they have visited over 80 countries, and cannot wait to return to exploring the world. They both enjoy traveling a bit off the beaten path (a bit of an understatement) and are not strangers to just heading out on foot in a new city to see what they can find. They lived in Antwerp Belgium for almost 3 months and Holly lived in Sri Lanka for 2.5 years, otherwise they have always lived in Canada. They ran their own business servicing automated equipment mostly for the cruise ship industry in the Port of Vancouver. They are both retired, John just a few weeks ago.

Presentation: Their Trip to the South Pole.

John and Holly said that there have been more people that have climbed to the top of Mount Everest that have slept at the North Pole. It is no wonder, then, that when eating dinner with fellow passengers on a trip to the Caribbean in 2005 and being asked where they would like to go next, Holly said she wanted to go to the Antarctic. In February 2009 they took a 10 day trip to the

Antarctic Peninsula, but that trip did not take them across the Arctic Circle. So they wanted to go back again right to the South Pole. John deadpanned that he “wanted to be so close to the South Pole that he could pee on it, not that I would do it because that would be illegal”. So, they booked a trip with the company called Polar Cruises, out of Bend, Oregon, and in 2015 they flew to Chile to start their latest adventure. As the following slideshows, Antarctica is larger than territory of the United States.



After a few days in the city of Punta Arenas, Chile, situated on the Strait of Magellan (near the tip of Chile’s southernmost Patagonia region which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans) they took a five hour flight over the Antarctic Peninsula and landed at Union Glacier Camp, and from there took another airplane to the South Pole Station.



When this picture was taken of Holly and John at the South Pole, it was -25°C (-35°C with the wind chill factor).

In 1959 the Arctic Treaty was signed by 12 countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and USSR), who agreed to keep the Antarctic as a scientific preserve for peaceful purposes only, and to establish it as a zone free of nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste. Today there are 54 countries which have signed the treaty.



John and Holly stood on the spot where exactly 105 years previously, to the very day, Norwegian Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole as the first person to do so. [Captain Robert Scott and four others, on a British Antarctic expedition, tried to be the first to reach the South Pole but were beaten by Amundsen by just over a month. While Amundsen and his men came back safely, all of Scott's party died on the return from the pole].



Robert Scott

Roald Amundsen

John and Holly are planning another trip to the Antarctic Peninsula where John intends to go kayaking as he did previously at the northern end of the earth.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Walter was happy that while it was raining today, tomorrow was going to be good weather for his golf game.



Laurie was happy that today's cooler weather suits his clothes and that his hands were warmed by his steering wheel heater; and he related a story about a senior citizen who "paid it forward", and then "went the extra mile".

Most of the happy dollars, however, were given for a fun and successful Rotary camping weekend, with special thanks to Matt who booked the campsites and Adrienne to arrange the fun and games.



President Patrick was happy that the Toronto Blue Jays slugger Vladimir Guerrero drilled his 45th homerun of the season in last Monday's 8 to 4 win over the Tampa Bay Rays, just one homerun short of New York Yankees' great Joe DiMaggio who had a career-best 46 home runs in 1937.

Fine Master

Matt, in a further tribute to our South African club members, said that our annual camping weekend will now be called the Meadow Ridge Rotary Camping Social, and fined any member who hadn't attended previously to this event the sum of two dollars. Matt pointed out that there was a Friday happy hour, a Saturday morning breakfast, a Saturday afternoon games event, a Saturday night happy hour dinner and barbecue, and a Sunday morning breakfast – all being great social events that all members and friends are welcome to attend.

Garage Sale

Ineke again remind all members that our Rotary club was participating in the community garage sale to be held this Saturday, September 18 (see the last two Four Way Flashers for details).

Today's quote:



"The power of community to create health is greater than any physician, clinic or hospital".

Submitted by Laurie Anderson