

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Mark Forster Phone: 778-242-5549 [E-mail the President](mailto:Mark.Forster@meadowridge Rotary.ca)  
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882 [E-mail the Secretary](mailto:David.Riddell@meadowridge Rotary.ca)  
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392 [E-mail the Editor](mailto:Peter.Boekhorst@meadowridge Rotary.ca)



## AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION MONTH

Today:

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary	Invocation
		Aug 4: Laurie Anderson Aug 11: Brian Bekar

## CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 23		Frisbee Golf at Dave Rempel's place	10607-277th St. - Maple Ridge
Oct. 27	noon	District Governor Bill Robson's official visit	

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

#### Rotary Moment by David Riddell

It's the simple things in life and Rotary that matter.

Last week I was in Osoyoos and attended their lunch meeting. A smaller club than ours but with better attendance and I enjoyed simply meeting more Rotarians and listening about their involvement in a local marathon, their beach LobsterFest fundraiser and a great presentation on a Jacques Villeneuve designed race track / race car club called Area 27 (Villeneuve's old race car number).

Go and see what other Clubs are doing, it's just a fun time.

#### Happy & Sad:

**David Riddell:** I was sad because at Osoyoos Rotary last week I took my son, Edward, paid for lunch, and you get given 50/50 tickets as part of the lunch cost. Edward's ticket won.

I told him he really should give me the \$25 because

- I had driven us both to lunch and it would be petrol money;
- I bought the tickets so the money was rightfully mine; and
- He was under 18 so BCLC rules prohibited him gambling.

He didn't give me the winnings.

**Angie Edmonds:** Apparently her Bulldog is going in for a face lift of some sort. The dog has droopy eyelids (eyelids that roll inwards); a self-confidence issue, and for \$800 Angie felt this would give the pup a fighting chance.

**Bob Shantz:** Happy to say that the duck race is finally done.

**Libby Nelson** was happy and sad: Her daughter won't be getting elective surgery but the Doctors still do not have a handle on the cause of her medical issues.

**Matt DeBruyn** reported that he just heard back from his insurance company that his Trailer is not covered by his insurance plan as they consider the frame breakage to be a manufacturing defect. The manufacturer has denied the claim as well stating, that he is now outside the two year warranty.

#### Libby Nelson was the Fine Master:

How many countries are still considered Polio Endemic? Today, only 3 countries in the world have never stopped transmission of polio (**Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan**).

Do we still need to immunize children in those countries that are not endemic? Despite the progress achieved since 1988, as long as a single child remains infected with poliovirus, children in all countries are at risk of contracting the disease.

#### Meeting Announcements:

**Golfun:** August 7

**Garage Sale** August 22: Please advise Ineke if you have any items for the Garage Sale.

**Frisbee Golf:** August 23. Please advise Dave Rempel if you are attending and how many.

#### Our Speaker today was our Club President, Mark Forster.

The topic for discussion was: **What to do in the event that your Guest speaker does not appear.**

Mark introduced the topic with a short paper by **Thom Singer, known as "The Conference Catalyst"**. He works with meeting planners and conference organizers to set the tone for a meeting. His presentations educate, inspire and motivate attendees to engage deeper in the event and make meaningful connections. <http://www.conferencecatalyst.com>

## Things to do if your Speaker cancels

Every meeting planner has the same nightmare... They spend months organizing the perfect event for their company or association, with an eagle's eye for every detail. Then at the last minute their keynote speaker backs out. Programs are printed, people are arriving and there is nobody to take the stage.

While rare, this does happen from time to time. While there is no excuse good enough for the meeting planner, I have known of speakers who have had travel issues with airlines, been in car accidents, gotten the flu, calendared the wrong date, or had a family emergency.

A speaker no-show is more common for small groups that are not paying the presenter or use local executives for their program. Professionals make their living serving the client and will move mountains and part the oceans to be at the event. Because professional speakers work with meeting planners everyday, they understand and respect all the nuances that go into executing a meeting.

I have seen events of all sizes scramble at the last minute to fill an open slot in their agenda. Below are four things you can do if your speaker cancels at the last minute. (These apply for both local business club luncheons or a large multi-day industry conferences):

**1. Always have a Plan B.** I have worked with several organizations, who have my phone number on speed dial in case of a need for a last-minute speaker. While you might not think this would be something that would happen very often, I have filled in seven times in the last four years (last minute can mean a few days in before the event, several hours in advance, or once I was pulled from the audience to deliver a 45 minute keynote).

Savvy professional speakers also have a network of industry friends they can recommend who can step in at the last minute if a problem occurs. While you never want to get that call from your speaker, saying they are too ill to speak to your audience, if they have already found a fantastic solution it will make your day much better. (Speakers who are members of the *National Speakers Association* can tap into this network no matter where in the world they are scheduled to speak).

**2. Look to your event agenda, past speakers or future speakers.** A multi-day industry event will have a full docket of speakers who will already be present. Look to see whose program could be up-graded from a break-out to a keynote. If it is a break-out session you need to fill, see if the keynote speaker has more information that can be delivered as a "booster shot" to those who might want more following his or her main stage program (some speakers will charge you for the extra presentation, but most will be happy to step in and help you out in your time of need).

If it is a local business luncheon, look at your list of past speakers you have had over the last two years and see if you can bring one of them back for an encore. Since they already know the audience and the venue, they might be comfortable filling in with little notice.

Additionally, maybe a future speaker would be willing to come in and do his talk early. Some people might not be able to do this from a preparation stand-point, but asking is always a good idea.

- 3. Create a round-table lab.** Your audience is full of brilliant people. Select two or three topic questions that are cutting-edge and involve timely issues. Get someone on the board or planning committee to be the Master of Ceremonies and explain openly and honestly about how the speaker could not be there. Next proclaim this to be a fantastic and unique opportunity to crowd source knowledge and best-practices. Make the audience the heroes. Then share the discussion topics, having each table elect a discussion leader. Every few minutes the MC will encourage a new question be bantered about at the tables. During the last 20 minutes of the meeting each table reports to the whole the best thoughts shared in their group.
- 4. Make it a networking opportunity.** Turn the speaker-less meeting into a "Networking Speed Dating Bonanza" by encouraging people make more contacts. Extend the reception time, and once seated for the meal have everyone introduce themselves around their table. When dessert is served encourage everyone to move to a new seat in the room.

A main reason people attend business events is for the "networking opportunities", and most meeting planners admit that no matter how much time they schedule for people to mingle, they do not do a good job of it. Make this open time powerful by facilitating introductions and connections.

Leadership is paramount to success in this situation. If you confidently communicate to the attendees that the meeting will still have an equal or greater impact, then they will follow. If you are timid about the changes to the program being positive, then they are lost.

\*\*\* How about you? \*\*\*

What other suggestions would you add to this list? At this point in the meeting, the members were split up into smaller groups with the following two questions posed for discussion.

What do we do in the absence of a guest speaker? Please list ideas.

Suggestions for Guest Speakers: Names, Expertise/Topic of Discussion, Rotary Contact

Notes were captured from each group and will be shared in due course.

50/50

Angie Edmonds was both the winner and the loser.

**Submitted by Mark Forster**