



RICHLAND

January 19, 2010

ROTARY REACTOR

• Editor: Hal Ellner

• Web Site: www.richlandrotaryclub.org

- PO Box 37 • Richland, WA 99352
- Meetings every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.
Red Lion Hotel (Hanford House)
- Charter 7390 • District 5080 • Club ID#262

Upcoming

1/26 – Sharlyn Storm: Motherhood is the New MBA

2/2 – John Clement: Photography

2/9 – Matt Ulrich: Barking Lot

Of and For the Club

The matter of song has taken on a new and joyous dimension, with Justin's voice the prime factor.

Jan G. has circulated cards concerned with Gloria Zinn's protracted convalescence and the severe events in June's family.

Prezz Grant has distributed registration forms for the District Convention in May.

Judge Tom K.

Jon, back from Kanai, remains Jon...Pam, back from Mazatlán, suggested aid to Haiti via SIGN, a thought that caught on...Art rejuvenated his Pardon Me card...The Lemak family had some ups and downs, one resulting in an Odessa, TX pulpit...Jan J.: 40th anniversary...Jack: 89th birthday...Ken had a short course in anatomy/

physiology in Seattle, body parts and all...The Judge anticipated a political result to his liking and is doubtless a happy camper.

Visiting Folk

Columbia Center Rotarian Al Mouncer.

Meredith Farris (Dave Lemak), Greg McCann (Bill Taylor)

En Broma

The executive was interviewing a potential employee for a position in his company. He wanted to find out something about his personality, so he asked, "If you could have a conversation with someone, living or dead, who would it be.

The interviewee quickly responded, "The living one."

Two kids were trying to figure out what game to play.

One said, "Let's play doctor."

"Good idea," said the other. "You operate and I'll sue."

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Judy L. Addis (2S)
Steve Arneson (2S)
Jeremy Asmus
Bill Battershell (5S)(B)
Bob Best (2S)(B)
Tom Bock (5S)(B)
Gordon Bopp (S)
Ernie Boston (D)(B)
Dee Burrie
Herb Cahn (4S)(B)
Thomas A. Cowan (2S)(B)
Bob De Lorenzo (D)(B)
Jeanne Dillner (S)
Hal J. Ellner (R)
Jo Ferguson
Diane Fossum (2S)
Phill Fossum (3S)
Barbara French (R)
Jan Griffin
Greg Holben (S)

Jan Jackson (S)
Larry D. Jecha
Darrel Johnsen
Roy Keck
Scott Keller
Shelley Kennedy
Tom Kirchner (4S)(B)
Walt Kirkpatrick (2S)(B)
Art D. Kohler (2R)(B)
Dave Larkin (4S)
Bob D. Larson (3S)(B)
Pamela Larsen (3S)(B)
Dave Lemak (2S)
Phil Lemley (S)
Tim Lewis (S)
Yosen Liu (S)
Larry Lowry (S)
Mike McAndrew
Grant McCallum (S)
Bill McCue

Jerry J. McGuire (B)
Richard L. McLean (5S)
Bing Manawadu
Robert D. Nichols
Greg Oberg (2S)(B)
Thomas M. O'Brien (2S)
Marge O'Connell (DD)(B)
Joseph V. Parrish
Jon M. Putz (4S)
Ed Revell (2S)
Ray K. Robinson (4S)
George Sanders (2S)(B)
Gary Scofield (4S)(B)
Anjan K. Sen (S)
Chris Senske (S)
Bill R. Siefken (R)
Mark Smith (3S)(B)
Mike Spellman (3S)(B)
Lloyd Swain (5S)(B)
Ruth Swain (4S)(B)
Bob Tibbatts

Russell Treat (B)
Rampur S. Viswanath (4S)
Sam R. Volpentest (R)(B)
Gregory T. Warner (S)
Joe Westsik (2S)(B)
Ken Williams (3S)
Hal Williamson (D)(B)
Keith Woods (S)(B)
Jack D. Zinn (3S)
(B) Benefactor
(D) Diamond PHF
(DD) Dbl. Diamond PHF
(R) Ruby
(#R) Multiple Ruby
(S) Sapphire
(#S) Multiple Sapphires
(6/30/09)

Officers

PresidentGrant McCallum
Vice President.....Darrel Johnsen
Secretary.....Dave Larkin
Treasurer.....Diane Fossum
Foundation Treasurer....Bob Tibbatts
Past President.....Dave Lemak

Directors

Club Service 'A'William Taylor
Club Service 'B'Tom O'Brien
Community Service.....June Ollero
International Service.....Phil Lemley
Membership Activities...Darrel Johnsen
Vocational Service.....Greg Holben

Last Week

Roy Gephart, astronomer, hydrogeologist, and active member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Science Through Astronomy (AASTA) had once addressed the club on astronomy. He returned after several years to speak on the subject of the late Rattlesnake Mountain Observatory (RMO) and specifically where its second incarnation may be.

Prior to dealing with the search for a new location, he touched on some of the history of the observatory, the many good things about the site at 3600 feet elevation, the factors that brought about its removal, and some dimensional numbers. The dome was 24 feet in diameter and the mirror just short of a meter. During the RMO's life, he had, over 25 years, taken community members there, not only for telescopic viewing, but to enjoy the impressive view and to discuss the history and geology of the area. Revenue from tours to the RMO helped support the Mid-Columbia Symphony. Musicians, in turn, would at times play their instruments on the mountain. In 2009, the observatory was removed from the mountain, to be stored at Columbia Basin College. There it is undergoing renovation and refurbishment.



The existing observatory at CBC is largely the result of the Moore family's beneficence. It is named after them. It is an excellent one, but is at ground level and subject to light pollution. AASTA is instrumental in a consortium of colleges to help build science programs for middle school and younger students.

The mission now is to find a location and rebuild the observatory there. The hope is to reopen it by the summer. With our venue as its central point, he showed a circle of acceptability for the site. The confines must be within Washington. Conditions to be aimed for: dark night sky; ready parking access; a land parcel of 1-2 acres at sufficient elevation; land acquisition by donation or long-term lease; electricity access; security; within 40 miles (45 minute drive) of the Tri-Cities. Some attractive areas exist in the Horse Heaven Hills, Yakima Ridge, and Lake Wallula Gap. He mentioned Battelle's substantial support of AASTA.

Persons who spend time at an observatory and up on its mountain can become transfixed as they note the change from day to night and its effect on the scenery. A sense of perspective takes hold at the perception of the boundless sky and at that which abounds therein.

Ed. Note: This speaker, when discoursing on astronomy per se, is a bravura performer. He is agreeable to giving such a program. Such an opportunity should be grasped without hesitation.