



Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Bullhead City eBulletin

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Club Web Site

Editor: Art Harrington
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Good meeting
by Art Harrington

Future Speakers

Aug 28 2008

Larry Wentzlaff
"Charter Schools"

Sep 11 2008

Scott Merrill
"Dictionary Day"

Sep 18 2008

Nancy Synagoga
"High School District
Superintendent"

Upcoming Events

Club Board Mtg

Sep 3 2008

Dictionary Distribution

Sep 11 2008

Club Christmas Party

Dec 18 2008

Burro BBQ

Apr 17 2009 - Apr 18 2009

Installation Dinner 09-10

Jun 11 2009

News

Quote of the Week - Who Said It?

Thought for the Week - Who Said It?

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Club forum sparks ideas



Most who attended last week's club forum would agree that it was a positive and productive meeting for our club. A large number of members offered their suggestions for a variety of new club fund-raising projects. The originators of these ideas were encouraged to further research the fund-raising potential of each, along with the essential requirements that would be involved in implementing their proposals, and channel that information in to Stephanie Moore and her Community Service Committee. That committee was asked to evaluate the possible projects and report back to the club with 2 or 3 of the most promising ones to recommend to the club for adoption.

One idea presented by Shirin McGraham was quickly grabbed and passed by the club. The city is reportedly looking for an organization that would accept responsibility for coordinating the Rotary Park landing events for the River Regattas, and has indicated they would favorably consider a bid by Rotary. While this would produce no income during this Rotary year, the members felt our sponsorship of that post party portion of the Regatta had great future potential for raising service funds for the club as this event continues to grow.

In addition, Scott Merrill did a great job reviewing the history of our Dictionary Project for our newer club members, and encouraging everyone's participation in this year's distribution to the 3rd graders.

Mike Conner also gave us an update on the plans for the new ramada in Community Park, and passed around copies of the drawings. Mike says the city is promising that construction will be finished by the end of December. Mike is doing great on his new knee, and the word is that Bob Schoen is progressing on his as well.

Pirates abound
by Art Harrington



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BC Regatta draws thousands

Bullhead City's second annual River Regatta drew an estimated crowd of 4,100 on Saturday, along with some 3,000 entries. Anything and everything that would float on the Colorado, including inner tube, rafts, home-made boats and hitched-together combinations, became a part of the colorful and happy parade down the river. Many of the entrants, including some who came from as far away as Stratford, Connecticut, donned pirate costumes. In addition, a large number of the entries hoisted skull and crossbones flags, depicting this year's "Pirates of the Colorado" theme.

Probably the most ambitious entry this year, by the "River Regators," was a 100-foot pirate ship, hauled in on five trailers and assembled at the launch site. Among other features, the huge pirate vessel boasted a papier mache alligator on its bow. Another entry featured a larger-than-life inflated pirate. Regardless of the floating conveyance, fun was obviously being had by all. And, of course, everyone wound up at Rotary Park, where the awards were announced and presented.

Next year's theme, "Back to the Future," will celebrate Bullhead City's 25th anniversary of its incorporation. Now with the enthusiastic backing of the Laughlin Casinos, it is expected this event will continue to grow exponentially each year as more and more are drawn to it, both as spectators and participants.

(Photo by Steve Johnson)

A great beginning
by Art Harrington

Interact kicks off with 75



to their first meeting this year at MHS

Our Mohave High Interact Club is starting off with a bang this year! Kari Hoffman and Kelly Burgess, our Rotarian links to the club report there was "standing room only" at the Interact Club's first meeting of the year, as 75 students crowded into the classroom and spilled out into the hallway as well.

Vanessa Buus is the fantastic faculty sponsor of this growing service club on the Mohave High campus. We deeply appreciate the commitment she has to this club and its members.

MHS Interact meets at 7:30 on Wednesday mornings in Room

124 in the T-Wing of the high school. Rotarians are invited and encouraged to attend one of these Interact meetings. Besides being an encouragement to the Interactors, your visit merits a make-up for a missed Rotary meeting.

Mexico is calling

by Art Harrington



An invitation from Cuernavaca

Raquel Limon, the immediate past president of the Valle de Cuernavaca Rotary Club, our partner club in Mexico on our Matching Grants projects both here and there, invites you to come visit!

Raquel's Rotary club is inviting members of our Bullhead City club to come to Cuernavaca the weekend of September 13-15 for the opening and celebration of our project we undertook together in that city to benefit the children and youth in the school for the handicapped. The club members would like to host you in their homes that weekend if you can come, so there would be no hotel expense.

Please let us know if you might be able to travel to Cuernavaca next month to represent our club.

Birmingham bound

by Art Harrington

WOW! It's contagious!

In last week's club bulletin we encouraged BC Rotarians to consider joining us in Birmingham, England, next June for the celebration of Rotary International's 100th Convention.



We learned at Thursday's meeting that at least 9 or 10 from our club are seriously considering making that trip to Birmingham. That would be fantastic!

A word of warning, though: Book your flights and hotel early. They are already filling up for this popular convention. If you need information or help, let us know.

Kingman Rte 66 Club

by Art Harrington



Of spaghetti and bachelorette auctions

County Treasurer Lee "Wojo" Fabrizio (who also serves as President of the Kingman Rte. 66 Rotary Club) invites you to drive up and join them this Saturday evening when their club holds its annual benefit Spaghetti Dinner.

The annual \$5 dinner event is a benefit for the Mohave County Senior Center, and is being held at the Katherine Heidenreich Adult Center.

However, for those of you guys who might find such an event a little too sedate for your liking, Lee is throwing in something a little more interesting to get you to drive up over the mountain: a Bachelorette Auction as well.

Sounds like lots of fun, and it's for a good cause! The adult center is located at 1776 Airway in Kingman.

Photo: Hey, Wojo sent no pics; so we just had to exercise our imagination a bit!

A Rotarian's testimonial

"Living the family of Rotary"



When I went to my first Rotary lunch in 2001, my host asked me to join but couldn't give me too many details about what exactly Rotary was so I went home and looked it up on the internet.

Reading the mission statement, the object of Rotary, the Four Way Test and what Rotary was doing around the world grabbed me and said, "This is you, this is what you've been looking for all your life, you have to be a part of this, these people think the same way you do."

I never knew there was an organization like Rotary that believed in serving others, working together across borders and cultures; all the things that I held so dearly. I immediately called my sponsor and said, "Yes, I can't wait, I want to be part of Rotary!"

In the past six years I have never been disappointed. Rotary is everything it claimed to be and more. I have found the best of friends, both in my community, across the U.S. and internationally.

My family has jumped right in with me; my oldest daughter is Past President of our Interact Club and helped start an EarlyAct Club at my youngest daughter's school so she too could be involved.

All of us traveled to the Chicago convention where we met so many people who believe in Service above Self. Our family has visited an orphanage in Mexico and delivered school supplies, books and games, sundries and food.

We have been warmly welcomed in Rotary Clubs in other cities during our travels. We have painted purple pinkies and given away dictionaries and Thanksgiving food baskets; we have done RYLA, assemblies, and conventions. We are living the family of Rotary and couldn't be happier!

-- Sandy Fleck, AG, D5330, Member of Rotary Club of Twentynine Palms, CA

It all began with GSE



Safe Blood Africa - *saves*

lives, forges partnerships

As a Group Study Exchange team leader to Nigeria in 2002, Warren Kaufman visited a hospital where he saw children dying because there was no safe blood for transfusions. Two years later, he returned and helped install a refrigerated blood bank unit. Since then, the nonprofit he helped launch, Safe Blood Africa, has donated 13 more units, saving potentially 11,000 lives a year. Each has received funding from a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, for a total cost of US\$354,000.

The project was jointly initiated by the Rotary clubs of Carmel Valley, California, (Kaufman's club), and Uyo, Nigeria. Almost one in four people in Nigeria, mostly women and children, die due to a lack of available blood or tainted transfusions.

Kaufman is now working to expand the project across Africa. "We're using Rotary credibility to reach out to the larger NGO market for funds," he says. Rotarians have already forged partnerships with Nigeria's Ministry of Health and the Nigerian Red Cross, as well as with traditional leaders. These connections helped Safe Blood Africa win an RI Best Cooperative Projects Award last year.

Several U.S. Rotarians have traveled to Nigeria to help deliver the blood banks. They also gave blood to encourage Nigerians to do so, since blood donation is a relatively new practice in much of Africa.

When Kaufman delivered the first blood bank to a hospital, he met a young woman and her newborn, who were dying. That day, he also donated blood. He returned several hours later to find the new mother sitting up, holding her baby, and smiling at him. A transfusion of safe blood - possibly his - had saved her life. The Safe Blood Africa project "now had the face of that mother and child," he recalls. "It became my calling that day."