



Rotary Club of Bullhead City eBulletin

Thursday, October 16, 2008



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

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Club awarded grant *by Art Harrington*

Club awarded DSG for Summer Reading Program



We have just been notified by Carolee Terpstra, the District Rotary Foundation Co-Chair, that Bullhead City Rotary has been awarded a District Simplified Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for our summer reading program for the K-2nd grade students in our local schools.

While only \$22,806 was available this year for DSGs, with applications for grants from the clubs totalling \$52,062, our club's project, headed by Willie Richardson, was chosen by the grants committee to receive the full amount we had requested.

This project, which started out serving the students of only one school, is expected to provide a paperback book of their choice, and at their individual reading level, to some 1,500 of these students in all four of Bullhead City's elementary schools next May. Statistics show that children who are encouraged to read during the summer retain a much greater percentage of their reading skills when they return to school for the next year.

Willie personally selects and orders the books for the program in March. Then, when the books arrive, many hands will be needed to help insert labels or stamps inside the cover of each book, to identify it as a gift from the BC Rotary Cub. Finally, the books have to be sorted and grouped by reading level, and then delivered to the schools for the children to make their selections during the week of May 25-29, 2009.

Our exchange student *by Art Harrington*



Ika addresses our club

Veronika Zubriczka, our Rotary Youth Exchange student this year from Slovakia, delighted our club last week as she shared with us about herself, her country, community and family. She came bearing

gifts, including a banner from her sponsoring Rotary club in Roznava, Slovakia. Roznava is a picturesque old mining town, with a population of about 20,000.

Back at home she lives in a four-generation house, with her great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and her younger sister Caroline. She attends a Commercial Academy. A particular subject she has chosen to study is Applied Economics. She likes biking and playing table tennis, volleyball, basketball and soccer. Her most favorite sport, though, is swimming.

In her free time Ika volunteers as a children's coordinator at a church-sponsored recreation center called DOMKA. In the summer she works with camps for the kids.

While speaking 4 languages, Ika has been studying English for 6 years. One of her goals is to become more fluent in English during her year here in Arizona, but she demonstrated a good command of the language in her presentation to the club. Her ultimate goal is to be able to work in the field of Tourism.

Our thanks to Shirin McGraham for picking up Ika and her host dad, Mark Huey, at the airport Thursday morning, taking them to breakfast at IHOP and showing them around Bullhead City before bringing them to our club meeting. Special thanks to Mark for flying Ika up here in his plane to meet and speak to our club.

We got it!

by Art Harrington

BC Rotary chosen as Regatta post-party sponsor



In follow-up to the club's recent decision, in a club forum, to apply to the city for appointment as the official sponsor for the annual River Regatta's post party segment in August, Shirin McGraham and Stephanie Moore have met with the mayor and the city's parks and recreation director. The outcome of the meeting, after due consideration of our application over the past few weeks, is the awarding to our club of the full responsibility for the post party concessions and events. The Matadores had already been promised the beer concession by the city, but we will be handling everything else - or delegating some concessions to other organizations, as we choose.

With next year's attendance estimated at upwards of 10,000, the fund-raising potential of this sponsorship is tremendous.

Shirin, who initially presented the idea to the club, volunteered to chair the event for us. She and Stephanie, our Community Service Chair, will continue to meet and work with the city as the plans for next year's River Regatta begin to take shape. Next year's theme: "Back to the Future."

This Thursday

by Art Harrington



Club Forum this week

Our club board has scheduled another **Club Forum** for this week's meeting.

On the agenda will be the presentation and discussion of a revised budget. Previously requested figures are now available, and we are hopeful a budget can finally be adopted for the year.

In addition, we will be discussing some of the new projects and fund-raising events that have been proposed at our previous Club Forums. The board believes informed and involved members in the decision making process help our club to thrive and grow. A forum is a time for all club members to be heard, and to lend your insights and ideas. You can also volunteer to lead or participate in projects that particularly interest you.

Good things are happening in our club this year , and we believe our **Club Forums** are integral to our continued success.

Roadside cleanup

by Art Harrington

Saturday is the day!



This Saturday is really a "hands-on projects" day for our club. In addition to our **WeekEND Hunger Backpack project**, and our volunteers who will be handling the beer sales at the biker-sponsored "**Soldier Down**" event, we also need as many hands as possible to assist early that morning with our **Roadside Cleanup Project**.

Stephanie says we need to meet at **Mohave Community College at 8:00 a.m.** Bring your cap & gloves, so you can lend a hand with this joint project with our Interact Club members.

Backpack food project

by Art Harrington



Alan & Laura are up this weekend

Our club's volunteers this Saturday to serve with our **WeekEND Hunger Backpack Project** will be -

Laura Grasse and **Alan Callner**. They will be reporting at 9:00 a.m. to Room 805 at Mountain View Elementary to help load up the bags with kid-friendly food that will be transferred into the backpacks of the participating children the next two Fridays.

Pictured here is **Mike Conner** as he and **Dave Moore** (behind the camera) represented our club on Oct. 4th. *(Okay - so next time Mike you get to take a not-so-flattering picture of Dave!)*

Foundation Dinner

by Art Harrington

Francisco Grande on Nov. 15



Okay - so neither the greens nor the sand traps on that beautiful golf course we showed you last week looked like that great a spot to dine at our Tri-District Rotary Foundation Dinner next month?

Check out the accommodations shown above as an alternative for the big event. In addition to the steak and shrimp dinner (for \$47), the resort has blocked rooms for Rotarians and spouses at special rate of \$94 (or \$124 for a suite).

You can register and pay for the banquet online at <http://trfbanquet.eventbrite.com>. All room and golf reservations (in case that course *did* catch your eye) need to be made directly with the hotel. Call toll-free at (800) 237-4238, and ask for the Rotary rate.

Rotarians making it happen



Rotarians offer rapid response
to food crisis in Haiti

As a global food crisis sent shockwaves around the world earlier this year, a Bahamian district governor used contacts from the 2007 International Assembly to help his Caribbean neighbors.

A variety of factors, including population growth, increased demand, and climate change, led to spikes in food prices that left millions hungry and spurred protests throughout the developing world. In Haiti, where most people live on less than US\$2 a day, riots killed six people and led to the prime minister's dismissal in mid-April.

When Dick McCombe, 2007-08 governor of District 7020, heard the news, he contacted his assembly "classmates" - fellow district governors he had met during the training meeting. Those in zones 33 and 34, which cover the Caribbean, Guyana, Suriname, and part of the United States, worked with their clubs to raise US\$30,000 for emergency food supplies. District 7020, which encompasses 10 Caribbean countries and geographic areas, raised an additional \$32,000.

McCombe also tapped Rotary contacts with disaster relief experience. "Within one week, we established a Haiti emergency response team and had involved all 15 Haitian Rotary clubs - approximately 300 Rotarians working under the guidance of the assistant governors, a Haiti task force, past district governors, and our district disaster relief chair," he says. By the end of April, 285,000 prepackaged meals supplied and packed by Rotarians were being distributed. By June, plans to deliver another 1.4 million meals were underway.

But Rotarians are looking beyond short-term solutions for a country that must depend largely on food imports because of its own low food production. "We know that the situation - because of the global economy and the increased cost of the commodities - will only get worse, so we have embarked on a program to develop sustainable agricultural projects throughout the country through microcredit initiatives," McCombe explains.

Plans to seek support from The Rotary Foundation are in progress, and Rotary clubs have partnered with charities such as Hope for Haiti and Lifeline Christian Mission. McCombe says he also picked up ideas for the project at the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles.

-- from Rotary World