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The Rotary Club of Sedona and Club Members Honored

Sedona, Arizona, May 22, 2015 -- May turned out to be a month of many awards for the Rotary Club of Sedona. Rotarians gather each year at District Conferences around the world to learn of service projects, share ideas and recognize Clubs and individuals for outstanding service to others during the previous year. The western Arizona conference that was held in Phoenix in mid-May resulted in special recognition for the Rotary Club of Sedona and local Rotarians.

Renata and Richard Barnwell were individually recognized for their support of Rotary's guiding principle of "Service Above Self." Renata Barnwell was singled out as Rotarian of the Year for the District. Her name was added to a special traveling trophy that pays tribute to the most outstanding Rotarian from over 1200 in the District.

No sooner had Mrs. Barnwell received her award than her husband, Richard Barnwell, was named as one of only 100 spouses in the world to receive the Rotary Spouse Award - a special prize for non-Rotarians who serve side-by-side with their spouse and other Rotarians. Mr. Barnwell is one of three Honorary Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Sedona.

Rotary Club of Sedona President David Simmer accepted a number of awards on behalf of the Club. The Club received the Rotary International Presidential Citation, Club Builder Award for outstanding growth as well as the District Governor's sole selection for the Best Club Visit. The Club also received recognition for supporting Rotary's initiatives to promote ethics in business and for expanding community awareness of the tragedy of human trafficking.

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The beauty of Sedona to visitors from overseas gave the Club a special, impromptu opportunity to host international Rotarians in the days following the Conference. Rotarians Harry Grossman, John Crawford and Wendy Bialek-Kling arranged to have a half dozen foreign Rotarians from as far away as Australia and India to visit the Club and tour Sedona.

A dozen Rotaractors, Rotary's organization for college students and young professionals, traveled to Sedona after the conference from Phoenix. The group was composed of eight ASU students and four Rotaractors from Europe, Asia and Malaysia. The Rotaractor's were hosted by members of the Rotary Club of Sedona for a barbecue before camping near Poco Diablo.

On the Tuesday following the Conference Cathy Roth of Geelong, Australia and the Rotary International President's Representative accepted an invitation to address the Club at its weekly meeting. She was accompanied by her husband, Dr. John Roth and District 5510 District Governor, John Pennypacker. Her remarks to the Club echoed the keynote address she made at the Conference. She encouraged the members of the Club to find ways to serve those around the world whose lives could be made better with a helping hand.