



*Award Winning*

## ***Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter***

**February 18, 2009**

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
**Malibu Rotary Club President Bow Bowman**

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**Edited by Dr. John W. Elman**

**Pictures by Dr John W. Elman**

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**Malibu Rotary Website:** <http://groups.msn.com/maliburotary>

Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)

Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280la.org](http://www.rotary5280la.org)

Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>

[RI President \(2008-2009\) D.K. Lee](#)

**Rotary District 5280 Governor (2008-2009): Chuck Anderson**

**Bob Syvertsen, Craft talk:**

**Bob looks back on his life through the cars he has owned with vintage pictures**



The last time **Bob Syvertsen** gave a craft talk at a Malibu Rotary Club meeting was 35 years ago. Since most of the current members were not even in the club then (some had not even been born yet) Bob decided to give us an updated version of his biography while showing us pictures of the cars he was driving at different times during his life. He started with one of his present cars, and the one he has probably driven the longest in time, and furthest in distance—his 1998 Toyota Camry. Being an accountant Bob has always been meticulous about numbers. He said most of the miles he has put on the Camry have been highway miles, having driven it half way across the country to the Midwest several times, and to his vacation home at Bass Lake. He has driven it 127,542 miles and has put 4, 398 gallons in it, and therefore he knows

that he gets 29 miles to the gallon—much better mileage than any of his other vehicles. He also showed us a picture of the 1999 Rav 4 that his wife usually drives.

Previous to these vehicles Bob was driving a 1983 Camaro. At the time Bob was controller of the company that published the *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*. The *Outlook* was the primary news source in Santa Monica in the 60's and 70's, and was owned by a family that included Bob McClure (from which the McClure tunnel—which transitions I 10 into PCH—is named) and the Funk family. Bob said that anyone running for public office in Santa Monica in the 60's could not win without the endorsement of the newspaper. And McClure himself was responsible for making sure that “Santa Monica” was the destination put on area freeway signs starting many miles away. The *Outlook* gave its officers a car, which was leased, with the option to buy at a good price after the 3 year lease was up. Bob showed us 2 pictures of the 1983 Camaro. The first one showed a picture of the Camaro in its shiny new showroom shape. Bob said he never got a chance to buy back the Camaro, and when you saw the second picture of the Camaro you knew why. In a picture captioned “dented 1983 Camaro” there was a heap of mangled metal in a collision yard or junkyard, the remains of the vehicle Bob was driving when he was involved in a head-on collision on PCH near Corral Canyon in 1983. The story and the picture appeared on the front page of the *Malibu Times* that year. The driver of the other vehicle had apparently fallen asleep at the wheel and smashed into Bob's Camaro when Bob was on his way to work in the morning. Those of us in Rotary at the time remember that because Bob was a little wobbly for a while after that.

A car that Bob had before the Camaro was one he considered to be his “worst car.” That was the 1974 Audi, which apparently was a real lemon. Previous to that we saw a 1964 Kharman Ghia and a 1964 Buick Riviera. The Buick Riviera was notable because it had “just married” written on the side of it, and the place where Jeanne and Bob were married was the Westwood Methodist Church, same place our President-Elect Holmes Osborne III was married in about a month or so ago.

Bob said that the first car he ever bought new was his 1951 Ford. Previous to that he had a 1941 Ford that he had bought before going into the Navy. The 1941 Ford was originally yellow, but Bob had it painted green, before driving it to where he was stationed in Newport RI. He wasn't sure if the car would make it back to Omaha so he sold it to a shipmate at the base. But that wasn't Bob's first car. Bob said that from the age of 13 until he left his parents' home in Omaha he worked at the local drugstore, earning money. His father told him that he should not buy anything on time and all the cars he bought he paid cash for, including the 1933 Chevrolet convertible roadster with the rumble seat he bought when he was 16. He recalled that when he told his dad he was going to buy the car at that young age his father thought it was a good idea. Bob's older brother had driven the family car and smashed it up, and his logic was “Let Bob smash up his own car.” Bob has done that several times.

## Meet Newest Malibu Rotarian: Parke Blair



For most of last year the Malibu Rotary Club had 13 members (not including honorary members). This year we hope to grow that number, and the first step in that direction was taken at the meeting of February 18<sup>th</sup>, when **Parke Blair**, Chairman of GeoSource Foundation, was inducted into the Malibu Rotary. Parke was sponsored by **Jack Corrodi**, but when Jack was called out of town **Bill Wishard** stood in with Rotary pin in hand. Parke already gave us a craft talk and introduced us to many new and practical concepts in energy conservation and green energy production when he spoke to the club on January 21<sup>st</sup> explaining how his organization designs cooling and heating systems for buildings to most efficiently use and create energy, using geothermal, solar, wind, and other "green" technologies to reduce the properties ecological footprint. Parke's e-mail is [pblair@geosource.org](mailto:pblair@geosource.org). His work takes him across

the country, but locally his work phone is 805-373-3375 and he is located at 2985 East Hillcrest Dr., Suite #107B Westlake Village, CA 91362.

## Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

An interesting guest at the Malibu Rotary club meeting of February 18 was **Todd Dildine**, a member of the Pepperdine Rotaract Club and a former member of the Volleyball team. Todd is a senior at Pepperdine and explained that the Pepperdine Volleyball team is great one, and the underclassman, who are world class athletes, have more talent than he has. He is now spending time with his studies and helping mentor the younger students.

**Holmes Osborne III**, will be attending PETS February 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, and has already attended pre-PETS session. He and **Bill Wishard** talked about the possibility of Rotary District Simplified Grants for some of our projects.

## Rotary District Convention

On April 30 - May 3, 2009 The Rotary District Conference will be The Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel, 686 Anton Boulevard. Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (see flyer at <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/5280/html/45459/Conference%2009%20Flyer%201200%20dpi.pdf>).

Online registration by credit card for the upcoming District Conference is now available. Scheduled for April 30 - May 3, 2009 at the [Westin Hotel, South Coast Plaza](#). The conference promises four days of fellowship, education, social events, a golf tournament, plenary sessions and more. In addition to the Rotary activities there will an opportunity to see a production of the musical *Grease* at the Sergerstrom Performing Art Center located next to the hotel. Click [HERE](#) to see a specially created video or copy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73x0pP6MGhg> into your browser.

Click on the image immediately below to the left to register online, or the image to the right if you wish to print a copy of the registration form and mail or fax it to the District Office.

<p>* Credit card registration form: </p>	<p>* PDF registration form: </p>
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To view the specially created video about the conference, click [HERE](#) . It is 3:47 long. (Video created by Gidas Peteris of the Beverly Hills Rotary Club; narration by Brad Robinson, conference chair and member Beverly Hills Rotary Club.)

## **Malibu Stage: Rabbit Hole**

**Geoff Ortiz** reminds us that the February production at the Malibu Stage Company of *Rabbit Hole* opened to a full house and rave reviews. It stars famous screen actress Katherine Ross (*The Graduate, Butch Cassidy, et al*) and is produced and directed by Graeme Clifford. For ticket information call (310)589-1998. The Malibu Stage Company is located at 29243 Pacific Coast Highway.

### **Rabbit Hole**

A play about a normal upscale family, the Corbetts, that have everything a regular family could want... until the day their world is turned upside down. Teeming with heartbreak, compassion, wit and honesty, *Rabbit Hole* is a nuanced and delicate piece of theater about family relationships, loss and hope. Having won or been nominated for almost every major playwriting award in the country, *Rabbit Hole* is widely regarded as one of the best new plays written in the last 25 years. Co-starring Malibu actress Katharine Ross, Sharon Gardner, Jeffrey Doornbos, Tasha Ames, and Mimo Reynolds. Produced and directed by Graeme Clifford.

### **Rabbit Hole**

**Runs: Until March 1, 2009**

**Showtimes: Fridays & Saturdays @ 8PM**

**Sundays @ 5PM, except 2/22/09 @ 2PM**

**Tickets: \$20.00**

**For Reservations visit [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)**

**or call 310-589-1998**

or visit our website at <http://www.malibustagecompany.org/id18.html>

## **La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project**

The Malibu Rotary Club is one of the clubs joining with the Century City Rotary Club to bring clean water to the Village of La Estanzuela in Honduras. There wasn't enough time to complete funding of this project during the past Rotary year. We are hoping to complete the project this year with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant

## Calendar

- **February 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m.:** Jim Thorsen, City Manager, speaking on “Legacy Park”
- **Mar 4—7:30 a.m. Malibu Rotary Club Assembly—**We discuss directions of club and Holmes Osborne’s Board for 2009-2010.
- **Mar 11:** Pep senior Braden Mogler, Rotary Ambassador Scholar going to Uruguay this summer
- **Mar 18:** Ron Wildermuth—“Update From the West Basin Municipal Water District”
- **March 25:** A local—Don Schmitz: “The Coalition for Fire Safe Communities”
- **April 30 - May 3, 2009 Rotary District Conference** The Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel, 686 Anton Boulevard. Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (see flyer at <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/5280/html/45459/Conference%2009%20Flyer%201200%20dpi.pdf>)

### Join Malibu Rotary's MSN Group Website

The Malibu Rotary website at <http://groups.msn.com/maliburotary> is updated weekly. You can go to it and see our calendar of events, pictures of our speakers and activities, and past issues of our weekly bulletin, the illustrious *Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter*. Contact information for the club, e-mail addresses of the club officers and other club information is also there. If you go to the site and become a member of the site (which you can do whether or not you are a member of the Malibu Rotary Club) then you can post items on the site, and have access to [documents](#). Directions for becoming an *on-line group member* are available on the website. To join the online Maliburotary group as an online member you must sign up

for a free MSN passport, fill out an on line form with a name (which can be an alias), an e-mail address, and agree to the rules of membership. You can view most of the site without signing on as a member, but as an online member you can post information on the site, including the calendar and bulletin board, view [documents](#), and participate in the on-line interactive chat room.

*John W. Elman, Editor* *The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter is sent weekly to members of the Malibu Rotary Club and friends of the Malibu Rotary Club, those interested in the work of Malibu Rotary. This e-mail is sent to you at no charge. If you wish to opt out of our mailing list send an e-mail to [maliburotary@hotmail.com](mailto:maliburotary@hotmail.com) with the subject: Take Me Off Your Mailing List*

