



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

March 10, 2010

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne III

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Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr John W. Elman and Margo Neal

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- Check Calendar on Malibu Rotary website MalibuRotary.org

- Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org

Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

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

[RI President \(2009-2010\) John Kenny](#)



Rotary District 5280 Governor (2009-2010):
Susanne Sundberg

“Our Woman in Whistler”



We had seen and read the words she sent down from the mountain, and at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of March 10 we were able to see the lady her herself—Canadian —

born Olympic volunteer Margo Neal—back home near sea level in the hills of Malibu. There were 18,500 volunteers at this year's Olympics. Some 95% of them were Canadian, 80 % from the Vancouver area. The rest came from places as far away as China, Russia and New Zealand.



In the e-mails Margo had sent us when she was in Whistler we got a flavor for what she was seeing and doing. She told us about the colorful attire, not just of the athletes, but the people came from around the world with the athletes—physical therapists, coaches, athletes' parents. Some of these can be

seen in some of the pictures she took and are displayed here. The picture on the upper left of the previous page shows the flags hanging from the athletes dorms in the Athletes Village. Next to that is a picture of a snow sculpture of Native American Art, which features salmon swimming toward and away from a kind of sun god figure. Margo said there was Native American art all around the village.

During her first week in Whistler Margo had written us about her volunteer Olympics job: "I'm in the Communications Center in the Athletes' Village and I write the daily newsletter that goes to all the volunteers there. There were to be four of us doing this, but three didn't show up--so guess who gets to do it. The newsletter is one page, two sides, and each issue must have an interview with one of the volunteers. I've interviewed some pretty interesting people." And she went to describe them.

That first week she had also written: "I've worked 7 days. Up those days @ 5:30 am and Merilea drives me to the bus--yes, I could walk, it's all downhill, but it's very early, it's very dark and there are cougars, lynx and bears in the area--Merilea is better."

In her first week's newsletter to us Margo also wrote:

"The athletes have many facilities here--game rooms, computers, a great variety of food in their dining room--much better food than in the dining room for the volunteers. There are literally 50,000 condoms available to the athletes--they are in containers everywhere in the village where the athletes go--one of the IOC posters says a goal is to stop HIV & AIDS--ergo..; and a staffer at the fitness center told me that condoms are very expensive in eastern Europe and some seem to be stocking up."

The second week of volunteer duty Margo wrote: "Walking through the Whistler village day or night is wonderful: exciting, alive, vibrant. Flags waving. Cowbells ringing. Tubas blowing. Alp horns blowing. It's a circus--a very colorful, happy, crazy, fun-filled circus! Everyone trading pins, asking for new ones. The European fans go all out and dress in some outrageous costumes. And the European woman! They are dressed to the nines--easy to pick them out."

The last week of volunteer duty Margo wrote: "The fun part was walking around the Whistler area--a very happening place. People in costumes, outdoor TV screens everywhere. Medal ceremonies every night in the outdoor plaza followed by a concert. Saturday night's entertainer was Usher--very, very popular. Those tickets were the most difficult to obtain; I won two in a lottery."

You can read all of the stories Margo sent back home at <http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/home/storyitem.asp?cid=2529&iid=136067>

After having endured an unforgettable once in a lifetime month of work and fun, Margo said she would never do it again. She said the volunteers worked very hard, doing all sorts of things, and didn't even get so much as a thanks. She will reserve her Whistler visits for family visits and her favorite sport--skiing.

Other News and Guests from March 10 Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

At the March 3, 2010, meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club, Chris talked about his weekend at PETS, and his vision for the Malibu Rotary Club. He reiterated much of that at the meeting of March 10th.

Chris said he wants to keep his and the club's focus on a few key and simple principals .

1. Enjoy ourselves and have fun with fellowship. He wants to have quarterly social dinner meeting to which family can be invited.
2. Implement successful service projects (such as Singing Competition and Adopt A Highway), community service projects and international projects.
3. Sustain and grow members, especially among the Pepperdine faculty. Implement "Associate membership" which would have reduced membership fee, to help bring young people into club. He had looked more into "Associate Membership" and some specific requirements for those people would be a minimal initiation fee of probably \$25.00. Pay for meals; attend at least 12 meetings per year (one per month).

He had some other ideas as well: Possibly putting an ad in Malibu Times with a question: "What can Rotary do for you?" asking for possible community projects (the response might overwhelm us). Another idea is to partner with Malibu sporting events such as Triathlon, with booth or other participation.

Geoff Ortiz that he would not be able to be at Malibu Rotary-Pepperdine Rotarat Adopt A Highway cleanup day scheduled for Saturday, March 13, but Maurice Collins, President of Pepperdine Rotaract Club will lead the activity assisted by 6 Rotaract members and Malibu Rotarians Jack, Fred, and David. Anyone who wants to join them be at St Aidens Church in Malibu at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Geoff also announced that he had been contacted by the choral director at Malibu High and the Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will be held Tuesday, April 20 at Malibu Stage.

Kevin Bolling will be trying to again win the Best of the Best Barbeque at the Riverside YWCA Men Who Cook—a competition for which he has won in the past

Bill Wishard will be joining others from Rotary District 5280 at various water and other humanitarian projects being done this coming week in Ecuador.



Malibu Rotary Club to Support BioSand Filters in Ecuador

Malibu Rotary Club voted to send \$500 to the Rotary Club of Pontiac Michigan to help build and install BioSand Filters in Santo Domingo De Los Colorados, Ecuador. As was noted by Carol Cousineau, who, along with husband Ron brought the project to our attention, after installing the first BioSand filters in Ecuador (and pictured left), “That money would be matched by the next District Grant, which we have been assured we will get. So, for instance \$500.00 would become \$750.00. The filters and two 5 gallon safe water containers per unit, cost around \$60.00 each, so a donation of \$500.00 would provide 12 families of five or more with 20 gallons of water each day - enough for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, bathing and washing clothes! The filters are expected to last at

least 50 years without the need to add any expense except chlorine - available and inexpensive. That means each family will have more money to provide more nutritious food for their families, since they don't have to pay for propane to boil their water. It will mean more time to spend with their children, rather than boiling or foraging for firewood. With great improvement in the health of all the family members, fewer cases of diarrhea and stomach flu from bad water and parasites, the parents will better be able to hold down a job and provide for their families, children will be able to attend school more days and have a better future.

We are excited about this project because we anticipate that this is just the beginning. All over Ecuador, there are families struggling to survive, with a high infant mortality rate, because of bad water. This successful project will be a shining example and model. Rotary is the perfect vehicle for getting the word out about BioSand and accomplishing the goal of providing safe drinking water for the world. **BioSand** is one of the four methods of purifying water recommended for

Third World Countries by the World Health Organization. (We have researched the others. Since they provide only a small amount of water for drinking, are small and ceramic, so more susceptible to breakage or deterioration, or adding so much chlorine that the people won't drink it, the concrete BioSand is by far the best choice for all but mountainous areas, where a more expensive plastic version of BioSand is an alternative.)”



Project TRIUMPH (Today's Revolution Is Understanding; Make Peace Happen) is a grassroots effort to bring Arab and Jewish teenagers together in the spirit of collaboration to build a shared vision for a peaceful future. The program was conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. It brought 10 teenage Arab and 10 teenage Jewish students from Israel to a leadership camp in Simi Valley where they all learned to work together, develop leaders skills before returning to Israel to use what they learned back home. Most of us feel helpless in trying to find a solution to the constant war in the Middle East, but at least this program is trying to do something. Initially sponsorship of this program had been mostly from the Newbury Park Rotary Club and Rotary Clubs in District 5240 and private and corporate donors. Malibu Rotary Club was the first Rotary Club in Rotary District 5280 to support the project. Pictured above are the students who were hosted in 2008 as they visited Malibu on their way to the camp. Today the program no longer is bringing the students to the US. It concentrates it's efforts on the students in Israel as a year long program that strives for lifelong results. It is a non-profit organization with Leon Berg, as its CEO On March 17, 2010, Leon Berg and Shoshana Brower will be featured speakers at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting and will update us on this project. See You Tube Video of TRIUMPH Live! At <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1n2IKWES1Jw&feature=channel>

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website www.maliburotary.org for latest Calendar and future speakers.