



*Award Winning*

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

**March 25, 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 and Coalition for Fire Safe Communities**

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- **La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project**

Malibu Rotary Club Website: [www.MalibuRotary.org](http://www.MalibuRotary.org)

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**

### **Don Schmitz and Carl Schurtz of the Coalition for Safe Communities explain a plan to limit wild fire disasters in Malibu**



When Don Schmitz built his home in the hills near the Corral Canyon area of Malibu he was told by the fire department that he was so isolated from the main roads that they probably couldn't help him in case of fire. Don, who is a consultant in land development and permit processing, didn't let that stop him. He put in his own water tower, sprinkler system, and has his own fire truck. During the Corral Canyon fire the fire department used his water to help fight the fire in the surrounding area. As he watched the fire spread the thought occurred to him that if there was a water and sprinkler system in place along the Santa Monica Mountains, fires which seasonally threaten the Malibu area could be thwarted before they created fire storms and the resulting damage.

Don was introduced to the Malibu Rotary Club by Carl Schurtz, who is Executive Director of Coalition for Fire Safe Communities (See <http://cfsconline.org>), who talked about one of the fatalities of Malibu wildfires, Duncan Gibbons. Gibbons was a **British film** and **music video** director, as well as a screenwriter. On **November 3, 1993** the 41 year old Gibbons narrowly escaped a wildfire that was roaring through Malibu and was engulfing the home he was renting in flames. Gibbons decided to go back in to rescue a cat that he saw in the burning building. While trying to rescue the cat, he received severe burns, despite jumping in the pool while the fire storm passed. When the fire fighters arrived his words "Please don't let me die!" were uttered in a high pitched voice and smoke came out of his mouth from his burned lungs as he uttered them. He died later at **Sherman Oaks Hospital** and Health Center's burn unit. Days later, the cat was found unharmed save for a few minor burns.

Don Schmitz' Power Point presentation and printed design maps illustrated the extent of losses due to local Wild Fires. We have been fortunate that there hasn't been more loss of lives.

The costs in dollars for the October 21-24, 2007 "Canyon Fire" was \$45,000,000. This cost was the sum of \$14.8 million in uninsured damages, \$5.2 million fire fighting costs to extinguish the flames, and \$25 million in insurance claims. There were 36 burned and damaged structures, and also 36 vehicles, along with the 1,059 acres. The Corral Canyon Fire the following month, November 24-26 had \$129,900,000 in damages, with \$24.5 million in uninsured damages, \$5.4



million to extinguish the fire, and \$100 million in insurance claims. In that blaze 125 buildings were burnt or damaged along with 14 vehicles in an area of 4901 acres. The California Department of Forestry and Protection has tallied that between 1980 and 2006 total fire suppression expenditures reaches \$2 billion.

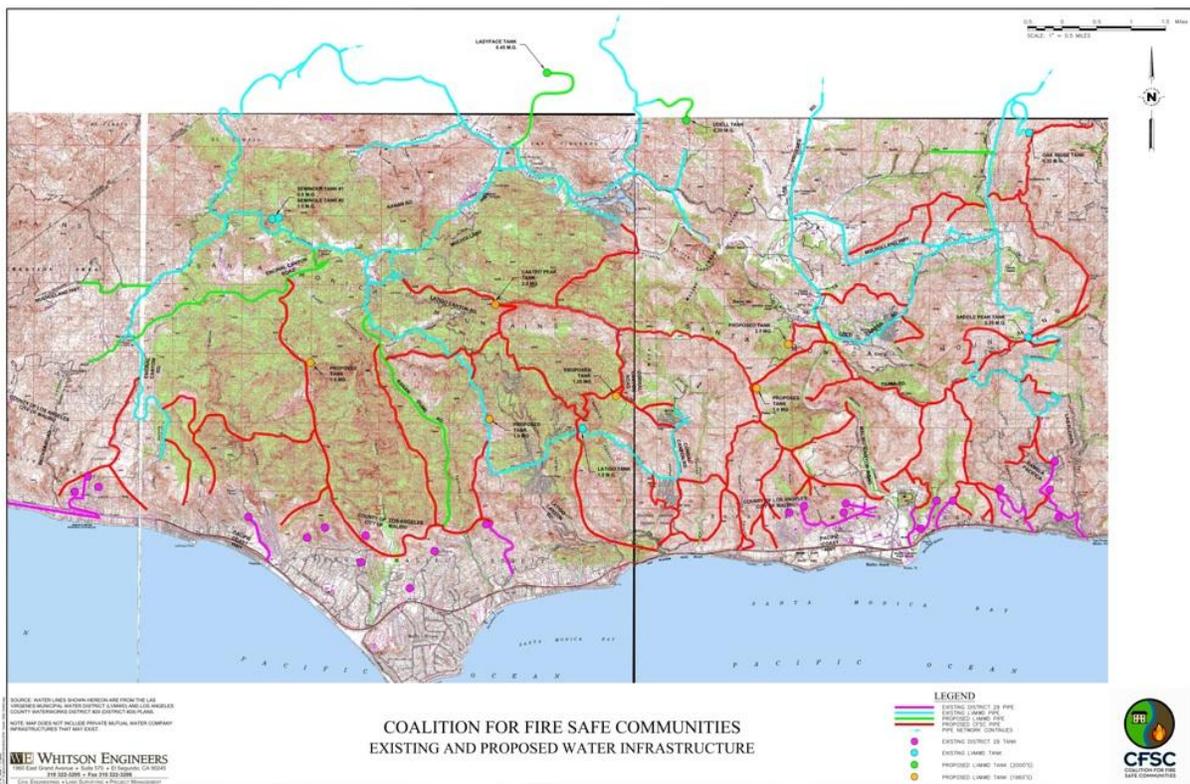
The Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu are designated as a Very

High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Class 4) and are subject to devastating wildfires.

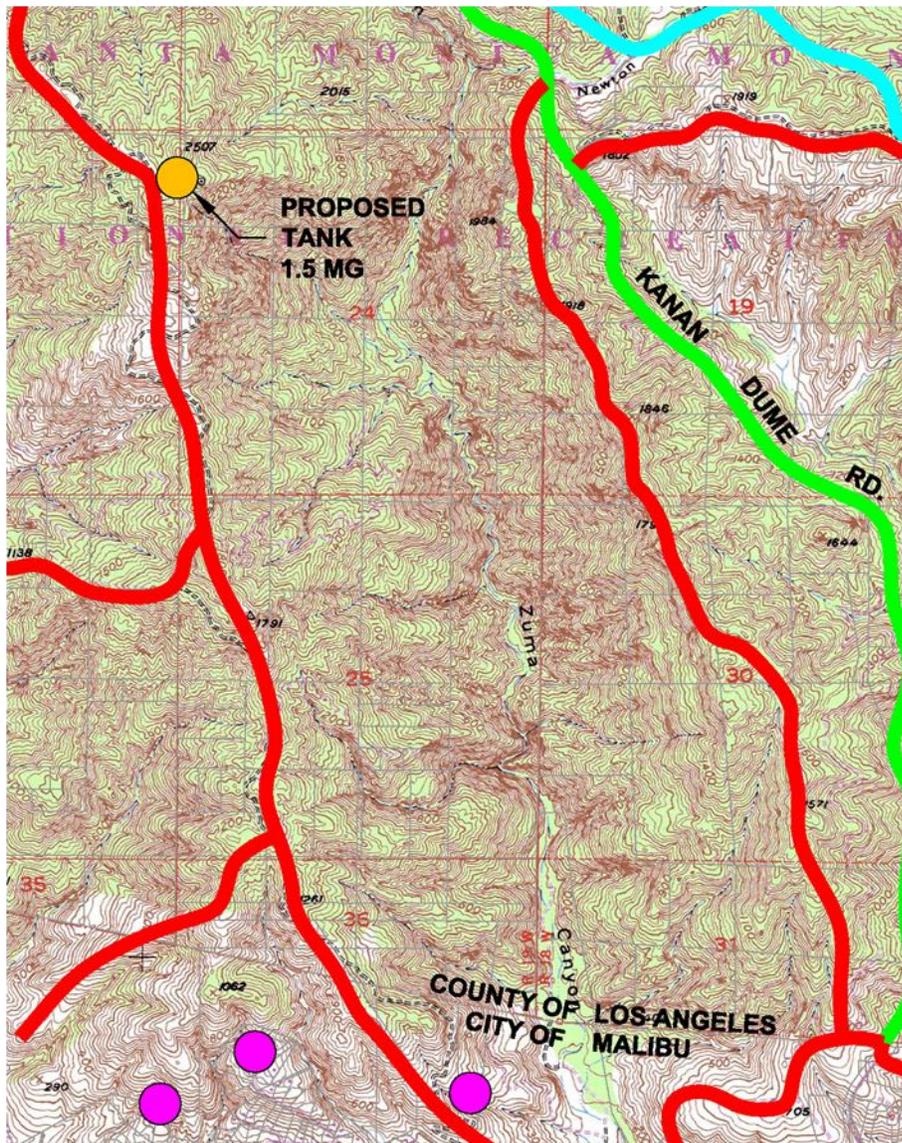
In addition to stringent year round weed abatement enforcement most measures used to combat fires are reactive rather than proactive. Fire breaks are the most proven and effective method to fight wildfires. These breaks are created with bulldozers and machetes during firestorms and can be 10-40 feet wide. Fire breaks are a necessary component to fighting wildfires. Unfortunately, they can have long-lasting deleterious effects on the environment. Fire fighters are frequently overpowered during firestorms by high speed winds.

Don asks the question, “Shouldn’t we pull together and create an effective fire protection system?” Don thought about this question and came up with the idea of *A Virtual Levee and Dam System*.

### A Virtual Levee and Dam System



A First Fire Defense is created before fires start by creating a virtual levee and dam system with underground water mains on strategic ridgelines in the Santa Monica Mountains. Prepositioned water distribution points will be put along defensible fire breaks. A sensible system of fire breaks, supplemental water tanks and water mains would be installed.



CFSC proposed plan covers most of the Santa Monica Mountains and protects the City of Malibu. It connects into the existing system and has a 100 times better response rate. The alternative is to continue to fund unneeded suppression, recovery and rebuilding costs.

Helicopters drop approximately 500 – 1,000 gallons of water per drop. With 4–8 Drops/hr this amounts to 2,000 – 8,000 gallons/hour. Air tankers drop approximately 1,500 – 2,000 gallons of water per drop. In 2 – 5 drops per hour this amounts to 3,000 – 10,000 gallons/hr. Fire Hydrants flow at 1,250 gallons per minute. So a Hydrant can deliver 75,000 Gallons per hour. **Every fire hydrant has almost 8 times the water capacity of the best aerial drops.**



Agricultural Rain Birds shoots water 30 to 50 yards. If these Agricultural Rain Birds could be put at the strategic spots on the ridges of the Santa Monica Mountains along this water system Don believes fires heading through the canyons will

be stopped near their source before they build momentum into unstoppable fire storms.

Don believes the system can be built for \$80 million.

He founded the Coalition for Safe Communities in March 2008 to help high fire risk communities in California design and implement a fire prevention system.

The Coalition for Fire Safe Communities (CFSC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Homes located in high fire hazardous zones are at the mercy of uncontrollable winds and fires during firestorms. CFSC was founded to get local and statewide support for the proposed water tank/main model for the Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains area.

If you would like CFSC to do a presentation at your next HOA meeting or other community meeting, please contact Don or Carl at [info@cfsonline.org](mailto:info@cfsonline.org) or by calling Carl at (310)457-8246. Their office is at 29350 Pacific Coast Highway Suite 12, Malibu, CA 90265.

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

Guests at the last Malibu Rotary Club meeting included Veterinarian **Dr Frank Levac** the bird expert from the Santa Monica Rotary Club as well as Pepperdine Rotaract President **Alex Sangiovanni**, and Pepperdine Rotaract member **Natasha Gill** who are going to the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City in April.

### **Musical Malibu Rotary Club Fund Raiser**

**Margo Neal** and **Geoff Ortiz** are working on a possible fund raiser at Malibu Stage featuring the singing talents of Malibu Dolphin winner and popular Ralph's employee **Debra Caraway**. The event would also feature an auction and the first auction item offered was a flight along the coast in the plane piloted by club president Bow.

### **Get to Malibu Rotary Meetings on time!**

To show respect to speakers and to get a chance to enjoy each other's company we all made a vow to get to the meetings closer to 7:15 a.m., get our food and be in our seats closer to 7:30 a.m. Food lines are also shorter before 7:30 a.m. since students generally have not arrived yet. Meetings will be called to order no later than 7:45 a.m.

## Global Alternative Energy Alliance (Rotary Club project)

Editor's Note: I ran this item last week. Are we doing anything about it? Lisa Mueller has been to our club a couple times to talk about the Global Energy Alliance. She sent us the following e-mail looking for our sponsorship of a event for the Global Alternative Energy Alliance. There isn't much time but we should discuss it after next meeting.

*Hello Guys!*

*.. it has been a while since I came out to visit your club!*

*I will indeed be in Los Angeles again, in a few days (until April 8).*

*My schedule is extremely booked up, but I do want to try to join you for your club's weekly meeting. Even if I cannot make it to your meeting, I could really use you help on something!*

*I'd like to speak with you about hosting a fellowship event in the next couple of weeks, especially since your club was among the first to pledge your support for our endeavor.*

*As you know, my team and I are feverishly working to launch the Global Alternative Energy Alliance (Rotary Club project) and the TV show and DVD to support and promote the use of alternative energy, worldwide.*

*One of our goals is to have several events take place in the next 3 weeks, in support of this project, because it is extremely timely!*

*I am not talking about a big fancy fundraiser event. Just something really simple, like a pot-luck or barbeque or old-fashioned fireside chat, hosted at someone's home. We would ask each participant to donate \$20 or \$30 toward the project. And then let the fun and fellowship commence!*

*Does this sound like something that you would be able (and willing) to help me set up?*

*Dates that I would like to consider: the weekends of March 28 and April 4, 2009.*

*Please give me a call, so we can discuss the possibilities, OK?*

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Lisa Mueller

Executive Director

Celebrity Entertainment: [www.CelebrityEntertainment.org](http://www.CelebrityEntertainment.org)

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(Rotary Project) Team Leader

Global Alternative Energy Alliance: [www.GlobalAltEnergy.org](http://www.GlobalAltEnergy.org)

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[director@CelebrityEntertainment.org](mailto:director@CelebrityEntertainment.org)



*Editors Note: Most of you know how strongly I feel about the Project TRIUMPH program conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. The program 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 Mid East, but at least this program is trying to do something, In the last issue of The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter I had written about e-mail communications I had had with Frances Fuji of the Project TRIUMPH organizing committee. She had written*

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting students this year, we are taking the opportunity to strengthen infrastructure in Israel and to establish collaborative relationships with aligned organizations.

Upon our request, Shaul, from the Rotary Club of Haifa, provided us with a budget and proposal to hire a part-time facilitator to be responsible for year-round support of both new Project TRIUMPH students and alumni. We are sending money to contribute to the facilitator’s salary, and she has already begun meeting with the kids there.



We are excited about prospects for 2010 and beyond (the plan is to resume bringing kids over in 2010, assuming that we can raise enough funds in 2009) and believe we will emerge from this fallow year with an even

stronger, more well-rounded and promising program than ever before.”

In a subsequent e-mail she had written about what some of the student alumni of the Project TRIUMPH program (many of whom we had met when they were here) were currently doing after participating in the Project TRIUMPH program:

“Our greater vision is to inspire leaders of tomorrow by imparting wisdom and broadening the perspective of high school students. Our first year students, who were here in 2006, are now in the army or beginning to build careers. We have stayed in contact with some of them through Facebook. Very soon, their generation will be making pivotal choices that will impact not only their region, but the world.

We're proud of all the young people we've worked with, and we thank you for your belief in them.

## 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.

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| <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.)

## **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**

Apr 1 2009

**Pepperdine Provost Dr Darryl Tippin**

"Ferment and Change in the Modern University: What Lies Ahead"

Dr. Darryl Tippin, Pepperdine Provost, "Ferment and Change in the Modern University: What Lies Ahead"

Apr 8 2009

**Dr John W Elman**

"Navigating the New Malibu Rotary Club Website"

Longtime Editor of the Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter and creator of Malibu Rotary Club's first website in 2002, John Elman, will show how the new ClubRunner website MalibuRotary.org will not only inform guests what the club is about, but how it will act as a hub for club activity, and enable member participation.

Apr 15 2009

**Dr. Allison Richards and Dr. Larry Stock**

"Helping Victims of trauma/landmine in Burma "

Remember when Dr. Allison Richards came and spoke to us about the work GHAP is doing in Burma and we wanted her to come back with more information? Well, she will come on April 15 and bring Dr. Larry Stock to be speaker that day. He lives in Malibu and has been the head of the trauma/landmine program since GHAP started. She asks, "When we come back, do you know what people would like to hear about in more detail? Larry is the head of the trauma management program that mainly deals with treatment of landmine injuries as well as other traumatic injuries. But we can talk in more detail on any aspect."

Apr 22 2009

**Holmes Osborne**

"Malibu Rotary Hosts Community Business Breakfast"

Holmes Osborne is organizing this "Business Breakfast" to introduce local business people to Rotary

**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>)**

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