



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 20, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

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Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman

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- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/**
- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**

- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

Keaton Brewster Talks About His Experience at the RYLA camp sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club



Malibu High School Sophomore Keaton Brewster was one of 2 students chosen by the Malibu Rotary Club to be part of Rotary District 5280 Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) held April 24, 25, 26 at the Alpine Conference Center in the San Bernardino Mountains near Blue Jay, CA. He joined 180 other high school sophomores and juniors who were chosen for their proven and potential leadership abilities by Rotary clubs in the Los Angeles area. Rotary districts throughout the world have similar programs. Keaton talked about his experience at RYLA when he was the featured speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting May 20th.

Keaton, and another Malibu student, Christian Pierce, were chosen as Malibu student representatives to RYLA by a committee at the Malibu Rotary Club who reviewed essays submitted by local high school students who expressed interest in being considered for RYLA camp. Christian attended RYLA with Keaton but was ill on May 20th when both students were scheduled to speak. Keaton was introduced at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting by David Baird, Pepperdine Seaver College Dean Emeritus, who has long known Keaton's father, Jay Brewster, who is Pepperdine Professor of Biology and Associate Provost. It was David who recommended Keaton apply for RYLA.

Keaton is a running back and linebacker on the Malibu High School football team as well as a member of the track team and an excellent student.

During the course of two days at the RYLA camp, the students participate in a variety of activities, including active leadership workshops, team building activities, an Olympics and talent show. The assembly is staffed by approximately 30 male and female adults, most of whom are Rotarians, who provide supervision of the students at all times. There are also high school senior student counselors who had gone through previous RYLA training. Some of the topics addressed are

- Fundamentals of leadership
- Ethics of positive leadership
- Qualities of a "servant leader"
- Importance of communications skills in effective leadership
- Conflict management and problem solving
- Building self-esteem and self confidence
- Elements of community and global citizenship

At the camp students are lodged in cabins, in bunk beds with 8 to 10 students per cabin.

Keaton said he expected there would be lectures but he was pleasantly surprised by the number of exercises where the students interacted with each other. The only student he knew at the camp before he went was his fellow Malibu representative Christian. At the camp students were put into changing groups, so everyone met each other and worked with each other, not just the first students they met when they arrived. They networked with students from all over the Los Angeles area.

We asked Keaton to give us a written version of his Malibu Rotary Club talk and he obliged:

“Simple tasks can have greater meanings. Even something such as marching shows how crucial leaders are. When marching, it is nearly impossible to march in sync without a leader, as there is nobody to set the pace or to follow. Leaders are crucial in every situation. This is why I wanted to come to the RYLA camp, and try to learn to act as a leader. There is always a need, and in order to be a good leader, it is necessary to learn how to lead.

“One of the first things the RYLA leaders taught us is that good leaders serve others. That stood out to me most prominently throughout the weekend. They were able to work this into every aspect of the weekend. We were put into different teams, assigned tasks, but we always had to work together, and serve the group. If one person decided their way would be the best solution, no matter the challenge, there was little chance of success. If the entire group works efficiently, each sharing ideas, the goal could be achieved much faster. However, it was chaotic unless there were people who could direct these ideas and put them together. For example, in one challenge, called traffic jam, we had to move our group along a line, without intersecting each other. In order to do this however, we needed for the members of our group not involved in this challenge, to oversee the entire picture, and tell us where to move. I was at the end of the line, and had less of a vantage point. I was able to direct my side, but I could not see the other side well enough to be able to help them. Through collaboration, and serving each other, we were able to achieve the goal. In another activity, which was simply passing marbles through PVC pipes, we were not very successful. I kept pushing my own ideas, and not taking the time to listen to other people’s ideas, which may have been much more successful than my failed attempts. From both of those activities, the idea that good leaders serve others was shown to me, not literally, but in another way. Being a leader, in any form, you have to be able to sacrifice yourself in order to achieve something greater than your own self-satisfaction. A good leader must be able to listen to other ideas, and realize that your own ideas are not always the best ideas. Being able to lead, but not dominate, is ideal to be the best that you can be.

“Another fascinating thing that we learned about is the categories of personalities that people have. Although they are not definite, and not exact, they are very useful. The 4 categories we looked at are dominance, influence, conscientious, and steadiness. Each category has its own tendencies and desires, and when being a leader, it is necessary to approach them differently. You have to tell somebody an order in a way that they will respond to it. I spoke with one of the grown men after this lesson, and he told me about how this is one of the most valuable thing he has encountered in leadership seminars over the years. He is able to connect to people much better once you can get a grip on how they think.

“This same man had told me earlier in the camp how envious he was that we were able to go learn leadership skills at a young age. He did not get a chance to learn these skills until his later life, as he began working in management positions in his job. This is a truly

great opportunity for us to be able to spend a weekend and learn some essential skills about leadership that would otherwise be left for us to

“learn much later. In this way, we are able to act as leaders right now, in small ways. These small ways may just be in school, sports, or even at home, but they are building blocks for later life.

“I would like to personally thank the Malibu rotary club for sponsoring me to go on this trip, and specifically David Baird for making me aware of this organization, and the RYLA camp.”

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

The Demotion Party for Margo, originally scheduled for July 1 has been changed to June 24th. It turns out Margo will not be available on July 1, so it's a good thing we asked her when would be a good time for her since it will be a dinner party honoring her. David Zielski is working on a venue. When this is confirmed it will be posted on our website. On the day of the demotion party there will be no noon club meeting at Pepperdine University.

At the Malibu Rotary club assembly on June 3 Margo would like consideration given to a club donation toward Nepal relief.

Margo announced that we are hoping to have the 2 Malibu High School senior students to whom Malibu Rotary Club is giving scholarship checks come to the next Malibu Rotary Club meeting May 27th so that the checks can be presented to them and they tell us their plans.

For the next couple weeks Dave Zielski will be doing Raincatcher installations—among them will be for the Navajo nation in New Mexico.

Bill Wishard was the only one representing the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary District Conference May 14-17 at the Loew's Coronado Bay Hotel. The following week Bill will be headed for Indianapolis for the weekend's Memorial Day Indy 500 Auto Race, which he attends every year. He took copious notes at the Rotary District Conference and will be reporting on that when he returns to Malibu.

Guests

The only guest at the May 20th Malibu Rotary Club meeting was **Jennifer Arnett** who is the mother of Morgan Perlmutter, the Middle School Division winner of a cash prize of \$250 at the Malibu Rotary Club Singing Competition held January 21 at Raitt Recital Hall at Pepperdine. She had come to the meeting to hear Keaton talk about his RYLA experience.

Bill Wishard, Rotary District Special Olympics Chair

Bill Wishard is coordinating Rotary District efforts for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015. People in Los Angeles, and especially Rotarians, can get involved. Bill spoke about this at the Rotary District Breakfast March 31. The Special Olympics will have 7,000 athletes from 177 countries.

Rotarians to participate as volunteers “Fans in the Stands,” or by sponsoring an athlete. It is free to go to the games, and individual Rotary Clubs should each have a captain to have club members go to the sporting events together for a fun group experience. The Rotary District is planning to have about 1000 people go to the Opening Ceremonies which are going to be held July 25 at 5:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Tickets for the opening ceremonies cost from \$30.00 to \$120 each. It is hoped that Rotarians will have a special section, have special event t-shirts identifying them as Rotarians, and hopefully will be able to charter special buses. Details about all this should be available in the near future. Sponsoring an athlete financially costs \$2500. Some large clubs in District 5280, LA 5 and Wilshire Rotary Clubs have done this. For smaller clubs, like the Malibu Rotary Club, they can join with other clubs to raise the \$2500. The Malibu Rotary Club is contributing \$500, and will join with another club to support an athlete.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on You Tube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher, makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club

meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the MalibuRotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see maliburotary.org)

May 27, 2015

Realtor Bianca Torrence Gives Her Craft Talk

June 3, 2015

Bob Syvertsen

Malibu Rotary Club Budget for 2015-2016

June 24, 2015

Margo's Demotion Party Dinner (organized by President-Elect Dave Zielski)