



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 27, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President Bow Bowman

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Pictures by Dr John W. Elman and Bryan Gabbard

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Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org

Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

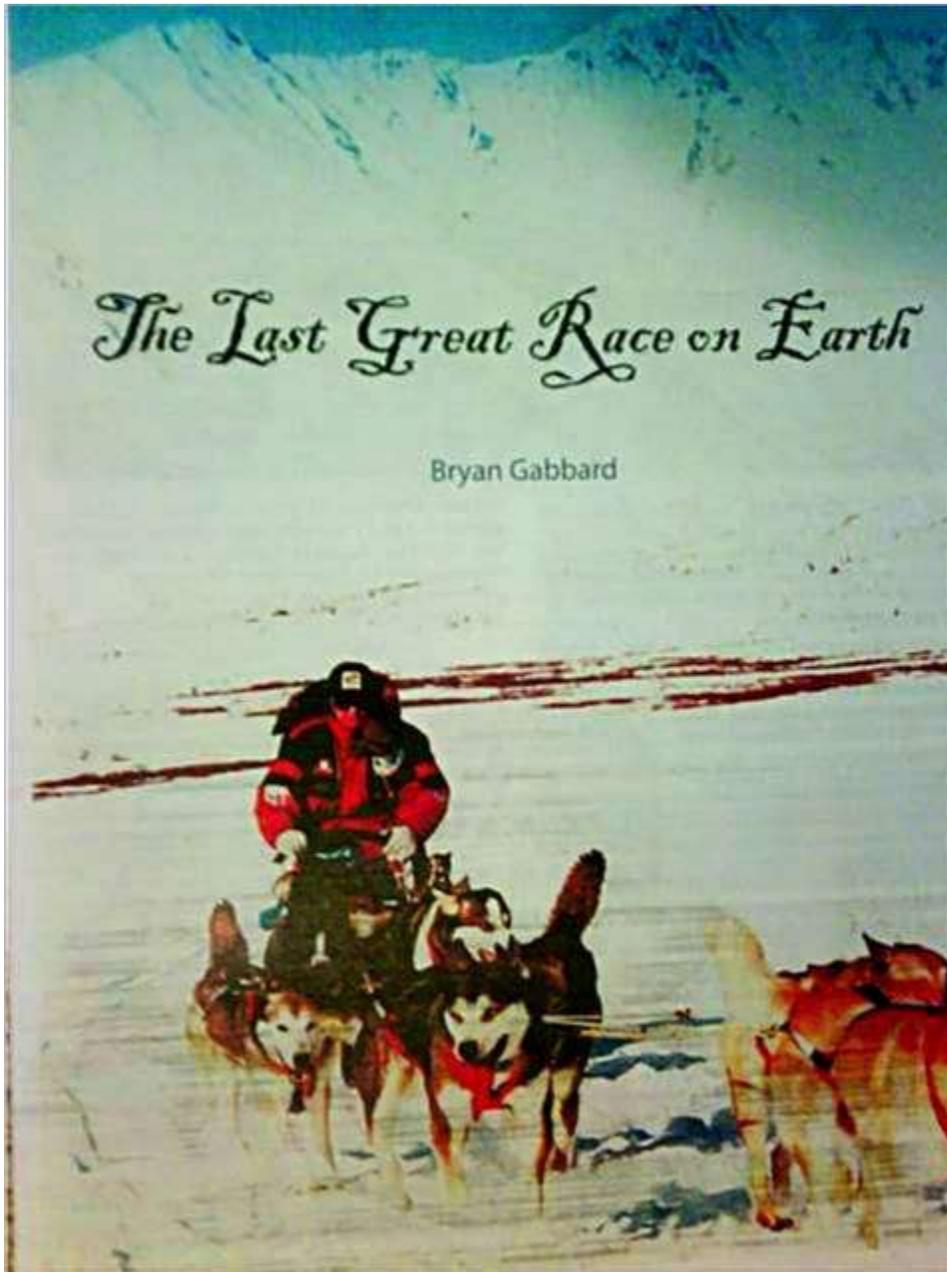
Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

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

RI President (2008-2009) D.K. Lee

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

Bryan Gabbard on Being a Musher in the Iditarod Sled Race— “The Last Great Race on Earth”



The May 27th meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club featured Bryan Gabbard, who spoke on the the Iditarod Dog Sled Race (see Iditarod.com) held the first Saturday in March each year in Alaska.

Bryan was a musher in the 1150 mile race 15 years ago, and although he is still active in shorter distance races of a few hundred miles he tries to go to Anchorage and occasionally to Nome each year to support his friends who continue to race.

He said the athletes in the race are really not the humans so much as the sled dogs,

which are bred and trained for this and other dog sled races. There are plenty of volunteer

veterinarians and others around to make sure the dogs are treated as well as they can be for creatures that are going to run over a thousand miles in the cold Alaska terrain. Through the years it has been found that the dogs that are best adapted to this are not necessarily Alaskan Huskies, but medium sized dogs, of about 50 pounds.

Years of selective breeding and specialized training have produced an extraordinary canine athlete, smaller than the classic trapline dogs of mushing lore, yet heavier than dogs trained solely for the sprint. A rangy animal with a muscular chest and lean haunches. A dog with an oilysmooth stride that's snappy and unrelenting, on feet that can withstand coarse trails and punchy snow. A trotter that can lope when trail conditions allow, and consume 10,000 calories a day with ravenous precision.

"A 50-pound dog with a 100-pound heart," said two-time Iditarod champion Martin Buser. "Long-legged, well-angulated, long backs, nicely proportioned -- a dog that's built for speed and endurance.'

From Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12 to 16 dogs and their musher cover over 1150 miles in 10 to 17 days.

The Iditarod, which began in 1973, has been called the "Last Great Race on Earth" and it has won worldwide acclaim and interest. German, Spanish, British, Japanese and American film crews have covered the event. Journalists from outdoor magazines, adventure magazines, newspapers and wire services flock to Anchorage and Nome to record the excitement. It's not just a dog sled race, it's a race in which unique men and women compete. Mushers enter from all walks of life. Fishermen, lawyers, doctors, miners, artists, natives, Canadians, Swiss, French and others; men and women each with their own story, each with their own reasons for going the distance. It's a race organized and run primarily by volunteers, thousands of volunteers, men and women, students and village residents. They man headquarters at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome and Wasilla. They fly volunteers, veterinarians, dog food and supplies. They act as checkers, coordinators, and family supporters of each musher. Malibu Rotary Club President Bow Bowman said he has also assisted and sponsored mushers in the Iditarod.

The Iditarod Trail, now a National Historic Trail, had its beginnings as a mail and supply route from the coastal towns of Seward and Knik to the interior mining camps at Flat, Ophir, Ruby and beyond to the west coast communities of Unalakleet, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and Nome. Mail and supplies went in. Gold came out. All via dog sled. Heroes were made, legends were born.

In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life saving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum had to be brought in; again by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving dogs.

The Iditarod is a commemoration of those yesterdays, a not-so-distant past that Alaskans honor and are proud of.

Anchorage is the starting line — a city of over 250,000 people, street lights, freeways and traffic. From there the field of dog teams which grow in number each year, runs to Eagle River,

Checkpoint # 1. After a restart in the Matanuska Valley at Wasilla, the mushers leave the land of highways and bustling activity and head out to the Yentna Station Roadhouse and Skwentna and then up! Through Finger Lake, Rainy Pass, over the Alaska Range and down the other side to the Kuskokwim River — Rohn Roadhouse, Nikolai, McGrath, Ophir, Cripple, Iditarod and on to the mighty Yukon — a river highway that takes the teams west through the arctic tundra.

The race route is alternated every other year, one year going north through Cripple, Ruby and Galena, the next year south through Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik.

Finally, they're on the coast — Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and into Nome where a hero's welcome is the custom for musher number 1 or 61!

Every musher has a different tactic. Each one has a special menu for feeding and snacking the dogs. Each one has a different strategy — some run in the daylight, some run at night. Each one has a different training schedule and his own ideas on dog care, dog stamina and his own personal ability. Bryan said he preferred to run at night, when the temperature was between 0 and minus 20 F, because the dogs did better when it was cooler.

The rules of the race lay out certain regulations which each musher must abide by. There are certain pieces of equipment each team must have — an arctic parka, a heavy sleeping bag, an ax, snowshoes, musher food, dog food and boots for each dog's feet to protect against cutting ice and hard packed snow injuries. Mostly for the dogs protection, there are certain resting times that are mandatory during the race. Bryan said that some mushers prefer layered clothing, so they can layer to the need of the temperature. Others just wear underwear and a bulky foam highly insulated outer garment.

Some mushers spend an entire year getting ready and raising the money needed to get to Nome. Some prepare around a full-time job. In addition to planning the equipment and feeding needs for up to three weeks on the trail, hundreds of hours and hundreds of miles of training have to be put on each team.

There are names which are automatically associated with the race — Joe Redington, Sr., co-founder of the classic and affectionately know as "Father of the Iditarod." Rick Swenson from Two River, Alaska, the only five time winner, the only musher to have entered 20 Iditarod races and never finished out of the top ten. Dick Mackey from Nenana who beat Swenson by one second in 1978 to achieve the impossible photo finish after two weeks on the trail. Norman Vaughan who at the age of 88 has finished the race four times and led an expedition to Antarctica in the winter of 93-94. Four time winner, Susan Butcher, was the first woman to ever place in the top 10. And of course, Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the Iditarod in 1985.

Bye Bye Bow—Hello Holmes



The June 3rd Malibu Rotary Club meeting will be the final one presided over by Malibu Rotary Club President **Bow Bowman** (left). Bow has accepted a position as Public Works Director for San Bernadino and will be leaving his position in the Public Works Department for the City of Malibu this week. Therefore the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 3rd will in effect be Bow's Demotion Party as President of Malibu Rotary Club. Everyone come to the meeting to say goodbye to Bow



and for the surprises of this meeting. Malibu Rotary Club President-Elect **Holmes Osborne III** (right) will ascend to the presidency a month early.

Malibu Rotary Club Awards 2008-2009



Bill Wishard reported that although no one from the Malibu Rotary Club was able to attend the Rotary District Convention held the first weekend in May, the Malibu Rotary Club received 14 awards that were presented during the convention. The district then mailed them and Bill showed them at the Malibu Rotary Club May 27th. Of the awards given 5 were given as “Club of Excellence” the highest rating, and 9 were given as “Club of Achievement.”

The Excellence awards, broken down in Rotary’s Avenues of Service, are:

Club Service—Bulletin

Community Service—Help Needy

Vocational Service—Speech, Music, etc

Youth Activities—International

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Chris Bowman has announced that he been contacted by Pepperdine University concerning facility charges that Pepperdine University is planning to charge the Malibu Rotary Club in addition to the food services we currently pay. The extra charges have to do with overtime charges that the University says it incurs by setting up tables and chairs in the Fireside Room in preparation for our weekly meeting. The extra charge could be \$68.00, which with the size of our club, could double the cost of meals. The meeting location, dues, and various possible resolution of this will be reported in the future. **Geoff Ortiz** reported that the planned fund raiser (singing concert and auction at Malibu Stage Co) will not be done in July. There are scheduling conflicts in doing it in August. If this event happens in the future, and all participants seem willing to go ahead with it, we will report it.

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.



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

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

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting

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.

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

Jun 3 2009

Marshall Glick

"Update on Wills and Trusts: What You Need to Know Now"

Marshall Glick is an attorney who will speak on the topic: "Update on Wills and Trusts: What You Need to Know Now"

Jun 10 2009

Jean Craig

"One Voice"

This is a group the Malibu Rotary Club opted to give \$500 to in May. We'll hear about all the good works it does with children in LA.

Jun 17 2009

Ed Gillespie

"Inside the Malibu Planning Commission"

Ed Gillespie, a member of the Malibu Planning Commission. "Tales From the Planning Commission." Another very interesting meeting.

The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter is sent weekly to members of the Malibu Rotary Club and friends of the Malibu Rotar Club, those interested in the work of Malibu Rotary. This e-mail is

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