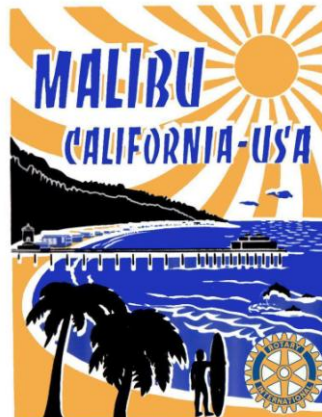




**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

November 29 2017

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence
Pictures by John Elman

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

- Last week **Ed Reynolds Talks About Wings over Wendy's- How, When, Where & Why?**
- Next meeting Dec 6 2017 Room LC 152 (or Board Room 110) on the **Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus** **Carlye Rudkin leads Malibu Rotary Club Assembly** where past and future events of the club will be discussed, including **Halloween Fundraiser and Singing Competition**. **Reservations this day for Holiday party the following week**. **Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a.m.**
- **December 13 Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party at Tra di Noi Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.** (there will be no Malibu Rotary Club morning meeting on that day nor the rest of the year)
- **First meeting of the new year Malibu Rotary Club January 3 2018 on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus, George Poulakos of**

the Rotary Club of Ventura shows how the Malibu Rotary can be one of the partners in a Global grant project that the Rotary District in Ventura is having with partners in Zambia

- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org
- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2017-2018) Cozette Vergari

Ed Reynolds Talks About Wings over Wendy's- How, When, Where & Why?





Ani Dormenjian, who is a realtor at the Coldwell Banker Malibu office, was a speaker at Wings over Wendy's in West Hills, where a 100 retired military pilots meet every Monday morning at 9 a.m. — before the restaurant is open to the public — Ron Ross, who runs the Wendy's in West Hills, lets the guys come in early to grab a coffee and a bagel or Danish for a buck sixty-five, and have their meetings. Ani has been the chair of the Malibu City Veterans Day Celebration for most of its 18 years. There are are about 300 people in Wings Over Wendy's and about 100 attend the meeting each week There was a limousine provided from Wendy's to the Malibu Vetaran's Day Celebration on November 11. On November 29 Lt Col (Ret) Ed Reynolds, who was in charge of USAF & Navy Aircraft at the Pentagon, spoke to the Malibu Rotary Club about Wings Over Wendys.

During the Viet Nam war Ed Reynolds worked with South Viet Nam Air Force, giving them American intelligence support. After retiring from the military Ed went into Information Technology, and worked in travelled around the world, visiting 110 countries. In the past year or so he has curtailed his constant travel when he was asked by Wings Over Wendy's founders Fred "Crash" Bleckman and Mickey Epstein to help run the meetings of the organization they started. He agreed, and the organization has continued to grow and be recognized for what they do and why they do it. Ed put together a Power Point Presentation about the How, When, Where & Why of Wings over Wendy's and the highlights of that presentation are shared here.



HOW

Several pilots discovered they were eating lunch at the same time at Wendy's in West Hills and started to share stories of their flying experience with each other.

They were soon joined by others with an interest in aviation. Some of the stories involved military flying and the stories included general "war stories".

WHEN

It started in the fall of 2001 at these Monday lunch meetings at Wendy's . Fred "Crash" Blechman a US Navy F4U Corsair Pilot, Private Pilot, and Author happened to be having his regular lunch at a Wendy's restaurant in West Hills California, reading a flying magazine, when he noticed that near him someone else was reading a similar magazine. He introduced himself and found out that the other fellow was Mickey Epstein, a USAAF WWII B-24 Flight Engineer. Fred said he got is nickname "Crash" because he claimed to have crashed his planes 5 times, and walked away from each crash. He also like to talk a lot. Making new friends was second nature

to him. They started meeting their every Monday and brought some of their like minded senior military veteran friends. More attention was given to the group when Dennis McCarthy, a reporter for the *LA Daily News*, wrote an article about the meetings.

WHERE

The Wendy's Restaurant in Platt Village, West Hills which borders Woodland Hills

WHY?

Ed explained to us that many military veterans don't like to talk non-veterans about what they went through being in military combat. They are more comfortable talking about it to their fellow military veterans--those who have been there and done. Retirees, widowers, pilots, veterans, aviation enthusiasts and military supporters found a place where they could gather to tell and listen to stories they were interested in and understood.

When did the formal meetings start?

In 2002 Fred started setting a start time, Pledge of Allegiance, attendance roster, raffles, guest speakers and scheduled tours.

The name came from "Wings Over Camarillo" which was a major event for war planes.

We gotta problem, sir

Ron Ross, owner of Wendy's has been very supportive of the group. When there were only a few members of Wings Over Wendy's at lunch it didn't interfere with the rest of his customers too much. But he noticed that after they finished lunch, the members didn't leave. They stayed and talked for hours. This was even before Bill Wishard joined them.

After Dennis McCarthy's article was published the attendance grew and impacted the Wendy's afternoon sales.

Ron had a solution. He owned 3 Wendy's and it turned out the West Hills Wendy's was the only one that wasn't opened for breakfast. He offered the Wings over Wendy's group Monday mornings from 7am to 10:30am. He would give them the key—just get out before the lunch crowd comes in.

Formal meeting is now between 9:30 and 10:30am

Attendance

Ed said, "We no longer take attendance but we distribute 75 raffle tickets every Monday morning and often have over 100 attend

Our roster has 336 active attendees, 106 honorary members, 62 inactive and 98 departed names

Our events have been attended by 165 to 195 people"

He showed us a breakdown of membership

	Attendees	InActive	Deceased	Honorary
USN	61	4	13	0
AF	70	10	45	3
USA	67	4	10	0
WWII	66	8	70	0
USAF	39	6	11	3
Pilots	40	0	8	0
USAA	28	4	34	0
Supporters	30	0	0	0
Widows	6	1	0	4
Wives	8	0	2	0
USMC	11	4	3	0
USCG	6	0	2	0
Politicians	0	0	0	10
Total	336	61	98	106

Several years ago Wings over Wendy's established a second group that meets at the Tarzana Community Center on Tuesdays from 09:30am to 11am. Unlike the West Hills Wendy's meeting, which is a formal meeting with a scheduled speaker (similar to Rotary Club meeting) the Tuesday meetings are free form discussions about current events with designated speaker.

Those meetings are less formal and smaller due to the size of the facility. Over a dozen members attend both meetings. A smaller group meets for lunch on Thursdays.

Why do they attend?

“No dues, religion, politics or sex talk at meetings

No formal structure - we are not a 501(c)

Interesting speakers and tours

Too old for golf and other retiree activities

Comradeship”

Community Support

The members of Wings Over Wendy’s are called on to support various community events, sometimes sending members to various locations on the same day to provide these services. At the October 18 Malibu Rotary Club meeting Wings Over Wendy’s member Bob Donovan talked about Operation Gratitude. Every year, Operation Gratitude sends 200,000+ individually addressed care packages to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed overseas, to their children left behind, and to New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Heroes and their Care Givers. Each package contains food, hygiene products, entertainment and handmade items, as well as personal letters of support. This is just one of the many community and humanitarian projects the members of Wings Over Wendy’s supports.

Some of the other activities the Wings Over Wendy’s members do are by sending:

The Grand Marshall and two truckloads of veterans in the West Hills – Canoga Park Parade

A truckload of veterans in the SFV Veterans Day Parade

Veterans for: school Memorial & Veterans Day celebrations, War Birds, CAF, EAA, AOPA, American Legion, VFW, ANA, AFA, etc.

Outreach

They are also involved with

Conversation with Heroes program

Hospital & Day Care visits

Booths at Wings Over Camarillo & Aviation Day

Honor Flight trips

Veterans History Project – Library of Congress

Mission

Keep the memory alive for those who served and sacrificed for our nation

Patriotism

Honor the flag & laws

Support First Responders

By the time Ed was finished with his presentation we all had an appreciation for what Wings Over Wendy's is and does. I showed him the wonderful Pepperdine Hero's Garden and I was fully expecting a fly by from the Blue Angels--John.

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

There were several announcements made of coming events in January. The next Rotary District Breakfast will be January 9 7:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza LAX 5985 Century Blvd in Los Angeles. One of the Malibu Rotary Club's biggest events of the year is the Annual Malibu Rotary Club Malibu Middle and High School Singing. Chair of this year's event **Teresa LeGrove** announced that the 2018 singing competition is tentatively set for January 24. Ted Silverberg has agreed to again serve as emcee.

Joy Arcenas is new Malibu Rotary Club Treasurer

Malibu Rotary Club President Elect Carlye Rudkin announced that Joy Arcenas has agreed to be the Malibu Rotary Club Treasurer as of Dec 6. Joy has been serving as assistant treasurer and brings with her years of accounting experience. Carlye also asked me to publish the fact that a former assistant treasurer of the Malibu Rotary Club, Irene Bettler, is no longer a member of the Malibu Rotary Club.

Guests

Besides the speaker **Ed Reynolds** there were 2 familiar guests at the November 29 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club— **Pete Allman** and **Mark Keller**.

CALENDAR (see up to date calendar on maliburotary.org)

December 6 2017 **Room LC 152 (or Board Room 110)**
on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus Carlye Rudkin leads
Malibu Rotary Club Assembly where past and future events of the club will
be discussed, including Halloween Fundraiser and Singing Competition. .
Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a.m.

December 13 Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party at Tra di Noi Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.
(there will be no Malibu Rotary Club morning meeting on that day nor any other day
for the rest of the year).

December 20 and 27 2017 there will be no Malibu Rotary Club meeting

January 3 2018 **George Poulakos of the Rotary Club of Ventura shows**
how the Malibu Rotary can be one of the partners in a Global grant project
that the Rotary District in Ventura is having with partners in Zambia

January 9 2017 Rotary District Breakfast 7:00 a.m. Crowne Plaza LAX
5985 Century Blvd.

January 24 2017 Tentative Date Set for the Malibu Rotary Club Malibu
Middle and High School Singing Competition 7:00 p.m.at Rait Recital Hall (no
noon meeting)