



Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

March 7, 2012

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President of the Month David Baird
Malibu Rotary Club President of Record William Wishard

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- **Tracey Garnaas, senior in International Studies student at Pepperdine Seaver College shares her 2008-9 experience on being a Rotary high school student exchange student from Arizona to Brazil**

- **The next regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room of Pepperdine University. Speaker will Tracey Brown, Physio-therapist, Exercise Rehab Specialist & Wellness Coach in the Malibu office of chiropractor Dr Taber Chinn. Tracey will tell us why breakfast is the most important meal and give us other important wellness tips! Expect that both will be inducted into Malibu Rotary Club as Members.**
- News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting
- Malibu Rotary Club International Projects in Puerto Rico
- Malibu Rotary Club is [Official Sponsor of Smile Trek](#) (see postcard from Winston)
- 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 \(2011-2012\)](#) Kalyan Banerjee
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2011-2012): Brad Robinson
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Kevin Smith
- Rotary District Newsletter—see it on Rotary District 5280 site or click [here](#)

Tracey Garnaas, senior in International Studies student at Pepperdine Seaver College shares her 2008-9 experience on being a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Arizona to Brazil

As a high school student Tracey Garnass in Lake Havasu, Arizona, Tracey was very familiar with Rotary and youth exchange programs. She was a top student in her high school and was chosen by the local Rotary club to attend the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) in the Lake Havasu area, and encouraged to become President of her high school Interact Club. It was almost expected that she would also become a Rotary high school youth exchange student, but at the same time she didn't want to miss her senior year of high school. What top student wants to miss her senior year of high school? What's a girl to do?

Tracey was able to have her cake and eat to. She was able to graduate high school with her high school class of '08 in Lake Havasu and go to all the senior events that she wanted to go to AND she was able to be a Rotary high school exchange student to a high school in a town in the northeastern coastal area of Brazil.



The year long Rotary Youth Exchange Program is open to students age 15-19 who have demonstrated leadership in their community. The brochure also says “Candidates should also possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things that will enable them to fully experience life in another country and become excellent cultural ambassadors.”

Tracey felt she had the qualities that Rotary was looking for to be a cultural ambassador and after her high school graduation at age 18 found herself leaving her friends, family, and the comfortable life she had in Arizona and travelling to a place in Brazil she had knowledge of. When she left the only word of Portuguese she knew was *Oi*, which means Hi or Hello.

In most of the 200 countries and geographical areas where there are Rotary Clubs the Rotary Youth Exchange is truly an exchange. Parents

of a high school student send their high school student to another country and become the guardians for the year of a high school student from another country. We know Rotarians in our district (like Paul and Melody St John) who host a foreign high school student annually, and have no children to export out.

When Tracey arrived in Brazil she was greeted by her “host family” which included a Brazilian high school boy who spoke English. It turned out he was only going to be there for a couple weeks and then he was on his way to come to the U.S. as an incoming Rotary Youth Exchange student. And Tracey was not going to stay in the home of his parents—instead she was going to stay with his grandparents a short distance away, who did not speak any English!

What had Tracey gotten herself into? She said the grandparents were very nice and had flowers waiting for her on her arrival. Tracey said she was in cultural shock for a month. She immersed herself into school and learning the Portuguese language. She said at first she retreated to her room. She and the grandparents communicated with each other by pointing to things. She had taken Spanish in high school, and that helped somewhat with learning Portuguese. Tracey said, “When you take someone out of her comfort zone she will learn a lot about herself.”

From immersion into Portuguese Tracey became fluent in the language. But the language was just one of the many things she learned in her year in Brazil. Tracey said one of the great



opportunities of her Brazilian Rotary Youth Exchange experience was the chance to meet other youth exchange students who were in the city at the same time she was. She met students from such diverse places as Finland, Slavokia, and Quebec, Canada.

When not in school they got to experience the nearby Amazon by taking a riverboat into the Black River, the largest left tributary of the Amazon and the largest blackwater river in the world. The dark color comes from humic acid from incomplete breakdown of phenol-containing vegetation from sandy clearings. The river's name arises from the fact that it looks black from afar. But Tracey says that the acidity has a practical value for humans on traveling on the river—it kills bugs. Be that as it may, they slept in hammocks when traveling down the river.

Among the critters Tracey met while traveling down the Black River was the one shown in picture above.



Their trip into Amazon also afforded Tracy and other Rotary Youth Exchange students to meet the family of an Amazon Indian tribe.

Brazil is a huge country and the place where Tracey lived during her year there was at the northeastern at the country, and she never had a chance to go to Rio, which is to the south a couple

thousand miles away, at least a 4 hour plane ride or Sao Paulo, which is even further. But she had several observations about the country which she did see.

She said that in the Brazilian high schools there is “Chaos in the classroom.” Nothing is taken serious until the senior year. In the senior everyone studies very hard for the *Vestibular*, a nationwide college entrance exam. It is something akin to the American SAT tests and a good score on it is the primary way a student can get into the state sponsored universities. The exams often span several days, usually two, with different disciplines being tested each day.

Tracey says public education in Brazil is very bad. Private schools pay teachers much more than the state schools do, so only the upper class gets a good education. She said that Rotary is a very prestigious organization to be in in Brazil. Apparently she was privileged to attend a private school, and while the host families in a typical youth exchange not only provide room and board they usually aren’t required to additionally provide tuition for the youth exchange student a private, and apparently in this case there was Rotary grant money available to help pay for this additional expense.

Tracey said that Brazilian government tries to encourage products bought in the country to made there and taxes imports 100%. Ford and other auto makers now have plants in Brazil, to produce cars for local buyers that are not taxed as imports.

Although Tracey did not go to Rio, she said that just as other countries in Latin America there are problems with violence in large cities such as Rio with illegal drug cartels. There is a major currently to clean this up before the 2014 FIFA World Cup to be held in Brazil, in addition to the 2016 Olympics to also be held there.

Tracey said her 2008-2009 Rotary Youth Exchange experience has left her with friends around the world. She keeps in touch with her councilor in Brazil as well as adopted Brazilian family. She has no specific plans after her graduation from Pepperdine, but doesn’t rule out a job that will take her back to Brazil.

News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Guests at the March 7 Malibu Rotary Club meeting included **Rick Gibson** Chief Marketing Officer and Vice President for Public Affairs at [Pepperdine University](#) and a member of LA5 Rotary Club, next week’s speaker **Tracey Brown**, Malibu Rotary Club Honorary Rotarian **Connie James** who is faculty sponsor of the Pepperdine Rotaract Club, as well as past Malibu Rotarian **Danielle Anjou** who was talking to the day’s speaker **Tracey Garnaas** to help her communicate with the Brazilians about the sculpture Danielle is planning for the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

Malibu Rotary Club International Projects in Puerto Rico



With matching grants from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 5280 (District Designated Funds [DDF]), and in partnership with other Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5280 and host clubs in Puerto Rico, the Malibu Rotary Club is involved in two humanitarian international projects in Puerto Rico in 2012. Barbara Riley (front row third from left) represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the *Centro Geriátrico San Rafael*, Arecibo, PR Rotary Project in February, 2012. Malibu Rotary was one of the lead sponsors of the project, along with 4 other Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles, CA Rotary District 5280 who also sent representatives.

Malibu Rotary Club was also a sponsor of a second project, *Hogar Santísima Trinidad (HST)* in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico which involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management.

More on Rotary District 5280's humanitarian trip to Puerto Rico can be seen at <http://www.facebook.com/PuertoRico5280>.

In the *Centro Geriatrico San Rafael, Inc* in Areciba, Puerto Rico project the Malibu Rotary Club is the PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER. 5 Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles

along with Rotary Foundation and the host Arecibo Rotary Club has helped the senior residential center purchase needed maintenance and repair tools, 8 energy efficient air conditioning units and a commercial sliding gate opener. This is a geriatric home for indigents founded in 1925. The Arecibo Rotary Club has been supporting them since 1935. This project costs \$15,585.00 of which the Malibu Rotary Club and the Westchester Rotary Club have given \$1170.00 each. Other partner clubs are Culver City, Wilmington, along with the host Rotary Club of Arecibo.

The most ambitious project (*Hogar Santisima Trinidad* [HST] in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico) involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center (who are also highly likely to have HIV) to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management. HST is a private community based non-profit organization, offering a safe residential rehabilitation and treatment program to 35 young males addicted to drugs and /or alcohol, established in 1993. HST depends on income from their semi-industrial aluminum and metal recycling and processing program. As part of their rehabilitation program, the HST implements occupational, physical and work therapies through their Mobile Recycling Center Program (MRCP). It consists in the training of patients in the use of a fixed industrial recycling unit permanently located at the Center, where they learn how to process and recycle aluminum, car batteries, diverse metals and other materials under the close supervision of trained supervisors. They also pickup recyclable materials in nearby communities to process at the center. The project also addresses a problem of waste management in Puerto Rico. Studies done by the US Environmental Protection Agency have revealed that improper or insufficient capacity to dispose of solid waste in Puerto Rico has created public health problems. The management and disposal of solid waste in the Island has long been a challenge, aggravated by the limited space available due to its geographical size, roughly 100 mi by 35 mi, and its delicately balanced ecosystem and the large amount of solid waste generated, at 4,000,000 tons per year. Puerto Rico's residents generate more waste than people living on the mainland and recycling rates are lower. Much of Puerto Rico's waste ends up in landfills, most of which do not comply with local and federal governments' landfill requirements. The cost of HST Rotary project in Puerto Rico is \$22,570. The primary international club sponsoring this project is the Westchester Rotary Club. Malibu Rotary Club is an equal share holder with the Westchester Rotary Club, with each club contributing \$1570.00. Besides the host Rotary Club of Santurce, the Rotary Club of Torrance-Lomita is a partner in this project.

Malibu Rotary Club is [Official Sponsor of Smile Trek](#)



Marine Sargent Winston Fiore Started his 5,000 mile Cross Country Motorcycle Trip in Malibu. His purpose is to bring awareness of children's cleft palate and raise money for the International Children's Surgical Foundation. The organization provides surgery, training for 3rd world surgeons, plus follow-up care for surgical correction of children's cleft palate disease. The US trip was in preparation for a 5,000 mile walking trip across Southeast Asia. He explains, "In late September,

2011, I will set out on a 5,000-mile walk through Southeast Asia. My route will take me through eight different countries, beginning and ending in Singapore, and the yearlong trek will be an ongoing effort to raise funds for the ICSF and awareness for children living with clefts in the developing world. I chose to base this trip in Southeast Asia because of the region's high prevalence of cleft births." Malibu Rotary Club is one of his sponsors. One surgery costs \$240.

See Winston's blog at <http://www.smiletrek.org> (which includes multiple videos) as he travels across the world. As of February 22nd he has raised almost \$38,000 for ICSF, over 76% his goal of \$50,000.

A post card mailed by Winston to Malibu Rotary from Thailand on December 31 read "1,000 miles down, 4,000 miles to go...Thanks again for making a difference. Wishing you a happy new year from Bangkok! ---Winston smiletrek.org"

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

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on 

Calendar

(all Malibu Rotary Club meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Fireside Room of Pepperdine University unless otherwise noted)

Mar 14 2012

Tracey Brown

"Why Breakfast is the Most Important Meal"

Tracey Brown, "Physio-therapist, Exercise Rehab Specialist & Wellness Coach" in the Malibu office of chiropractor Dr Taber Chinn. Tracey will tell us why breakfast is the most important meal and give us other important wellness tips!

(This is the last part of Malibu Rotary Club trilogy on nutrition (Susan Helm, Camille Gaen, Tracey Brown)).

Mar 21 2012

Michael M. Folkerts Ph.D

"Highlights of Neurotrauma Research"

Pepperdine Associate Professor of Psychology Michael M. Folkerts did his doctoral paper at UC Davis on the biochemical changes in the brain of rats after trauma. Since 2002 he has has been the chair of the Neurotrauma Research Lab at Pepperdine.

Mar 28 2012

Robert Lloyd

"What we need to know about Africa"

Dr. Robert Lloyd is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Pepperdine University. He also directs Seaver College's International Studies program. He received his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., an M.R.P., in regional planning from Cornell University and a BA, cum laude, from the University of Arizona. His areas of research include international conflict management and negotiation, Africa, democratization, and development

Apr 4 2012

Geoff Matlock

"My Peace Corps Experince: Small Business Development in the South Pacific"

Geoff Matlock is Peace Corp volunteer who spent over a year in Fiji doing Small Business Development

Apr 11 2012

**Malibu Rotary Club Assembly
"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"**

Apr 18 2012

Sam Lagana

"Pepperdine Athletics and Events Center"

Sam Lagana, Pepperdine University Associate Vice Chancellor will speak and show slides of the new Pepperdine Athletics and Events Center

Apr 25 2012

Jessica E. Davis

"On Being the New Editor of Malibu.Patch.Com "