

# ROTARY SPOKES

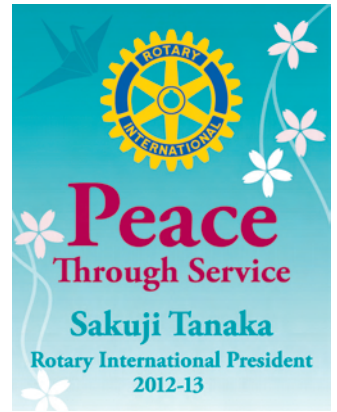
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## Project WOO

Today's speaker is Trent Gordon who will share with us Project WOO (Wave of Optimism).

Project Wave of Optimism's Mission Statement is to "facilitate community-driven development in Latin American surf travel destinations." Project WOO firmly believes that international surf travel has a profound impact upon the local populations of Latin American surf destinations. However, few coordinated efforts have attempted to use this opportunity to support locally-lead development initiatives. In light of this, Project WOO commits to work in the area of critical overlap between surf tourism presence and host community efforts to improve their quality of life. Through their on-site, hands-on approach, they strive to:

- Build positive relationships within the community
- Establish ourselves as a proactive ally of the local people
- Encourage local empowerment, raise awareness of local issues, and support local management of resources
- Promote local participation and leadership in the identification, planning and execution of community development projects
- Provide technical guidance and material support for local development initiatives.

Trent joined Project Wave of Optimism in 2009 as the Director of Business Development. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara in 2004. Trent fell in love with Latin culture and its people on a last minute fly fishing trip to Chile, and has since spent over a year off and on exploring much of Central and South America as a traveler, English teacher, and surfer. After 3 years of working in financial services in New York City, Trent is a partner at Optimum Strategy Group, a strategic equity and investment banking firm, in his home town of Lake Tahoe, NV. An avid skier, rock climber, and winemaker,



Trent is focused on building financial support for Project WOO's work in Latin America.



*President Indy singles out Hoot Bennett for his remarkable 57 years of perfect attendance.*

## Recap of April 17, 2013 meeting

Doug Halter kicked off the meeting with inspirational Curtis invocation led off the meeting with a Robert Browning poem about the original Marathon runner as a tribute to the Boston bombing victims. Clyde Reynolds led the Club in "God Bless America. Sylvia Cheatham's Rotary Moment concerned the variety of projects in which our club participates. She also enjoys the Rotary magazine. President Indy pointed out Hoot Bennett amazing 57 years of perfect attendance. He also thanked Terry Schaeffer, who organized the recent District 5240 Assembly.

Our Julius Gius Memorial Fund Chair Larry Emrich introduced club member Margo Byrne, director of the Ventura YMCA. She, along with Y staff Sarah Abrams and David Palomares, thanked the club for JGMF funding to the Youth in Government program. This program teaches high school students about the legislative process with hands on involvement in Sacramento.

Ajay Dhebar introduced a special guest: our own Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney who, in turn, introduced a young officer who will be heading to Asia as an investigator for almost a year to help thwart human trafficking with the International Justice Mission organization. The officer is doing this on his own accord and needs funding. Several members pledged money to his cause and Ajay has promised proceeds from ticket sales to the May 11 Ventura Fusion home opener to raise funds as well.

### Program

Saurabh Bajaj introduced his wife Madhu as the program. She belongs to the group India Friends Association, a local group that strives for better governance, sustainability and people empowerment in India. Formed by a handful of people after the Latur earthquake of 1993, the organization has grown, and works to have direct involvement with issues in India, preferring project monitoring to avoid red tape and corruption. They subscribe to the Gandhian concept of service and self sufficiency, not charity.

The early work in India included water and sanitation systems. The focus has shifted from 'feel good' projects to fighting corruption and empowering Indians to understand what is available to them by right. Successful recent projects include a rural health care center, serving some 20,000 Indians, a microloan project to women.

## Today's Agenda

*Trent Gordon*

### "Project WOO"

Introductions

*Lucas Johnston*

Rotary Moment

*Jeannette Williams*

Fining

*Mystery*

## NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following is proposed for membership:

- **Steve Datto**, proposed with classification of "Marketing" by Anup Rimal

If you have any objection to membership of this individual in our club, please contact the President or Secretary in writing within seven days.

Water efforts including digging holes to capture rainfall and saving rivers from pollution. IFA also promotes Tribal Livelihood and Sustainability and Biodiversity. For this they are training rural young people sustainable timber practices and viable ecotourism.

IFA raises funds through Archana, "An Offering," a cultural celebration event, the next one scheduled for April 27.



*Madhu Bajaj speaks to the club about her organization, India Friends Association.*





*Sylvia Cheatham offers her Rotary Moment concerning the many club projects.*

## Upcoming Events

**Board Meeting - *note special day!***

71 Palm Restaurant

Apr 25, 2012 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

**Rotarians at Work Day- *this Saturday!***

Veterans Home, Saticoy

Apr 27, 2013 08:00 AM

**President Indy's Demotion**

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Jun 18, 2013 05:00 PM



*Margo Byrne thanks the club for funding on behalf of the Ventura YMCA.*



*Sarah Abrams describes the Youth in Government program at the YMCA.*



*Chief Ken Corney speaks very highly of the officer he is introducing.*



*Curtis Cormane shares his thoughts during the Invocation and Introductions.*





**POLIO FACTS:**  
**+10 million**

Number of children walking today because of receiving the polio vaccine.

**Ensure no child suffers from polio:**  
**[endpolionow.org](http://endpolionow.org)**

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

Source: World Health Organization [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



### Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

#### Officers

President	Indy Batra
President Elect	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Lynda Girtsman
	*Non-Voting Position

#### Rotary Spokes

Editor	Curtis Cormane ( <a href="mailto:curtisvta@gmail.com">curtisvta@gmail.com</a> )
Assitant Editor	
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, John McConica II

#### Avenues of Service

##### Club Service

Director	Dan Holmes
Assistant Director	Mario de la Piedra

##### Community Service

Director	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Director	Ron Calkins

##### International Service

Director	Ed McCombs
Assistant Director	Christina Rust

##### New Generations

Director	Gary Young
Assistant Director	Courtney Lindberg

##### Vocational Service

Director	Doug Halter
Assistant Director	Lynda Girtsman