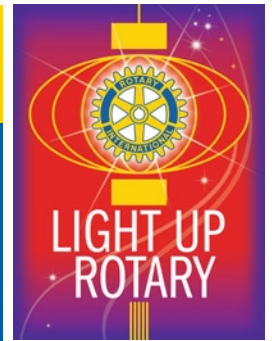


# ROTARY SPOKES

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919

**95** YEARS OF  
SERVICE

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## Captain Larry Vasquez; Naval Base Ventura County

Captain Larry Vasquez assumed command of Naval Base Ventura County on 24 February 2012. A native of the Bronx, New York, Captain Vasquez graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Finance from Baruch College, City University of New York. After working as a financial analyst in New York City, Vasquez was commissioned through Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1988 and designated a Naval Aviator in 1990.



At sea, Captain Vasquez commanded the "Wolfpack" of HSL-45, a 12 aircraft helicopter squadron tasked with providing combat ready helicopter detachments onboard surface combatants deploying around the world.

Under his leadership the Wolfpack earned three "Battle E" awards, two Type Wing Maintenance awards, the CNO Safety award and numerous Pacific Fleet Retention excellence awards. Captain Vasquez also served in various leadership billets at sea in the HSL (Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light) community while assigned to the HSL-49 "Scorpions" in San Diego, CA and the HSL-37 "Easy Riders" based in Kaneohe, HI, deploying on cruisers, destroyers and frigates. Captain Vasquez was part of the pre-commissioning crew of USS Bataan (LHD-5) serving in various billets in the Air Department.

Ashore, CAPT Vasquez served as the Flag Aide to Commander, Naval Coordinator Mid-South, Millington, Tennessee, Instructor Pilot and Administrative Officer in HSL-40 "Airwolves," Program Analyst in the Assessments Division (N81) on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, and Personal and Administrative Aide to the Secretary of the Navy.

Captain Vasquez most recently completed a tour as the Navy Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Washington, DC. Prior to his selection as a FEF, Captain Vasquez served as Commander, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah Afghanistan, a joint team of military and civilian personnel charged with extending the reach of the government of Afghanistan through reconstruction, development, governance and security.

Captain Vasquez earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA and is a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.

Captain Vasquez' personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three gold stars), Navy Achievement Medal (two gold stars), Combat Action ribbon and various unit and campaign awards. Additionally, he was awarded the 2004 League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) "Excellence in Military Service" award.

**THE FAIR IS HERE...  
and so we are not!**

**07/30 National Search Dog Foundation  
6800 Wheeler Canyon Road, SP**  
**08/06 Discovery Ventura  
1888 E Thompson Blvd, Vta**

## Recap of July 16 Meeting

*as reported by Christina Rust*

Indy Batra began the meeting with more words from a 'not-so-wise guy.' Staci Johnson led us in "God Bless America." Ed Campbell made a presentation of a Rotary rocking chair to President Rob.

In announcements, Roz Warner confirmed the two offsite visits during the Ventura County Fair: July 30 at the National Search Dog Foundation and August 06 at Discovery Ventura. Members should sign up for an accurate head count. Kevin Clerici asked for volunteers to help assemble the backpacks on August 09 from 9:00 to 12 noon.

Lynda Girtsman asked members to write notes for Mario de la Piedra for his nuptials to be assembled into a chain. Mike Anderson auctioned off tickets to dinner at Himalaya and the musical "Bye Bye Birdie."

Christina Rust fined on July holidays while Norm Blacher, for his Rotary Moment, reflected on Rotary Fourth of July events past and present.

### Program

Rob van Nieuwburg introduced our very own Ron Bamieh as speaker, who spoke about gangs and how law enforcement approaches their activities.

We have seen many changes of attitude towards gangs, from the 1970s and 1980s when not much thought was given to them to today where they seem to dominate the news. The current prison system is actually proliferating gang members and the sentences handed to all level of offenders who have gang membership, including children tried as adults, leads to hardening rather than rehabilitation.

Ron shared an experience of a young man he defended who had gang ties through his family. His involvement in a murder as part of this gang, although the evidence was murky at best, could have left him incarcerated for years, but his case was ultimately dismissed for a variety of reasons.

## Today's Program *Naval Base Ventura County*

Introductions:	Ellyn Dembowski
Rotary Moment:	Albert McCartney
Fining:	Mystery

### Future Programs

Jul 30	Offsite: National Search Dog Foundation
Aug 06	Offsite: Discovery Ventura



*Indy Batra begins the meeting with one of his sayings as President Rob looks on.*



*Ron Bamieh talks about gangs and law enforcement.*



*Club Services director Roz Warner lays out the offsite meetings during the Fair.*



*President Rob sits in the chair furnished by Ed Campbell.*



*Lynda Girtsman shows the note cards for Rotarians to write well-wishes for Mario de la Piedra.*



*Nprn Blacher talks about his Rotary Moment.*



*Kevin Clerici makes an appeal for the Kid's Backpack Project..*



*Christina Rust conducts fining on all things July..*



### President Rob's Corner

"The Larry Emrich, Ventura Rotary Club 2014-15 Polio Eradication Fund"

What is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative? Spearheaded in 1988 by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, this initiative has reduced the incidence of polio by more than 99 percent. In 1988, more than 125 countries were polio-endemic, and more than 350,000 children were paralyzed by the disease each year. Since 1988, more than 2 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine. In January 2009, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded \$355 million to the effort. Rotary, in turn, pledged \$200 million in matching funds for a total of \$555 million to directly support immunization campaigns in endemic countries. Rotary has termed this effort "Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge. But we are not there yet. Rotary and our partners will continue to immunize children until our goal of a polio-free world is achieved. And we must remain vigilant against a resurgence of this terrible disease. Thus Marc Vertin's spearhead of the 2014-15 club fundraiser, "The Larry Emrich, Ventura Rotary Club 2014-15 Polio Eradication Fund", dedicated to long time Rotary Club of Ventura member and past Club President Larry Emrich. In the true spirit of The Rotary Club of Ventura and "Service Above Self" Marc and I are asking each member of the club to donate a minimum of \$100.00 this Rotary Year to the continued the fight for a Polio Free world. With a \$25.00 per quarter commitment, or \$8.33 per month, our club can present a \$13,000.00 contribution to help Rotary reach its world-wide eradication goal. Sue and Marc Vertin started this campaign with their own \$25.00 check and ask each one of you today to do the same by filling out a fine slip for \$25.00 or more. Thank you for all YOU do!!!

#### July Birthdays

#### July Anniversaries

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara Asbell, Jul 10    | RoseAnn Hill, Jul 02  |
| Ron Calkins, Jul 11       | David Wellik, Jul 18  |
| Rob van Nieuwburg, Jul 13 | Mike Anderson, Jul 24 |
| Jim Newton, Jul 14        | Sandra Laby, Jul 24   |
| Roger Case, Jul 20        | John R. Brant, Jul 26 |
| Robert Donaldson, Jul 22  | Norm Blacher, Jul 27  |
| Michael Scar, Jul 23      |                       |
| Dave Bianco, Jul 25       |                       |
| Lucas Johnston, Jul 25    |                       |





## Despite Instability, Polio Drops 85% in Nigeria

Aid workers in Nigeria say they have never been closer to eradicating polio, with only four new cases reported this year. But as insurgent attacks grow more violent in the north, the workers say vaccination programs are at "high risk" and continued success will depend on new strategies to reach children in what have become war zones.

In Nigeria the number of new polio cases this year has decreased by 85 percent to four cases reported so far this year, compared to 26 cases reported in the same time frame in 2013.



But northern Nigeria, where most of the polio cases are found, is getting more dangerous and Boko Haram insurgents have killed thousands of people this year alone. Militants have been holding more than 200 school girls captive for nearly three months and hundreds of other children have been slaughtered in their school houses.

	<b>OFFICERS</b>	President	Rob vanNieuwburg
		President Elect	Christina Rust
	<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Secretary	Jim Deardoff
		Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
		Treasurer	Connie Young
		Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
		Immediate Past President	Irene Henry
		<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>	
		<b>Club Service</b>	
		Director	Roz Warner
		Assistant Director	Ellyn Dembowski
		<b>Community Service</b>	
Director	Steve Warriner		
Assistant Director	Mike Anderson		
<b>International Service</b>			
Director	Albert McCartney		
Assistant Director	Mark Kirwin		
<b>Youth Service</b>			
Director	Dale Jaedtke		
Assistant Director	Dave Wellik		
<b>Vocational Service</b>			
Director	Mary Saputo		
Assistant Director	Saurabh Bajaj		
<b>SPOKES</b>			
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Club #691

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Rotary International  
President

Loretta Butts  
District 5240 Governor

Rob vanNieuwburg  
Club President

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