



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin
"The friendliest club in Rotary"
100% Paul Harris Club*



Editor: Maria Berntson maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com
Assistant Editors: Betsy Chess, Curtis Cormane
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Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll
March 21, 2012

Meeting of March 14, 2012
Nicaragua Project, featuring Mario de la Piedra
Reporter: Betsy Chess



Tom Naylor handled Introductions and shared his reason for being a Rotarian – the ability as a group to affect our community and the world. **Clyde Reynolds** led us in *It's a Grand Old Flag*.

Presentations

Prez Lynda announced two Foundation awardees each of whom have given \$10,000 to the RI Foundation: **Sheila Fatterelli** and **Larry Emrich**. Our district has given more to Polio than any in the world. Prez-elect **Indy Batra** then recognized **Brenda Allison, Sonny Shah, Lynda Girtsman, Steve Kipp, Curtis Cormane, Larry Dawes** and **Rosa Lee Measures** who have brought in new members this year. District 5240 Governor **Wade Nakamura** awarded Benefactor pins to **Kristin Taylor, Steve Kipp** and **Laurie Rozet**.

Announcements

P-E Indy Batra announced the District Assembly would be held March 31st at Oxnard's Pacifica High.

Rotary Moment

Terry Schaeffer recognized Larry Emrich's polio contributions by presenting him with a Paul Harris Fellow.

Web addresses: Club www.venturarotary.org – Photos: www.rotarycov.smugmug.com
District 5240 www.rotarydistrict5240.org – R.I. www.rotary.org



Fining

Dave Loe asked questions dealing with relationship psychology.

Happy Dollars

Happy moments and proud family accomplishments were celebrated.



Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

Today, March 21, 2012

**Mar21- Photographing and Saving
the Upper Owens Valley, featuring Dan Holmes**

Mar 28- All that Jazz

April 4- Digestion

April 11- Where Will the Market Go in 2012?

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Mar 21 – Rosa Lee Measures

Mar 28 – Clyde Reynolds

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Mar 21 – Sonny Shah

Mar 28 – Dale Jaedtke

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Mar 21- Margo Byrne

Mar 28- Todd Binkley



Program

Dale Jaedtke and **Roger Case** introduced our speaker, **Mario de la Piedra**, who spoke about our Rotary project in Nicaragua. Mario emphasized that new international projects must be sustainable and should involve elements of improvements to water and medical access, education, and women & economy through micro loans.

Mario and his team identified Playa Gigante, a tiny town in southern Nicaragua, as needing help and went there last May to assess the needs. They looked for a project that would have the biggest impact and it was decided that dental problems and hygiene were paramount. The equipment in an existing clinic serving a large geographic area was archaic. So Mario went to Patterson Dental in Santa Barbara, and, using club funds combined with matching grants, purchased a portable full-service dental station in a suitcase. Weighing only 45 lbs., it is durable and able to be taken into harsh rural environments. The unit was used 300 times in the first three months! The idea is to begin cleaning teeth early to prevent later dental problems.

Mario noted that he met with a new Rotary club started about 30 miles away in Rivas that should be a great future partner.

Curtis Cormane – photographer extraordinaire - spoke and showed images of the Ventura Rotaract club's work in Nicaragua, conducted alongside our project. Led by 'Poppa Bear' Dale, they worked on Playa Gigante's two-room school, a very primitive environment with no plumbing or electricity. The team gave the kids backpacks with school supplies, they helped plant a garden and they fixed the outhouse and broken desks. Mario said having fun with the people is an important part in building longterm relationships.

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2011-12 Officers and Directors

Officers

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

Avenues of Service

Club Service

Director Terry Schaeffer
Assistant Director Dan Holmes

Community Service

Director Curtis Cormane
Assistant Director Nanci Cone

International Service

Director Mario de la Piedra
Assistant Director Ed McCombs

New Generations

Director Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Ken Cooper

Vocational Service

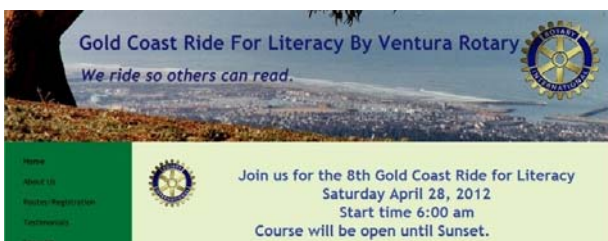
Director Bill Finley
Assistant Todd Binkley

NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS

The following are proposed for membership:

- **David Wellik**, proposed by Connie Young with the classification of "Banking"
- **Doug Haines**, proposed by Indy Batra with the classification of "Security Systems."
- **Anup Rimal**, proposed by Courtney Lindberg, as part of New Generations, with the classification of "Office Equipment"

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



VISIT THE WEBSITE!

www.goldcoastrideforliteracy.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Newcomers

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Mar 23, 2012 07:30 AM

Basic PRLS- **MORE INFO AT www.prls.org!**

CLU Oxnard (before District Assembly)
March 30, 2012

Rotary District 5240 Assembly

Pacifica High School Oxnard
Mar 31, 2012 08:00 AM

Blood Drive- **RESCHEDULED!**

Derby Club Parking Lot
Apr 11, 2012 10:00 AM

RYLA

Camp Ramah, Ojai
Apr 19, 2012 - Apr 22, 2012

Gold Coast Ride for Literacy- **NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

Apr 28, 2012 06:00 AM

Program (cont'd)

Mario said the projects are off to a good start, but it is important always to reevaluate. \$10,000 was invested this year. He explained that this year the dental project was launched. Next year the clean water element will be added (drink water, not sugary sodas), education and economic concerns come next. Within five years it is hoped that all elements will have been integrated into a truly sustainable project. Such energy! Such passion! Such Rotarians!

