



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin*

"The friendliest club in Rotary"

100% Paul Harris Club



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Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll

May 09, 2012

Meeting of May 2, 2012

'Experiences as a Hot Shot Firefighter,' featuring Ben Holmes

Reporter: Betsy Chess



Kitty Lynn handled the Invocation and Introductions and **RoseAnn Hill** led us in *My Country 'tis of Thee*. Lots of guests today!

Presentations and Announcements

Ellyn Dembowski introduced **Anup Rimal** who was inducted as our second New Generations member. **Anup** owns Himalaya Restaurant and his wife owns the Asian Pantry in mid-Town. **Prez Lynda** showed off the New Generations brochure.

Other announcements included:

- **Ellyn Dembowski** spoke about the New Generations requirements for 30 – 45 year-olds and passed out a sheet that outlined them.
- **Terry Schaeffer** – Club Social on May 12th at Foster Park from 12:30 – 3PM. The favorite food is chili.
- **Don Leach** needs volunteers to help with Relay for Life at Buena High School, May 5th.

- **Prez Lynda** thanked all volunteers and sponsors for the Bike Ride.
- **Kristin Taylor** announced there would be a post-Bike Ride meeting May 9th.
- **Sally Crain** introduced Carol, the executive director of the Poinsettia Pavilion. Carol talked about their special Mothers Day Brunch fundraiser - \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Proceeds to benefit maintenance of the facility. Dr. Todd auctioned two tickets to the event.

Fining

Nanci Cone, whose husband is a retired jockey, quizzed us on horse racing lore. We neither won, placed nor showed!

Happy Dollars

Nanci Cone is back! **Bill Finley** is being transferred to Alaska. Music Festival and Botanical Gardens Home Tour to attend on this busy weekend.

Web addresses: Club www.venturarotary.org – Photos: www.rotarycov.smugmug.com

District 5240 www.rotarydistrict5240.org – R.I. www.rotary.org

Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

Today, May 09, 2012

"North Korea - from it's establishment in 1945 to it's Nuclear and Missile Threats of today."

Featuring Dr. Mel Cheatham

May 16- International Disaster Relief
featuring Mark Kirwin

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

May 9- Randy Hinton

May 16- Greg Kincaid

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

May 9- Norm Blacher

May 16- Gary Wolfe

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

May 9- Roger Case

May 16- Ellyn Dembowski



Program

Dan Holmes introduced his son, **Ben Holmes**, who spoke about extreme fire fighting with the Arroyo Grande Hotspots. Ben works for the US Forest Service, attached to the Los Padres National Forest, but he and his crew work throughout the US. Fire season begins next week and the crews are now busy preparing.

Ben's is a Hand Crew. They work on an on-call basis, on contract and are available nationally. Ben described the various types of crews, including those from the Department of Corrections. What do they do? They are usually gone for 14 – 21 days and work grueling 16-hour shifts. They handle line construction either clearing ground so the fire has no fuel, or setting backfires and clearing brush. They also mop up any hotspots. Finally they work to rehabilitate the area and use old bush to amend the soil and to help prevent water erosion. One thing was very clear – this is hard work!

Ben brought examples of the tools and equipment used on the line, including chainsaws, axes, hoes and pumps that are usually hand-fabricated and modified from conventional equipment. Ben carries about 35 lbs. of personal stuff, including a fireproof tent (which you hope you don't have to use!), hard hat, "warmies" (warm clothes) and lots of water!

He showed a video of a their work that served as a "video yearbook" for his crew. The crew is family for six months out of the year. This is no job for old men, but seems the perfect job for Ben!

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 is proposed for membership:

- **Prajesh (Raj) Acharya**, proposed by Juan Soto with the classification of "Accounting."

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gold Coast Ride Wrap-up Meeting- TODAY!

Derby Club
May 09, 2012 1:30 PM

Club BBQ and Picnic

Foster Park
May 12, 2012 12:30 PM

President's Stepdow Dinner

Crowne Plaza
June 19, 2012 5:00 PM

District Governor's Stepdow Dinner

TBA
June 23, 2012



Tuesday, June 19, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Reception at 5:00 pm
Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm

