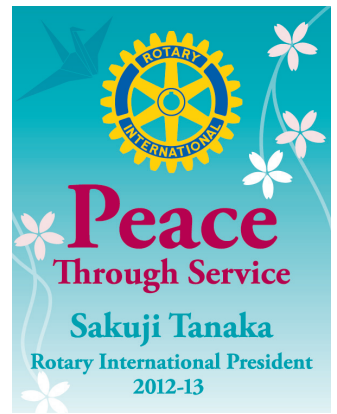


# ROTARY SPOKES

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



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## Seaside Highland Games

Today's speaker is John Lowry of the Seaside Highland Games. The Games are held this year at Seaside Park in Ventura, California October 12, 13 & 14, 2012. This is their tenth anniversary year!

The Games include athletics, by way of the SAAA (Scottish American Athletic Association). They bring their "Highland Heavies" each year and build on the successes of prior Festivals. New innovations and new classes of competitors make every athletic show the best one ever.

There is dance, staging a very respectable FUSTA-sanctioned Highland Dance competition with prizes of cash and trophies. Now, ten years later, the competition is so much larger and prizes for winners are several times greater! And Scottish Country Dance! All three Southern California schools join forces at Seaside as they happily working together as one body.

Three stages full of the highest quality professional Celtic entertainers is still a Seaside standard. There is wonderful food and drink, dry goods purveyors, classes in various Scottish/Celtic Arts (Gaelic language and music, genealogy and Scotch), competitions in Athletics, Dance, Darts, Fiddles, Bagpiping and Drumming and soon Harps! There will be more than eighty Clans and Societies, Sheepdog Demonstrations, Battle re-enactors, British Cars and the pomp and ceremony of a Gala Opening Ceremony at noon on Saturday.

The Friday night's events include a Single Malt Scotch Tasting followed by the "A Scottish Evening" with a great buffet supper, live entertainment and a Scottish Fashion Show will pack in as close to the 350 maximum attendance as possible!

The Games uphold a Scottish tradition dating back into



dating from 1314.

Competition served a variety of martial, sporting and religious functions. The Clan Chiefs used them to recruit staff. Winners of races made excellent couriers and the strongest men made fine bodyguards. The athletes and wrestlers, retained by rival chiefs, were often matched in competition at important gatherings. Dancers and pipers were taken into the chief's household, not just for entertainment value, but the glory their prowess would reflect on their masters on such occasions.

Down the centuries, the men of the villages gathered once a year - perhaps their only holiday - and passed the day exercising their strength in athletic competition and playing the bagpipes and performing traditional dances.

Today, Scottish Games are held in all parts of the world where Scots, by birth or ancestry, have made their home. Games are so popular now in the United States, that one or more Games can be attended somewhere in the country almost every week of the year.

The Seaside Highland Games were organized to fill the void of a Scottish presence in California's Central Coast and to round out the year of Scottish Games activities. The SHG is a nonprofit public benefit corporation organized for the educational purposes of sharing Scottish history, art, literature, music and tradition. It is governed by a Board of Directors and is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## Meeting of 12 September 2012

Martin Rodriguez, our exchange student recently arrived from Chile, was introduced by Lucas Johnston.

Kristen Taylor announced the first Coats for Kids meeting had just happened, with next week another meeting.

Larry Emrich introduced our second year of the Club Football Pool. Fifty dollars will get you five picks for some upcoming games: Ventura High vs. Buena High; UCLA vs. USC and the January 2013 Rose Bowl. The Club winner of each game will receive a Paul Harris Fellow! Proceeds go to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

Courtney Lindberg announced that we almost have all the necessary housing for the visiting Sri Lankan GSE Team. The Team will be visiting our Club on October 17 and we will be having a reception for them that evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ventura Yacht Club.

The meeting included an induction of a new New Generations member, Roberta Turk, sponsored by Courtney Lindberg with classification of "Information Technology Services."

Rosa Lee Measures brought forward tickets for the latest Rubicon Theater production of 'Private Lives', auctioned by Todd Binkley. Todd then conducted fining with questions concerning the Hitchcock classic, "Rear Window."

The first 'Dinner with the President' took place on the evening of September 11 with about 23 Rotarians participating. The group started in Downtown Ventura, walking to the Himalaya Restaurant sporting our Ventura Rotary T-shirts, promoting awareness of the club. President Indy celebrated his birthday Saturday, September 8. He turned 60.

Jeff King announced that some 45 Ventura High School students showed up for the first Interact meeting. Courtney Lindberg and Mario de la Piedra are heading up the club on behalf of the Club.

### Program

Marni Rozet, daughter of club member Laurie Rozet, was the program, where she shared short video clips of her visit to Africa on safari. She took this trip with her mother

## Today's Agenda

**John Lowry**  
**"Seaside Highland Games"**

Introductions

*Mary Saputo*

Rotary Moment

*Steve Bradvica*

Fining

*Courtney Lindberg*

and two brothers, pointing out the energy and resilience of Laurie in undertaking this very arduous trek.

They toured two places, Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Botswana. The itinerary was set up by our own Kristin Taylor and Marni highly recommended the accommodations.

The group would ride in open air Land Cruisers for up to 8 hours a day, seeking out the varied fauna of the bush. They saw giraffes, wildebeest, zebra, cheetahs, lions, elephants, and wild dogs.

Under careful guidance from expert guides, they learned much about the interaction of animals, including monkeys, warthogs, impalas and hungry, hungry hippos.







*Lucas Johnston introduces our exchange student Martin Rodriguez to the club.*



*Our newest member, Roberta Turk, immediately after induction, with sponsor Courtney Lindberg and President Indy.*



*Eliane deBlauw introduces guests and provides the invocation and flag salute.*

## Upcoming Events

### Board Meeting

Pierpont Inn

Sep 20, 2012 11:45 AM

### 2012 District 5240 Conference

Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA

Sep 28 - 30, 2012

### Sri Lanka GSE Team Visit

Derby Club

Oct 17, 2012, 12:00 PM

### Club Social with Sri Lanka GSE Team

Ventura Yaucht Club

Oct 17, 2012, 6:00 to 8:00 PM



*Our auctioneer Todd Binkley accepts bids for theater tickets donated by Rosa Lee Measures.*



## 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	

### 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	Todd Binkley
Assistant Director	Doug Halter

### Rotary Spokes

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