

Spring
Weekly

Reader



Volume 6, Issue 123, April 1, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

The Wright Stuff

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 4/1 Chief Hugo Esparza
"Station 12"
- 4/8 Dale Petrosky
"Texas Rangers Director of Marketing"
- 4/15 PISD Candidate Forum
- 4/22 Denise Hickey
"Earth & Water Day"
- 4/29 Judge Johnny Lewis

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/3.....LOWELL CULVER
- 4/5.....RUTLEDGE HAGGARD
- 4/9.....LARRY FLANNERY
- 4/11.....ANDY SAYERS
- 4/12.....KIRK BELL
- 4/13.....ALICE HOBBS
- 4/22.....KEN ROBERTS
- 4/26.....JOHN SHAO
- 4/27.....RICK KASMISKIE
- 4/28.....JERRY KEZHAY



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

RANDY's putative subject matter was his flying experiences at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, but his actual design was to showcase a multimedia extravaganza, challenging **Sainted Editor** to up his game when he delivers the program on April 29th. **SE** will have to consult Randy on his amazing sound mixer and its connection to the hotel's sound system. But he'll also work on getting our projector to handle **High Definition** for his tour of Antarctica. **Spoiler alert:** although you could bring the grandkids to that meeting (trust me, they're into penguins), I'll be passing out the (standard definition) DVD, so you can treat them at home. (You can take them without guilt since they only cost two bits to make; it sort of makes you wonder where the rest of the 20 bucks charged for a DVD movie goes.)



queenbutterfly ceased flitting from blossom to blossom long enough to open the meeting at 12:17. She summoned **Reverend Alueller** for the prayer and a soft-spoken **Phil Dyer** for the Pledge. Oddly, **Scary Bob** was also soft-spoken under the influence of laryngitis. Someone wanted to know why the Flag was leaning left; I guess he thought it might have something to do with the recent passage of Health Care legislation, a clear Commie plot, just like *Social Security*. Susan thanked **Boyd Craig** for greeting.



CAPTAIN KIRK stood in for the AWOL **SERGEANT JENKINS**. **KIRK** asked us how we felt about the **Market**. He said

he's no longer shunned at parties. While the **Dow** was up over 100 today, it's risen 60% during Susan's administration but not her ministrations, of course! He congratulated **Ean** on "getting the hang of it" in his acceptable introduction of guest (and member candidate) **Herb Ziev**. He offered **Tino's** guest, **Cathy Fang**, the opportunity for a political ad at a small fee. To balance us up, he made the same offer to Cathy's opponent for City Council Place 3 and **Mary Jo** guest, **André Davidson**. But if you've not voted yet for either of these ladies, you lost the opportunity since last Saturday was the final day. **Earnest Burke** introduced who he claimed to be a Corvette racer **Carole Coles**.

John Shanklin was congratulated on being no relation to **Brad Shanklin**.

Randy promised not to sing ♪"Y.M.C.A."♪



Perfect Attendance pins went to **Casey Stewart** (6) and **Kyle Walters** (10).

Susan presented the **ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH** for January (finally 2010) to **Mark Johnson**

for his fearless espousal and follow-through on *Dentistry with a Heart*. Mark accepted the



award in jeans, not his usual scrubs. Susan said that she had just been to a dental surgeon for her husband's surgery. Since **Calvin** was sedated, Susan took photos of him in his loopy state, and she plans on

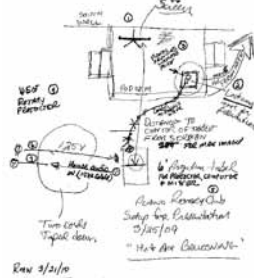
continued on page 2

The Wright Stuff continued...

uploading them to *Facebook*. Calvin is going to kill her.

She thanked us for our kind thoughts for her *Plano Children's Medical Clinic* as it came back from January's flood.

Then she anointed Randy with a new title to go with his old one of the *Official Introduction Tutor*. Given the engineering plan he developed for today's AV presentation, he will now be known as holder of the *Perfect Way to Instruct Others in How to Setup for a Program Award*.



Randy spoke to us in place at his AV Central Table via a *lavalier* microphone. (Indeed, he had mixed Susan's wireless microphone into his rig and threatened to cut her off at any time of his choosing.) He told us that the first time he saw a hot-air balloon in Plano was 1980, and, although he'd never flown one, he recognized its advertising potential and sought out another enthusiast, **Randy Brodhead's** father for a consult. He bought his 1st balloon, learned to fly it, crashed and burned it (not the same events...it burned without benefit of crashing).

He was outfitted for the talk in his flying suit with his Ranger patch and beret. Someone asked him if it was Saddam's old beret, and Randy told him that Col. **Tommy Thompson** (Wisconsin's Governor and US Health Secretary) had once told him that it was an insult to the Rangers that every Tom, Dick, and Harry could wear a beret.



His second, **The PEACOCK Balloon**, was bought off a used-balloon lot from a fast-talking salesman. Randy figured that it had at least 100 hours of flight left in it as he had left in him. So they could retire together, but he's still flying the thing.



Randy digressed into a diatribe about the printed word vs. the electronic image. His talk was an example of a multimedia presentation with charts, photos, maps, bullet lists, and videos. He asked us how many of us sported *iPhones*TM, and it was a bunch. He said that instead of writing, such devices encourage us to "*gesture on glass*." It's "*see and point rather than think and type*." And, strangely, he's all right with that.

Sainted Editor, at least, doesn't want him to be so cheerful about the



loss of "*think*."

He referred us to The Futurist magazine:

<http://www.wfs.org/futurist.htm>

and its Nov/Dec issue on the *Post-Literate Age* heralding the demise of literacy (ironically distributed as *printed* matter). Just as, with the advent of calculators, we don't now need to calculate, soon we won't need to read. The last nail in that coffin is robust speech recognition. (Those of you with *iPhones*TM can experience that now with the free *Dragon Dictation* app.)

We don't even need Spell Checkers as is evidenced by the emails of **LB the Wicked!** All we'll need are hyperlinks, a click on which directs us to associated "stuff." But enough of this internet philosophy...back to ballooning.



He referred to his role as a Media Pilot, who takes the Fourth Estate aloft to "ooo" and "ahh" for television and in print. (There he is: alone in a gondola with sexy news anchors, and Diana never even whimpers. She's made of sterner stuff.)

He reports the number of hot-air balloons in the US to be about 7,500 with another like number outside the US. Other experts, notably **Glen Moyer**, estimate 4-5,000 domestic and 8-10,000 worldwide. All this is of critical concern to those who make money off them, like insurance companies, but their business is in decline with the rise of predatory litigation.

Randy lost focus again as he described his "neat" PDF document (above) that permitted him to author a multimedia presentation. *PDF* stands for *Portable Document Format*TM, and it is the form of Adobe Acrobat[®] files. Adobe sells you the editor, but gives the reader away free so that anyone with an internet computer can view what you make. The editor also accepts input from many standard sources, *Microsoft*[®] *Office*TM products among them.

He prefers Yahoo!'s **flickr**[®] photo storage site to others because clients can download full-resolution photos for free, like



Then he dropped back from his meta-presentation to the subject matter at hand, and he explained why flying at Albuquerque (above) is so much fun. The winds aloft flow opposed to those at ground level, so you can take off, rise, back up, descend, and land where you took off! Since the layers run in opposite directions, you can even straddle them and be



continued on page 3

in dead calm. Randy, inadvisably, described such a becalming as he watched **Diana** head for the head, do her business, and then saunter back to where he landed. This was more than we needed or even wished to know.

Fortunately, he didn't illustrate that episode.

He described his flight paths as "*spilling intestines*," but that didn't stop him from diving them. Each icon on the map refers to an event or observation. The "sailboats," for example, are where the balloon splashed down in the Colorado River or its tributaries for a "touch and go," or as Randy put it "*splash and dash*," but "*mud and*



thud" when the water's low. On one such occasion, he aped **Bob Fosse** with the phrase "*Showtime!*" And the Japanese journalist with him told her colleagues later about her trip, punctuating her rapid Japanese with "*Showtime! Encore!!*" and an ebullient gesticulation.

Then he treated us to a series of

champagne-induced wet T-shirt photos, trying desperately to get a rise out of Diana, but she wouldn't give him the satisfaction. With the good taste for which he is justly renowned, **Sainted Editor** will refrain from offering the illustrations herein.

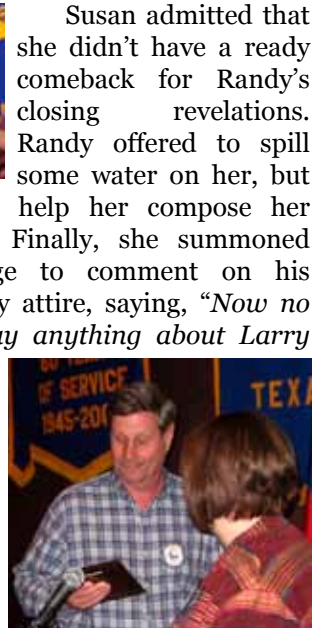


that didn't help her compose her *repartee*. Finally, she summoned the courage to comment on his paramilitary attire, saying, "*Now no one can say anything about Larry Flannery's fashion sense.*"

In addition to Mark Johnson, Kirk Bell was given the **ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH** award (February) at **George Elking's** request for his donations to a Veterans' Hospital. Kirk considered designing a T-shirt in that connection, but demurred on consideration of what Randy might do. But he did indeed have 200 extra T-shirts from an Air Force – TCU game, and managed to convince the seller that they should be so donated.

It was announced that there would be a *Soap Box Derby* organization meeting following our luncheon.

Susan led us in the Four-Way Test and, with remarkable punctuality, closed the meeting at 12:59.



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make a great Rotarian?
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at Rotary!*

The 4 Way Test:

Of the things we think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award
Chris Parr

Athena Award
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

Fred Moses Award
Richard Butterfly

**Business Executive
of the Year**
Ray Huffine

Kersey Cane Holder:
Earl Simpkins

Citizen of the Year:
Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:
www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

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