



SUMMER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 154, Issue 220, June 2nd, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 2

Nancey Humphrey

*PISD Teacher of the Year &
Bond Update*

June 9

Phillip Silvestri

*The New Plano Profile
Magazine*

June 16

Harry LaRosiliere

*Plano Mayor- Plano 3.0 - Latest
2016 Plano Developments*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Frauenheim	Jun 01
Charles Milby	Jun 07
Blair Ritchey	Jun 08
Mark Waterbury	Jun 08
Mark Geller	Jun 09
H. Wayne Hendrick	Jun 09
Bradley Keith	Jun 12
Bob Bauer	Jun 19



GO GO KART

if (much to **Jerry Kezhaya's** chagrin), **David Allison** advertises on the back page, and *he's* no longer a member (!), how is it

that our members in good-standing, with goods and services to sell, avoid this advertising opportunity? Is it seen as not cost effective? Perhaps **Randy Always Wright** is right, and we should auction off the back page space to the highest bidder, who gets the top spot, and so on? That would at least let Randy practice his skills.



President Paperweight convened the conclave at 12:17, abusing **Blair Ritchey** yet again for the Invocation and **Red Badge Roy Reeves** for the Pledge. Greeting went nameless, but **David McWhorter** usurped **Jason Kramer's SUBSTITUTE SERGEANT** rôle because he had an announcement to follow.

There being no Visiting Rotarians yet again, **Jamee Jolly** welcomed back ONCOR minion **Paul Hernandez**. **Dennis Miller** introduced **Heather Heffner** (Asst. Mgr. at *Toyota* Plano and no relation to **Hugh**). Blair Ritchey greeted glutton-for-



punishment **Roy Reeves**. **Jason Rice** introduced theater intern **Allison Garrett** saying that he's working to subvert her *UT* Theater education. **Debbie Watson** (in

absentia) recommended **Robert Reed** for membership. Kelly foresaw confusion between the RRes. **Howard Matson** bade us welcome Interior Designer **Cheyne McClintock** in town (quarterly) to ride her (quarter) horse? Inquiring minds want to know which quarter of the horse she visits.

David announced that his incoming board is to RSVP for the meeting with the outgoing one on 16 June. He said that 5810's **George Ritcheske** has asked us to create a Strategic Planning Committee looking forward three years. It would be composed of 10 "*wisdom members*" (that lets most of us out), 10 current leaders (got those in spades), and 10 Newbies. So 30 of us are to receive summons to which we must respond immediately. It sounds like David's regime will be a smidgen autocratic.



CAPTAIN KIRK

rose to thank the Club for its support of the **STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** banquet which this year netted **\$6,700**, the majority of which will find its way back to the Title I schools. The 250 attendees scarfed down Rotarian **Steve Vitasek's** catering. Kirk expressed jealousy over the sparkle shoes and Mohawks sported by some of the attendees; he's thinking the event needs a red carpet and paparazzi. While the current election cycle leaves him uncertain about the immediate future, the long-term future looks bright as a consequence of these students. He thanked worker bee **Lynette Pieper** profusely, and Kelly thanked them both.



Alan SPIRITWARE Feigenbaum encouraged us to fill in the order form currently in circulation around our tables.

Olin Jaye suggested that *Sainted Editor* was relieved to hear Olin's not the speaker. Instead we'd hear from J.C.

continued on page 2



In a sense, it was the Second Coming of **John Caldwell**. He first appeared as a CPA, but he's been resurrected as a creative inventor on a par with **Leonardo da Vinci**, if the shape of the latter's tank is any guide. Indeed he is a substitute PISD teacher of math and engineering, asked to demo his *Bicep Bike*.



John had created Show'N'Tell on the Rotary Stage to demo his invention, the **BIG PEOPLE'S BIG WHEEL**. It all started with buying a *Big Wheel*® for his little person, 5-year-old son, **Robert**. It was during his Mid-Life Crisis, and he was contemplating

1. Buying a *Harley*,
2. Having an affair, or
3. Inventing something,

but the last one struck him as the cheapest. So he made himself a *Big Wheel*® out of PVC (PolyVinyl Chloride) pipe.

Reviewed by *The Dallas Morning News* (how would they have known about it?) as "*a plumbing project gone horribly wrong*," John was forced to recognize its shortcomings:

- No gears
- No coasting, and
- **NO BRAKES!**

All of that motivated him to tweak a few improvements, garnering two patents and a quarter-page article in *The New York Times* in the process! And this from a man with no engineering background, merely a degree in the Dismal Science. So he had this to say to those of us less handicapped, "*Think what **you** can do!*"

When you begin, he said, "*all you know is what it will do.*" Then you go about gathering materials:

- PVC
- Aluminum
- Wood
- Composite, a sturdy 1 lb. laminate of wood & Styrofoam that, with a helping hand from **John Priest**, Caldwell demonstrated would hold his 185 lb. frame. <admiring applause>

Lapsing into teaching mode, he told us that your next step is to decide between the many options. "*Design isn't a straight line!*" "*The Wright Brothers*," by way of example, "*didn't invent the 747.*"

He proceeded by fits and starts, failing with his first efforts, but not considering it wasted time, "*because I found something better.*" (It is reminiscent of **Edison** telling

an assistant who had failed to find a light bulb filament having tried 50,000 substances! "*Think of it: we now **know** 50,000 things that don't work!*")

And it helps tremendously if "*you **know** what you don't know.*" There were three issues about which John had to remedy ignorance.

Even going about its non-inventing day, his "*brain scans all the time.*" So while giving blood, he discovered a bedding material which became his buggy's seat. (That's bleeding for your Art.)

Its seat back gouged his own until he found an ergonomic waiting room chair back. He turned the chair in the car dealership over to discover its manufacturer who obliged him with samples. (What? He can't build his own automobile?)

He studied wheelchairs to discover the trick to negotiating them uphill: mechanical advantage. They are (hand-) powered by rails quite near the wheel rims. (**Archimedes**: "*Give me a lever long enough, and I will lift the world!*") But that was only half the battle. He had to make the leverage short to go fast on the level and downhill! So he needed to make gears.

"*At a stop sign, I had an epiphany!*" The sign was erected on a metal post made lighter and cheaper with regular holes in it. Olin said, "**Bruce** isn't here; you can tell us the truth. Where did you steal the stop sign?"

Eventually, John came up with a foam-rubber coated PVC handle and a thumb release to change the radius of the drive so it made big circles going uphill and little ones going downhill. It became a 5-speed gear with two moving parts "*made in my garage*" in ~20 hours. It has since evolved into an 8-speed transmission that has stood the test of "*3,000 miles with no failures.*"

In 1979 he ran the NYC marathon in 3:45. In 2008, he "*rolled*" the *Dallas Marathon* clocking 3:15. John has run four marathons and rolled five.

Then it was time for the Big Reveal. He whisked the tarp off his contraption and invited the assembled to come down and gawk. **Alex Johnson** was suckered into the pitch, an infomercial for John's *Bicep Bike*. Normal bicycles exercise your lower body, leaving the arms "*as thick as spaghetti.*" But his bike is "*fun, fast, and you can't fall down,*" because you're already lying on the ground. John calculated that the 26.2 miles of a marathon run translates into "*14,000 push-ups*" on his three-wheeler.





Since he couldn't reach the water tables erected for marathon runners, he carried his water in "a camel back." And he was shadowed by an escort on a bike who helpfully shouted, "Crank faster" when John wasn't gliding 25 mph silently downhill.

Kelly asked him if he had "a skid-plate for your derriere?" John assured him that his butt was 9" off the pavement.

He informed another interrogator that he steered by differential cranking with his arms and differential braking with his legs. When used in combination, he can perform a turn in place, whereas the \$3,000 hand cycles have an 18-foot turning radius.

Currently, it takes him 30 hours to build each *Bicep Bike*. With an assembly line, production time could be cut to 20 hours.

Dave McWhorter opined that we've found "a substitute for the Soap Box Derby!"

The question of commercial feasibility came up. John said that he pitched to *Shark Tank* scouts, but he didn't make the cut. Since they choose 150 entries, he's convinced that his was the 151st. It's tough interesting investor if you "can't show sales." "House brand bicycles" sell for around \$100; his design would sell for about \$200.

Janis Allman suggested he sell to kids. (That would require scaling it down while pitching it as an **evolved Big Wheel®**.)

Olin explained that his bicep program is "not crank but drank." John explained that repetitive stress syndrome is defeated in powering his cycle by both pushing and pulling.

He says that a long ride for him in his buggy is perhaps 70 miles; that translates to 39,000 push-ups, but he's not sore the next day.

To be marketed as a mobility vehicle, the Veteran's Administration has to certify it. But it would be ideal for "baby boomers with bad knees."

Placing our *lethal Rotary Paperweight* on the iron portion of the cycle, Kelly suggested that a caboose could be fitted for a baby. He said it was "really good, for a CPA." Olin asked if **Ean** could learn that trade?

Kelly led us in the 4-Way Test and belled us out at 12:59.



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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Paul Hernandez
Heather Heffner
Roy Reeves
Allison Garrett
Robert Reed
Chevyn McClintock

Visiting Rotarian

None

Guest of

Jamee Jolly
Dennis Hogg
Blair Ritchie
Jason Rice
Debbie Watson
Howard Matson

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Proposed Member:

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