

Summer
Weekly

Reader

Volume 8, Issue 11, September 9, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



Minimalist Sheriff

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 9-9 Fletcher Sharp
Civil Air Patrol
- 9/16 No Meeting - Rescheduled to Golf Tournament Dinner on 9/14
- 9/30 Colonel John Antal - Afghanistan

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/4.....EAN SULLIVAN
- 9/16.....OCTAVIO ORTIZ, III
- 9/17.....HUBERT AARON
- 9/24.....MARTY MURFF
- 9/28.....HUGO ESPARZA



LAN Feigenbaum was today's photographer; however he didn't recognize many of his photographs from the week before. **Sainted Editor** takes that as a compliment to his skill with *PhotoShop*™.

Prince John thrice gonged us together at 12:18, but, had he known about the verbosity of local law enforcement, he'd have gathered our attention well before that. He conscripted **Bryan Stamper** to give the Invocation and **Keith Sockwell** to lead the Pledge. Keith insisted we leave the comma out of "one nation under God..."

John thanked Mayor **Phil Dyer** for greeting (if a politician can't shake hands, what good is he?) assisted by **Thad Stammen**. Then he called **CAPTAIN KIRK** to substitute for an AWOL Sergeant-at-Arms. Someone inquired about how a Captain could be a Sergeant, and Kirk said that he felt like "**Glen Beck** in a *New York Times* editorial meeting." Then, eyeing the **Jackelope**, he asked, "Isn't it *Dove Season*?"



Kirk then fined **susan shuler** for her excellent write-up in the Plano Star Courier wherein she failed to wear her Rotary pin. Then he recognized Guests like

Jan Sullivan whose competent husband **Ean** said that she "neither requires nor desires an introduction." Kirk said, "Hi, Jan" anyway. **Jeff's** son, **Ammon Butcher**, was present for his last Rotary visit before going off to university. And **Judy Jackson** was here to see that **Earnest** and **Scary Bob** did right by the *Hendrick Foundation*.

John called **Ben Criste** to come recover

the Red Badge of Courage from **Keith Sockwell**, who had to be called back by Alan Feigenbaum to submit to the mandatory photo. Keith was just trying to protect Alan's lens from cracking.



The **Presidential Prince** thanked Ean for his birthday check. "How big was it?" asked **LB "Glowing Groin" SHOWALTER**. And **Jessica** announced the substitution of the Golf Tournament Dinner for our regular meeting on September 16th. Those who are golfing that day are automatically registered for the Dinner, but the rest of us must notify Jessica if we're coming (or making up in some other way). If we bring guests (perhaps our Finance Ministers to help with the auction items), they will be charged for the dinner whereas members will not.



Chris Parr introduced **Mary Margaret Taylor** clone, **Loretta Garcia Williams**, who harangued us about mentoring at *Bowman Middle School*. *Bowman* is literally next door to *Memorial Elementary* at which many of us mentor now. Loretta suggested that we follow our mentees when they graduate to *Bowman*, but we're sure she's not advocating giving up the mentoring at *Memorial*, simply adding a session at *Bowman* since we'll be in the neighborhood anyway. Loretta can be reached at

LorettaGarciaWilliams@gmail.com She's especially interested in Science and Math mentoring, and she has a Federal Grant to spend to enhance young minds in those directions.

It seemed as if half our members came to say "hi" to Loretta, she's that well connected. **Herb Hoxie** and **Sainted Editor** are working



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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on her to join. But **Sainted Editor** says that he wants to sponsor her. That way she gets Herb as a “grand-sponsor.”

Perfect Attendance pins represented 112 years of cumulative attendance today; or rather it would have if **Howard Shapiro** had bothered to show up. As it was, they only represented 80 years.

The pins went to **Nathan**

Barbera (4), **Phil Dyer** (10), **Bruce Glasscock** (20), and **Herb Hoxie** (46).

Scary Bob used Stentorian Level II (his lowest setting) to tell us that the Golf Tournament was still missing critical volunteers for the day of the event. Some wag shouted, “*What? We couldn’t hear you!*” Earnest reinforced the message, saying that the Tournament needs up to 18 member volunteers to serve in two-hour shifts starting at 9 am and running through 5 pm. **Hugo** has volunteered for the last shift, but, formidable as he might be, he’ll need a few buddies.



Earnest said that the only thing missing from the Golf Tournament is a puppy; so the committee arranged for a puppy to be one of the auction items. That and several other items were listed on a handout at our tables.

Scary Bob introduced the day’s speaker as Major **Chuck Ruckel**, Chief of



Field Operations for the Collin County Sheriff’s Office, headquartered in McKinney. He’s been with the department for 22 years, having advanced from Patrolman to Investigator, Patrol Lieutenant, Child Abuse Task Force Leader, and, finally, Major in Field Operations. He is a 35-year Collin County resident, having taken his bachelor’s at *UT Austin* and his Master’s at *UT Dallas*.

Major Ruckel began with a Reality Show, or rather a Public Service Announcement, sponsored by **Krispy Kreme™** (*quelle approprié*), touting the knocks that law enforcement takes to help keep us secure. Fortunately, **Kenny Wilson** volunteered to run the subsequent *PowerPoint™* presentation so that **Sainted Editor®** could get back to his poison pen. (“*Poison keypad*” just doesn’t cut it.)

Major Ruckel told us that the single biggest complaint the public has is **SPEEDING**. Even burglary folks can shrug off, but *speeding* sends them into a reporting frenzy. And to catch the speeders, the Sheriff’s Office has one (count him: one) motorcycle cop. They do better when it comes to intra-agency cooperation. For example, they’ve worked closely with the McKinney PD on the recent shooting in that city. And the Sheriff’s Department stays busy in a variety of activities:

- Train derailments

- Tornado response
- Plano Balloon Festival
- Cattlemen’s Ball
- Exchange with Polish Police



Indeed, any crime or emergency occurring in unincorporated Collin County land is in their bailiwick. They’ve served further afield as well, as in Gulfport, MS, during Katrina. When some refugees were relocated to Collin County, Major Ruckel returned.

In the case of the town of Lucas, City Fathers decided not to have a police force, but to contract with the Sheriff’s Office for law enforcement services. They get to share the motorcycle, and the on-site officer gets to respond to emergencies in neighboring areas.

The major growth in the County is occurring in the West up to Celina. Lake Lavon has had Parks and Recreation officers patrolling, but, with the donation of THE Collin County Sheriff’s Office Boat (count it: one), that will change. The Major hopes it will cut down on alcohol consumption (perhaps to be replaced with **Krispy Kreme™**?).

As with the motorcycle and the boat, the Sheriff’s Office has one (count him: one) K-9 unit. The dog is visiting community schools to sniff out drugs. Students no longer stash in their lockers (or they pay off the dog).

Though they have one of everything else, the Sheriff’s Office has 16 crime investigators and a CI Collin County Unit on wheels! They have two forensic technicians who are the envy of TV shows. They’re involved with murders, kiddy porn, all the way down to white-collar crime. “*A little of everything.*” The State of Oklahoma used our guys to help with Internet crimes.

And then there is the Morals Squad. They investigate drug and prostitution cases. They interdict shipments outside of incorporated territories. K-9 sniffer told them the tires of a stopped vehicle smelled high; they were loaded with marijuana.

They have a Child Abuse Task Force that works out of John Ernst’s old bailiwick, CC Child Advocacy Center. When a child’s body was found with hospital tubing attached, the staff at the Children’s Hospital looked at it until one recognized his handicraft and the connection to the perpetrator was made.

There is a Citizen’s Academy that is open to all Collin County citizens. It runs for two nights at the Sheriff’s Office. Other educational outlets are programs in schools with **MacGruff**, the *Take-A-Bite-Out-Of* Crime Dog. Other officers keep the peace at rowdy football matches (no, wait...that’s rugby in the UK). They have a presence in *Lovejoy* and *Anna-Blue Ridge* schools.



Collin County maintains a database of gang activity as mandated by State law. And it shows the drug trade coming north from the border.

Deputies check truckers for weight and license violations to cut down on accidents (especially since NAFTA). And there’s even an Evidentiary Dive Team. Their SWAT team maintains a clown car for the many members it

must carry.

Last, but not least, there's Major Ruckel's infant grandson, whose picture adorned the slide for the Intelligence Unit. He surmised his grandson might have higher intelligence than the Unit.

All of the above are salaried workers, but there are volunteers as well, including **Judah Epstein** (*Scary Bob's* son) with the Reserve Deputies. Volunteers take 640 hours of training on their own nickel to serve. Judah said he endured a four-month course at Collin College. There is also Citizens on Patrol sans Firearms who help with festivals and parades.

In Q&A, **Olin Jaye** wanted to know how many deputies it took to "separate the combatants" at the recent disputationous Commissioner's Court meeting. Major Ruckel, diplomatically, commented that he "never saw as many Collin County Employees" in one place at one time as at the meeting. He mentioned feeding the deputies that turned up there instead of taking their meal break.

Patti Schwartz asked about the License and Weights inspectors and drunk or overtime drivers. The Major said that they needed "probable cause" to stop vehicles, but then they were permitted to check everything, including the driver's logs.

Patti went on to question the efficacy of divers in a lake with near-zero visibility. Major Ruckel admitted that often one cannot see one's hand before one's face, so searches are carried out by touch.

Martin Jackson posed a theoretical question about the chances of getting pulled over by deputies while driving county roads under the influence. Someone suggested that he was inquiring about his Mother-in-Law, but **Jo** disputed that.

Prince John gave Major Ruckel the book *I Love You Because You're You* to sign for *Memorial Elementary*. He



wished all a Happy Rosh Hashanah (begins at sunset on the 8th), led us in the Four-Way Test, and thrice belled us out at 1:05



Know someone who would make a great Rotarian?

Invite them to be your guest 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

Gary Base

Kersey Cane Holder:

Earl Simpkins

Citizen of the Year:

Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:

www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

Proposed By:

Classification:

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