



# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Estes Park's Newsletter

Posted by Rita DuChateau

### The week's program: A year for the Estes Park history books

How would you describe the past year in Estes Park? It certainly has been a year like no other. Mayor Wendy Koenig will join our Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 13 to give us her impressions of the pasts 12 months in our little mountain town.

Click on the link before noon: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7985707369>. Our Zoom host, Scott Thompson, will give you access to the meeting.

Mayor Koenig is a 50-year Estes Park resident and attended school in Estes Park, graduating in 1973 from Estes Park High School. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in 1977 and Master of Science in 1978 from Colorado State University and earned her Doctor of Audiology in 2004 from Central Michigan University.

She was a two-time Olympian in the 1972 Munich Olympics and 1976 Montreal Olympics and her 28-year career in track and field exposed her to national and international politics as an athlete, team manager, USA track and field athlete representative and board member, Olympic Committee representative and Olympic Committee Board member.

In 1987, Mayor Koenig returned to Estes Park to raise her family and continue working as an audiologist. As an audiologist, she served on legislative committees for business regulation and state conventions. Since her return to Town, she has been involved in many town committees and boards including the Park Hospital District Board of Directors, Senior Center Board, Estes Park Lions Club and the Town Board of Trustees. In April 2020 Mayor Koenig began her four-year term as Mayor for the Town of Estes Park.

### Update from President Bill Solms

Second week post Duck Race process includes finishing the clean-up; two of the three cash winners have claimed their prizes. To analyze this year's event and select a Little Duck for 2022, we will have our next meeting this Thursday, May 13th at 5pm, yours truly hosting. The software committee will meet at 3pm that same day. I will send invitations to those committee members; if you have not been on either committee and have an interest in attending, please let me know.

This week's meeting will continue on Zoom, Scott hosting; it appears Nicky's is still not available until June. If there is no clear indication from Nicky's as to their re-opening for Rotary meetings by next week, it is my feeling we should look for a place to at least finish out this fiscal year. Many of us are looking forward to a good meal and meeting venue. Stay tuned.

Thank you again to all of you who helped with the Duck Race this year.

Prez Bill



Posted by Dale Bonza

### May 6, 2021 Meeting Notes

President Bill Solms rang the bell at 12:00. Carl Robicheaux stepped up to do the invocation. His message was a request for divine help for us as Rotarians and human beings to do good, serve others and act as neighbors to the world. Bill Solms led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guest Introductions: Visiting Rotarians: None; Rotarian on the road: Jim Whiteneck connecting from Oklahoma; Guests: today's speakers, Deb Callahan and Chris Eshelman.

### Announcements

- President Bill and everyone celebrated the success of the Duck Race! This year's race brought in a total of over \$118,000. This puts us over the \$3 million mark over the years.
- A final Duck Race Committee meeting to wrap up the year will be on May 13. The Duck Race software committee will meet that same day at 3 p.m.
- We are hoping to be able to start meeting in person at Nicky's starting in June.
- Birthdays in May - Matt Comstock and Tara Manning
- Anniversary - Virgil and Carol Holtegrewe

Scott Thompson provided an over-the-cliff joke about a horse and rider.

### Happy Money

- Instead of a trivia question this week, President Bill reported on a Rotary chapter in Detroit that is supporting business startups in coordination with the Chamber of Commerce as part of Community Service. He proposed we could think about doing that here in Estes Park.
- Bill is happy for all the people that helped with this year's Duck Race. He is celebrating that the idea for using the Lazy River for the venue came from Alison at the library, and that four first responders were able to attend in person. Now that it is over, he can get out and into the garden.
- Carl was happy to pose the trivia question of how many ducks Gregg Jurgens and Carl R. launched into the water on May 1. Trick question, because 7,198 were adopted and 7,250 swam that day.
- Anne Slack is enjoying watching the Gregg and Carl banter.
- Madison is appreciative that Carl and Gregg are on the Foundation Board. He gave kudos to Scott and Kurtis Kelly for being Masters of Ceremony for the Duck Race this year. He also liked the ballet performance and hopes Scott will perform in a tutu next year.

### Program

Rick Taylor introduced the program on water quality in Estes Park. Turns out it is great! Carl Eshelman and Deb Callahan gave insights into producing and maintaining the great water quality in Estes Park.

### Adjournment

President Bill closed the club meeting with the 4-Way-Test.

Dale Bonza, scribe



Posted by Rita DuChateau

### Duck Race fans broke records May 1

The Rotary Duck Race proved for the second year that a pandemic could not dampen the community spirit that propels the 33-year-old event. Because a record number of ducks were adopted, 7,198 to be exact, the 65 Participating Organizations will receive a projected \$118,579 to shore up their budgets and continue their important work in the Estes Valley.

The May 1 event got an early start with a breakfast at The Egg of Estes for Duck Race Committee volunteers, followed by the Estes Park Running Club's Duck Waddle 5K on the scenic Lake Estes Trail. Beginning at noon, programming was live-streamed from The Estes Valley Community Center's Lazy River and viewed on YouTube, Facebook and TDS Channel 8/108 - The Rocky Mountain Channel. A Pre-Flight Show featured performances by singer/songwriter Cowboy Brad Fitch and Ballet Renaissance. Kurtis Kelly and Scott Thompson served as emcees and provided lively commentary as Major Sponsor and little race ducks navigated the current of The Lazy River. Personnel from the Estes Valley Fire Protection District, Glen Haven Area Volunteer Fire Department and Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District represented first responders that were honored this year for their heroic efforts during the recent wildfires. They participated in the duck drop and shared a timely message about wildfire preparedness.

The top prize winners for 2021 were:

- Mark Wagner - \$5,000
- Donald Kutz - \$2,500
- Christopher Marr - \$1,000
- Kenny Lefebvre – Yellowstone Vacation Package
- Debby Westley – Glacier National Park Vacation Package

In addition, over 300 merchant prizes were awarded. All winners are listed on <https://www.epduckrace.org/2021/05/01/2021-prize-winners/>

Leading the Rotary Duck Race flock this year as 'Big Duck', Bill Solms met the challenge of capturing the spirit of the event without the benefit of its traditional outdoor venues and cheering race fans. After the last duck was plucked from The Lazy River, Solms 'quacked out' some well-deserved thanks to several partners.

"On behalf of Rotary and all those who worked so hard to help this event accomplish its purposes, I thank all who invested in this venture: the Town of Estes Park, the Estes Valley Community Center, Mayor Wendy Koenig, Chief David Wolf, and all of our other firefighting forces!"

Solms is most appreciate of the strong community support that resulted in a record-breaking number of Duck Adoptions.

"This year's 33rd Rotary Duck Race allows us to send vital support to 65 participating non-profits as summer begins," he added.



The race is available for viewing on YouTube for anyone who missed the big day or just wants to see it all again. Click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFNORj1nIk>

Looking ahead to 2022, the Rotary Duck Race Committee is anticipating a return to the traditional format, with ducks racing on the Fall River from Nicky's to Riverside Plaza. During 2020 and 2021, the race occurred indoors and without spectators, for the safety of race fans and volunteers.

One former Big Duck said the 2021 race "proved its mettle and staying power for this community by hanging in there for the long haul and adapting to a worldwide pandemic. The fact that the Duck Race is standing strong and ready to go back to the river shows its important value to the community because people show up to support it no matter what."

Don Widrig, volunteer since 2002 who wrote the 41,000 lines computer code that runs all aspects of the race added his praise, "I rank this as the best race that I have ever participated in."

Since its inception in 1989, the Duck Race has distributed \$2.9 million to various Participating Organizations.



### Is Zoom a challenge? Anne Slack has the answers!

For anyone new to the workings of Zoom, it can be a confusing experience. Our Membership Chair Anne Slack took on the challenge of creating a step-by-step tutorial on navigating Zoom.

The document is posted on our club website's home page, under Home Page Download Files (left hand side of the page) for your future reference. Click on this link to be taken to our club's home page to read all about the world of Zoom, and think about printing it out for a friend. <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/5241>

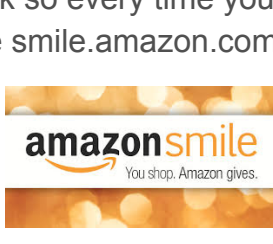
Thanks, Anne for your efforts to keep all of our members engaged until we can meet again!



### Give to our Foundation while you shop!

Do you find that you are placing Amazon orders more frequently these days? Don't forget to help your Rotary Club of Estes Park Foundation with every order. As a recipient of funds in the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), our foundation will receive a portion of the sale. All you need to do its sign up to get the funds flowing. And SHOP!

- Go to: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
- Choose the charitable organization by typing in Estes Park Rotary Foundation. Our club and the Longs Peak club will come up in the search. Click on Estes Park Rotary Foundation.
- Create a bookmark so every time you shop Amazon, you will be participating in the smile.amazon.com program.



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### Bulletin Editor

Rita DuChateau  
(If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor)

### 2020-21 Rotary International Theme



Rotary Opens Opportunities

### May 13 Duty Roster

Invocation: **Gregg Jurgens**

Song & Pledge: **Bill Solms**

Guest Intro: **Scott Thompson**

Scribe: **Rita DuChateau**

Greeter: **Scott Thompson**

Program Intro: **Scott Thompson**

### May 20 Duty Roster

Invocation: **Virgil Holtgrewe**

Song & Pledge: **Bill Solms**

Guest Intro: **Scott Thompson**

Scribe: **Madison Casey**

Greeter: **Scott Thompson**

Program Intro: **Anne Slack**

### Upcoming Events

**Foundation Board Meeting**

Zoom

May 20, 2021

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

[View entire list](#)

### Speakers

May 13, 2021

**Mayor Wendy Koenig**

From the Mayor's Perspective

May 20, 2021

**Gordon Slack and Bill Howell**

Red Cross and Salvation Army

May 27, 2021

**Bill Solms**

Club Assembly, Committee Work

[View entire list](#)

### Birthdays, Anniversaries

*Member Birthdays*

**Matt Comstock**

May 2

**Tara Moenning**

May 3

**Tom Anderson**

May 10

**Rob Cohen**

May 14

**Sue Fereday**

May 17

**Jack Boatman**

May 18

**Brad Rosenbaum**

May 22

**Dmitri Galcovski**

May 24

**Gladys Van Drie**

May 24

**Scott Thompson**

May 27

**Karen Thompson**

May 28

**Larry Williams**

June 6

**Wayne Andersen**

June 10

**Jim Whiteneck**

June 18

**Wayne Newsom**

June 20

*Anniversaries*

**Virgil Holtgrewe**

**Carol**

May 8

**Madison Casey**

**Marty Yochum**

May 20

**Dennis Gellhaus**

**Robbie**

May 21

**Jeff Liddle**

**Nannette Chisholm**

May 21

**Pete Sumey**

**Lois**

May 23

**Dave Evans**

**Karen McClure**

May 27

**Karen McClure**

**David Evans**

May 27

**Dana Fritz**

**Bill**

May 28

**Kathy Groesbeck**

**Alan Groesbeck**

May 28

**Tom Anderson**

**Kathleen**

May 28

**Jim Austin**

**Jean**

June 8

**Longley Parker**

**Julie**

June 10

**Bill Solms**

**Marianne**

June 13

**Don Widrig**

**Barbara**

June 13

**Anne Slack**

**Gordon**

June 15

**Bruce Brown**

**Marlene**

June 17

**Jack Overly**

**Mary**

June 19

**Ron Gordon**

**Vivian**

June 19

*Join Date*

**Wayne Andersen**

May 25, 2000

21 years

**Lee Machin**

May 31, 1973

48 years

**Jim Whiteneck**

June 1, 1994

27 years

**Rob Cohen**

June 1, 1990

31 years

**Thor Homme**

June 4, 2009

12 years

**Jennifer Comstock**

June 6, 2019

2 years

**Jack Boatman**

June 11, 2015

6 years

**Barb Bibler**

June 17, 2019

2 years

**Harry Livingston**

June 18, 1998

23 years

**Ron Gordon**

June 18, 1992

29 years

**Dmitri Galcovski**

June 19, 2014

7 years

**Claudine Perrault**

June 29, 2006

15 years

### Executives & Directors

President

**Bill Solms**

President Elect

**Jim Whiteneck**

Treasurer

**Longley Parker**

Secretary

**Jennifer Comstock**

Sergeant-at-Arms

**John Thomason**

Past President

**Dave Evans**

Club Administration Director

**Karol Rinehart**

Community Service Director

**Beth Weisberg**

Fund Development Director

**Karen Thompson**

International Service Director

**Ron Gordon**

Youth/New Generation Services

Director

**Sue Fereday**

Membership Director

**Anne Slack**

### Foundation Officers/Directors

President

**Madison Casey**

Vice President and Treasurer

**Carl Robicheaux**

Secretary

**Dave Evans**

Assistant Treasurer

**Gregg Jurgens**

Grants

**Jack Boatmen, Carl Robicheaux**