

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter **Date:** Aug 9, 2010 **Reporter:** BILL BUSSE **Editor:** LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 16 Mark Garcia, Lieutenant (retired), Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and Primary Undercover Agent for the FBI's Operation "Matrix" "Are We Winning? (And the answer will surprise you)."

August 23 New Member Talks: CHRISTINA CHU, ROSEANNE FAIRTY, & DON MORGAN

IT WAS A DYSFUNCTIONAL DAY!

First, we were without our brand new Prexy, MIKE McMAHON. Then it was really déjà vu all over again as Immediate Past Prexy MIKE COUCH approached the podium to preside...or something like that. Then the "dysfunctionality" picked up speed as the microphones dysfunctioned by garbling the opening announcements.

That is until the Great SAM WEBSTER managed to lead us in a well-orchestrated rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance. After a bit of trial harmonizing on *"I Pledge"* we all really harmonized on the full version...coming out at approximately the same place. Well done, Colonel WEBSTER!

WELCOME BACK, BERN...AND THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP! And thanx for introducing Visiting Rotarian and past member KLAUS HEINEMANN of the Gualala Club.

BERN also introduced the Guest introducers. To wit: (ED DANGLER) Mia Butera and yet another Mike...Mike Eaton. Rounding out today's grand group of garrulous guests garner-ers were: (RICK RAYBIN) Oliver Coolidge...(MIKE COUCH) John Berg and (ROB LANCEFIELD & GEORGE FITZGERALD) Elliott Wright.

OUR OPENING REMARKER and NEW P.C. MEMBER WAS MARK STEVENSON. His \$100 membership was the result of very successful fishing trip to Alaska and the fact this is the 21st day of the Gregorian calendar. (Go figure!)

In his remarks MARK pointed out that the



Iroquois Indians usually considered any action they might take...related to their natural environment...by asking a simple question, *"what might the impact be SEVEN GENERATIONS into the future?"*

Continuing the Indian Theme, but moving to the West Coast, Mark shared insights that have been

attributed to CHIEF SEATTLE. (The Chief was apparently named after the capitol of the State of Washington, or so it seems.)

Chief Seattle's WORDS OF WISDOM INCLUDED...

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

"Earth does not belong to us; we belong to earth."

"Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth. We are brothers after all."

STEVE PLAYER, returned from the Galapagos Islands to regale us once again to *"Bid it up!"* The item to bid on was a mystery gift from another Club in District 5170. (The Clubs in our District each give the incoming District Governor a gift to pass on to the next Club during his District-wide speaking tour. The proceeds go to the Rotary International Foundation.) After some spirited bidding, urged on by our "maestro of auctioneers," JUDITH STEINER outbid your Reporter for the magnificent sum of 100 buckaroos. What was in the thin box was not revealed to the membership at large. It may have been a deflated football as suggested by STEVE *"The Cardinals Start Practice Today"* PLAYER.

GLORIA HOM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our first Club Social will be held at the McMAHON'S home on August 29th from 4:30 to 6:30. This is a surprise to MIKE and may be even a bigger surprise to his wife, Terry. We are all invited, but especially anyone who is willing to help Gloria with arrangements, wine serving, cleaning up, etc. Strangely enough, GLORIA says to call JOYCE CUSICK if you want to help out. Way to delegate Past President HOM! A – L kindly bring a bottle of white wine; and M – Z please bring an appetizer.

THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!

Here are a few of the newest members and their special feats of daring do that qualify them for said membership.



ART STAUFFER...For 50 years of happy marriage to Peggy and their survival of the many rapids in life...including a recent trip down the Snake River. Or something like that!

SALLY TOMLINSON...For gratitude that stems from a trip to the Yosemite High Sierra Camps. Flowers, stars, wonder and awe. With a wish that we all experience the awe of life!



TRISH BUBENIK...In thanks to the 114 volunteers who logged in thousands of hours reading to those served by the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.



LE LEVY...For the pleasure of hiking the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, seeing the beauty of Zion National Park and Death Valley. He also met members of the oldest family of trees...the Bristle Cone Pine and took a trip to the WWII

Japanese Internment Camp, Camp Manzier. (LE noted that the MANSFIELDS have put in many volunteer hours working on this monument to one of our fears about the "enemy".)

AND NOW ON TO THE DYSFUNCTIONALITY OF THE DAY... OUR DYSFUNCTIONAL DEATH PENALTY LAW

Past President WALT HAYS introduced Dean Gerald Uelmen of Santa Clara University's Law School. Dean Uelmen was one of 22 members of the State Commission appointed to review the California Death Penalty Law.

(First a bit of levity. Walt noted that Dean Uelmen was an accomplished accordion player and took his accordion with him wherever he went. The Dean then mentioned that he went out to his car recently and found a rear window smashed in. **An audible**



gasp from the assembled Rotarians! He took an anxious look inside and found to his relief that his accordion was not taken. However, he was somewhat surprised to see

that was a second accordion alongside!)

His comments included the following:

There is no doubt that the Law is dysfunctional.

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