



# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date August 8, 2011

Reporter: DON MORGAN

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## CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT SHERRI began the meeting at 12: 15 pm by calling on STEVE EMSLIE to lead the Pledge.

## INTRODUCTIONS

She resumed the meeting at 12:30. At her request DICK BUSH called upon members to introduce their guests, setting an example by introducing his guest, Kristen Hughes. BERN BEECHAM introduced Shue and Naoko Seki, GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced Gerald Royball, and NICK NICHOLS introduced his daughter, Michele Taylor from Atlanta.

## OPENING REMARKS

BERN BEECHAM talked about his work and psychic compensation, as a volunteer serving families with young children in need of organ transplants at the Ronald McDonald House in Palo Alto, a model for similar establishments around the world. He explained that the children and their families found comfort and bonding companionship from residing with others like them, some of whom wait for long periods, hoping a suitable organ will become available.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIAN STEEN reported having survived 500 miles of bicycling through a more than usually balmy Iowa in a cast of several thousand, and welcoming the fog and mist at the San Francisco airport upon his return. The heat and exercise reduced his waistline and tenderized a part of his body.

PRESIDENT SHERRI reminded the audience of the Saturday, August 20, joint potluck and barbeque social with the University Rotary Club, and advised those planning to attend of the need to sign up in advance. She thanked KATIE SEEDMAN for staffing the Welcome Desk, MIKE McMAHON for officially greeting attendees, STEVE MADSEN for room set-up, and DON MORGAN for drafting the Pinion for the day's meeting.

## THE PROGRAM: SAN FRANCISCO AND THE AMERICA'S CUP

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced Peter Dailey, Deputy Director of the Port of San Francisco; whom he had recently heard talk about The Cup at his wife's Rotary club in Oakland, and promptly asked him for a repeat performance at our club. Peter Dailey has served the port for 25 years, and knows well how attractive a sailing venue the Bay will be.

Director Dailey began with the history of the Cup, which started in 1851 with a challenge issued by Britannia's best

and proudest sail-boaters to embarrass the former colonists with a reminder before Queen Victoria of who ruled the seas. The New York Yacht Club's vessel, America, won very handily, with no second boat in sight at the finish line, prompting the agonizing answer to Her Royal Highness that "there is no second." The Cup stayed in the U.S. for the next hundred years; and the ensuing challenge races for it took the name of that vessel, hence the apostrophe. The Cup is the oldest continuing award in sports, and by many criteria, the most difficult to win.



The Director entertained us with a PowerPoint presentation, including a photo of America and brief videos of today's very high-tech catamarans racing, some would say flying, at two to three times the speed of the wind, on the surface of San Francisco Bay, with an Oracle boat dramatically capsizing – and then using its wings, yes, wings, not sails, to right itself while being under tow.



He discussed extensive, planned infrastructure improvements for the races, dependent of course on first surviving the State's environmental review process, and for the expected 200 to 300 foot guest yachts from around the globe. For the first time, Cup races will occur within sight of shore, so landlubbers can observe them directly, from the Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate Bridge. To attract television audiences and fees, the races will be of only 50 minutes duration.



Contenders from several countries will race from July 13 to September 1 in 2013 to select a single challenger to a new Oracle technological marvel, hard to call a boat but it will float, as the videos proved. The final races, best five out of nine, will start September 7, and conclude no

later than the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It may not be too early to look for vantage points, as the races should attract hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Director Dailey responded to a number of questions following his prepared remarks – except to a question, how sailboats could sail faster than the wind that propelled them.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

- August 15     Ron Lynn – *Stanford Football*
- August 22     New Member Talks
- August 29     James Fearon – *Civil War in Developing Countries*