

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: October 3, 2016

Reporter: BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE PROBABILITY WAS THAT...

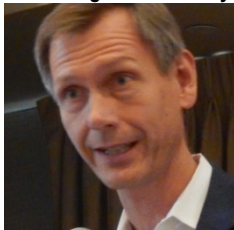
1. Four people with the first name of "STEVE" would be sitting at the President's table?
2. That today's Pinion Writer would come down with a cold?
3. That the substitute Pinion Writer would be coerced into joining the President's Club?
4. That today's scheduled Speaker would cancel at the last minute?
5. That GLORIA HOM would find a last minute replacement?
6. That the substitute Speaker would be the Husband of a Club Member?
7. That four members...or past members...who essentially never show Up would?
8. That today's speaker had written a book titled, "Flaw of Averages"?

FOR ANSWERS SEE SOMEPLACE BELOW

GUESTS of Rotarians...ROGER SMITH'S guest was Carmel Calicari who works in EPA with the St. Elizabeth Seton School. DARYL SAVAGE'S guests were Ron Roth and Steve Schaper. DICK BUSH'S guest was Nick Granoski who has also been proposed for membership!

OPENING REMARKS

The thought for the day was presented by AXEL MERK. Axel spends his time between Germany and the United States working in the field of finance. He noted that the East-West Germany reunification accord focused on Human Dignity...that they should treat each other with respect. A noble goal, but in looking for easy answers to improving our relationships we sometimes reduce them to money matters. Welcome back Axel. We look forward to a future talk on world finances!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Members are reminded to arrive next week at 11 am. Why you might ask? Well, you will be meeting with DISTRICT GOV. JEFF ORTH to share the State of the Palo Alto Rotary Club. At the regular meeting he will bring the membership up to date on the goings on with Rotary...Internationally. Don't miss this meeting. What he shares will be on the quiz!

TGIF UPDATE...The recent gathering at SALLY TOMLINSON'S was outstanding. NEXT TGIF Meeting will be at PREZ BRIAN'S abode.



NEW PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBERS INCLUDED A surprised BILL BUSSE who quickly gave as his reason to join, "My great grandson's team won their soccer match." (Thanks Prez Brian for the unexpected



membership in your Club!)

ROGER SMITH joined in honor of the fact his one year old granddaughter took her first step.



GLORIA HOM INTRODUCED OUR SPEAKER

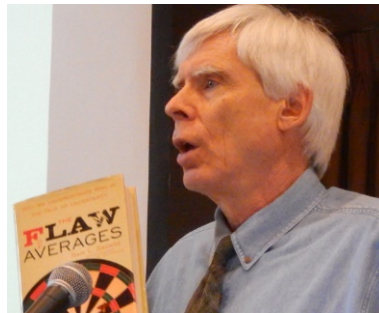
"Dr. Sam Savage authored the book, "The Flaw of Averages", started the Probability Management Revolution, is a consulting professor at Stanford, and a Fellow of the Cambridge University Business School. He also holds a PhD in the field of Computational Complexity from Yale."

Dr. Sam started with a question to the audience, "How many of you had at least one statistics course in college?" Lots of hands go up. "For how many of you was this the high point of your studies?" Practically no one! Oh, well!

The next question revolved around the time it might take to process a building permit. "Considering all of the steps involved, would the probability of completing it within six weeks be one in one, or one in ten, or one in one hundred, or one in one-thousand!" Many of us assumed he was using Palo Alto for this exercise and guessed one in one thousand. Right on!

One of his best examples of the problem of the law of averages was that of a drunk walking the yellow line on a freeway. At his average position he was alive, but the average state of the drunk is that he is dead!

Dr. Sam gave many illustrations of the flaws inherent in the ways we have addressed probability problems in the past and the need to embrace the new processes of probability management.



Questions for Dr. Sam came from LIZ KNISS, ALEX MERK, DANA TOM and HENRIETTA BURROUGHS.

Our thanks to Sam Savage for his willingness to join us at the last minute and arouse our collective curiosities about a subject of which many of us had little knowledge.

The writer was at least two paragraphs behind the speaker so in all probability this edition will be statistically inaccurate!

SOMEPLACE BELOW

1. Four people with the first name of "STEVE" would be sitting at the President's table?
They were: STEVE EMSLIE, STEVE SCHAPER, STEVE PLAYER and STEVE ROSS...
Steve R. is a member of the University Rotary Club
2. That today's Pinion Writer would come down with a cold? JOHN KIDD
3. That the substitute Pinion Writer would be coerced into joining the President's Club? BILL BUSSE
4. That today's scheduled Speaker would cancel at the last minute?
5. That GLORIA HOM would find a last minute replacement? SAM SAVAGE
6. That the substitute Speaker would be the Husband of a Club Member? DARYL SAVAGE
7. That four members...or past members...who essentially never show Up would?
They were...DAVE FRASER of the Mad River Club.
AXEL MERK, a distinguished current member and financial wizard.
STEVE SCHAPER, a distinguished past member.
STEVE ROSS, a member of the University Club.
8. That today's speaker had written a book titled, "Flaw of Averages"?

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

October 10, Jeff Orth, District Governor: "Rotary International and District 5170"

October 17, Candidates for Palo Alto City Council