

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 31, 2017

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BETSY opened the meeting with the Pledge at 12:30. KLAUS HEINEMANN said his guest Oana Marcu planned to attend for her third time next week and then submit her application for membership. .



Thought for the Day DICK BUSH summarized the Tour de France, showing what teamwork can accomplish. Within the Peleton (main field, chase group) a Platoon (pack of riders) saves 40 percent of energy by riding close together, taking advantage of wind they create (slip streams) and taking into consideration prevailing winds, a complex process, preparing to launch as their ultimate goal a sprinter. The bikers cover 2,600 miles in 21 days, about 100 hours in the saddle at about 26 miles an hour. Ending in Paris!

For the We Care Committee, PAM BRANDIN asked us to promptly notify her or DAVE SMULLIN of any information about club members experiencing accidents, illness or other misfortune so they can prepare appropriate cards or other messages to the unfortunates.



CASH ALAEE enriched the President's Club in honor of our new president BETSY BECHTEL, prompting her to honor our new Board. CHARLIE WEIDANZ joined in to celebrate his recent holiday in Budapest and Prague and presented a Club Flag from the Prague International Rotary Club. BETSY commented that all club flags presented will adorn a special banner at our meetings.



KLAUS HEINEMANN celebrated his recent four-weeks drive throughout our Northwest and Canada.

At BETSY's invitation, MATT DOLAN made four personal statements in the Three Truths & a Lie contest: he has

twin tattoos; his son is a retired Marine; he is a certified sky-diving instructor, and; he has a brother 20 minutes younger than he. BETSY gave each table one minute to guess which statement was a lie, and then polled the tables. Guesses varied but as MATT joked, he is afraid of stepping off a curb, let alone a flying aircraft.



WARNING! Next week the price of our bargain lunches goes up to \$22.

DICK BUSH reported on the survey of members conducted a week ago on interest in any one or more of a score of potential affinity groups. The opportunity to expand contacts and joint activity among like minded club members has proven beneficial to other clubs, and to our own biking group. The survey showed significant interest in biking; golf; day excursions;

gourmand (dining/wine); reading; sports/Giants; cultural events. At our August 14 meeting, signs for those groups will appear at separate tables, guides to our seating selections, if any. Other tables may feature curmudgeons uninterested in anything, says DICK.

President BETSY urged us to bring guests next week to hear an excellent talk on August's total eclipse of the sun.

Today's Program Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy: "Restoring San Francisco Bay in an Era of Sea Level Rise".

SALLY TOMLINSON summarized Amy Hutzel's environmental qualifications and extensive experience in protecting waterways, including work at Save The Bay prior to her 15 years of work at the Costal Conservancy.



Ms Hutzel focused on the San Francisco Bay's wetlands, which amounted to 200,000 acres before the Gold Rush and dwindled by 85 to 90 per cent by 2000, due

largely to residential shoreline developments, airports and salt ponds. Today about 100,000 acres seem restorable, including 13,000 restored since 2000 and 35,000 in planning. Restoration requires many years for build up of sediment (mud is valuable!) and vegetation. Dredging yields huge amounts of sediment, which can be either dumped 50 miles at sea or deployed, alas more expensively, in wetlands. Real estate development such as excavations for basements and Apple's gigantic new headquarters, also yields lots of sediment. Unfortunately, sediments accumulate behind dams and in reservoirs, reducing natural deposition in the Bay. Current planning takes into account that sediment areas will rise about two feet with sea level increases. Funds for restoration come in small part from Measure AA on the 2016 ballot, passed by a narrow margin (70% with 2/3 required). The measure's annual \$12 parcel tax will raise 50 million dollars over its 20 year lifetime; larger sums must come from state and federal governments. The funds support pollution prevention, wetlands increases, wildlife enhancement, and public shoreline access.



In Q&A, Ms. Hutzel explained that conservancy agencies lack regulatory powers, unlike state and federal permits issued under the Clean Water Act or by the Army Corps of Engineers. Salinity is not now a problem for restoration of salt ponds because Cargill reduced the salinity of the waters over many years. Gypsum layers will be covered by sediment. Small sharks inhabit the Bay but they are harmless; Great Whites show up in the central Bay but have not injured anyone to date; swim elsewhere. Chemicals in sediments preclude development of edible oysters. Restoration requires many years, many people, and large funds.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

August 7, Andrew Fraknoi, retired Chair, Department of Astronomy, Foothill College: "The Sky Event of the Decade: August's "All-American" Eclipse of the Sun"

August 14, Barbara Babcock, Professor Emerita, Stanford Law School: "Fish Raincoats: A Woman Lawyer's Life"