



ROTARY NOTARY

SOLAR ENERGY IN SUNNY KANSAS

Member Birthdays:

Kevin Rathert	11/13
Anne Schneider	11/14

At Rotary Today:

Greeter:

Angela Binyon

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Tom Church

Special Guests:

Eric Hancey, guest of Brian Burrus
Patrick, guest of Anthony Ndungu

Photography:

Ric Wolford

Rotary Anniversaries:

Craig Burns—28 years
John McEwen—25 years
Angela Binyon—21 years
Joyce Heismeyer—10 years
Anthony Ndungu—4 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

Scott and Lori Hampel—8 years
Richard and Becky Samaniego—8 years

Quote of the Week:

If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse.

— Unknown

Mark Horst, owner of King Solar Inc., told us all about solar energy—how it works and how it has evolved during the past 50 years. He has installed 2 megawatts of solar panels, equivalent to 2 million watts of solar energy.



Solar energy itself is nothing new—it's been around since the beginning of time. In other words, no human can lay claim to having invented solar energy. Our ancestors used glass and mirrors to concentrate the sun's heat—leading to the discovery of fire. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of years later, the ancestors of Pueblo people called Anasazi in North America built south-facing cliff dwellings in the 13th century to capture winter sun.

Over time, many scientists and experimenters have searched for ways to harness the passive energy of sunlight. Today's speaker is one of them.

The study of photovoltaics, which is the conversion of light into electricity using semiconducting materials that exhibit the photovoltaic effect, was discovered by French scientist Edmond Becquerel. In its essence, photovoltaics is the conversion of light to electricity.

During the 70s and 80s, Mark explained, solar energy systems were big, boxy, black devices. It was also during the 70s when solar cells began to power navigation warning lights and horns on many offshore gas and oil rigs, lighthouses, railroad crossings, and other remote locations where grid-connected utilities could not exist affordably.

If you're considering installing a solar energy system either in your home or business, the first step in the process is to contact King Solar, who will provide a cost estimate of the system based on satellite images and historic electricity usage data from energy bills. Then a representative will come to your location to take measurements and determine exactly where your solar panels will be located. An analysis of the shade created by your trees will also help determine how much solar power your system can generate.

Mark also recommended conducting an inventory of your current energy-saving measures to ensure the most efficient system possible. For example, should you add insulation to your attic? Do you have smart thermostats in your home? Do you have occupancy sensors that can tell your system when people are and aren't in a particular area of your home?

Also when considering the installation of a solar system you may need to check with your HOA. Many require a pre-approval of the color of the panels.

After this, your new solar system will be installed, with the solar panels being attached to the roof. In general, Mark said, a residential solar energy system costs around \$28,000—\$30,000. With a current tax credit of \$7,500, it will take around 10—12 years to recoup your investment. With energy prices going up, a solar system could be one of the smartest investments you'll make.

Announcements:

Mix it up with your fellow Rotarians! Our next mixer is on **Tuesday, November 23** following our club's Thanksgiving Dinner delivery. We'll meet at a cool new watering hole—the Social Tap Drinkery—at 5 pm. Bring your spouse, a colleague, or a prospective EWR member!

Sign up for the annual EWR Christmas/Holiday luncheon here at the Wichita Country Club on **December 8!** Social Committee chair **Angela Binyon** promises a lovely luncheon, complete with entertainment and a cash bar. Guests are \$20. Please let Kim know if you'll be attending and bringing a guest.

NO MEETING on **Wednesday, November 24** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

To thank today's speaker, a \$25 honorarium will be made in his name to the East Wichita Rotary Foundation.

Next Week:

Past District Governor of Jackson, Wyoming and frequent visitor to our club, **Stuart Palmer**, will share details of Rotary International's South Africa water project with us.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

EWR President **Greg Ek** presented Paul Harris + 2 pins to **Scott Hampel** and **Fred Thurlow**. A Paul Harris pin recognizes a contribution of \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation. "Plus Two" means these guys have contributed \$3,000 each. Well done, gentlemen!



Three EWR members received their Paul Harris + 1 pins at today's meeting. We're proud to salute **Kevin Rathert, Ric Wolford, and Craig Burns** for their support of the Rotary International Foundation. Excellent work and we thank you!

Deb Brinegar and **Kim Goodnight** received their first Paul Harris pins today. We're so happy for them we could bust our buttons! If you'd like to have your photo plastered all over the newsletter like the seven Rotarians featured here, just make a contribution of \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation. You'll help people all over the world and get a warm fuzzy feeling inside, too.

