



Rotary Club of Grass Valley



The Spoke



Chartered March 16, 1925

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Rotary Theme 2013-2014
Engage Rotary, Change Lives

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June 23, 2014

www.gvrotary.org

Volume 88, Issue 36

Fireworks and the 4th of July

For as long as Americans can remember, the nation has celebrated the Fourth of July by staging grand fireworks shows in public squares and lighting smaller displays at home. Why do we commemorate Independence Day by setting off thousands of small explosions?

Because [John Adams](#) wanted us to. Before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, he envisioned fireworks as a part of the festivities. In a letter to Abigail Adams on July 3, 1776, he wrote that the occasion should be commemorated "with Pomp and Parade, with [Shews](#), Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." The first commemorative Independence Day fireworks were set off on July 4, 1777. The Pennsylvania *Evening Post* wrote that in Philadelphia, "The evening was closed with the ring of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." The paper noted that "Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal." That same year, fireworks also lit up the sky in Boston, where they were exhibited by Col. Thomas Crafts over the common. By 1783 a large variety of fireworks were available to the public. In 1784 one merchant offered a range of pyrotechnics that included "rockets, serpents, wheels, table rockets, cherry trees, fountains, and sun flowers."

Speakers:

Jun 23 Club Assembly - fun fellowship
Jun 30 Demotion Dinner - Condon Park starting at 5:00 p.m. - social hour followed by dinner and the demotion of President Steve

Dates to Remember:

6/26 - 8/14 [GVDA - Thursday Night Market](#)
7/4/2014 [Independence Day—parade in Nevada City](#)
5/9/2015 [2nd Annual Gold Country Cycling Challenge](#)

Click here to view: [District 5190 June 2014 Newsletter](#)



A BIG THANK YOU...

A Very BIG thank you to **John Peplowski, Chuck Elizondo, Bob Long, Michelle Belmonte and Kelly Quinn** for volunteering to transport our RYLA campers to and from camp. It is a huge time commitment but a job very much needed and appreciated!
You are all **ROCK STARS**



President Steve Sarantopolous ran the meeting. **Judy Bagley** led the Pledge.

Patrick Ward gave the Thought for the Day a quote from the 1933 Rotarian magazine regarding improving international relations.



Scott Browne was conscripted to do Spoke Notes. **Visiting Rotarians: Rich Keene**, and there was one guest from the GVPD, a lieutenant.

Kris Stepanian led the club in singing Happy Birthday to everyone having June birthdays

Announcements/Confessions:



- **President Steve** announced there was a meeting of past Presidents.
- **Steve Spiller** confessed that he had been in the southern hemisphere for the last 3 weeks with **Susan and**

Rod Fivelstad where they attended the Rotary International Convention. While there, they set a Guinness Book of World Record for the largest number of people to climb the bridge over Sydney Harbor. After a wonderful time in Australia, **Steve and Wyn Spiller** and family went to Tahiti and rented a boat. **Rod and Susan Fivelstad** stayed in Australia, where they saw the Great Barrier Reef.



They all returned with a Machu Picchu banner (?) from the local Rotary club.

Other News:

At the beginning of the meeting there didn't appear to be a quorum, but by the end of the meeting, there was one, and we voted on the Board's ability to address changes in bylaws.

Recognitions:

Judy Bagley was recognized for bringing in new members to the club.



Program:

Betsy Perez, manager of the Grass Valley Raley's market, gave an inspired presentation on Raley's markets and corporation. Some things I did not know: Tom Raley started the Raley's chain with the first store in 1935 in Placerville; our local store employs 143 employees and 19 managers; They have "\$5 days" on Mondays; They recycle almost all of their perishable foods, such as dairy, bakery goods and those items are given to local food banks; Grass Valley Raley's is the highest volume store in the Raley's chain.



Monty East won the raffle and **Anita Daniels** chose a white marble for him.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Rotary Club of Grass Valley

P.O. Box 1213 – Grass Valley, CA 95945
Meeting location: **Monday** at 12:15 PM
The Holbrooke Hotel – 212 W. Main St.

Make Up Meetings

Members who miss a regular meeting may make-up by attending any other Rotary club's meeting within 14 days before or after the missed meeting.

E-makeup: www.rotaryclubone.org

Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Nevada County South,
Alta Sierra Country Club
12:00 Auburn, Auburn Elks Lodge
12:15 Penn Valley, Players Pizza
12:15 Marysville, Peach Tree Golf
& Country Club

Wednesday

7:00 a.m. 49er Breakfast Club,
Escaton Lodge

7:00 a.m. Auburn Daybreak,
Sierra Smokehouse Grill
12:15 Yuba City, The Refuge

Thursday

7:00 a.m. South Yuba County Sunrise
Peachtree Restaurant (Marysville)
12:15 Auburn Gold Country,
The Ridge Golf Course
12:15 Nevada City, National Hotel