



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

PRESIDENT JOE called upon member volunteer **LORRAINE INOUYE** to open the meeting with the Pledge to our flag. **CELESTINE RUWETHIN** followed with some thoughtful remarks on how fortunate we are to be citizens of these United States.

Our greeters for the day (**TAMMY SILVA** and **JIM CHENEY**)



were acknowledged and **TAMMY** introduced the following Rotary guests and guests of Rotarians—**RICHARD CROWE** from the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, and **Marilyn Kovach**

(Guest of **Bill Kovach** of the Rotary Club of Encinitas, California). **SAEKO HAYASHI** made a preliminary introduction of our guest speaker, fellow Subaru Telescope employee **Ramsey Lundock**, and **STEW HUSSEY** introduced **Kalewa Correa**, Manager of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Mokupapapa Discovery Center in Downtown Hilo.

Our shy and retiring Australian member, **DOUG ARNOTT**, then leapt to the floor to deliver a "warm fuzzy Rotary story" that explored alternatives to slapping kids in jail and turning them into hardened criminals. Two teenagers stole surfboards from **Mr. Arnott's** establishment and got caught in the process. Working with local police, **DOUG** got the authorities to drop charges in return for the teenagers doing community service work. Fellow member **MIKE ROBINSON** offered to get the two contrite teenagers involved in a community service project—planting a few thousand (well, maybe a few HUNDRED) Koa trees on the mountain as part of their atonement. A win-win for all!



NANCY CABRAL (another of our shy and retiring members) followed with a story of a Rotarian being called for help in fostering the positive growth of the world's next generation. **NANCY**, as the "Unofficial Master-Chief-In-Charge-of-Equestrian-Events-on-The-Big-Island," got a call about 10 visiting Boy Scouts from Kilimanjaro, Africa who had always wanted to ride horses. **NANCY** contacted friends in Waimea who accommodated the group. **NANCY** generously paid for half of the group's ride. **THANK YOU NANCY!!** (Another example of the continuing generosity of our members!)

PRESIDENT JOE then recognized and thanked **JEANINE ATABARA** and **MITCH DODO** for writing and getting pictures for last week's Lava Flow.

Recognitions—No birthdays. But **PRESIDENT JOE** did have one club anniversary—**DOUG ESPEJO's** 25th on May 7th. CONGRATULATIONS **DOUG!** (**PRESIDENT JOE** WILL GET YOU FOR \$25 IN A FUTURE MEETING!)

PRESIDENT JOE then announced that the meeting would adjourn to the patio area outside our meeting room at about 12:50 so our speaker could demonstrate how to SAFELY watch the planet Venus cross (transit) the sun on June 5th.

PRESIDENT JOE then contributed \$10 Happy dollars by saying how good it was to talk with his son (who is in Afghanistan) the night before. He also noted with sadness that Carroll Shelby, legendary racer and designer of the Shelby Cobra and the Mustang Shelby GT500, died yesterday at 89.

Our Sargent-at-Arms, **CHRIS TAMM** was \$30 happy celebrating the fact that this year is the 30th anniversary of his and his wife **Barbara's** arrival in Hawaii from South Africa on a one-way ticket. GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, **CHRIS!**

NANCY CABRAL was \$23 happy to be married to her CURRENT husband for 23 years.

Birthdays:

Steve Handy May 2
Stew Hussey May 2
Richard Johnson May 16
Theresa English May 21
Ian Birnie May 28

Club Anniversary:

Kerry Glass May 1
Susan Munro May 1
Doug Espejo May 7
Mike Robinson May 21

Wedding Anniversary:

Toshi & Kahori Aoki May 1
Nancy & Al Cabral May 1
Gerard & Kathleen Carter May 1
Steve & Shari Handy May 3
Tom & Lois Olcott May 22
Joe & Diana Hanley Jr. May 26

Announcements:

Fri. May 18
Helen Wai - Hawaii Energy
Energy Efficiency & Financial Literacy
Fri. May 25
Club Assembly
Fri. June 1
Megin Patrick - Project Summer Camp
Fri. June 8
Bradda Skibs - "Pakalove"
Thurs. June 28
Installation 2012-2013
Hilo Yacht Club
Fri. June 29
NO Meeting

President	Joseph Hanley
President Elect	Alan Kusunoki
Vice President	Alberta Dobbe
Immediate Past President	Stewart Hussey
Secretary	Richard Johnson
Treasurer	William Dolan
Sergeant-at-Arms	Chris Tamm
Director - Club Administration	Kerry Glass
Director - Service Projects	Mitchell Dodo
Director - Rotary Foundations	Susan Munro
Director - Membership	James Cheney
Director - Public relations	Robert Hanley
International Service	Steve Yoshida
Community Service	Wallace Wong
Vocational Service	John McVickar
New Generations	Rand Mundo
Club Service	Thomas Brown
The Rotary Foundation	Susan Munro
Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation	Mitchell Dodo

HELEN HEMMES was \$30 happy for the work our club is doing in the Kau schools (computers, etc.). She also was happy about Hawaiian Airline's magazine "Hana Hou" which is currently running an article entitled "The Magic of Mushrooms" featuring her husband, retired Professor **Don Hemmes**, former biology chairman of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. One of Professor **Don's** colleagues named a newly discovered slime mold (?) "Acrasis **helenhemmes**" in her honor. This reporter was happy to hear that the good professor HIMSELF was not inspired by **HELEN** to associate his wife's name with the moldy stuff.

Another normally reserved club member, **GAIL TAKAKI**, somehow commandeered the microphone and, when **PRESIDENT JOE** asked: "Who else might be happy?" **GAIL** piped up, "I'm here--and I have the mike." **GAIL** had \$5 of happiness money in support of next year's annual **RYLA** conference. She noted that while Big Island Rotary clubs are working to establish an island-wide **RYLA** standing committee, the Kona clubs are not going to be able to lead the initiative next year. As a result, **GAIL** strongly encouraged our club and the other East Hawaii Rotary clubs to continue their primary role in the short term to assure that this important leadership program takes place next year. EDITOR'S NOTE: **Gail's** (and other members of this and other East Hawaii Rotary Clubs') steadfast efforts for many years have been key reasons for the success of the **RYLA** program. THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM!

MITCH DODO—being in the funeral business and always on the lookout for appropriate transportation, got a brand new vehicle from **PRESIDENT JOE's** Orchid Isle Ford dealership. **MITCH** noted that **PRESIDENT JOE** made the purchasing experience relatively

painless—for which he contributed \$1.00 to the till. (How happy were you REALLY, **MITCH**?!) **PRESIDENT JOE** quickly stepped in, contributing \$100 to his son's **Paul Harris** account.

THE MAIN EVENT. **SAEKO HAYASHI** then introduced our guest speaker, **Ramsey Lundock**. **Ramsey** is a graduate of the



University of Florida with an emphasis on Physics and Japanese. He later studied astronomy at T o h u k u

University in Japan, and subsequently earned a PhD in Japanese. He is currently working for the Subaru Telescope with **Saeko-san** in public information and the Subaru Outreach Office. **Saeko** noted with gratitude that one of the many great things the United States did for Japan after World War II was to establish a nation-wide Japanese university system.

Ramsey's topic was the "Venus Transit." This is a major astronomical event that will occur June 5th between about noon and 7 PM Hawaii time. During that period, Venus will transit (cross) the sun in an arc. With appropriate equipment, this passage can be safely viewed with the naked eye. And Hawaii is the best place in the world to watch the event—which will not happen again before 2117! This historical event allowed scientists to confirm (among other things) that Venus has an atmosphere.

Remarkably, the "Venus Transit" was first observed as early as 1639. A stained glass church window in Europe commemorates the event—and suggests that religious perspectives in the church and those in science were not necessarily at odds then.

Photos by **Jim Cheney**

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR



In 1716 while Halley (of Halley's comet fame) did not personally witness this event, he was able through mathematical calculations to predict future Venus transits. He used triangulation to work out distances Venus would travel, the time it would take and other information that allowed others to predict and track future transits. In fact, in 1769 Captain James Cook was sent to Tahiti to observe the Venus transit that occurred on June 3rd of that year. Halley's calculations were reliable and Captain Cook was successful in observing this transit of Venus. Unfortunately Cook's equipment—which was based upon hour-glass “technology”—wasn't quite good enough to accurately determine the distance to Venus. Even so, it was a tribute to the scientists of the day that they were able to predict and observe such an event.

In 1874 Hawaiian King David Kalakaua—an avid student of astronomy—invited astronomers from all over the world to Hawaii to view the Venus Transit. This viewing took scientific observation to the next level, with astronomers using photographic images to make accurate calculations of the

distance of Venus to the sun.

Today's astronomers are able to predict and track over 160 similar transits within our solar system with a degree of accuracy that could only have been imagined by their predecessors.

Ramsey emphasized the importance of using appropriate safety measures while attempting to view the transit on June 5th: NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN!! In a transit, the sun's light is only marginally reduced. He noted that if someone tries only momentarily to look at the sun, the itching-eye after-effects don't start until hours later.

Following **Ramsey's** talk, he demonstrated a safe viewing system outside in the sun by the bay. He recommended that anyone wishing to view this event go to one of several places on the Big Island that will have professional viewing equipment. Because of possible weather interference (clouds) in East



Hawaii, he recommended the West side of the island as the most promising viewing



spot. Locations include the intersection of Saddle Road and the road to the summit of Mauna Kea, the Keck Observatory in Waimea, the Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii in Kona, the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo and other sites. **Ramsey** noted that it is not necessary to go to the summit of Mauna Kea to view the transit.

For further information visit <http://transitofvenus.org>.

Greetings from Bangkok

Aloha from the Land of a thousand smiles,

Wow, 35,000 Rotarians in one place. We are every where. Over 200 countries are represented with many of the attendees wearing dress from their country. Of course, we have our aloha shirts and kukui nut leis. The convention facility is the biggest I have ever seen with most of the sessions being simultaneously translated into about nine languages.

Took the morning off from our Rotary duties yesterday morning and took a canal tour of Bangkok with about 43 other Rotarians that took the morning off. So very interesting to see the life along the canals. A mix of poverty and poshness right next door to each other. One of the sights along the way are the many “long tailed” boats. They are long and narrow and have an automobile engine balanced on the rear end with a long prop shaft out of the back of the engine. They were very fast and very loud.

Today is the last day of the convention. Tomorrow we head off to northern Thailand with 12 Rotarians from Hawaii, nine from Hilo. We will be staying with Rotarians we met last year when they came to Hawaii.

After that it will be on to Cambodia and Vietnam with Jenny and Richard and our friends Don and Alisa who are flying to Bangkok to meet us.

That’s all for now.

Love, Kerry & Susan

Thought I would send along a picture from last night’s welcome dinner with the Rotary Club of Pitsanuloke, Thailand. Pictured below is Alan swapping banners with their club president elect and current president.

Today we spend the day with members of the club exploring the area.

