



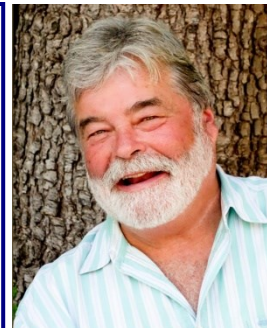
The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Joe Hasson – Graton Resort-Casino



Date: May 27, 2016
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Scribe: Jim Passage
Photogs Robin Maybury
Co-Editors: Jim Raffini, Tom Boag / Jack Dunlap
Club President 2015/2016: Rick Wilson



"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL

Cindy Carter and **Donna Pantzer** were actively selling raffle tickets for Dining and Wining aka "Dine All Around The Town". Money was flowing in as Rotarians each bought winning tickets. The excitement was electric.

AT THE BELL

Bob Cary came forward and led the Sebastopol Rotarians in a proud salute to the Flag.



Rotarian **Keller McDonald**, making reference to the forthcoming end of the Rotary Year, was "Feeling' Groovy". His enthusiasm got us all singing or humming along!

Next to take a mic was **Barbara Bickford** who offered the following quotations, appropriate for the Memorial Day Holiday that is upon us:

"Memorial Day is especially important as we are reminded almost daily of the great sacrifices that the men and women of the armed services make to defend our way of life."---Robin Hayes

"You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor." --- Aristotle

"If we love our country, we should also love our countrymen."--- Ronald Reagan

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."--- Mark Twain





Future Programs



June 3, 2016

Speaker: **Dennis Mulligan, GM, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District**

Program: **An Overview of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District**

June 10, 2016

Speaker: **Dan Howard**

Program: **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

June 17, 2016

Speaker: **Wendy Trowbridge**

Program: **Laguna Foundation**

June 24, 2016

Program: **DEBUNKING – of President Rick Wilson 5:00 PM
Community Church Courtyard**

July 8, 2016

Speaker: **John Blount**

Program: **TBA**

July 15, 2016

Speaker: **Steve Zivolich**

Program: **Integrated Resources Institute**



Future Events



Interclub Bocce Ball Tournament

BBQ and Family Day

June 11, 2016, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



Handy Links



Pinot for Polio Form

Sebastopol Rotary Website



Miscellany



Next Board Meeting

Date/Time: Tues, June 14th, 5:30 p.m.

Location: **Rick Wilson's Home**

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS – jcbiasco@comcast.net

On-line Make-Ups: www.RotaryEClubOne.org

INTERACT MAKE-UPS – HAVE YOU TRIED IT?

**Analy High: 12:40 Most Wednesdays In Choir Room
(Check with Dan Rasmus, Mark Stevens, Jack Dunlap)**

**Brook Haven: 12:10 First & Third Thursday, Room 18
(Check with Pauline Pellini, Mike Carey)**

**Orchard View: Different meeting times
(Check with Mike Carey)**

**Twin Hills: Every Other Tuesday 12:45pm - 1:20pm
(Check with Dan Rasmus)**

For all Interact Mtgs.: CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM MEETINGS

!!! CHECK IN AT SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE FIRST !!!



VISITORS, GUESTS, AND FRIENDS



And The Beat Goes On...

President Rick started the weekly meeting with a quick announcement of the "Dine All Around The Town" raffle.

Dan Bornstein was introduced, a visiting Rotarian from Santa Rosa.

Ken Jacobs was pleased to introduce his son Jack and his daughter Olivia, both Interactors from Orchard View School. We learned that their club has thirteen members, and they have raised money to assist a school in Africa – Well Done Orchard View Interactors!



Mario Ramos introduced our last guest, his wife, **Vicki**.





ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTERACT:



And hot on their heels – the Interactors from Brook Haven School were present, guided by **Pauline Pellini**. Their new officers were very pleased to report that their Walkathon raised more than \$5,000. Wow – way to go.

Club President Sarah reported that of the proceeds, \$4,500 was given to Cobb Mountain School. Hey - that is terrific. Then we heard from Treasurer Taylor that a \$175 gift was given by Interact to Canine Companions, and an additional \$175 was given to Habitat for Humanity.

And even more – the last member, Clare, reported a third gift of \$175 to the Ceres Foundation.



LAKE COUNTY – COBB MOUNTAIN SCHOOL:

So away from Sebastopol and off to Lake County! **Keller McDonald** came to the podium and presented a short video from Cobb Mountain School. At that school 40% of the students lost their homes! The video was a tribute and a “Thank You” to the many people and clubs, such as ours, that had sent money to help with relief for victims of the catastrophic fire. The kids are a “bellwether” - and signal a community with good attitude and with recovery well underway.

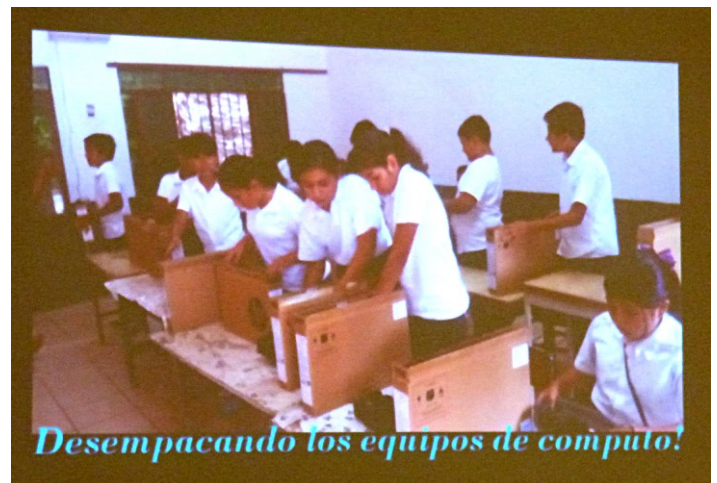


PASO ANCHO SCHOOL:

So leave Lake County and zip down to Old Mexico. Next to stand at the podium was **Mario Ramos**. A video was shown that showed the delivery, unloading, unpacking and set-up of computers for the Paso Ancho School in Puerto Vallarta Mexico.

The school has fifteen new laptop computers for their “after school enrichment program.” There was excitement throughout the community.

The video of unpacking and setting up computers was soon followed by film clips of schoolchildren playing “Three Blind Mice” in unison on their new recorders. What Fun.



BOCCE BALL:

Whoa – Hurry back from Mexico - we are back home again (or is it Italy?): There was a Bocce Ball practice party attended by many of our club, hosted by **Jim and Carol Raffini**. The slides showed a happy group of Bocce Ball players enjoying a Brat Fest, good company, and a serious Bocce Ball practice.



ROTARY TRIVIA – A.K.A. RECOGNITIONS\$



Anybody homesick? **President Wilson** - with purpose and drive -- conducted a "Rotary Trivia Contest". All in good fun, the dollars were falling furiously into the long-handled box of the **Sergeant-at-Arms**. So in very rapid order fines were collected as follows: **Michael Hixson** - \$60; **Aleia Coate** - \$35; **Barbara Bickford** - \$60; **Russ Cunningham** - \$25; **Mike Ferguson** - \$40; **Mark Fink** - \$40; **Tom Lambert** - \$45; **Robin Maybury** - \$40; **Torrey Olson** - \$60; **Jim Pacatte** - \$45; **Dan Rasmus** - \$60; and **Bob Cary** - \$35. Fines levied at this meeting were more than a thousand dollars.



THE RAFFLE



On to the raffle. Yes, it took our guest speaker [...who is experienced in this kind of thing... -Ed.] several tries to find a good ticket stub. Alas, your meeting **Scribe** was holding the red ticket stub- but he was not, alas, able to find an ace from a deck of three cards! One does wonder if there was an Ace in play!



THE PROGRAM



THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER – Joe Hasson, General Manager, Graton Resort and Casino

Tom Boag advised the audience that Joe Hasson has been in the gaming industry for 35 years. and is a graduate of Rider College and a CPA. Starting in his hometown of Atlantic City, NJ he has worked for both Harrah's and Harvey's at Lake Tahoe and managed a major expansion at the Green Valley Ranch near Las Vegas. Station Casinos brought him to Graton Resort and Casino. He has even appeared as "The Boss" in Discovery Channel's American Casino.



Mr. Hasson talked about the major expansion underway at Graton Resort and Casino. They are building a 200-room hotel. It will be both a boutique hotel (by Vegas standards) and a large hotel (by Rohnert Park standards). He showed a video of the hotel design. Two hotel rooms have been mocked up in the parking garage for design review. Every detail is being carefully analyzed and discussed, and the hotel will be integrated with and connected to the casino. This hotel has been an element of their master plan since first discussion of the development. The addition will be five stories above grade making it among the tallest buildings in the County.

The development will include a large "Las Vegas style" swimming pool and terrace. The spa and the salon will occupy 10,000 square feet! There will be two new lounges – one inside and one outside. The lobby will be a "non-smoking" zone. There will be a new meeting room – large enough to accommodate 1,500 guests for dinner. The standard room will be 525 square feet. There will be 16 suites (each to occupy two bays or twice the typical room size). Also there will be one five bay suite – a very large accommodation, perhaps with its own pool table.

This hotel development is a 300,000 square foot project. They haven't announced a firm opening date yet, but completion is expected late this year. Construction started on September 1, 2015 – so perhaps a 14-month total job duration.



Since the Casino is privately owned by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Casino financial reports are no longer available to the public. Last public reports in 2014 showed that the cash receipts for one three month period were fifty four million dollars. The tribe is investing \$175 million dollars in the hotel. Yes – that is roughly \$850,000 per room or suite! This represents a major investment in the tribe's future...suggesting that present business is making the Tribe confident.

Mr. Hasson, for comparison, offered some revenue figures, public information, from other casino and hotel properties.

MGM - Las Vegas – 6100 rooms – 80 million per quarter

Mandalay Bay – Las Vegas - 4700 rooms – 58 million per quarter

La Mirage – Las Vegas - 3000 rooms – 38 million per quarter

How can Graton Resort and Casino achieve earnings like much larger casinos: Answer: Location, Location, Location. Graton Resort and Casino is some 45 minutes from the Golden Gate Bridge. (They are also some eight hundred million dollars in debt.)

Joe stressed long-term careers for his employees at all levels—not just jobs. Graton Resort and Casino is also an investment in community and people. He is a popular manager in a very special kind of service business.

What's in it for the Indians? First of all, the Tribe stresses education for its members. There are about 1,500 members of the Graton Rancheria. Other benefits will follow...

Q & A

1--Room Rates at the hotel will be set to market rates. (But one reason for rooms is to "make it convenient" for guests to stay longer at the casino.)

2--The Casino has not had a negative impact on crime statistics in the area and that the Development has not caused any substantial change in Rohnert Park, so far as other businesses are concerned. Graton Resort and Casino's security staff utilize Sonoma County Sheriffs and provide real time information to them.



THE FINAL BELL



President Rick thanked Joe Hasson for his update on Graton Resort and Casino and presented him with a bottle of the Club's fine liquid refreshment—Pinot for Polio. He then rang the bell closing the meeting at exactly 1:30 pm.

DINE ALL AROUND THE TOWN

DINE ALL AROUND THE TOWN



WIN 12 WONDERFUL NIGHTS OF FOOD AND WINE!

For just \$100 and a bit of luck, you can win 12 great dinners for two from some of the best restaurants in Sonoma County and 12 great bottles of wine. Enjoy West County favorites like Terrapin Creek and Peter Lowell's while contributing to a great cause, Sebastopol Rotary's Teacher Mini-Grant Program.

It's amazingly easy:

- Buy a \$100 raffle ticket. Since there are only going to be 100 sold, your odds are a terrific 100:1 because there is just one winner.
- If you win, you'll receive 12 dinner vouchers for great restaurants and 12 bottles of wine. (See flip side for list of restaurants.)
- The only thing you have to do is cover the gratuity.

In exchange, Sebastopol Rotary can continue its Teacher Mini-Grant program. Since 2002, the Rotary has given away almost \$235,000 in grants that range from \$50 to \$500, and just this year, the club gave out over \$22,000 to support worthy projects that buy special education tools, sports equipment, Chrome books, projects and so much more.

Supporting our teachers has never been more fulfilling! (Or, did we mean filling?).

Approximate total value of \$3,000.



DINE ALL AROUND THE TOWN

The Restaurants You'll Enjoy

Backyard* <i>Forestville</i>	Eight Cuisine* <i>Sebastopol</i>	French Garden Restaurant* <i>Sebastopol</i>
Jackson's Bar & Oven*** <i>Santa Rosa</i>	K&L Bistro* <i>Sebastopol</i>	Lua Viet*** <i>Sebastopol</i>
Peter Lowell's* <i>Sebastopol</i>	Russian River Vineyards*** <i>Forestville</i>	Sonoma Wine Shop & La Bodega*** <i>Sebastopol</i>
Sushi Tozai* <i>Sebastopol</i>	Terrapin Creek*** <i>Bodega Bay</i>	Underwood** <i>Graton</i>

***Up to \$180 **\$150 gift certificate *\$100 gift certificate/value

The Great Wine You'll Drink

- Joseph Phelps Estate Grown-Backus 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (donated by Jack and Ruth Dunlap)
- Kosta Browne 2013 Gary's Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, Pinot Noir
- Kosta Browne 2013 One Sixteen, Russian River Valley, Chardonnay
- Kosta Browne 2013 Keefer Ranch, Russian River Valley, Pinot Noir (Kosta Browne and Seaton wines donated by Dan and Robbin Davis)
- Kanzler Vineyards 2013 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (personally signed by Lynda Kanzler) (donated by Lynda Kanzler and Bob Cary)
- Russian River Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay (donated by Chris O'Neill)
- Russian River Vineyards 2014 Chester Zinfandel (donated by Chris O'Neill)
- Seaton 2011 Dry Creek Valley, Luke's Block, Merlot
- Siduri 2012 Ewald Vineyard, Russian River Valley Pinot Noir (two bottles) (donated by David and Sally Ewald)
- Trecini Vineyards-Gold Medal-2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir (donated by Mia and Jim Del Prete)
- VJB Vineyards & Cellars, 2013 Brunello, Estate Bottled (donated by Brad & Kathy Benedetti)

The Rules

1. Must be 21 years of age to purchase your tax deductible, \$100 raffle ticket.
2. Maximum of ten tickets per person.
3. 100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each.
4. Dinner at each restaurant includes complimentary starter, main course, dessert, and an added bonus of one free corkage fee. Gratuity is the responsibility of the winner.
5. All dinner vouchers will expire on December 31, 2017 unless otherwise stated.

Tickets

Cash or check only. Make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Sebastopol Foundation, Inc. For info contact: Cindy Carter at 707-824-0846 or email cindycarterflamm@yahoo.com.

A sincere thank you for supporting our West Sonoma County teachers from:
The Rotary Club of Sebastopol Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 213, Sebastopol, CA 95472
TAX ID# 47-4312102

**"An Overview of the Golden Gate Bridge,
Highway & Transportation District"**



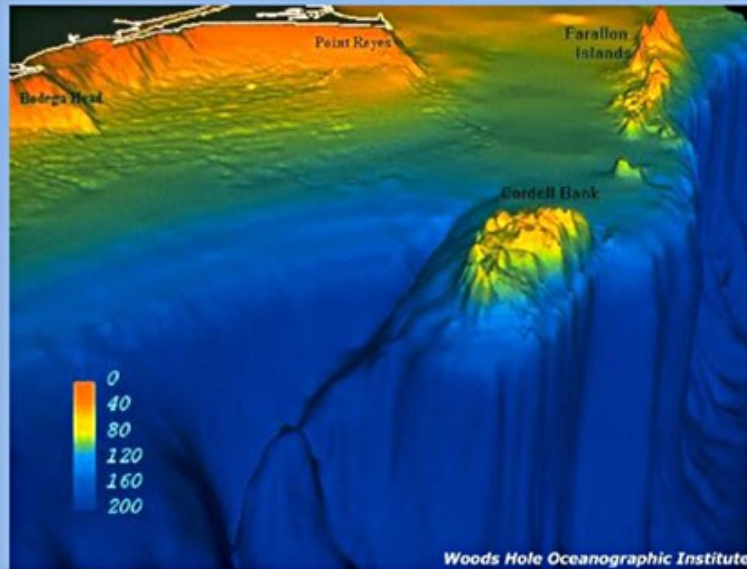
**Denis Mulligan, GM Golden Gate Bridge & Hwy
June 03, 2016**

Have you ever wondered who was responsible for all of the highways, buses, ferries and bridges traversing the Bay Area? Well our speaker today has that distinction! Denis Mulligan, only the ninth General Manager and CEO since the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937, was selected for this position in September, 2010.

Denis had 28 years of experience in the transportation field with nine years as the district's Chief Engineer prior to his selection. His accomplishments include the construction of the Safety Railing Project protecting sidewalk users from the roadway, the management of the Seismic Retrofit design and the preliminary engineering to the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project.

Come and hear Denis today share how he manages these systems when last year 9 million customers rode the transit systems and 38 million vehicles crossed the Golden Gate Bridge!

"The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary"



**Dan Howard, Superintendent
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
June 10, 2016**

Coastal California had an unknown mystery hidden beneath the waves for many years! It was not until the late 1800's that the Cordell Bank was discovered. It is an undersea granite and rocky reef about 4 1/2 miles by 9 1/2 miles, located 23 miles west of the Point Reyes Lighthouse. It sits on the edge of the continental shelf and rises abruptly from the soft sediments of the shelf to within 115 feet of the ocean surface.

This underwater adventure will be brought to us today by Dan Howard, Superintendent of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. He manages all site activities and staff, policy development and all interaction with local, state and federal agencies. His focus of study since 1980 has been on kelpbed ecology, predator/prey relationships and juvenile rockfish recruitment.

Come today and see the amazing treasures hidden beneath our coastal waters!!!

***"Exploring the Secrets of the Wetlands of
the Laguna de Santa Rosa"***



***Wendy Trowbridge, PhD, Director of Restoration
Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
June 17, 2016***

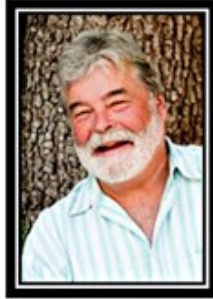
***Lying beside Sebastopol are the amazing waters, wetlands,
endangered animals and plants of the Laguna de Santa
Rosa! Have you ever wondered who lives there and how
do these animals and plants survive?***

***Today we are honored to have Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, the
Director of Restoration and Conservation Science
Programs, from the Laguna Foundation tell to us about
these secrets! She is a wetland plant ecologist and has
done research on invasive species, wetland communities
and aquatic webs.***

***Even if you haven't explored the trails and waters of this
special gem located so near us, come and have this expert
share her experiences and knowledge of a very active and
enchanting part of our own Sonoma County!***

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 24

"The Debunking of our Club President"



June 24, 2016

*Come to an evening of delicious food, great friends and
our club's premier Debunking for our President Rick!*

Friday, June 24, 2016

5:00 P.M.

Community Church Courtyard

Tickets Cost \$35.00

