



# The Appleknocker

## Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin



### Jack Blasco & Chernobyl



<b>Date:</b>	April 3, 2020	
<b>Volume:</b>	2019/20—Issue E18-35	
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<b>Photog:</b>	David Schreiber	
<b>Editors:</b>	P. Dirden, D. Still, J. Holst, T. Boag, HH	
<b>President 2019/2020:</b>	Keller McDonald	

“All the News that Fits We Print”

## BEFORE THE BELL

Your scribe signs on to Zoom around 11:45am. Lots of Rotarians had already signed on and were adjusting their computers and sound. Lots of laughter and good-natured ribbing going on with everyone. **Dave Madsen** made a comment about a valve not working- hope that works out. **Ken Silveira** said he was too busy to sign on because he was stocking the store and would prefer to count money instead. He also said he was now a first responder keeping people in food. Thank you, and keep up the good work. **Harvey Henningsen** showed a picture of his first motorcycle dog, *Lamb Chops*. Said he was the best motorcycle dog he ever had. **Steve Beck** had on a handmade paper hat and a handkerchief over his mouth. Self-isolating over the internet? **Diana Rich** gave us a tourist view of Hwy 12 from Santa Rosa to her home. Nice to know that there is still something out there after not having left the house in six weeks. She and her husband were out to purchase material from JoAnn's for face masks.



### Here's a quick recap, as of Saturday, April 4th

All in-person Rotary meetings, including committee meetings through April 24th - CANCELLED  
 Virtual club meetings will be held via Zoom on Internet or phone April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Friendship Dinners – POSTPONED  
 Speech Contest (at Friday meeting) – POSTPONED  
 Analy Career Fair – CANCELED  
 West County Construction Corps - SUSPENDED  
 District Training Assembly – POSTPONED  
 Teacher of the Year (at Friday meeting) – April 24th  
 Apple Blossom Parade –CANCELED  
 Learn to Swim – CANCELED (May have sessions in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021)  
 Super Playground Dismantle/Installation – May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16th  
 Overcoming Obstacles Awards (at Friday meeting) – Date TBD  
 District Conference – POSTPONED  
 Club Golf Tourney – CANCELLED  
 2020-2021 Board Retreat – Sat., May 30  
 Rotary International Convention, Hawaii - CANCELLED  
 Rotary Youth Leadership Activity (RYLA) – CANCELLED  
 Debunking – Sat., June 27 (no meeting Fri., June 26)



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

## Future Programs

**TBD until further notice**

## Events

**Friendship Dinners  
Canceled**

**Golf Tournament  
TBA**

**DeBunking  
June 27**

## Miscellany

**MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS--JackE[Dunlap@gmail.com](mailto:Dunlap@gmail.com)**

**On-line Make-Ups:  
[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)**

**Domestic Violence Hotline:  
**707-546-1234****

**[sebastopolrotary.com](http://sebastopolrotary.com)**

## COVID 19 RESOURCES

During this time, finding accurate information is of most importance. Your AppleKnocker team has assembled a cadre of reliable resources for you, so you can stay abreast of the latest news and health information regarding COVID 19.

### **Johns Hopkins University Corona update:**

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/> This is considered the best and most updated tally and information page of all.

**World Health Organization** – Stay informed on the worldwide spread of COVID 19. Includes resources on how to slow the spread.

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

**Centers for Disease Control** – Updates on the national response, and resources for businesses, schools, travelers, etc.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**California Department of Public Health** – Updates on the state response.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

**SoCo Emergency** – Updates on the county-wide lockdown, the county response, and local resources.

<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/>

**Press Democrat** – Local coverage of the COVID 19 pandemic.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/topics/?t=Coronavirus>

**EDD** – Resources for dislocated/impacted workers

[https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)

**CA Office of Business & Economic Development** –

Resources for businesses impacted by COVID 19

<https://business.ca.gov/coronavirus-2019/>

**Redwood Empire Food Bank** – Where to find or donate food.

<https://getfood.refb.org/>

**Catholic Charities** – Where to find food resources

<https://www.srcharities.org/distributions/?filter=food>

**AARP** – Wide array of resources regarding COVID 19

<https://www.aarp.org/health/?CON-HEALTH-COVID19-031220>

**Virtual Museums** – Virtually visit some of the World's best museums from your couch.

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

**2-1-1 Sonoma Information & Resource Hotline** is a number for the public to call for information and resources on the County's response to the Coronavirus. In addition to calling, people can call 2-1-1 or text their zip code to 898-211 to be connected with a call taker.

**Mental Health Support** - Reduce stress and anxiety and practice self-care. For support, call the National Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 Or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 Or TTY at 1-800-846-8517. Services available in English and Spanish.

**Stay connected via Social Media** – If you are on Facebook and/or Twitter, consider subscribing to our local government agencies. These feeds are updated 24-7.

#### **County of Sonoma**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CountyofSonoma/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CountyofSonoma>

#### **City of Sebastopol**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSebastopolCA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SebastopolCity>



### **AT THE BELL**



**President Keller McDonald** rang the bell at 12:15PM (showing the bell) to get things going . No visiting Rotarians, but **Bud Daveiro** reported that "Dan Bornstein was running late". No guests or friends were introduced. **Keller** gave a big Thank You to our armed service members who could not self-isolate are out there protecting us.

**Jackie Moreira** gave the group a two for the price of one thought of the day.

The physicist Marie Curie said: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

"Worry is like a rocking chair: It gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere," wrote humorist Erma Bombeck.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Harry Polley** took to the screen to share sad news. **Pete Pellini** (husband of **Pauline**) passed away Thursday night. He was in intensive care for three weeks. Their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary was also Thursday. Our sincere sympathies to the **Pellini** family.

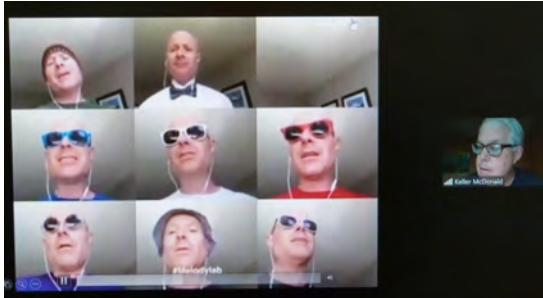
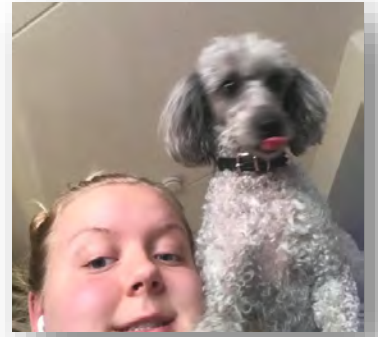




**Anni** is safely home in Finland, and is self-quarantined with mom and dog at their country cabin.

**Jerry Warren** reported the Redwood Empire Food Bank, is limiting total volunteers to 10 at a time - volunteers maintain social distancing. It's too risky to be a club hands-on project now. **Jerry Warren** will stay in touch with food bank and club will return to volunteering when it's safe. **Ellen Harrington** also reported that the Food Bank did not want volunteers over 65 to participate. If you want to donate to the Food Bank, please do so directly.

Helping the community ... **Amanda** (707-218-3413) is a Sebastopol gal, is making fabric facemasks (with pocket for filter) for anyone who needs them. **Amanda** needs - cotton fabric (new as possible) - elastic - volunteers to sew masks at home Call her if you want to get on her list for facemasks or if you have materials or time to donate. She can arrange for materials to be picked up or dropped off at her home in Sebastopol.



The digital recording of County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins' program at the March 27<sup>th</sup> virtual club meeting is available. Please contact **Tom Boag** for details.

**Keller** played a video from the Analy HS choir teacher, Andy Del Monte. Choir practice is now done online. Our scribe can't help but think it would have sounded better in person.

Make up meetings can be done online with other clubs using virtual meetings. Check out the District 5130 website for details. Remember, you have 30 days to make up a meeting.

The Sonoma West Times ([www.sonomawest.com](http://www.sonomawest.com)) lists businesses open for business and the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce ([www.sebastopol.org](http://www.sebastopol.org)) lists take out restaurants in West Sonoma County. Not on that list, but open for business, is Mexico Lindo in Graton. **Mario** is in the kitchen, and still whipping up culinary delights.

## SONOMA WEST TIMES AND NEWS "OPEN FOR BUSINESS" LIST

### SEBASTOPOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEBSITE LIST:

[Acre Pizza](#) (707) 827-3455

[Barrio Fresca Cocina Mexicana](#) (707) 329-6538

[East West Cafe](#) (707) 829-2882

[Mary's Pizza Shack](#) (707) 829-5800

[Portico](#) (707) 888-9136

[Ramen Gaijin](#) (707) 827-3609

[Sonoma Chocolatiers](#) (707) 236-2647

[Twist Eatery](#) (707) 820-8443

**ALSO OPEN:** Mexico Lindo 823-4154



**Keller** pointed out that since **Rotary is about Service above Self**, If you're in a position to, when your economic stimulus check arrives, please consider donating to Sebastopol Rotary Club Foundation or other community relief organizations. If you donate to the Club Foundation, our web team has made it easier. The club homepage now has a PayPal link.

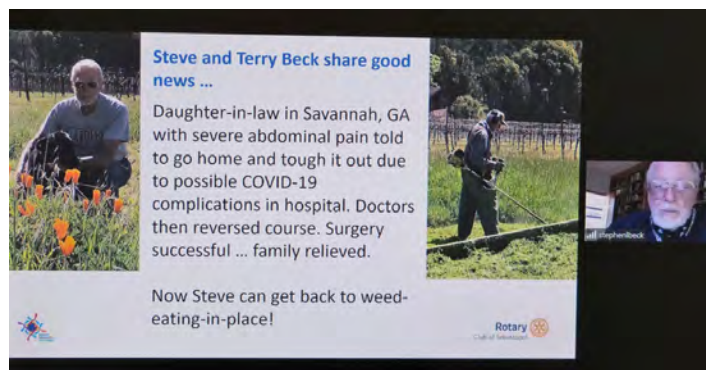
**Keller** then passed the virtual collection plate around for our friends at Trends Catering, so they can help their staff impacted by layoffs. This coming Friday, the club will pass the collection plate for Mexico Lindo, so they can cook up meals for first responders and those in need. Use that \$20 you usually pay lunch for (or more), and throw it in the collection plate? How, you may ask? Mail a check. **IMPORTANT**, this donation goes to the *Rotary Club of Sebastopol*, **NOT** the Club Foundation.

The address is:

Rotary Club of Sebastopol  
C/O Ken Jacobs, Club Treasurer  
PO Box 213  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Write "For Trends Catering" or "For Mexico Lindo" in the subject line. If you want to pay by credit card, call **Ken Jacobs**. Do NOT use PayPal to make this donation.

## 🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



During these trying times, we look far and wide for good news. **Steve and Terry Beck** had great news. Their daughter-in-law in Savannah, GA had severe abdominal pain, and was told to go home from the hospital and tough it out due to possible COVID-19 complications. Her doctors then reversed course, and performed successful gall bladder surgery. She is recovering and in good spirits. **Steve**, we're relieved to hear the news, now get back to the weed eating. However, just because we're meeting online, doesn't mean you're free from a fine!

To survive the stay-at-home order, **Rick Wilson** adopted **BUSTER**, an eight-week old puppy from **Golden Retriever Rescue**. "I feel like a new Father," says proud new papa **Rick**. Buster's first appearance on El Molino High School tennis courts. **Rick** also was celebrating his birthday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) with the Rotary family. **Keller** even broke out the ukulele for this occasion!



During the break in storm last weekend, **Jeff Boal** told his wife, **Jean**, "We're going to go chase rainbows!" They jumped in the car and found their little pot o' West County gold. They went to Green Valley Road and sent picture to his daughter because it was her 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Keller** thanked fellow Rotarians for their contributions to our meeting! Keep those cards and letters, stories, photos, videos, songs, cartoons, and other stuff coming.

**Yvette Williams Van Aggelen** is in need of an internet-capable laptop for a student. If you can help **Yvette**, please contact her.





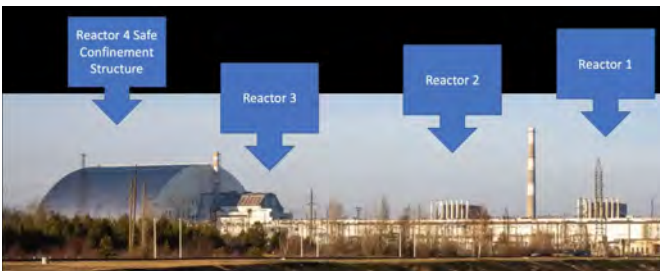
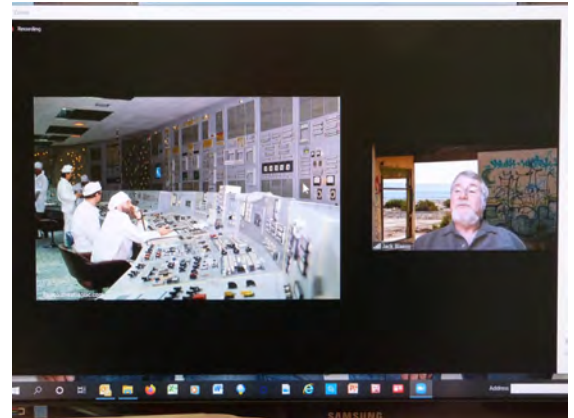


## THE PROGRAM



**Keller** turned the meeting over to our own Radioactive Man, **Jack Blasco**. Earlier in the year, **Jack's** personality was abnormally glowing, and was causing old Civilian Defense Geiger Counters to dance like a jumping bean. In January, **Jack** took a once in a lifetime trip to Chernobyl, attending a four-day photo excursion in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone hosted by Atlas Obscura. **Jack** shared his travelogue in a March 13<sup>th</sup> article in the AppleKnocker. Today, we learned the rest of the story.

**Jack** started with a brief overview of the grim events which unfolded in the early hours of April 26, 1986. Reactor #4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded after a test of the cooling system failed, spreading radioactivity into the community. First responders and plant operators received lethal doses of radiation. 52 operators and first responders died from radiation exposure. The reactor fire was finally extinguished two weeks after the explosion. Soviets established a 1,000-mile exclusion zone, forcing tens of thousands to permanently evacuate in a moments notice. Buses used to evacuate residents caused the radiation to spread into Kiyv. Crews built a sarcophagus around the leaking reactor. Liquidators cleared contaminated debris from the plant, bulldozed communities, and decontaminated areas. Money for cleanup eventually ran out, leaving two million people still living in areas contaminated, and created a generation of people around Ukraine and Belarus who suffered from thyroid cancer and birth effects. The destruction of reactor #4 was caused by a myriad of issues. A reactor design which had critical flaws, which their government covered up. A lack of containment domes around the reactor. Inadequate training for reactor operators, which led to the eventual explosion of the reactor.



Today, the power plant stands mostly abandoned, and fully decommissioned. One part of the plant still manages the power grid for parts of Ukraine and Belarus. Last year, construction on a massive structure covering the leaking reactor sarcophagus was completed. The structure is taller than the Statue of Liberty, and will last for more than a century.

As a part of the tour, **Jack** visited one of the remaining operational control rooms, where Soviet era computer and gauges sit still. He even took the control seat. **DON'T PUSH THAT BUTTON!!!!**



The tour included a visit to doomed Control Room #4, where only the skeletons of the consoles remain. The tour continued with a visit to Reactor core #3, where he stood atop the upper biological shield, where the nuclear fuel once stood.



As the first day came to an end, the tour guide led the group into the incomplete buildings of Reactor # and #6, after a bribe was given to the guards. The incomplete structures stand like skeletons over the plant.



From there, the tour ventured into the ghost town of Pripjat, which was developed for the plant's workers. Now abandoned, trees and forests take over the once bustling streets and squares. Buildings sit abandoned, along with the dreams of its former residents. The rusty skeletons of Pripjat's amusement park serve as an iconic reminder of the disaster. The park opened the day after the explosion to distract residents from the emergency at Chernobyl.



The only residents remaining in Pripjat are the dogs, kin of the animals left behind. Many suffer from radiation sickness, severely shortening their lives. The tour turned to the sports stadium, which was weeks away from opening. Only moss grows on the empty stands. The tour included a tour of the Pripjat schools, which have been in recess since 1986. Remnants eerily sit in place in each room, reminding visitors of better days.



Across Pripjat, colorful tile murals precariously cling to the sides of buildings. Murals were a way of spreading propaganda, and provide a window into the past. The tour included a visit to the sports complex. The swimming pool which drew residents is now covered in debris. Jack, and his fellow travelers, were able to visit many places at night, including a café sporting beautiful Soviet era stained glass. Again, gifts and bribes were given to get into the forbidden city at night. Additionally, it's illegal to enter buildings in the forbidden city. But, it's not illegal if nobody sees it.







One place the tour focused on was the city hospital. Bottles of medicine sit on shelves and rusted gurneys sit in the abandoned rooms. One room that housed firefighters injured from the explosion is highly radioactive, and was forbidden to get into. Bandages and clothing from the injured firefighters still litter the ground. The most stunning images came from the childrens ward, where a stuffed green frog sits on a bed, and the reading chairs await kids some 34 years later.



The final locale visited was one of the closely guarded Soviet secrets, the Duga One, or Arc, designed to detect nuclear missiles. The massive antenna array, almost a half mile long, was activated on July 4, 1976, interfering with radio signals throughout Europe. Propaganda murals and signs stand still, and fading away. As Jack brought his amazing presentation to an end, Jack left Chernobyl with more questions than answers about the future of nuclear power. Do the risks of nuclear power outweigh the potential risks of climate change? Again, more questions than answers. We did get one re-assuring answer. During his visit to Chernobyl, **Jack** and his fellow travelers were constantly measured for radiation. Tour guides kept people away from radioactive areas. Congratulations on an amazing presentation, **Jack**!



## 🍎 THE FINAL BELL 🍎

After a wondergul, though provoking meeting in the books, **Keller** rang the substitute Roto-Bell at 1:30PM sharp. The AppleKnocker does not stop here. There are some great pieces to follow, including a great review of video games from **David Still**, and a heartfelt tribute to Pete Pellini from **Harvey Henningsen**.

## 🍎 GAME REVIEWS 🍎

So you are stuck inside like everyone else. Put down that remote control and try out some board games with your co-isolationist. Amazon will ship you these games pronto. Enjoy.

### SEQUENCE

This game is excellent for two players. It can go up to three, four or six players. It is played with a board, cards and chips. You are dealt cards and you cover the card likeness you play on the board with a chip of your color ( play the ace of hearts, put your chip on the ace of hearts). You win when you get two sequences of four chips in a row. It's easy. I have been handily beaten by nine-year olds.



## RUMMIKUB

Here is a game invented in some benighted country that had outlawed cards. You have tiles numbered 1 to 13 in four different colors. Starting with 14 tiles you attempt to play (by placing face up) the tiles in runs of the same color or groups of different colors. 1-2-3 of red for example or 4-4-4 or blue red and black. The next player can play on the board any number of tiles so he could play the red 4 or the gold 4 in the above example. It's easier than it sounds and pretty hard to win. I have been beaten by a nine year old but she is precocious. When you have no play you have to draw another tile from the pile. When you play all your tiles, you win. Excellent game for two although three or four can play.

## FARKLE

This is a fast-paced dice game using six dice. It is something like Yahtzee but takes almost no thought except your desire to gamble which makes it a good drinking game. Any number of players is okay but it's a good game for two. First player to 10000 wins but each player gets one last set of rolls to try and overtake the leader. Any age can play and enjoy unless you make it a drinking game ( then its 21 and up).



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Today's letter comes from **Harvey Henningsen**. He shares wonderful memories of our departed friend, Pete Pellini.

I grew up playing after dinner whiffle-ball baseball with Pete Pellini & the kids on the block. Remember when Whiffle-balls came out? Whiffle balls changed everything. Two kids could have a baseball game in a relatedly small lawn & the Pellini's had such a lawn. I knew at an early age Pete Pellini was a numbers-guy. He knew every player on every team. He knew their batting average and whether they were left or right handed. He insisted that we declare what player we were and we had to play left or right handed because he knew. Then he would proceed to broadcast the game as an announcer while playing. Pete & I were on one of the first four major league Little League teams formed in Sebastopol. The four teams were the Dodgers, Giants, Yankees & Orioles, the team that Pete Hill pitched for & hit home runs for. I'm sending you a picture of our team, the Dodgers with Peter looking distractedly off to the right as he stands on the right edge, 2nd row of the picture. George Fiori is standing next to him. I'm standing dead-center holding my new mitt. Many will miss Peter Pellini. I'll hold those early fond memories of him. **Pauline & Pete** were sweethearts from the very beginning. Although we are all sorry for **Peter's** loss, **Pauline** has been blessed with almost 60 years of mutual-loving-memories with **Peter Pellini**.

