



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Brandon Spars – Tales From Sumatra



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"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

It was another stunning day in the neighborhood. Some of the Roto-flock moseyed over to Russian River Vineyards and filled themselves with some great wine and edible delights. Othered stayed in their collective stables and watched the fun from home, hopefully with the proper libations!

AT THE BELL

Thought of the Day
by Tim Moore

"If you love something enough that you want it to last forever, you've got to give it away."

- Pat Jones





Our fearless leader **President Dan Rasmus** struck the bell at 12:15 pm sharp. **Dan** reminded everyone that baseball season started. Although the Giants and A's are longshots this year, you never know, one of them colt win it all! **Mark Fink** led the salute to old glory. Tim Moore gave us a thought for the day: "If you love something enough that you want it to last forever, you've got to give it away."

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

We had **PDG Bruce Campbell** joined us over zoom. **Jeff Boal** introduced his better hoof, **Jean**, and their friend, **Jeannie**. **Jeff, Jean**, we've never met herbivore.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

April 9

Kent Porter
Life as a Press Democrat
Photographer

April 16

Cordel Stillman
The New Advanced Energy Center
At Sonoma Clean Power

April 23

Overcoming Obstacles

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

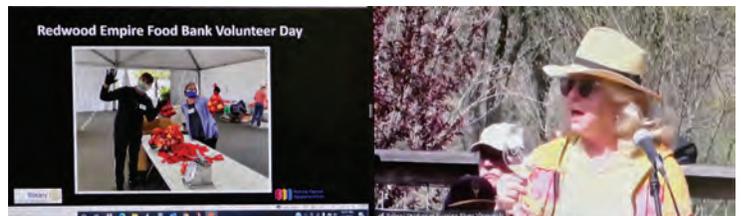
707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



It's off to the races everyone! The Derby Raffle is out of the gate and making the clubhouse turn! This is our mane fundraiser for the year! If you have yet to place your bets.....errr....buy your tickets by May 1st, as tickets won't be around furlong! So, get out there and sell, sell, sell! If you are looking for a reason to click the buy button, our Live Auction chair **Rick Wilson** has a deal for you! One of the top prizes is a week-long stay at the Ewald condominium in Montana. Everything you desire is all steps away, including golfing, fishing, kayaking, and so much more! This is one of eight fabulous prizes! The stakes that the raffle ticket holders can win are amazing! Buy early, and buy often! What would the Derby Raffle be without a horse race! Unless you have been hiding under the hay, there's a little friendly competition going on with your fellow Rotarians. Each week we are highlighting our Trifecta of current team leaders. Coming in third is overcoming obstacles, followed closely by Community grants, and I want a big lead is youth Exchange! No team right now is the odds-on favorite.



Cindy Carter and her team of hearty volunteers have been super busy! Last week, the Roto-Flock gathered the Redwood Empire food bank for their monthly workday. Boxes and boxes of oranges and carrots were packaged up! Hopefully not too many boxes were foaled up! Additionally, folks gathered for a cleanup day along the Russian River. We herd the cleanup

River Clean Up



project was a great success! Organized by the Ukiah Rotary Club, volunteers gathered at various spots to clean up litter. **David** and **Nan Still** were spotted in Monte Rio. **Jim Passage** was spotted in Healdsburg. **Cindy** and her family were busy in Guerneville. Last but certainly not least, **Kathy Schwartz** and **Les Crawford** were busy cleaning up the Laguna in Sebastopol.

Jim Pasture...err...Passage is heading up a new, incredibly important area of service for our club, the Environmental Sustainability Committee. This new committee is taking climate action on head first. This is also part of a district-wide initiative to tackle climate change. RCAT (Rotary District 5130 Climate Action Team) presents monthly meetings to discuss climate change issues. **Jim** is encouraging all members to sign up for this new endeavor. To join, please reach out to Jim Passage today.



The community grants for 2021 have been distributed to many wonderful organizations all throughout the community. There's been great feedback. Many thanks to **Hal Kwalwasser** for crafting our press release, which was picked up by the county. **Dan** gave us an update on our joint district grant with the Sebastopol Sunrise Club. We focused on offering supplies to schools within our community, including PPE, Chromebooks, TV monitors, and webcams. We received a wonderful thank you card from Castles Day Care. **Dan** gave a big shout-out to the Sunrise club for all of their help!



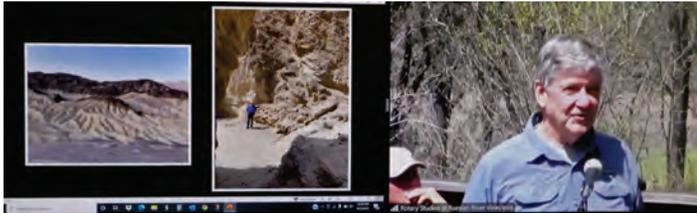
Last week, we were unable to show a video thank you card from one of the Programa de Becas recipients. The video was from **Mark Fink's** sponsor.

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



Rick Wilson's birthday was on Saturday, April 3rd. He spent his birthday enjoying a nice dinner, and in two weeks, he will be spending a nice few days at Cache Creek Resort. **Dan** advised him not to have too many Moscow Mules and pony up \$5! Past President **David Schreiber** celebrated his 14th anniversary with our club, and **Rick Williams** celebrated nine years with our club. Congratulations!

Dan realized that it was high time to reign in some overdue fines! In true form, his first target was our mighty anglers! **Greg Jacobs** was recently at a watering hole in Redding fishing along the Sacramento River. He caught one heck of a fish.....the jury is still out on whether it's real or not. **Greg**, the Raley's in Redding called, and they want their fish back!

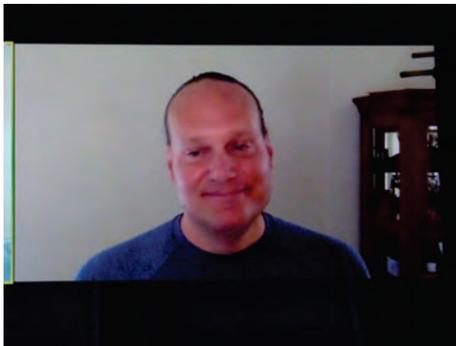


Jack and Ruthie Dunlap hopped on Old Blue and took a nice road trip! They managed to visit their kids in Glendale and Sacramento. In between, they visited several one-horse towns out in the desert and were caught horsing around out in Death Valley. That had to be worth \$5 of fun!

Bob Hirsch was discovered pedaling around Palm Springs recently! Apparently, he purchased an electric bike. The electric motor came in handy as the winds were quite robust. So how much horsepower did that bike have, **Bob**?



PROGRAM



Enough horsing around, and now time to stable-ize this meeting. **Jeff Boal** introduced our speaker, professional storyteller and teacher at the Sonoma Academy, **Brandon Spars**. **Brandon** started by telling us a story from his life. While attending Stanford University, he had a 6' 2" blond girlfriend, who attracted men by the dozens, including **Billy Idol**. When he graduated, he followed his girlfriend to Indonesia where they joined a teaching program. While his girlfriend was assigned to a school in Jakarta, **Brandon** was assigned to a remote village in the rainforest some three days travel from his girlfriend. Upon arriving, there were no kids, no villagers, nobody except one man who said one thing "hello I love you." While waiting for the children to arrive, he befriended the old man, took long walks with him, picked flowers, and wrote detailed love letters to his girlfriend. The mailman, who visited monthly, had no letters for **Brandon**. After several months, he decided to leave and return to his girlfriend in Jakarta. Upon arriving, **Brandon** learned why his letters went unanswered.....his girlfriend left him for another man! Upon hearing the news, he returned to the remote village and the old man. There he resumed his walks, waited in the classroom for the students, and reflected on pursuing a career in teaching. He soon learned that his teaching contract ended, and he was being transferred to Bali. He bid farewell to the old man, and made his way to Bali, where he met his future wife. He still writes to the old man in the remote Indonesian and ends each letter with, hello I love you.

Brandon explained how there are two approaches on how to tell their life story. Most people create a series of facts about their life. He suggested telling the stories as a series of decisions, rather than a series of facts. It makes the story more powerful. By sharing decisions, it adds more unique context to a story, as they all have impacts on one's life. He spoke of **George Dawes Green**, a man from Georgia who started The Moth, a worldwide storytelling event. **George Green** shared an important piece of advice to **Brandon**: "The best stories do one thing, they present a decision." It brings the audience into the story. If you involve your audience and draw them into your story, you'll have them in the palm of your hand. He left us with another nugget. Stories should have a powerful impact. The storyteller should think about the world before the story and the world at the end of the story. If you are interested in learning more about storytelling or becoming one, visit the following websites:

Local: <http://www.dotellstoryswap.org/>

State: <http://www.storysaac.org/>

National: <https://storynet.org/>

THE FINAL BELL

After an amazing meeting, **President Dan** brought the meeting to a close at 1:15 pm sharp.

AFTER THE BELL



Over the weekend, the last Apple Bowl football game between Analy High and El Molino High occurred. **Harvey Henningsen** had some thoughts about this historic last game: History does come full circle. 1963 was my senior year at Analy and the last year that students from the river area attended Analy. They affectionately called themselves "The River-Rats." The Sebastopol students at Analy also [with less affection] called those students "The River-Rats." With the consolidation of El Molino & Analy High Schools comes so much anger and angst. History repeats and the future will be revealed.



FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 9, 2021 Kent Porter



I started at the Press Democrat in August of 1987, previously at the Midland Reporter-Telegram in west Texas for four years. I grew up in Lake County, where I started my career and the Lake County Record-Bee.

I picked up a camera at the age of eight, documenting family trips to the Central Plains, eventually graduating to a 35mm Yashica and a Pentax K1000 in high school. After graduation, I took classes at SRJC under the tutelage of John LeBaron and Thomas Chown.

At the Press Democrat, I've covered numerous Super Bowls and World Series events, traveled to Cuba, Canada and Mexico with 45 different states in between for coverage of one type or another. I spent a week on the Prince William Sound in a fishing boat, documenting the aftermath of the Exxon

Valdez oil spill and another two-weeks in airplanes, helicopters and automobile, photographing the extent of the economic damage in Valdez, Anchorage and Cordova. I covered the Loma Prieta earthquake from the get go, on the field at Candlestick Park and eventually at the Bay Bridge.

I'm very concerned about climate change, and my recent coverage during the past six years of calamitous wildfires, whiplash flooding and drought has made me well adapted to dive in to the coverage even deeper as we pull out of the pandemic. I've won international, national and state awards, and was also on the 2018 Pulitzer Prize team for our coverage of the 2017 fires that burned our communities. I'm a big believer in newspapers and journalism as a whole, passionate about community communication and using all channels available to tell stories in our region.

I have a 21 year-old son, who is a firefighter. I love the southwest canyonlands, I like to chase severe weather in the heart of our country and live by the seat of my pants most days. I'm also an avid gardener, love to fish and am currently attempting to hike every local and state park in Sonoma County during 2021. I'm about one quarter of the way through.

April 16, 2021 Cordel Stillman



In his role as Director of Programs at Sonoma Clean Power, Cordel Stillman works directly with the CEO to set the strategy for distributed resources and customer programs. Mr. Stillman also works closely with Programs staff and the Director of Power Services to develop and evolve SCP's Integrated Resource Plan.

Formerly the Deputy Chief Engineer at the Sonoma County Water Agency, Cordel has over 28 years of experience in the public sector in planning, design and construction management.

Under his guidance, the Sonoma County Water Agency achieved its goal of Carbon Free Water through a combination of energy conservation measures and renewable energy development.

Mr. Stillman was one of the early pioneers of forming Sonoma Clean Power, including forming and administering the Steering Committee, commissioning and overseeing the feasibility study, securing early financing for the Agency, and working with County Counsel on the development of the Joint Powers Agreement which made SCP possible