



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Bob Rogers – From the Flight Deck



Date: April 9, 2021
Volume: 2020/21—Issue E19-37
Scribe: Patrick Dirden
Photog. D Schreibman, R Maybury, J Dunlap, HH
Editors: P Dirden, D Still, J Blasco, J Dunlap, J Holst, T Boag, HH
President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL



Mister Rogers said it best, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood." More and more of the Roto-flock are making their way to Russian River Vineyards to enjoy the weather, the wine, and some good old fashioned in person fellowship. The fellowship is also strong for those zooming in, including your humble scribe.



AT THE BELL



President Dan "The Man" Rasmus struck the stalwart roto-bell at 12:15pm on the dot! **Jerry Warren** led the flock in the salute to Old Glory. **David Schreibman** gave us a beautiful thought for the day:

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude." William James

Dan took us down memory lane with a look back at one of the awesome marching bands in the 2019 Apple Blossom Parade. Complimenting the sounds were a beautiful set of photos from **Rollie Atkinson** and the staff at Sonoma West Times and News. Sadly, the streets are quiet once again this year, as the parade and festival are postponed. However, there are rumors that the parade may come back later this year, possibly in September. Watch this space!



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

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

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

We had two visiting Rotarians zooming into our meeting, including Past District 5170 Governor Ron Sekkel, and Past District 5130 District Governor Bruce Campbell. **Bob Hirsch** had several guests with him, including his significant other, Joelle, his son, Scott Hirsch, daughter-in-law Rachelle Hirsch, granddaughter Kenley Leach Hirsch, and his grandson, Jackson Hirsch.



ROTARY FOUNDATION

Dan turned the reigns over to Past President, Past District 5130 Governor, and past RI Director, **John Blount**, for a special Rotary Foundation presentation. He started by thanking **Lu Frazier** for her hard work handling and tabulating Foundation donations and Paul Harris scores. **John** explained how the Rotary Foundation binds us together as a club, and as a worldwide group of diverse individuals, all joined together to do good in the world.



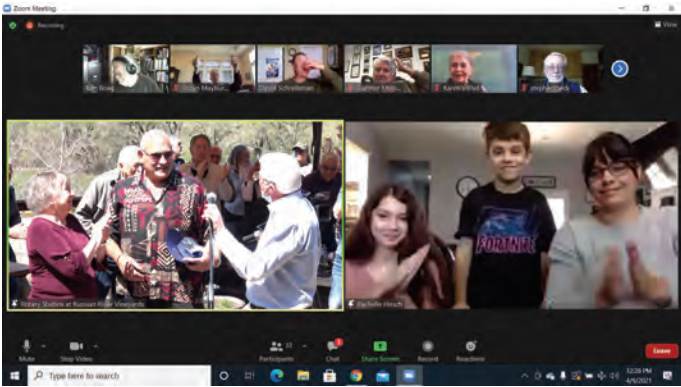
Today, we celebrate a wonderful milestone. **Bob Hirsch** reached the milestone as a Rotary Foundation Major Donor. Over the years, he has made donations in the name of his children and grandchildren. We celebrate milestones in their Paul Harris Fellow levels:

Scott Hirsch: PHF +1

Kenley Leach Hirsch: PHF +1

Rachelle Hirsch: PHF +1

Jackson Hirsch: PHF



Bob told us that it took 40 years to reach this level, and that this honor means a lot to him. He also told us that we do so much, and we cannot accomplish it alone. Congratulations, **Bob**!

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

If you want to get into the gardening game, don't worry, **Harry Simms** can get you off to the right start! He currently has a variety tomato starts available at his house. For details, reach out to **Harry** today!



The Derby Raffle is racing down the track! **Aleia Coate** announced that we are almost half way to our goal. Let's make sure we win it by a mile, and not in a photo finish! Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! Tell everyone! If you're not sure what to say, tell them about one of our exciting prizes, such as our Paso Robles Wine Country Getaway! You could win a wine tasting experience at Turley Winery. It includes a private tour for six people, and three nights accommodation at a 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Remember, we're also competing against each other as well! As of Friday, Learn With Me was in third place, Community Grants in second, and with a healthy lead in first, Youth Exchange!

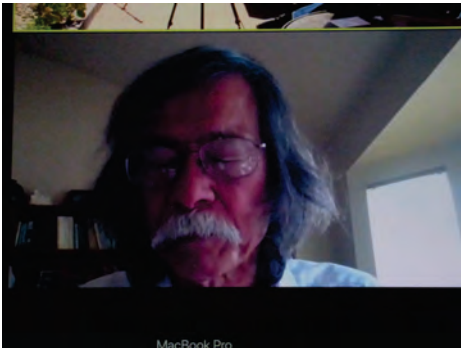
On May 1st, join us at Russian River Vineyards to watch the Kentucky Derby, and learn who won the raffle. Details will follow this week via email. It will be first come, first serve!

🍎 RECOGNITIONS 🍎



Jeff Boal celebrated his birthday on April 5th. He got a birthday gift that surpasses Tony Bennett singing Happy Birthday, or even winning the Power Ball.....**President Dan** called him! Of course, **Dan** called collect, and collected \$5 from **Jeff**! **Torrey Olson** celebrated his 12th anniversary with our club.

If you remember, or purposefully blanked it out, we had our first ever Lockdown Locks Competition. Our hair hoppers were **Nao Noguchi**, **David Still**, and **Jack Blasco**. **Dan** decided to check in on our contestants. **Jack Blasco** decided that long hair was not for him, and got it cut. **David Still** is sporting the 70's era hair dux. He's planning on keeping it until Nan's 50th high school reunion! Poor Nan!



Nao Noguchi is going on 14 months without a haircut, and it shows! **Nao** told us that the last time he sported long hair was in 1969. He did cut his mustache, as it was affecting his eating!



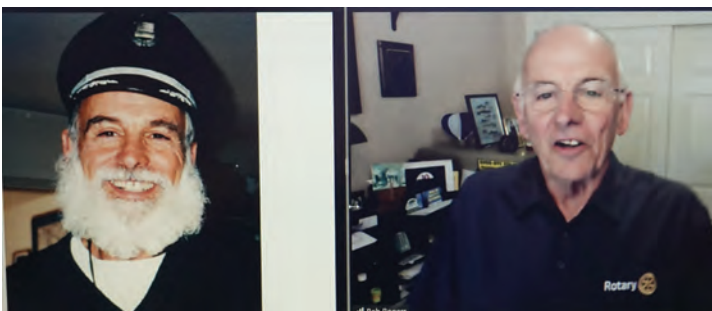
RAFFLE



THIS IS ROTO-JEOPARDY! Yes, it's time for another round of Roto-Jeopardy. **Dan** brought up **David Schreiber**, **Katy Spyrka**, and **Steve Beck** to the stage. All of the categories were there, including the controversial "I'm on Death Row" category. After a hard-fought game, **David** came out on top with \$700 in roto-bucks. He donated it all to the **Dan Rasmus** Family Charitable Trust Fund. What a guy!



PROGRAM



We were supposed to hear from Kent Porter from the Press Democrat today, but he was called to cover the Giants game. Waiting in the wings was our own wingman, and official Roto-pilot, **Captain Bob Rogers**! So, buckle your seatbelts, put your seatback forward, lock that tray table, grab your waste bag, and let's go flying with **Bob**!

What drove **Bob** to the skies? As a kid, **Bob** loved to build model airplanes. He soon became fascinated with flying. When **Bob** joined the Naval Reserve, he became a radio man. He also got some stick time. That drove him to pursuit

a career as a pilot. When he left the Naval Reserve, **Bob** learned that United Airlines was looking for a pilot. All that was needed was a private license. **Bob** ran to the San Carlos Airport and got his license. He took the license to United, and they demanded a commercial license. Back to the airport for lessons, and back to United. They then demanded an instrument license. **Bob** could never catch up with the friendly...or demanding...skies!

Fear not, **Bob** eventually landed with Golden Pacific Airlines, where he flew with them for three years. It was there where he had his first accident. The landing gear failed, and he made a successful belly landing at Oakland Airport. He then hired

on with World Airlines, where he flew the big iron, the mighty Boeing 727. He flew military flights in southeast Asia, and transported issues of Stars and Stripes. You could call **Bob** a paper boy!

Eventually, **Bob** returned to California, where he worked in the advertising department at OCLI. He also served as their private pilot. Eventually, he hired on with Air Malta. It was there where he had his first brush with terrorism. On a flight from the UK, the Irish Republican Army called a bomb threat in. After a spirited conversation with his co-pilot, who was his boss, about what to do, they eventually landed in Paris. Thankfully, no bomb was found. He eventually returned to the states where he became a private pilot for RCA. After a short time, World Airlines hired **Bob** back. He was assigned to the mighty DC-8 and DC-10.

Bob shared a story that highlighted a crazy time in his career. In December 1981, he was preparing for the birth of his second son in Pennsylvania. He was asked to fly Christmas packages to military personnel in Germany. His boss ensured he would return in time for his son's birth. As they were preparing to depart, the Attitude Indicator gave out. In order to reach the spare, they had to offload all of the cargo, grab the spare, and reload the cargo. After a lengthy delay, they were off. Once landing in Germany, they discovered a fuel leak. It took two days to repair the plane! Once the plane was repaired, they returned to the states. Once they arrived, they asked **Bob** to fly the plane to Newark, in order to replace a broken plane! They quickly refueled the plane, but had to balance the fuel, which took time. Finally, they're ready to go, and they discovered one of the spoilers was busted! AUGH! After another delay, and another refueling, they took off. The airline drove him back to Doylestown, PA just in time. As he waited, he fell asleep in the waiting room and woke up to the doctor holding his newborn son.

Another crazy experience in his career occurred in Charleston, SC. On his approach, he encountered a thunderstorm. When he landed, the plane hydroplaned on the runway. Thankfully, it came to a stop, and nobody was injured. The tower neglected to tell him that there was potential for breaking issues on the runway. He was interviewed by the NTSB. If you saw the movie about the miracle on the Hudson, and the grilling Sully Sullenberg received from the NTSB, **Bob** had the same grilling!

In 1987, **Bob** got laid off from World Airlines, and was hired by Piedmont Airlines, where he returned to flying the big iron, the Boeing 727. They eventually merged with US airlines, where he flew with him until his retirement, just right after 9-11. **Bob** said flying after 9-11 was no longer fun. Your scribe, and I'm sure others, agree! His wife Peggy was on his last flight. During his career, he flew 250 trips across the Atlantic, had two engine failures, and 21,000 flying hours, which equates to 875 days, and 2.4 years. Time flies when you are having fun!



THE FINAL BELL



After a high-flying meeting, **President Dan** brought the meeting to a close at 1:15pm sharp!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

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.

