



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Bob Rogers – Polio Efforts



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"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL



You could not ask for a more beautiful Friday. Those gathering at Russian River Vineyards were treated to good food, good wine, good times and vibrant blue skies. Those zooming in from home could enjoy the meeting in their PJ's, including your humble scribe!

AT THE BELL

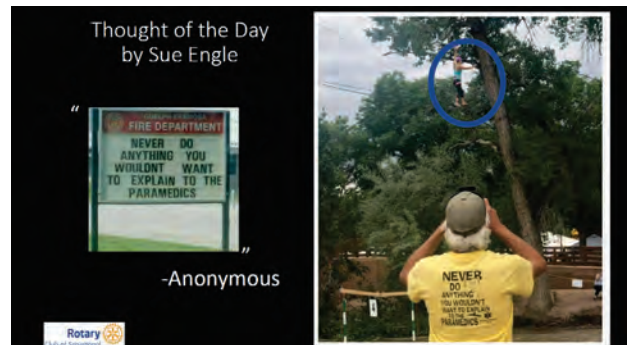


President Dan Rasmus struck the Roto-bell at 12:15pm sharp! **Richard Power** led the flag salute. **Sue Engle** gave us two amusing and positive thoughts for the day.

"Laugh 'til your stomach hurts at least once a day. You'll be amazed at how much it fills your soul with joy."

"Never do anything you wouldn't want to explain to the paramedics."

Dan felt the need to elaborate on the latter quote, by providing a couple of tips of what not to do. Sorry kids, you'll need to take tightrope walking on power lines off your list.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

Future Programs

November 27

DARK – No Meeting

December 4

**Bob Rubin
Manta Rays**

December 11

Mike Martini

December 18

Dr. Gloria Willingham Toure

December 25

DARK – No Meeting

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Dan welcomed PDG Bruce Campbell, and David Mark Raymond, both from the Sebastopol Sunrise Club. We had Edwin and Diana Wilson's daughter Danelle, visiting from Iowa, and the newest edition to the Wilson family, Lenora Waters. David Still's better half, Nan, was with us. Tim Moore's better half, Mary Ann, joined us.



MARK SELL TEACHER GRANTS

Dan swung the Roto-spotlight on Jack Blasco for an update on the Mark Sell Rotary Teacher Grants. We used to call them Teacher Mini Grants, but as Jack noted, "there's certainly nothing mini about this grant program!" The grant program was started by the late Mark Sell in 2002, who saw so many teachers coming into Sebastopol Hardware to purchase classroom supplies on their own dime. He started our annual crab feed to help fund the grant program. Since 2002, we have funded 980 grants, to 40 schools, totaling over \$316,000. Not to mention the oodles and oodles of pounds of crab killed, cooked, cracked, and consumed.

What Did Our Grants Provide?

- Document cameras
- Art supplies
- Books of all kinds
- Video cameras
- Educational magazines
- Math tiles
- Supplies to teach coding
- Whiteboards and pens
- Educational software
- Computers and tablets
- Materials to build outdoor tables and benches
- Strings for musical instruments
- Tools
- Robotics kits
- Science class supplies

Due to COVID-19, we put the grants on hold. But now, since we know how schools are coping, we're moving forward with the grants. The committee met earlier this month to fund 36 grants to 18 schools, totaling \$15,054 in grants! The grants provided funding for a wide variety of supplies, most of which helping teachers and students. Checks were sent out last week, and thank you notes are already flooding in. **Jack** thanked the committee members for reviewing the submissions, choosing the grant recipients, and their time and efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to **Chris O'Neill** and Russian River Vineyards, we have a great fundraiser for our popular Adopt a Family program going! If you purchase a bottle of Stony Point Pinot Noir for \$46, all of the proceeds will go to the Adopt a Family program. Don't delay, buy today! You can purchase bottles at: <https://shop.russianrivervineyards.com/product/2016-Pinot-Noir---Stony-Point-Vineyard-Rotary>

If you cannot make a meeting, you can always make up your meeting by attending a committee meeting. Just let **Secretary Scott Briggs** know.

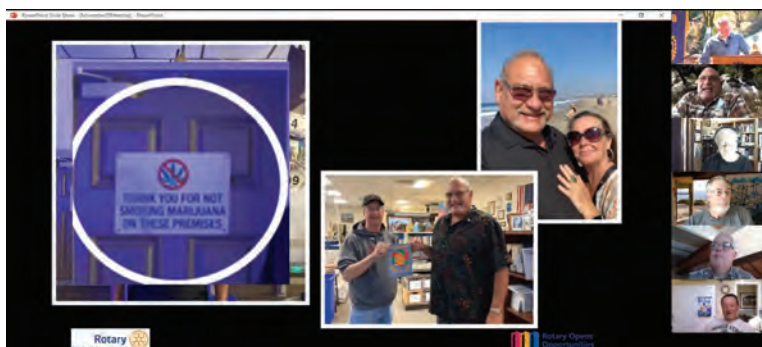
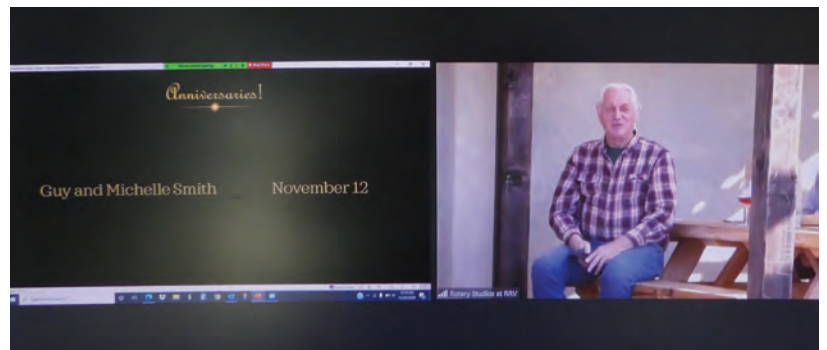
Sometimes things don't go as planned. **President Dan** attempted to poll the Roto-flock on their thoughts about Thanksgiving. Sounds simple enough. People were asked a slate of questions. Well, not only were the poll questions longer than a census form, there were technical difficulties collecting the answers! Some Rotarians voted twice, some once, while others gave up and sipped wine, while enjoying the tomfoolery. After pulling out a NASA supercomputer to tabulate the votes, we found that Rotarians like oven cooked turkey, love pumpkin pie, and enjoy the parade of football games.

RECOGNITIONS

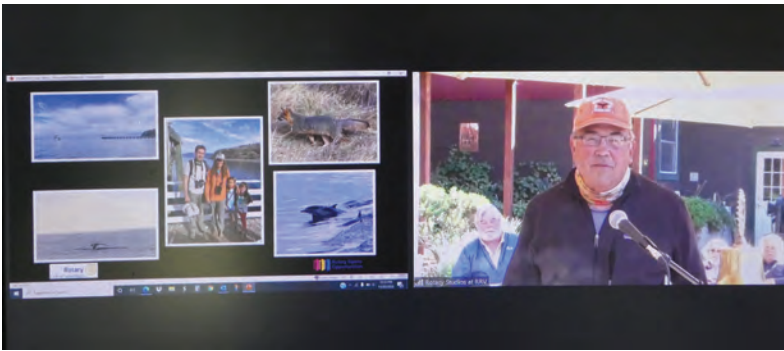


Former President Keller "Birdman" McDonald celebrated his birthday with the Rotary flock! **Dan** found a gift only a birder would appreciate!

Guy and Michelle Smith celebrated their anniversary on November 12th with a nice lunch in Tiburon. Congratulations, **Keller, Guy, and Michelle**.



Bob Hirsch hit the road last month! He took the trailer south down the coast with **Joelle** to escape the stifling smoke. We learned that Bob is also a Moose! Not only do the Moose's have campgrounds, but some of the best drinks around. Rotary, take note! He made up his Rotary meeting in Grover Beach. Pro tip, Mary Jane is not allowed at the Moose lodge. Sorry, **Harvey!**



Greg Jacobs was recently playing with whales, seals, and dolphins. He recently spent time in Ventura with his daughter and grandchildren. They took a nice boat cruise out to the Channel Islands.

🍅 PROGRAM 🍅



Kent Porter, from The Press Democrat, was scheduled to speak, but had an emergency come up. Waiting in the batter's box, we had our pinch hitter, **Bob Rogers**, ready to step up to the plate. **Bob** is currently the Zone 27 End Polio Now coordinator.



He started with a striking and heartwarming video about how frontline Rotarians deliver Polio vaccinations to children during India's National Immunization Day. The video featured a group of volunteers who visited a village in India earlier this year. **Bob** was a part of this group. Brad Howard, a Rotarian from the East Bay, coordinates these trips. On this trip, Rotarians from around the world, visited several impoverished communities. Rotarians were welcomed with open arms from members of these communities. The group visited numerous families to see if their children were vaccinated. Rotarians still face resistance from some families, because of misinformation regarding the safety of the drops. However, the group vaccinated hundreds of children. The video showed a school that was built by Rotary, and a hospital built to help Polio survivors, by supplying them with braces constructed out of PVC pipes. The participants, including **Bob**, left India humbled and inspired by their work, and the people they encountered.



Polio mostly attacks children, and attacks the motor neurons in the body. If the leg muscles are attacked, the child can't walk. If it attacks the diaphragm muscles, the child cannot breathe. If the child cannot access a machine, like an iron lung, the child dies. **Bob** spoke about his experience with Polio. When he was five, while attending a Lions Club picnic, he complained about his legs aching. The next day, he could not get out of bed. His doctor informed his parents that **Bob** had Polio, which devastated his parents. He was sent to Children's Hospital in San Francisco. His legs were wrapped in steaming hot woolen blankets, and were exercised to maximum limit of motion. He spent two weeks in the hospital. He was unable to see his brothers and sister, because the doctors still did not know how Polio spread. He attempted to walk to the car, and collapsed to the floor.



Later in life, **Bob's** Polio symptoms disappeared. He became an active runner, cyclist, and skier. Polio became an afterthought, until he joined Rotary. When **Bob** and **Peggy** moved to Sebastopol, his neighbor, **Tom Dilley**, invited Bob to our meetings, and encouraged him to join Rotary. **Bob** described **Tom's** persistence as a dog chewing on your leg! Well, **Bob** bit back, and decided to join. It was at an informational meeting with **Harry Polley** and **Dave Madsen** where **Bob** learned about Rotary's mission to eradicate Polio. At a district training, **Larry Myers**, the District Polio Plus chair, and Polio survivor, asked **Bob** when he contracted Polio. He could tell by the way **Bob** walked. After a long talk with Larry, **Bob** joined the District 5130 Polio committee, learned about the scope of this disease, and

Rotary's drive to eradicate Polio. He was hooked, and found his passion in Rotary. Since then, **Bob** has become a tireless advocate for Polio Plus in our club, across the District, and in Zone 27. **Bob** reflected for a moment, saying things happen in life that are beyond our comprehension, and feels blessed to be a part of this effort to eradicate Polio for good.

Bob spoke of the amazing progress made in the fight against Polio. It wasn't long ago that there were over 350,000 cases annually, with 1,000 cases occurring daily. In 2018, we went down to 33 cases. Last year, we lost ground, and had 133 cases. This year, that number increased to 135 cases, which were attributed to anti-vaccinators, misinformation campaigns, and the pause in immunizations due to COVID. We've hit roadblocks, and will overcome them. Rotary has overcome great obstacles in their fight against Polio, such as elimination the wild Polio virus in India, and the continent of Africa. The last summit to reach, is to eliminate Polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Rotary has started immunization efforts again. Recently, in Pakistan, 39 million children were vaccinated. **Bob** stated that it will take another three years to completely eliminate Polio. We're so close, and stopping our efforts now is not an option. We've saved 19 million children from paralysis, and a million from death. To get us to the finish line, Rotary launched the Polio Plus Society. To join, it only takes \$100 per year, and a commitment to donate until the WHO declares the world free from Polio. Not only do you receive Polio Plus and Paul Harris points, your donations are matched two to one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. And, if you donate by November 30th, your Paul Harris Points will be doubled. You can donate online, or send a check to **Lu Frazier**, with "Polio Plus" in the memo line. **Bob** sent an email and form to all Rotarians on Friday. Rotary is focused on youth, and **Bob** cannot think of a more important impact on the future than eliminating Polio from this planet forever. That is paying it forward; that is service above self; and that is making a difference.

THE FINAL BELL

After a touching and inspiring presentation, **President Dan** struck the Roto-bell at 1:15pm sharp! Remember kids, we will be dark next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. Gobble Gobble!

