



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

John Coate "the Farm" to SFGate

	Date:	October 2, 2020	 <p style="font-size: small;">Rotary Opens Opportunities</p>
	Volume:	2020/21—Issue E19-13	
	Scribe:	Patrick Dirden	
	Photog.	R. Maybury, HH	
	Editors:	D. Still, P.Dirden, J. Holst, T. Boag, HH	
	President 2020/2021:	Dan Rasmus	

"All the News that Fits We Print"

BEFORE THE BELL

It's been another tough week in the neighborhood. Almost three years to the date of the Tubbs Fire, another fire raced across the Coast Range and marched into Santa Rosa late Sunday night. Aided by stiff northeast breezes, the Glass Fire jumped the Napa Valley, and raced down the sylvan canyons of Mark West Creek and Santa Rosa Creek, and burnt into Skyhawk and Oakmont, destroying homes, and again, upending lives. As this week's AppleKnocker is being written, thousands are still under evacuation, including some from our club. We know that **Jerry Warren, Harry Polley, Dave Madsen, Russ Cunningham, Kelly Back**, and good friend of our club, Dan Bornstein were evacuated. We wish them, and others in the Rotary community who were evacuated, all the best.

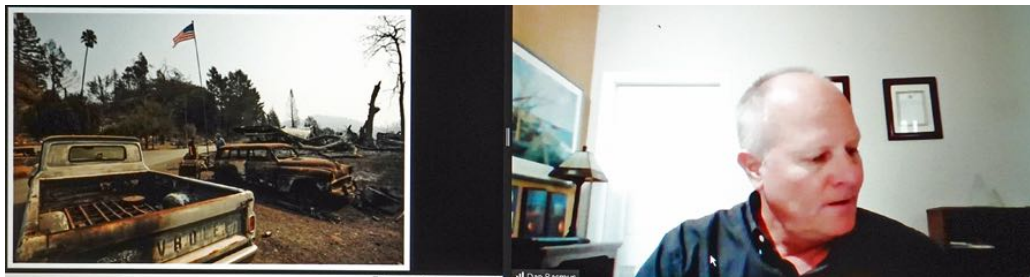
Under a pall of smoke and ash, your scribe logged in, and immediately saw the face of **Jack and Ruthie Dunlap's** adorable 3-year-old granddaughter, Audrey. They escaped the smoke and were in Glendale. **Nao Noguchi** was also in the breakout room, sporting a moustache that looked very similar in shape to the hat worn by The Flying Nun. **Nao**, be careful in the wind, that moustache might have the right aerodynamics to make you go airborne!

AT THE BELL

President Dan Rasmus brought the meeting to order at 12:15 pm on the dot. He started by giving thanks and gratitude to the firefighters who, once again, are battling wildfires in our neighborhoods across the county. **Ruthie Dunlap** offered us a two-for-one thought for the day.

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." Dalai Lama

"Love is not like pie, divided up and served in a finite number of pieces. It is more like pi, infinite and irrational." Unknown



Future Programs

October 9

**David Schreibman
Geocaching**

October 16

**Jeremy Hurst
HANWASH: Haiti National Clean
Water and Health Strategy**

October 23

**“Secret” Speaker
Update on Polio Plus
vis a vis Pandemic**

October 30

**Rick Wilson
A Witness to History**

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS—scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

There were no visiting Rotarians in the house today. However, we had three guests. **Jack and Ruthie Dunlap** introduced their granddaughter, Audrey.



Aleia Coate introduced her sister, Jennifer Marlow, and her Dad, John Coate, who would be speaking later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Dan reminded everyone that the District 5130 Fire Relief Fund is active and accepting donations. You can donate online at: <https://www.rotary5130.org/district-disaster-response-plan/>

You can also mail a check, too.

“Rotary District 5130 Disaster Relief Fund”

C/O Ashleigh Diehl, Treasurer, Rotary District 5130 Disaster Relief Fund

*1315 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501*

The Foundation Raffle is coming! The raffle winner will receive a beautiful gift basket (valued at \$100), and recognition at the virtual Foundation Dinner later this month. It's not too late to join in the fun! Tickets are \$20 each, or six tickets for \$100. Recurring donors will automatically receive four tickets! You can donate online, or send a check to **Lu Frazier**. Additionally, if you direct your donation to Polio Plus, not only will you be eligible for the raffle, you'll also get double recognition points, and your donation will be matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation! Donate early, and donate often!

The virtual District Conference is coming to a zoom screen near you! It takes place on Saturday, October 24th, from 4pm to 6pm. It's also taking place on World Polio Day. Be on the lookout for an email from Valerie Hulsey, containing all of the details. If you have any questions, contact **Lu**.

If you need another reminder about how awesome this club is, **Keller McDonald** has a big one! We learned last week that our club won a Rotary Citation, the highest award a Rotary Club can receive. **Keller**, and his board, set a goal to qualify to receive a citation. Past RI Director Mark Maloney, under the theme of *Rotary Connects the World*, inspired clubs to unite people, and take action. We achieved uniting people through an active membership committee, sponsoring interact clubs, and youth exchange. We achieved taking action through the Super Playground project and the Foundation committee, getting a proclamation for World Polio Day by the City Council, and having an active PR committee. We were one of seven clubs to receive a Rotary Citation. The others included Arcata Sunrise, Napa Sunrise, Petaluma Sunrise, Petaluma, Sebastopol Sunrise, and Southwest Eureka.



Congratulations to everyone who made this happen!

President Dan swung the spotlight on **Jeff Boal** and the Program Committee. Coming up later this month, we're going to have two very important and impressive programs coming to the Zoom stage. On **October 16th**, we'll have Jeremy Hurst, who will be speaking about HANWASH, a water and health project in Haiti to bring clean water and sanitation to every person in Haiti by 2030. The program is sponsored by the Haitian Government, Rotary International, and two other partners. He spoke at the Rotary Convention in Toronto, and left a big impression on **Jim Pacatte** and others in our club. He's also a fellow Rotarian, and PDG of District 7020. On **October 23rd**, the day before World Polio Day, we will have past Rotary International President (2015-2016), and current trustee of the Rotary Foundation, K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran. He will be joining us from Colombo, Sri Lanka, and giving us an update on the work of the Rotary Foundation, and Polio Plus. He has a pulse on Rotary. Expect a lot of guests on Zoom that day! Kudos to the Program Committee for all of their hard work!



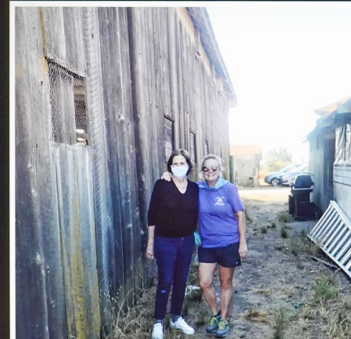
Dan announced that we'll be back at Russian River Vineyards in Forestville next week. **Dan** will send out all the details later this week.

Working hard or hardly working? That was the question on **Dan's** mind when he shared moments from the Club's work day at the Laguna Foundation on Saturday, September 26th. Even though our staff photographer caught several Rotarians loafing around at times (cough.....**Dan Rasmus**.....cough), they all worked their tails off, sharpening tools, painting, and helping with landscaping. Looks like a very productive day. Thanks to all who showed up!

Laguna Foundation – September 26



Laguna Foundation – September 26



RECOGNITIONS



Again, the birthday and anniversary kids were nowhere in sight. So if you see **Mike Carey** or **Henry Alker**, wish them a belated happy birthday! And, if you see Mark Stevens, wish him a belated happy anniversary!

Bob Hirsch has been on the road! He recently spent some time in Gold Country, visiting Murphys and White Pine Lake. He even had time to do a make-up Rotary meeting with the Rotary Club of Angels-Murphys. They met at a nice hotel in Murphys. It was Bob's second time visiting this club.



Dorothy Rodella caught three of our Rotarians red handed! She spotted **Richard Power**, **Tim Moore**, and **Ken Silveira** biking along Westside Road recently. Looks like it was a great day to hop on the ten speeds.

We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced some of us to stop visiting our barbers and hair stylists. For some, that's NOT a good thing! It was high time to find out who, in our Club, had the best (or worst) lockdown locks. Yes kids, it's time for the first ever Lockdown Locks Contest! In our contest today, Contestant one, from Monte Rio, a former Immigration expert whose hair style should be deported, welcome **David Still!**

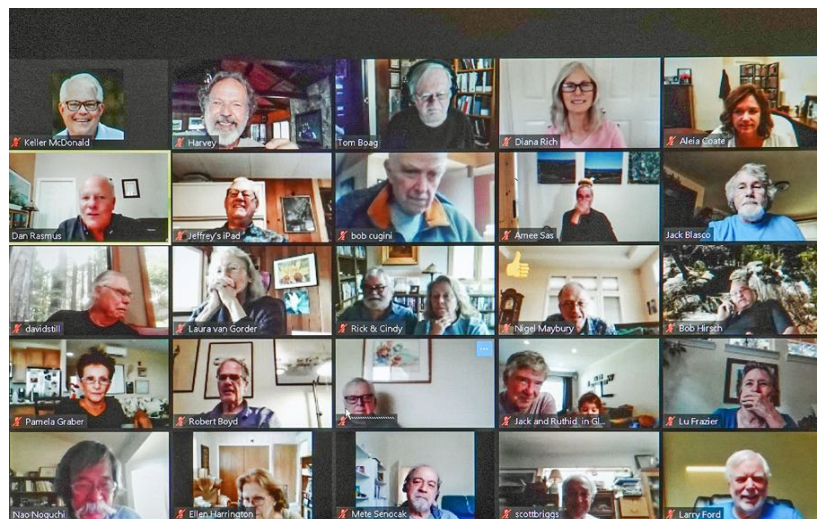
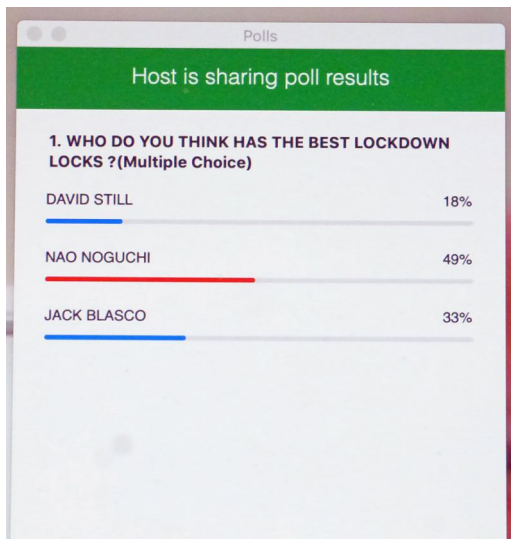


Contestant two, from Sebastopol, a geologist whose hair appears to be shaped by raging tectonic forces, welcome **Nao Noguchi!**

Contestant three, from Graton, a former Environmental Expert whose hair should be declared a bio hazard, welcome **Jack Blasco!**



So what are your excuses for the hair? **David** mentioned that while trying to fit in with his fellow long haired neighbors, he was also growing his hair long for his grandkids. **Nao** told us he has not been to his barber in seven months! **Jack** thanked his "colonial era" hairstyle of a concoction of his own called Jack's Pomade. It apparently helps grow hair, puts pep in your step, and is a killer compliment to a cocktail. Your scribe could use some! **Dan** opened the vote to the Club. The winner, hands down, was **Nao!** **Jack** came in second, and **David** third. Congratulations....I guess. (editors note: We are still not sure all of the mail-in ballots have been counted.)





PROGRAM



Aleia Coate introduced today's guest speaker, her father, John Coate. We learned that John came of age in San Francisco during the 1960's. He was heavily influenced by the days of the Haight Ashbury, which was the epicenter of a great cultural awakening and awareness. War, politics, racial injustice, inequality, all inspired people to be the change. He spoke of the



Human Be-In that attracted hundreds of thousands to San Francisco and who shared the desire for change. He took this to heart. He was inspired by Guru Steven Gaskin. The values he preached were: truth, attention, respect, nonviolence, service, positive vibration, and walk your talk. Gaskin led a nationwide speaking tour talking about peace and consciousness. John joined in on the tour. He worked with others to pool resources to buy and convert a bus into a home. This was the beginning of living communally. He lived with seven to ten others. They shared everything. The process was hard, as they had to develop a team, and a small community, where they helped each other. Living close to other people taught John the value of community, and getting along with a diverse group of people.

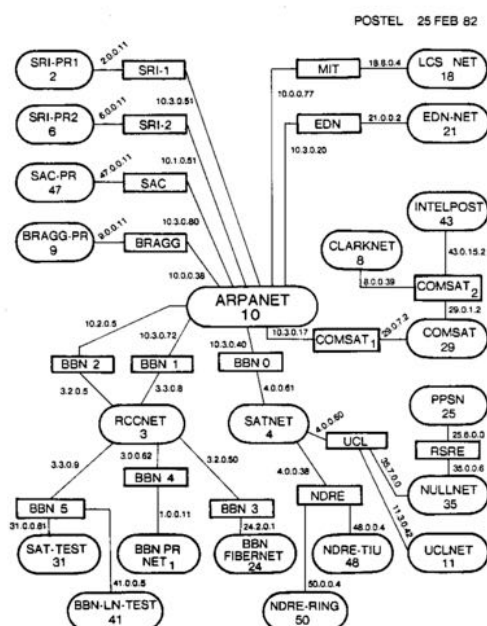
John wound up in Tennessee at a place called "The Farm," A 1700 acre farm where like-minded people established a community. There, they built houses, barns, built infrastructure, farmed the land, canned and sold food, logged, had a motor pool, established a hospital with midwives, and a school. The community was self-governed, self-resourceful, and eventually reached a population of 1,500 people. The Farm established its own nonprofit called Plenty International. Using the expertise gained from The Farm, they did humanitarian work worldwide. They also helped with natural disaster cleanup, and gave intercity kids the chance to attend summer camp in the country.



Some people at The Farm took their talents and moved to other cities nationwide to help communities. John, and his new family, moved to New York City to establish a free ambulance service in The Bronx.

At the time, there was one doctor for every 100,000 people in The South Bronx. They squatted a building, offered the service, and saved thousands of lives. He later moved to Washington DC, where he helped Native Americans gain rights, joined the No Nukes movement, and opened the first free clinic. The farm is still going, but it's now a cooperative.





John moved to Rohnert Park in the early 1980's. He was still convinced that his work with building communities was not finished. Fellow friend from "The Farm", Matthew McClure, hired John to work at *The Well*. *The Well* was one of the first websites. It housed the entire Whole Earth Catalog, and was home to dozens of forums where tool users and tool builders talked. John had no experience with technology. However, he soon realized that *The Well* was a relationship business, a community, a place where people could share thoughts, ideas, and where creativity and knowledge flourished. Relationship and community was what *The Well* was all about, and that it could work even in an online setting. John was the Marketing Director, and responsible for its growth. *The Well* inspired the creators of Craigslist and eBay to create those sites.

In 1994, John co-founded sfgate.com, one of the first news websites. It was a partnership between the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner. His goal was to create a community by offering public dialogue to news stories. Additionally, they streamed one of the first baseball games online. In 2001, John moved to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (founded by Well members) to become Chief Fundraiser. He was also a cartoon character at a website, where he moderated a community of hundreds of thousands of teenagers. He also managed Mendocino Public Broadcasting. Today, he's a part of Edge Riders, a research and consulting group, funding UN and World Bank projects specializing in environmental and social justice

projects. He lives in Little River, near Mendocino. That's his story, and he's sticking to it!



THE FINAL BELL



President Dan thanked John for a fascinating presentation. **Dan** brought the meeting to a close at 1:15pm.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I thank Frank Mayhew for starting a needed conversation. The idea that ALL members financially give a set amount to build our project funds is tantalizing for what it can achieve. But it isn't all that unique of an idea and it could have negative unexpected consequences.

Many of us have had the privilege to travel the world and make up at Rotary Clubs where members' direct contributions underwrite the clubs' worthy projects. This practice is common where membership criteria include being a leader or decision maker in business or an important civic entity. My observations have been that the ability to donate, has been an expectation if not stated criteria. Many of these club may not even have "fundraisers" like we have but rely solely on this "expectation" that all members will make significant financial contributions.

In the Sebastopol Rotary Club during my 35 years, members have not been "expected" to financially donate, except for an initial modest contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Here we have left it up to

the individual member to privately make that decision and, for the most part, anonymously. Our criteria for membership is still leaders and decision makers, but our expectation has been that a member be engaged, contribute if he/she can and volunteer their time for our fundraisers and projects, and yes, help by contributing if you can.

Rotarians here have widely divergent financial means and not a few would be hard pressed to give at the level of others even if they wanted to. In my early career as a commission-only salesman, I was at times unable to even pay my Rotary dues on time let alone donate. Given that the pandemic has added a significant but not necessarily equal financial impact on our members, I am hoping that we do not put any members in a financial pickle and potential embarrassment of not being able to financially match other members. This could lead to unintended member resignations.

And finally, the value of volunteering time for putting on our fundraisers has its own value of building the strong tapestry of "community". Over my many years as a member, it has been the varied involvements in hundreds of big and small fundraisers and club projects, not the dollars I donated, that has led to an unexpected wealth of lifelong friendships.

So I would suggest we tweak Frank's suggestion. Why not set a dollar goal and to "propose that ANY members who are able consider donating what they would have paid at our regular lunches before Covid" to help us reach this goal that will underwrite x,y and z projects. The amount of dollars raised may not be as great but all the members will still feel invited and included in our great club. And as it has been because there is no expectation, that many members of means have silently donated more or donated on behalf of or in honor of others who cannot.

Jeff Boal



FUTURE PROGRAMS



October 9: David Schreiber - Geocaching



David has been married for over 38 years and has three children, including a set of fraternal twins. There are three grandsons between Rocklin and Orange County. He makes as much time as he can for his family. Though he largely grew up in Boston and New York, he graduated from SRJC in 1978 and Berkeley in 1980 after his family moved to Sonoma County.

He took his Mathematics degree and three years' experience running an Amway business, and started a career in the cash register business in 1980 that continues today. He's owned multiple small businesses and has been a real estate investor for over thirty years.

You know him as a Past President (2016-17) and a Board member of both the club and the SREF. He's also volunteered and been a Board member for Junior Achievement for over twenty years. He's got many interests including travel, golf and photography.

But today, what's most important is David's 11-year history as an avid geocacher. He's found over 4000 hidden treasure boxes, called geocaches, in 8 countries and 18 states, and he's hidden over 220 for others to find. He's found at least one geocache on every calendar day of the year. The furthest away is in Mykonos Greece, Hawaii is the furthest west, and Seoul Korea is the furthest east.