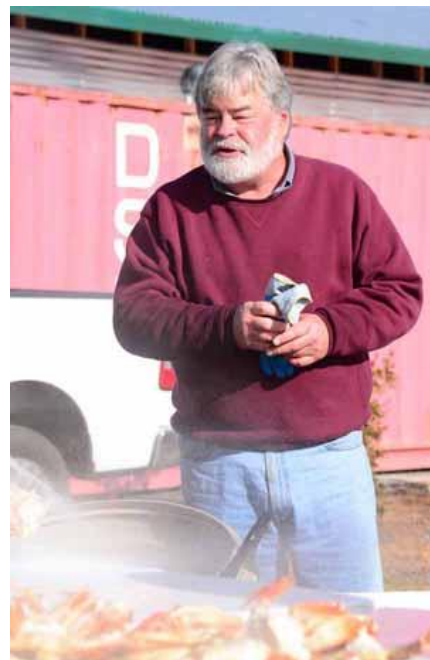
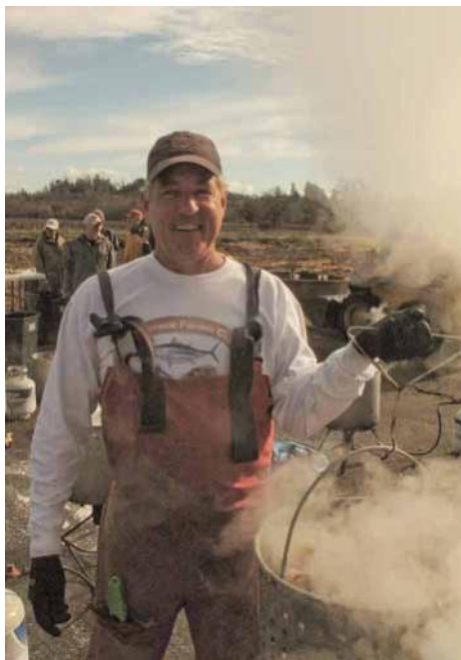






The crab Killin' & Cleanin' tables are manned by **Paul Martinovich, Jack Blasco, Lucky Pierre Lagourgue, David Madsen, Jerry Warren, Nao Noguchi, Bob Cary, Tom Dilley, Harry Polley, Rick Wilson, Richard Power, H.H., Jim Pacatte, & Steve Prandini.**

The commanders in chiefs **Bob Cary, Brad Benedetti, & Mike Long** bustle here & there, disappearing & then reappearing with more crabs, ice, boxes & such. The chief crab cookers manning the boiling pots are **Bob Rogers & Mike Long.**



It's 10 a.m. now at the Crab Palace - New arrival **Tom Boag** is busily taking pictures for the newsletter.

Oh-oh, **Tom Campbell** just arrived and received a shot across the bow from **Mike Long** about his tardiness.

Things are heating up now and the crew is bending to their tasks now..... The crabs are moving down the line and it looks like we're going to have a grand feast tomorrow night. **Greg Gill** is packing a cane today and has a lot of back pain. There's nothing more debilitating.

**Dave Madsen, Steve Prandini, and Lucky Pierre** are taking a break. I asked them "How is the cracking going? The consensus is all is well in hand. **Mike Long** is trotting from pot to pot making sure the crabs don't over boil -- pretty much running the ship. It's just been reported that we have one casualty!!! Yikes! Tom Campbell went to pick up a crab and the crab pinched his finger with its claw. When asked if he would reenact the moment for a photo-op, Tom showed me two fingers but no crab.

It's time to leave for the Rotary meeting,

As your scribe leaves the Crab Palace he reflects on the morning & smiles, thinking about 11 years of these same familiar faces appearing year after year – all to have fun & raise \$\$\$ for Rotary. Over the years, with the constant supervision of **Mike, Bob, Kenny, Brad, & Greg**, the Rotary crab killing, cleaning, cooking group has become a well-oiled machine. Can you imagine? Almost 1 ton of crabs cooked & cleaned in one day!!! I feel blessed to have been part of this event over the years.





A few random thoughts from you humble scribe.....Ok we all know that this event raises money for a very good purpose, education right? This is what I rediscovered this past weekend...

#1 The morning gang of crab processors is a solid almost unchanging volunteer crew that works very efficiently together. I've seen almost all of these same faces in the morning rain or shine, cold or colder for all of the last 11 years. I'm amazed that they keep coming back. Their faces have changed and the hair has turned grey but..... there they are.

#2 The afternoon crab-cracken is a fun time and a group that seems to get new faces every year. I ended up standing next to Jack Dunlap, new Co-Editor of our Appleknocker. I've very briefly said hi to Jack & that was that, he's the new guy in the club that used to work for P.G. & E. [pigsgoats&elephants] and that was that, Kinda shy around him.

Ye gads, now I have to stand next to him for hours.....what to do?..... Well I can tell you what a delightful conversation we had. I got to know about Jack's career & family & in return he got to hear some of my best stories & lies. I now see Jack through different more familiar eyes.



My hat goes off to them. You see them in the pictures. Next year these same loyal Rotarians will be back no doubt but let's think about getting some new younger faces to join the morning crew next year. Us older guys are looking for someone who hasn't already heard our stories & lies.





#3 The last pearl that dropped into my brain was late last night. It was the 2 min. warning of the 4th. Quarter. Only the die-hard partiers & dancers remained, (A Lot of Em.) I looked around the dance floor and my heart filled with joy witnessing the expressions of the dancers and groups of dancers. The circle of dancers with **Harry Simms** & the **Ewalds** was unbelievable in the love that was expressed, as did the Love Rustlers and the Dan, Robbin, Dustin Davis Bourbon St. New Orleans Bar.... Over the top!







So it's a win-win. We work together sharing the best of our talents & connections, the public gets to enjoy the fruits of our labor & have fun. We get to have fun watching our town folks enjoy an event well done.

Everyone's hearts are filled and we do something nice for Education.

To quote you know who.... "Who's got it better than us????.....No One!"

