

Rotary Club of Auburn

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Website—www.auburncarotary.org



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THE ROTARY CLUB OF AUBURN BULLETIN

MARCH 12, 2013

MARCH IS ROTARY LITERACY MONTH



P.E.T.S. or no P.E.T.S., you cannot have the gavel yet Jeff!



Colette gave her "who am I" talk and asked "Why am I here?"



There was something fishy about the speakers Mary Jo introduced.



Did Bart collect a BIG fine to put such a smile on Bill Jansen's face?



City Manager Bob Richardson talks about AUBURN!



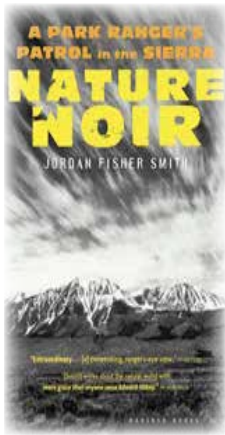
OUR PROGRAM: BOB RICHARDSON, AUBURN CITY MANAGER

Auburn is a great place to call home, but just what is it that makes it so special? Well, take a look at the collection of photos adjacent to this article and you have just a small hint of why we love this place. But it takes more than just historical (and some not so historical) landmarks and the self-designated moniker of "Endurance Capital of the World" to attract and keep businesses and homeowners in the area happy. So, what is the general economic health of Auburn these days? Here are some answers from the city's website:



- Real estate activity is strong with far more demand than available inventory. In short, people want to live in Auburn and most homes aren't staying on the market more than a week.
- Since the beginning of 2011, Auburn has had an average sales tax growth of 20% per quarter.
- Few retail spaces are available in town.
- Building permits are up 33% over estimates.
- Hotel tax revenues are coming in over estimates.
- 30 new businesses moved into the airport industrial park area last year.
- Auburn Airport hangar space is almost completely filled.
- Efforts to co-locate the California Welcome Center and Auburn Chamber of Commerce, along with public restroom amenities and new community meeting spaces across from Central Square at our "Old City Hall."
- Development of ongoing summer entertainment in Central Square as it becomes a comfortable place for community gathering.
- Renovations of East Placer Park for enhanced safety and ambiance.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY



Sponsored by the Auburn Rotary Club, Auburn Public Library, and Placer County Office of Education, encourages the community to read the same book and come together to discuss it in a variety of settings. The book will also be an assigned reading for students at our local schools. Pick up a copy of this year's book, Nature Noir, and turn the pages with the community.



Ranger Jordan Fisher Smith, author of Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra, had worked in the Sierra Nevada, the Grand Tetons, and Alaska.

But he found the greatest adventure of his life when he took a job watching over forty-eight miles of the American River canyons long condemned to be inundated by the Auburn Dam.

By the time Smith arrived on the American River, former residents had been bought out or condemned by the federal Bureau of Reclamation and their homes, mining cabins, and ranches were being burned to the ground as the river's canyons were readied to go underwater. But the dam's completion was delayed and what remained was a giant vacant lot of 42,000 rugged acres, which became a dangerous free zone for armed squatters, gold prospectors, and fugitives from the law. Over the next decade three dozen people would perish on Smith's beat in accidents, murders, and suicides. Intending to stay only a year, Smith emerged from the American River canyons fourteen years later, his body wracked by Lyme disease he'd contracted from a tick bite there. Unable to forget what he'd witnessed, he spent another four years researching the river's human and natural history.

Now Jordan Fisher Smith has published a book about his experiences to rave reviews. "He writes about the natural world with more grace than anyone since Edward Abbey," says Newsweek. The New York Times calls Nature Noir "eloquently meditative." And Outside Magazine asserts: "Nature Noir marks the debut of a terrific new nature writer."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

March 7, 14, 21, 2013
Discussion Class of "Nature Noir"
led by Bart O'Brien and Steve Grundmeier
4:00 P.M. at Placer School for Adults

Thursday - April 18, 2013
Janet Kovacich Murder Cold Case Panel
Moderated by Radio & TV Personality
Beth Ruyak
Placer High School Auditorium 7:00 PM
Jordan Fisher Smith will appear in a panel discussion with investigators and prosecutors who successfully prosecuted Kovacich for the murder after the book's release will discuss their work.

Saturday - April 20, 2013
Auburn, CA, 10:00 AM
Ranger Mike Lynch—Nature Noir's "Dave Finch,"—Jordan Fisher Smith, and Sierra College geology professor Richard Hilton will lead a walk at the site of the Auburn Dam. The dam's history, construction, geological problems, and potential future will be discussed.

Tuesday - April 23, 2013
Auburn, CA, 7:00 PM
Placer High School Auditorium
As part of One Book, One Community, Jordan Fisher Smith will speak about, read from, answer questions about, and sign copies of Nature Noir. Books will be available for sale.

Thursday - April 25, 2013
Auburn, CA, Jordan Fisher Smith will introduce a showing of the documentary film "Under Our Skin" and answer questions about Lyme disease. Under Our Skin, which Jordan narrated.

"At the tip of the Foresthill Divide just before the dead man descended the last grade onto the bridge, there is a place where the new road to the bridge had been blasted through a hill of greenstone. Since the cuts were exposed in the seventies, tufts of apricot monkey flower, Mimulus bifidus, had grown all over them, in pockets of soil carried down from above by rain and gravity. In the late spring these incredibly tough plants were covered with thousands of azalealike yellow-orange blooms, and in recent years this unlikely spot had become one of the best places on the Bureau's land to see them.

Although thousands of people drove that road, I had never seen anyone stop and admire these gardens, and I doubted that the dead man did either. We are all so caught up in the struggles we get into on the way to the lives we dream of, and the dead man was probably just a little farther down that road than the rest of us. Maybe he had lost a good woman, a good job, or a good friend, or maybe he'd never had them. Or maybe it was bad chemicals, of internal or external origin, that pushed him over the edge.

But maybe he was just suffering from the same regret we've all known at one time or another, when life hasn't lived up to our expectations. . . if people are doing something wrong, refuse to cooperate; if the music's too sad, for God's sake change the station or turn the radio off. Stop before the bridge. Get out. Walk down the road. Sniff the air, and if it smells good, breathe deep."

*—an excerpt from "Nature Noir"
by Jordan Fisher Smith*

**NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION
BY: COLETTE DERR
"HOW DID I GET HERE?"**



She never could have imagined what her life's journey was going to be like—many stops, bouncing all around, and her reaction at each of those stops was, "How did I get here?"

At age three, a trip from her Midwest home to the alien environment of Los Angeles, (How did I get here?). Traveling in Europe as a teenager, getting lost on a hike in Switzerland ("How did I get here?"). As a young adult going to work for Otis Elevator, despite people saying you can't do that ("How did I get here?"). Into sales, promotion, advancement, corporate jets, flying all over the world ("How did I get here?"). Married, moved to Idaho, lived between a sugar beet factory and a dairy, almost choked to death during an inversion ("Why did I get here?"). Moved to North Carolina, built a home, was blown away by a hurricane ("Ditto"). Marriage and career dissolved, moved to Auburn to be closer to family ("Do know how I got here.") Wanted to serve, so started a business helping seniors. And joined Rotary!

**THE AUBURN ROTARY CLUBS
ROTARY FOUNDATION DINNER
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013
MAX'S AT THE HOLIDAY INN**

Featuring
The First Female Rotary Club President
Sylvia Whitlock
Music by Preston Marx
And More!



**AUBURN ROTARY CASINO NIGHT
MAY 11, 2013 AT CERONIX**

Barbara Besana got the sign-up sheet started for workers at the Casino Night. Linda Maeding has tickets. And, Don Whitaker confirmed that there will be another surprise!

MUSIC CONTEST IS NOW APRIL 30

It was scheduled for March 26. However, the high schools are on Spring Break on that date!

**SKI CHALLENGE ON FRIDAY,
WAY TOO COOL ON SATURDAY
BRIDGET DOES BOTH!**



Bridget with fellow competitors at the Rotary Ski Challenge at North Star. Bridget is in the center with Phil Booker to her left, the tall one must be Jeff Ambrosia, and Don Whitaker is on the right. Jeff Patton and Art Rangel are somewhere in the group.



Bridget (center) at the finishing line of The Way Too Cool Endurance Run

**DISTRICT 5190 CONFERENCE
JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET
MAY 16-19, 2013**

This was the voyage of this year's Rotary District 5190. Led by our District Governor, Captain Woody Wilbanks, more than 2,500 Rotarians from 58 clubs spent the year boldly going where no clubs had gone before. Service projects, fellowship and thousands of meals, all in the name of Rotary.

The District Conference is more than just Rotarians meeting. It is a celebration of a year of change; a year of solidarity; a year of friendship. We welcome new members and say goodbye to those who have departed. We learn, we teach and we encourage.

Make plans to join us! You'll hear distinguished speakers Past Rotary International President Rick King, Rotary International President's Rep Young Hwa Kim, Rick Brinkley & Bill Wittich. You'll hear the winners of our district speech and music competitions. You'll meet RYE students from all over the world. You'll learn about what other clubs have been doing during the year and you'll share your club's accomplishments.

OTHER MEETING NOTES

Richard Hall totally screwed up his introduction of a visiting Rotarian and was rewarded by President Bart with a spin of the Wheel = \$5!

Rudy Rivero reported that he visited past members Don Brophy and Harold (Buck) Gein, both of whom are currently at Sienna Care Home.

President-Elect Jeff Patton reported that his attendance at PETS reinforced his belief that we are definitely a successful Club.

Bill Jansen was announced as the next recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award.

We were graced by Tom Cox's presence!

Speakers (once again Pres Bart was 10 minutes late) were Jack Sanchez and Steve Hubbard of Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (Sarsas), who presented a very interesting slide show.

Thanks to Fred Merriam for taking notes for The Bulletin for a second week in a row!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 12: Bridget Powers/ Scott Queen:
Auburn City Manager Bob Richardson

March 19: Bill Radakovitz

Mary Beauchamp: How to get Healthy Step by Step

March 26:

Rotary Foundation Dinner - Max's Auburn
Thursday, March 14, 2013

Rotary At Work Day
Saturday, April 27, 2013

Auburn Rotary Casino Night at Ceronix
May 11, 2013

Rotary District Conference at John Ascuaga's
Nugget: May 16-19, 2013

Auburn Rotary Barbecue
Friday, September 20, 2013

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THE PRESIDENT'S SAD STORY

To whom it may concern,

This is to attest and swear that the following are true:

1. Bart O'Brien hiked in the Grand Canyon from Monday February 11, 2013 to Saturday Feb 16. He became ill with severe cough and sneezing and aches on Feb 15 and it was hard for him to hike back to the South Rim on the 16th.

2. On the drive back to California, on February 16, Mr. O'Brien continued to cough and cough and cough in the back seat of the car. Which resulted in MY getting sick as well 2 days later.

3. On February 17, after spending the night in Bishop Mr. O'Brien was still sick. He was so sick that he did not have coffee at breakfast which is the first time I have ever seen him not have coffee. He drove home still coughing. By then his voice was practically gone.

4. In short, Mr. O'Brien was sick as he claims. And Rotary is lucky he stayed away for a while, otherwise a lot of other people would have been sick.

Sincerely,

Peter Cummings

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So, there, Acting President Bob Dunstan!

