

## Rotary Club of Auburn

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Website—[www.auburncarotary.org](http://www.auburncarotary.org)



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District Governor 5190—Sam 'Woody' Wilbanks

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF AUBURN BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013

## PROGRAM THIS WEEK: HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK



Placer County's Hidden Falls Regional Park went from 221 acres to almost 1,200 acres with the opening of Phase II on May 23, 2013. The park will be open from sunrise to sunset, 365 days a year for hiking, horseback riding, or mountain bike riding on the 30+ miles of trails. The trails were increased from 7 miles to 23 miles with the opening of Phase II and provides access to scenic views of the riparian habitat along several creeks and includes the namesake Hidden Falls which can be viewed from an observation deck.

Andy Fisher, parks planner with the Placer County Parks Division, will be our speaker and is pictured here with one of the eight new smaller trail bridges that he and his team carefully designed to be safe for hikers, horses and bikes. Andy persevered through grant writing, appealing to government, lassoing partners, getting trail advocates support, and being responsible for contractors and county employees who did the work.



## VIRGIL TRAYNOR "THE GOLD STANDARD OF ALL PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS"

—President Bart O'Brien



President Bart O'Brien presented Virgil Traynor a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow pin last Tuesday, and prefaced his presentation to Virgil as "The gold standard of all Paul Harris Fellow presentations."

In a day filled with many Paul Harris Fellow presentations, Virgil presided over several himself. Saying, "I'm good at taking credit for what other people do," Virgil presented his wife Jackie a Paul Harris Fellow. Jackie has been a hard working supporter of all Rotary projects Virgil has been involved with, which includes most projects our club takes on, plus hosting the membership at many demotions and countless other activities.



Jackie Traynor preparing salmon for last year's Rotary BBQ



Virgil presents Jackie with Paul Harris



### MARK SMITH RECEIVES A MULTIPLE PAUL HARRIS AWARD

Virgil Traynor presented our Secretary Mark Smith a Multiple Paul Harris pin saying, "I've known him since he was a little boy. He is an excellent chicken cooker!"

### PRESIDENT BART PRESENTS BILL JANSEN MULTIPLE PHF

### BILL JANSEN PRESENTS WIFE JENNY WITH HER PAUL HARRIS PLUS 3 PIN



Not being "computer literate" Bill Jansen, while he was both club secretary and treasurer, asked for, and received, help from Jenny to do all his work which required use of a computer.

Ever so grateful for her digital help, he has shown his appreciation by presenting her with multiple Paul Harris Fellows. In appreciation of her help, the club made her an honorary member in 2011.

**ROTARY CLUB OF AUBURN'S 31st  
THE SPIRIT OF AUBURN COMMUNITY BARBECUE - SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**



*No, Barbecue Chair Betty Bennett does not have 13 hour meetings as the typo in The Bulletin, spotted by Fred Merriam, inferred last week. With 100 days to go as of June 11, Betty and her committee are well on their way with our President Elect Jeff Patton's major fund-raiser of the year. You or your business can get involved by donating raffle or silent-auction items or by becoming a sponsor of the barbecue. Sponsorships are available: Corporate Level - \$2,500; Good Neighbor Level - \$1,000; Friendly Neighbor Level - \$500; Helpful Neighbor Level - \$250; or Hello Neighbor Level - \$100. Contact Betty Bennett at 530-863-6271.*

### **PARTY IN THE PARK**

Chairman Mike Wilson says  
Party in the park is on Friday June 21st.

A Raggae Band will be playing  
The band should start at about 6pm and could  
run as late as 10:00.

In the past we have sold BBQ sandwiches and  
beverages (beer, wine, soda, and water).  
This year we are not selling food. We will only  
sell the beverages. The work will definitely be  
easier for our members this year.

We will actually be selling beverages from  
5pm until the event ends. We plan to have  
two shifts: 4:30-7:30 and 7:00 to 10p.m.  
Setup will be easier and cleanup too.

### **CATHY BIANCHI DOES IT AGAIN!**



Another luscious looking  
cake and the bidding  
was frenzied! But, Ernie  
Strobel who arranged  
for Julie Rodriguez of  
Special Olympics Northern  
California to be our  
speaker, gave the final bid  
of \$50 to take the delicious  
Bianchi masterpiece home  
to Judy.  
Julie Rodriguez said the  
Northern California Special  
Olympics Summer Games  
will be held on the UC  
Davis campus June 28-30.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

- June 11: Steve Taylor/Randy Tooker  
Andy Fisher: Hidden Falls Park
- June 18: Bart O'Brien  
Year-End Awards
- June 25: New Members Meeting

### **COMING EVENTS**

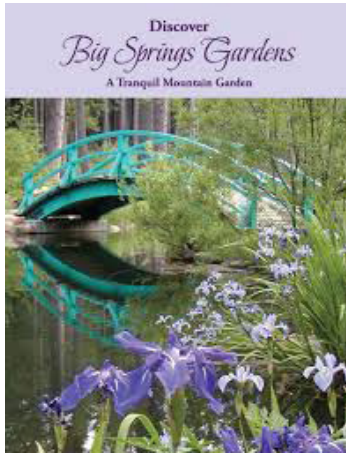
- Rotary Board Meeting  
June 18, 2013: 7 AM Gold Rush Chevy
- Party in the Park  
Regional Park, Friday, June 21, 2013
- Demotion of President Bart O'Brien  
Saturday, June 29, 2013
- Auburn Rotary Barbecue  
Friday, September 20, 2013

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This week: Bob Dunstan

**ROTARIANS AT PLAY DAY  
AT BIG SPRINGS GARDENS  
IN SIERRA CITY • JUNE 22, 2013**



A joint venture of Auburn Gold Country, Auburn Rotary, and Auburn Daybreak clubs of Auburn. There will be an excellent buffet lunch at noon, out under the pine trees. Admission is \$15 for gardens only & \$39 for garden access & buffet lunch. Contact Fred Vitas [fvitas@vitasinsurance.com](mailto:fvitas@vitasinsurance.com) if you are interested.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Bill & Judy Johnston  
June 4, 1984 - 29 years

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**ON THE ROAD WITH THE WILD BEEMERS**

These are the final messages from Bart Ruud on their Wild Beemers Trip across the country. We thank Bart for sharing his trip with us as he and his fellow riders, Ron Martinez and Jon Rubenzer toured our great country.

May 29, 2013

*This morning we departed our motel on schedule and headed straight to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Admission was free, and who knows why because the display of aircraft and space related is colossal. There are several galleries: early military flight to WW II; WW II; Korean War; Southeast Asia War ; Cold War; Space gallery, and more, including drones, the B2 and still more. Jon, of course knows so much that Rob and I learned things from him about satellite technology at those displays, how a jet engine functions, specifics about various aircraft like the F-86, and a lot more.*

*The SE Asia stuff was really hard for me because there were short documentary films about military operations like Ranch Hand (spraying of Agent Orange), Arc Light (the carnage brought by B-52 carpet bombing), POW stuff, and a lot more. Along the way on this road trip I have been sensitized about war stuff and have become a bit emotionally fragile. Stuff I saw today again had me in tears. I told Jon we have to stop seeing war-related things. It's just impossible for me to shake this stuff off. But, life goes on.*

*After about 5 1/2 hours in the museum we saddled up and headed south toward Cincinnati, then west toward Columbus, Indiana. Traffic was horrific around Dayton but even more fun around Cincinnati. Too many big trucks on the road, all mixed in with bumper to bumper traffic! But, the challenge of negotiating that kind of traffic adds to making for a great ride, and all is well. We again had to ride into a blustery headwind but the BMW bikes are so well designed that they handle well in headwinds, crosswinds or whatever Ma Nature chooses to put out there.*

*We crossed the Indiana line and picked up their 70 mph speed limit - with plenty of radar cops working the byways, and along the way saw that Indiana has no helmet law. Most riders were tooling down the road sans helmets.*

*The countryside seemed to flatten out though there were gentle rises leading again to flat ground. And, there were thousands of acres of corn, mostly around two inches high, and a lot of ground was being prepped for planting. I did see one field that had corn 4 or 5 inches tall. Later in the day we learned that because of the weather and soils too wet to work, planting is as much as several weeks behind schedule. And yes, we saw freshly mowed hay too, and hay that had been recently baled but not yet picked up and put in a stack or in a barn.*

*The ambient temperature coming into Columbus, Indiana was 90 degrees and it is supposed to be warmer tomorrow. That kind of weather should help dry things out so that the farmers can work their fields.*

*Columbus is a nice town with at least one river flowing through it. It also has a plethora of parks and churches, and is apparently renowned for the architecture to be found here. Fifth Street is home to the Architecture Corridor and is recognized as one of the most architecturally significant streets in America. And, this is the place from which the Cummings diesel motor emanates.*

*We had a delightful dinner with Ron's mother-in-law at her home and also met Ron's nephew, an aspiring young man with a fistful of metal fabrication talent which he is utilizing to build award winning hot rods at an enterprise he and a partner have organized.*

*Tomorrow we are headed to Louisville with the thought that we might go see Churchill Downs and the Louisville Slugger Museum. Who knows, we might blow off both those places and do something else that attracts us.*

*Today we traveled only 165 miles. Not sure what tomorrow might bring, but this I do know- every day is an adventure.*

Bart



**WANT TO JOIN THE FUN?  
GO RAFTING WITH  
BOB SANTIN & BRIDGET POWERS ON AUG. 24**

Bob says, "There are still some spots open—contact me and I'll get you on!"

May 30, 2013

After breakfast in Columbus, Indiana we hit the road for Louisville, Kentucky with the thought that we would go to Churchill Downs - the horse race track, and also go to the Louisville Slugger Museum. After some chatter about those things we decided to go to Fort Knox and see the General George Patton Museum and also go see the gold which allegedly is kept at Fort Knox. First, we had to negotiate the Louisville freeway maze, and what a challenge that was. Freeway interchanges had us going in circles because our GPS units couldn't keep up with our progress along the freeway system. The mix of big trucks and automobiles was almost an equation for disaster but Ron led us safely through the city to the calmer route leading to Fort Knox.

We arrived at the Patton Museum to find that it is being moved to Fort Benning, Georgia so there was little to see but some military uniforms and unit insignia stuff and a few static displays of WW II tanks outside. Of note, I did observe beneath a photo of General Frederick Weyand a caption that he was a graduate of UC Berkeley. (Go Bears.) But, Berkeley was spelled Berkley in the caption. With some glee, I told the young PFC at the desk that the US Army should fix this error.

After the Patton Museum we headed to check out the gold reserves. As it turns out one can not get within 1/8 mile of the place. It had three fences plus cement barriers all the way around the building, which has a surprisingly small footprint. Much of it must be underground. There was a guard pacing around the top level and there was a guard tower but that was all there was to see. Who knows if even a single ounce of gold is really held in reserve in that place.

With nothing else to do we hit the road for Paris, Tennessee where my mother was born and raised until at least age twelve. At the end of the day we had logged 345 miles and pulled into town around 5:00 pm local time. Along the way, somewhere, we picked up a time zone change so now we are in Central Time, two hours out from California. Here in Paris I had hoped to touch bases with the only remaining family on "my mother's side of the family. Alas, my third cousin and his wife are apparently out of town. I've tried to connect with him for several days, but, no luck. He is a Vanderbilt grad and an attorney. His wife owns and runs a local jewelry store. Looks like we will miss seeing them, but we will go to my mother's childhood home which is now the local Heritage Center (museum). It is known as Cavitt Place and can be read about on the Internet. We will go by the museum in the morning and probably go to the cemetery to see if we can find my great grandfather's grave and other family graves.

After looking things over here in Paris, we will head down the road toward Vicksburg, Mississippi where we anticipate seeing more Civil War stuff related to the Battle of Vicksburg. After Vicksburg we will scoot for Dallas and begin the drive back to California.

Can't close this missive without commenting on the continuing nasty wind we drove through all day long. We also hit one thunder shower, and as I speak, there is thunder, lightning and rain outside. Local crops look as if they could use some of the wet stuff. Corn a few miles out of town was almost a foot tall, hay fields have been mowed, and winter wheat is getting closer to being ready for harvest. Cows and horses look contented with more than ample feed in their pastures.

I am continuing to relish this entire adventure and I see we have now amassed 3,733 miles on the bikes.

Blessings to all.  
Bart

May 31, 2013

Our night in the Super 8 Motel in Paris, TN was comfortable and we were dry, but outside there was a drenching rain much of the night. It was still raining cats and dogs at breakfast but in looking at weather radar we thought we might catch a break in the weather around noon. Meanwhile, a little after 10:00 am we caught a cab and went to Cavitt Place, now known as the Paris Henry County Heritage Center. The building has a long history. Built in 1916 by my mother's grandfather, it was my mother's home until she was about twelve years old. Years later it was sold by family and became an office for the Tennessee Valley Authority. Later, Cavitt Place became the County Health Department office. Still later, the city, or maybe it was the County, acquired the building with the hope of turning it into a museum and a community center of sorts. It survives as such because of volunteer docents and a paid director who actually resides in a small apartment on the second level. Philanthropic donations keep it going and there are today ongoing restoration projects and dreams of more restoration of original Italian murals on the ceilings, and more. This house, built by my great grandfather, was once considered one of the most beautiful homes in the South.

We had a tour of the place, including the basement which the public never sees, and a part of the upstairs. We also were shown the former carriage house. It was hard to get a sense of the elegance of the house because furniture had been moved out in preparation for a fundraiser tomorrow evening. None-the-less, I was grateful to see the place and to learn of the good work of volunteers.

Meanwhile, my third cousin, who lives next door, and whom I had been unable to reach by phone or email, may return to Paris this weekend. He and his wife, I learned, are vacationing on the North Carolina coast. He will find out we were in town when he returns home.

Around 1:00 pm the rain let up and we jumped on the bikes and blew town at 1:23 pm. Our route took us along a two lane highway with gorgeous countryside dotted with expansive fields of corn and cereal grains. There were a lot of fields yet to be worked or planted. In fact, there was standing water on the lower parts of many fields. Along the way we also saw farms with beef cattle, but not in great numbers. We let no grass grow under our feet before we stopped for the night after 240 miles in Grenada, Mississippi. Most of the people on these MS highways were driving over the posted 70 mph and we rolled right along with them. Ron and Jon saw signs for Graceland in Memphis but I was too busy dicing with insane traffic to happen to notice those signs.

It was a comfortable but humid 92 F when we pulled off I-55 into Grenada this evening. Oh, somewhere near Huntington, TN, my grandfather's birthplace, a big turtle was crossing the road. Whether it was a snapping turtle, I do not know, but I hope the big guy made it safely across the highway. Big turtle, back shell at least 10 inches long. I also saw a squirrel run up a tree along the way, and we saw one road kill whitetail deer. The wildlife seems to stay well hidden.

Tomorrow morning we will head into Jackson, MS and then turn west to Vicksburg for some insight on the Civil War battle of Vicksburg. Getting closer to home and now have an accumulated 3,973 miles on the bikes. All is well and I am happy as a lark to have seen the sights we've passed by over the past 18 days. The only difficult part of our journey has been dealing with big city traffic.

We're hoping to scoot all the way home without being impacted by ultra bad weather and tornadoes.

Blessings to all,  
Bart

Addendum to May 31, 2013

When I was jotting the Beemer story for yesterday I didn't mention that there were a half dozen or more speedy bass fishing boats here in the parking lot at this Paris motel. Turns out there is a bass fishing contest scheduled on the nearby Kentucky Lake and that around 300 boats and avid bass fishermen will be contesting for the winning catch over the next day or two.

I mentioned Auburn's Skeet Reese, and all the gentlemen I was talking to personally know Skeet. One fellow proudly showed me his Skeet Reese designed fishing pole. When I asked if Skeet would be here for this bass fishing contest they said that he would not be participating in this particular event. But, it is a small world, to run into people that know well one bass fisherman from Auburn, CA right here in Paris, TN.

Skeet won \$100,000 in a pro bass fishing contest held May 2 -5 at West Point Lake in Alabama. His name is big in pro bass fishing circles.

It has been raining off and on through much of the night and it looks like the thunderstorm activity will continue for a while. We may be in for a wet ride all the way back to Dallas unless the storm track moves out faster than what appears to be the predicted situation.

On we go. The museum opens at 10:00 am and we'll be there.

Sent from my iPad

June 1, 2013

Tonight we are gracing Monroe, LA with our presence, some 234 miles from where we were last night and about 310 miles east of Dallas, TX. We lucked out again with great riding weather and at the end of a short day I find myself enjoying the 92 F ambient temperature. Tomorrow should see us end the day in the Dallas area at Jon's son's home.

We had a great ride for about 100 miles this morning which took us to the National Park Service Battle of Vicksburg site. Along the way we actually saw a whitetail deer that seemed to be considering crossing the freeway. She let us safely pass. Yes, about time we got to see something other than road kill.

The Vicksburg site is expansive, hilly, treed and obviously a place where General Grant and his Union soldiers had a tough time. Over all, between the North and the South, there were about 20,000 casualties in the three month battle for Vicksburg. With the North prevailing, Vicksburg, like Gettysburg, was a turning point in the Civil War. The forces of the era must have been crazed or so in belief of their cause to preserve the Union, or to secede from the Union, that they would willingly die for their cause. Perhaps they managed to do as they did because of good and convincing leadership. It almost makes me wonder how the human brain works to go into battle in such difficult conditions where death was almost a certainty. How many casualties in the Civil War? I think I heard 620,000. Need to do some reading to check on that.

My own take, by comparison with Vietnam, is that we who were sent there were brainwashed by the military command that was in lockstep with idiot politicians who seemingly cared less about the cannon fodder they threw into a cause that in the end was not sufficiently well supported to result in a clear victory. Your view might differ from mine, and that is OK.

The long stretches of well-maintained highway in Mississippi were a dream to ride. The lush green scenery, whether it be fields of corn or mixed hardwood forests, was wonderful to experience. At some point along the way I saw a herd of Angus cattle that must have numbered 200 or more. All those grazing cows provided an incomparable sense of serenity and appreciation for those who toil to feed the world.

We have now traversed more than 4,300 miles of highways and byways on this motorbike trek and in general have found most roads in better condition than CA highways, or at least

the I-80 corridor I am familiar with between San Francisco and Reno, NV. Furthermore, most of the time speed limits have frequently been posted at 70 or 75 with drivers often exceeding those limits with abandon. Today, I think I saw only one state patrolman in the two states we motored in, MS and LA. We don't often give the cops reason to look twice at us.

Rivers here in the south land are running high. We have seen several rivers over their banks with hundreds of flooded acres, a result, I think of these monsoon rains that have deluged the countryside. When we crossed the Mississippi River west of Vicksburg, it too was in flood stage, though not greatly so. On a pillar marked with white lines I saw the river level at 57 - presumably 57 feet - and the scale topped out at 60. It appeared that at 60, the river would really be spilling over its banks.

The heavy rains, the tornadoes of recent weeks, and the flooding we have heard of, or in our case seen, have surely caused billions of dollars in damage and crop losses, not to mention loss of life and demoralization of populations afflicted. No doubt we will all see increases insurance premiums as a result of weather patterns that clearly are changing, and not for the better.

That's the short story for today. We are well and happy and life is good. Either late tomorrow or early the next day we will be loading the bikes on the trailer and readying ourselves for the drive back to California. A rough estimate is that our travels on our return home will have taken us about 8,200 miles around this great country. It is bittersweet to see our adventure coming to an end. But, it's time to get back to the garden and to our families and friends. Your good wishes along the way have been appreciated. I, at least, have memories that will last me a lifetime.

Bart

June 2, 2013

OK, everybody, if you have been holding your breath, relax. We returned safely mid-afternoon to Frisco, TX with 4,518 miles in the saddle. Getting through Dallas with its maze of freeways and interchanges and lunatic drivers was the last challenge but Jon and Ron led us safely into Pete's quiet subdivision where the bikes will rest in his garage tonight. We had a totally amazing trip and I am convinced Jon came along to shepherd Ron and me through the challenges of negotiating the nation's roads he, of course got something out of it too.

Short story tonight. I think we had about 35 miles of rain going west into Shreveport, LA. The ride from Monroe, LA to Frisco was 311 miles and I got to see changing ecological conditions along the way. We're getting into the drier, more arid west.

In the morning we will help Pete (Jon's son) pour a patio. We'll hang here a day and probably depart for CA on Tuesday, but possibly as late as Wednesday.

This trip has been a blast and I hope the string of daily missives has not been too boring.

Bart

June 6, 2013.

Greetings to all, one last time.

Ron, Jon and I pulled into Jon's home about 6:10 p.m. this evening after a three day drive trailering the bikes from Frisco, TX, not far from Dallas. We off-loaded the bikes, sorted various possessions and departed, still friends and I think still on quite good terms. It is rather bittersweet to have come back to our respective worlds within which we will pick up the pieces and go forward after being on the road 25 days and amassing a total of 8,197 miles of which 4,518 were on the bikes. We journeyed through parts of 19 states and ours was a trip that leaves me with nothing but positive memories. I am truly blessed to have been in the company of two wonderful friends who contributed so much to our adventure.

Bart