



# The Rotary Club of Cameron Park: Where We came from & Where are We Going?

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# Overview

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- Overview of Club History – Captured in Three Generations:
  - 1969-1990, Gen1: Emphasis on Significant International Initiatives
  - 1991-2024, Gen2: Shift towards Local Engagement, Notable Community Initiatives
  - 2025-2030, Gen3: Ideas Developed by our Focus Group

# A very brief history of the Rotary Club of Cameron Park: In 1969 ...

Astronauts landed on the moon...

The New York Mets won the World Series...

The New York Jets and Joe Namath won the Super Bowl...

El Dorado Hills was founded just ten years earlier...

A new housing concept mixing an airport with houses built in and around taxiways was being built in “Cameron Park”; named after Larry and Ruth Cameron. By 1969 the airport had been built & many homes were under construction.

Later the club would sponsor the El Dorado Hills Rotary Club in booming El Dorado Hills, now housing nearly 50,000 residents.

One of the highlights of the area was “Sam’s Town”, a famous stop off Highway 50 on the way to Lake Tahoe. Sam’s was combination amusement park, restaurant and watering hole.

Arnold Palmer operated a golf school in what is now the Golderado Shopping Center in Camron Park.

**In 1969, 25 new applications were made to Rotary International to create a new Rotary Club in Cameron Park.** Sponsored by the Placerville Rotary Club. The club received a Western Union telegram from E. Kenneth Switzer, R.I. Secretariat congratulating the new club to R.I. as of June 28, 1969!

Meetings were first in the *Arnold Palmer* room of the Cameron Park Country Club. The members concentrated on building new parks, working first on what would become Rasmussen Park. In the next fifty years the club would raise over one million dollars for many scholarships & community and international projects.

# Gen1: 1969-1990

## International Initiatives:

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- Urupan, Mexico:
  - Construction of an orphanage
  - Donated and delivered an ambulance
- Vladivostok, Russia:
  - Child immunization programs
  - Clean water project for veterans
- Agusan Marsh, Philippines:
  - Clean water initiative
  - Floating Health Center: Birthing Clinic and Library
- Collegio Technico de Jaco, Costa Rica – 175 school desks provided

Notable Presidents that several of us know or knew (showing first year of each term):

- 1971: Art Cort; 1984: Bob Edwards; 1987: Bill Ettlch

# Cameron Park Rotary Making a Difference in the Philippines!



Partnering with six other Rotary Clubs, as well as the Rotary Club of Butuan (Philippines), a floating clinic was built for persons needing medical treatment along the river of Mindanao in the Agusan Marsh. A District Grant was utilized to purchase the engines. Bob Dorr, Jim Buckley, Bill Ettlich, and Ben Foulk were major players on the project.

While celebrating the boat launch, Bill Ettlich identified an abandoned water system for a village and secured a Rotary Foundation grant to build a water system for the town.

# Gen2: 1991-2024

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Local Community Initiatives Took Centre Stage (Naming only a few)

- Community Observatory and Sky Theater at Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Campus – Separate Slide
- Bicycle Program – Separate Slide
- Hacienda Park, Senior “Playground” and Dog Park
- Rasmussen Park Little League field construction and renovation
- Christa McAuliffe Park: Construction of permanent bathrooms & planting 18 shade trees
- Construction and repair of Gazebo & Rotary Pier at Cameron Park Lake
- Shingle Springs Soccer Field
- Path to Literacy between the Library and Blue Oak School

Presidents that several of us know or knew (showing first year of each term):

- 1995, Doug Bisbee; 1996, Dave Sargent; 1998, Bob Dorr; 2000, Steve Long; 2004, Gary Gall; 2006, Joe Ryan; 2014, Bill Hughes; 2010 and 2017, Anne Eckert ; 2020-2021, Mike Dugan; 2022, Don Fuller; and 2023-2024, Cathy Dugan.



## The Cameron Park Rotary Bicycle Program

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More than 200 bicycles, refurbished by one Folsom State Prison (FSP) inmate, rolled out of the front gate en route to numerous area children in need through a partnership between the prison and the Rotary Club of Cameron Park.

The FSP bicycle donations are a Christmas season tradition that began in 1986. Bicycles are donated throughout the year and are refurbished by inmates who work full-time in the bicycle shop, which is stocked with supplies through the Rotary's long-time program.



# The Bicycle Program, cont.

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Every Month, Cameron Park Rotary members with trucks (aka *Teamsters*) have gone to the El Dorado Disposal MRF, known affectionately as “The Dump”, to pick up cast-off bicycles to begin their journey to Folsom Prison.





# The Bicycle Program... The Payoff

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Seeing the smiles of recipients who really need a bike...

Our partners in distributing the bikes are Union Gospel Mission, the Veterans Administration, local schools, Folsom Moose Lodge (pictured) and more.

A large distribution to kids in need typically happens in the December holiday season.



# The Community Observatory

The Community Observatory was a [Rotary Club of Cameron Park](#) Centennial Project in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Rotary International.

The Rotary of Cameron Park members raised all of the funds and donated time and materials to build the observatory on land adjacent to the [El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College](#) .



# Aerial View

In 2011, [Rotary Club of Cameron Park](#) built the G. Arthur Cort Sky Theater where visitors can sit in reclined seating outside and view the constellations or enjoy a sky tour by one of our docents.

In addition to nighttime viewing, the Community Observatory provides free and safe solar viewing on the first Saturday of every month.



# The Observatory Thrives

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In 2019, the club expanded the Sky Theater with another (larger) row of seating and added a memorial bench.

Here members, spouses and friends enjoy the fruits of their labors.

# Gen3: 2025-2030+, Today and the Future

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## Local, Community Projects

- Rasmussen Park – Refurbished dugouts, Repainted restroom, added and replaced signs
- David West Park – New Highway 50 sign for Cameron Park CSD and our Rotary Club and repainted equipment boxes

## International Initiatives (2023-2025):

- La Calle Real, Nicaragua
  - Sports court and Children’s play area
  - Improve water system in multi-year project



## Rotary 2030 Initiative – See Below...

## Future Presidents (showing first year of each term):

- 2025, Adam Marshall; 2026, Dan Gott; 202X, < **Add your name here!** >

# Rotary 2030 Initiative

## Goal Statements Derived from Focus Group Summary

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- I. By 2030, the Rotary Club of Cameron Park has a minimum of 55 active members.
  - A. Derived from “Changing Nature of Rotary” and “Public Image” areas.
  - B. The focus group agreed that membership recruitment/retention is a critical factor in the health of a Rotary Club
  
- II. By 2030, a series of projects will be completed with prominent Rotary branding
  - A. Derived from “Community Engagement”, “Lack of Outreach” and “Public Presence” areas
  - B. The Rotary Club of Cameron Park will regularly seek to partner with other organizations to accomplish cooperatively designed service projects
  - C. This goal presumes some type of community needs assessment process
  
- III. By 2030, a third fund raiser has been established, possibly one with a community-wide impact

Derived from costs anticipated in the “Community Engagement” and “Lack of Outreach” areas. If we are going to impact youth, seniors and other needy groups we must generate funds to do so

# Rotary 2030 Initiative, continued...

## Goal Statements from Focus Group Summary

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**IV.** By 2030, Cameron Park Rotary Club has forged a strong partnership with Ponderosa High School and its feeder schools

Derived from the “Lack of Outreach” and “Community Engagement” areas. Programs like a rebuilt Interact club, “Students of the Month”, REGL, RYLA and other leadership initiatives have become sporadic or dormant

**V.** By 2030, Cameron Park Rotary club has developed a Board succession program and a training plan for incoming officers

Derived from “Club fellowship growth” and “Changing Nature of Rotary Commitment

# Rotary 2030 Initiative, continued...

## Goal Statements from Focus Group Summary

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- VI.** By 2030, the club has expanded its presence and impact on all social media  
Derived from “Changing Nature of Rotary Commitment” and “Public Presence” areas. If our club is to regenerate and thrive, we must meet potential members “where they live” and consume their local information
- VII.** By 2030, the Rotary Club of Cameron Park will have examined its meeting process and designed a plan that best services all Rotarians and potential Rotarians.  
Derived from “Changing Nature of Commitment to Rotary” and “Club Fellowship Growth” areas



# In Conclusion ...

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Around this room is a testament to what the Cameron Park Rotary Club founding members dreamed

What's next? It's up to us!

