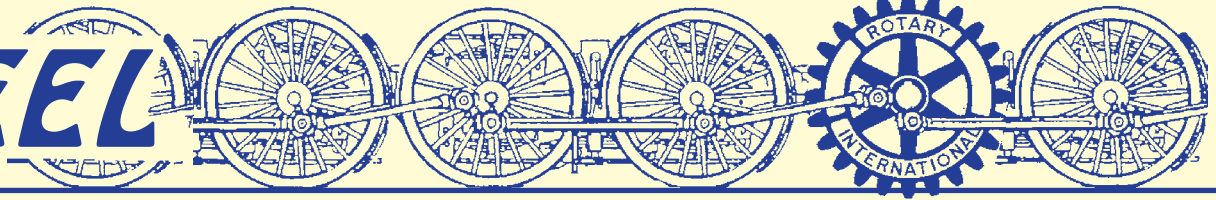


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**April 30, 2021**  
**Vol. 72, No. 41**

**Editor:**  
**Mulan**

**Big Wheel Editors**  
**NEEDED**  
**for the Months of**  
**June & July**

**Contact Bill Vespa**  
**Support the most interesting Rotary Club ever!**  
**Help share the meeting with family, friends and**  
**members unable to attend.**

## In the Beginning...

President Chris rang the bell to start the meeting from the Jonas Center. Patti Hurst led the Pledge from Georgia. Rene Prado had Sophie the dog next to him while he gave the 'Thoughts for the Day': "Unfortunately, common sense has become more of a super power." and "Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries."

## Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians, family and friends (based on Zoom screen names): John Reuscher; Duncan MacSwain (Speaker); Joni DeGabriele; Vicki McDill; Roberta Dunham; Diane Spilman; Fred Anderson; Murtz; Milton Milne; and Winnie.

## Announcements

### District 5150 Foundation Major Donor Event

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide mentioned the District 5150 Foundation Major Donor Event is Sunday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. via zoom (don't worry by the time you see this, the event is over).

### Tree Planting Project

Gloria Dunn-Violin mentioned the Tree Planting Project at IVC on May 4-6. Most

volunteer spots are taken, and she only needs 1 more volunteer. Volunteers need to fill out a few forms since it is on the college campus. The times are from 8 am – 12pm (please arrive at the parking lot before 7:45 a.m. – parking is free.) Remember to wear your Rotary hat, T-shirts or what ever you have with the Rotary logo on it.

### North Marin Community Services Donation

Jim Spilman mentioned that our Club donated \$1,000 to North Marin Community Services to help the Wyndmere Apartment fire victims. The money will be used to provide food and services.

### District Conference

President Chris mentioned that the District Conference is on May 15. Please sign up through District website, and our Club will reimburse the registration fee for whoever attends.

### Sunshine Report

Bill McDill mentioned an old member, Tom Molinari, who lived in Petaluma passed away 2 weeks ago.

### By-Law Change

President Chris proposed a change to our By-Laws to add a Director of Environmental Sustainability. Ron Harness made a motion to accept it, Gloria Dunn-Violin seconded it, and

the Club unanimously approved it.

Pres. Chris thanked Ron for initiating this new Director position and Gloria for taking the lead in the coming year.

### Recognition

Pres. Chris recognized Suzanne Bales who just had a milestone birthday this month. Suzanne enjoyed her birthday breakfast at Sam's with fellow Rotarians. She also had lots of zoom surprises from her friends. It was a good day. She also shared a nice ocean view from the room she stayed in at Gualala.

### Marty's Moments

Today's show starred Gary Bramon. Gary was born in Oregon and grew up in Smith River, California. It was a small community and that's where he met Toni in high school. Gary went to Sacramento State College. After graduating, he worked for insurance and investment firms.

Gary's Rotary sponsor was Peter Fulchiron. Gary was our Club president from 1999-2000. During his presidency, he did several silly things – such as asking TJ Neff to tell a fake story on April Fool's day and people all believed it. Gary is heavily involved with Club committees including Scholarships and Teacher Recognition. Gary

*Continued on page 3*



P.O. Box 657  
Novato, CA 94948

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

## The Four-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"



## UPCOMING ZOOM MEETING May 7

### Nick Zoa My Year in Paradise During the Pandemic

Retired College Professor, Nick Zoa will tell us about his being the last American to be about 7,000 miles from the United States on a ten mile long and 43 miles around island in paradise. Nick's travels and his adventure of traveling the world and his experiences starting on March 6th when he flew by United Airlines to the Island of Kosrae, which is halfway between Guam and Hawaii. He will tell us: *"I began my trip at a resort in Yap, followed by a live-aboard in Palau. From there I did some wreck-diving in Chuuk, visited the ruins on Pohnpei and then landed on Kosrae on March 6. I noticed increased concerns about the virus (people wearing masks, hand sanitizers at airports, a few questions asked by airport personnel. But I did not worry since from Kosrae, I had tickets to fly to Majuro in the Marshall Islands on March 9th. On March the 9th, all flights stopped and here I am since the pandemic started."*

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## Upcoming Programs

### May

May 7

**Nick Zoa:** My Year in Paradise During the Pandemic. Retired College Professor, **Nick Zoa** will tell about his being the last American to be about 7,000 miles from the United States on a ten mile long and 43 miles around island in paradise during the Pandemic.

[www.novatorotary.org](http://www.novatorotary.org)

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2020/2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Chris DeGabriele**  
President

**Christina Stroeh**  
Vice President

**Reggie Winner**  
Secretary

**Jim Bates**  
**Debbie Brusatori**  
Treasurer

**Holger Knaack**  
R.I. President

**Mary Bates**  
District Governor

**Carola Detrick**  
Assistant  
District Governor

### DIRECTORS

**Craig Anderson**  
Club Administration

**Michael Morrissey**  
Public Image

**Jim Spilman**  
Community Service

**Phil Dougherty**  
International Service

**Jorg Puh-Westerheide**  
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

**Shawn Campas**  
**Katie Chase**  
Youth Service

**Christina Stroeh**  
**Sonia Seeman**  
Membership

**Burt Hoffmann**  
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

**Bill Vespa**  
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

**Ron Harness**  
Past President

mentioned that the most important thing in life is to raise a good family and that they all work hard and live a good life.

## Program

**Rene Prado** introduced our speaker today, **Duncan MacSwain**.

**Duncan** has been a career educator and so much more. He's a graduate of UC Berkeley, taught at Redwood High School for 32 years, and was named Marin County Teacher of the Year.

He was nominated for the National Science Teacher of the Year Award, and he was the Northern California Cross Country Coach of the Year.

He was a Captain in the USAF and has written many teaching manuals for the military as well as for the school systems.

He raises funds for charities, particularly when weather events occur in countries he has visited.

**Duncan** has traveled extensively visiting over eighty countries. Photographs from his over thirty years of travel are all categorized, and many have been published in fifteen countries.

Each week he distributes an email entitled "Travel Bites."

**Duncan** has visited the Amazon seven times, and he suggests if you can stand the mosquitoes and the wetness of the Amazon, it is a great place to go. **Duncan** showed us several photographers he took during his visits. There are about 16 kinds of monkeys; some are aggressive; one monkey is as small as a tennis ball; and some live in the trees like the owl monkey. Also there are giant river otters that are about 6-8 feet long with very impressive teeth. There are tones of beautiful

birds with vibrant colors which can only be found in deep forest such as the fly catcher, barred woodcreeper, hawk, tiger heron, capper heron, egret and so on. At night, you will find totally different types of animals such as the poison frog, tree frog and grass frog (which is only ½ inch long). You will see lots of bats hanging on the trees. There are some special species like the black caiman, snakes, and lizards. **Duncan** also showed us a few photos of tarantulas and butterflies. In the end, **Duncan** showed us the lodge he stayed in over the water which is quite calm and peaceful. In the village, the kids go to school by canoe. He hopes someday we can all visit the Amazon (maybe we shall start a Rotary Environmental Project in the Amazon to save the forest so we can all visit there one day).

Please Email **Duncan** at [Dmacs11@icloud.com](mailto:Dmacs11@icloud.com) if you are interested to receive his "Travel Bites" email that he releases weekly.

## The Raffle

Finally, the \$25 raffle went to our birthday girl, **Suzanne Bales!**

Meeting adjourned.

Enjoy your Cinco de Mayo, and we will see you all next week!

## Where to Make Up

Contact the Club you wish to attend for dates, time and virtual meeting code.

The District website lists the Clubs and websites for contact info at:

[Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/](http://Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/)

# May SPECIAL DATES

- 5-5 Veronica Pietras
- 5-8 David Hernandez
- 5-13 Phil Brown
- 5-15 Kathy & Dennis Baldwin
- 5-15 Kris & Ed Jones
- 5-17 Donna Falzon
- 5-18 Edna & Paul Scheller
- 5-18 Linda & Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
- 5-21 Marilyn Smith
- 5-22 Camille & Robert Marshall
- 5-24 Kay Jones
- 5-25 Linda & Darrell Scott
- 5-27 Robin & Frank Bruno
- 5-27 Katie Chase
- 5-27 Raye-Lee & George Estes
- 5-27 Reggie Winner
- 5-31 Frank Bruno

# Rotary Photo Album



*Rotary Club of Novato Zoom meeting participants.*



*Marty's Moments with Gary Bramon.*



*Speaker Duncan MacSwain and photos from his adventures.*

