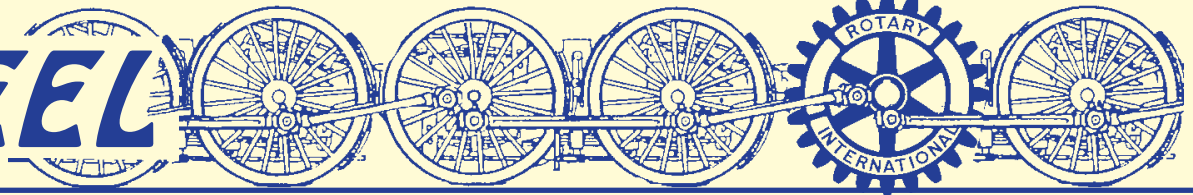


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



January 23, 2026
Vol. 77, No. 27
Editor:
Ben Waytinfersnow

TICKETS GOING FAST!

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



845 Vallejo Avenue, Downtown Novato
 www.handjtire.com
 hjtire@vbbn.com

Burt Hoffmann
 John Da Silva

(415) 897-1185

- Tires
- Brakes
- Alignment
- Shocks
- Oil Changes
- Tuneup

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- **Charlie Strickfaden: U.S. Park Manager, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, February 12

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, February 13

Marisa Remak
 Secretary

ITALIAN SUPPER & MUSIC

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO PRESENTS A DINNER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

Bill & Adele Jonas Center • 1800 Ignacio Blvd., Novato

Saturday, February 7, 2026

5:30-6:30 Purchase Signature Cocktails
 6:30 Dinner

Auctions through the Evening

Cocktail Attire Encouraged!

Silent Auction

Live Auctions

Live Entertainment,
 Music & Dancing
 Featuring
 "Frank Sinatra"!

**NO Tickets
 at the Door!**

Event tickets are \$100
 subject to availability,
 purchase before Jan. 30, 2026



THE NOVATO ROTARY ENDOWMENT IS A 501(C)(3)
 ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT COMMUNITY,
 YOUTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, VOCATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS.



**Crab Feed Winners from Last Year's Fundraiser Auction,
 Hosted by Gary Bramon, Lou Batmale and Peter Rubens
 at Peter & Peggy's Home on 1-23-26.**

The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

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?"

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

Show your support of the RCN and target people that share your commitment to supporting Rotary.

Limit of two sponsors!

Size: 1/4 column

Frequency of publication: 3x or 4x per month

Distribution: Over 130 like minded recipients

Open Rate: 68%

Cost \$600 per year, \$15 per issue (Prev. 3yr avg.)

Contact Bill Vespa: zip@sonic.net

Captain Gil Rud

From the Prairie to the Pacific: A Blue Angels Journey

Thurs., April 23, 2026
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Captain Gil Rud will share his journey from rural North Dakota to the cockpits of U.S. Navy jet fighters, and ultimately captain of a flagship aircraft carrier, USS Constellation, responsible for the welfare of 5,000+ sailors.

His success as a naval aviator led to the ultimate reward- "Boss" of the world-famous Blue Angels, overseeing their successful transition to the F/A-18 Hornet.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com



Upcoming Programs & Events

January

Jan. 30 **Mental Health & Rotary**

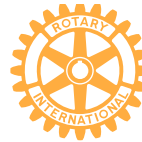
February

Feb. 6 **Brad Howard**
Feb. 7 **A Dinner You Can't Refuse**
Feb. 13 **No Meeting**
Feb. 20 **First Responder Therapy Dogs**
Michelle Detrick
Feb. 27 **Prof. Andrew Reddie**

March

Mar. 6 **Meeting at City Hall - City Leaders Panel**
Mar. 13 **Mary Bates - Rotary Foundation**
Mar. 20 **Club History - Table Chats**
Mar. 27 **Club Social - TBD**

Rotary



Club of Novato

YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS ARE STILL **NEEDED**

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

*All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!*

Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Dawson
President

Peter Pelavin
Vice President

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Francesco Arezzo
R.I. President

Mitone Griffiths
District Governor

Judy Johnson
*Assistant
District Governor*

DIRECTORS

John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Phil Dougherty
Public Image & Awareness

Marcus Combs
Community Service

Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
*Environmental Sustainability
(NR-CAT)*

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President



Rotary Global Grant Scholarships

Program Overview:

The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship supports graduate-level academic study abroad in a field aligned with one of Rotary’s Seven Areas of Focus. This scholarship is designed to develop future leaders who demonstrate academic excellence and a strong commitment to community service.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrollment in Master’s, Ph.D., or Post doctoral studies
- Merit-based scholarship (financial need is not a criterion)
- Proven record of academic or professional excellence
- Demonstrated commitment to community service
- Candidate must have lived or studied within Rotary District 5150

Scholarship Funding:

- District 5150 provides \$17,500 in District Designated Funds (DDF)
- 80% match from the Rotary World Fund
- Total annual funding: \$31,500
- Minimum Global Grant amount:\$30,000

Student/Candidate Support - Rotary clubs within District 5150 may:

- Sponsor and support scholarship candidates
- Assist with the application process
- Help candidates prepare for the interview with the District Scholarship Committee

Important Dates:

- Application Deadline: March 1, 2026
- Candidate Interviews: March 14, 2026

Application Information:

To request an application form or learn more, please contact:

Shiraz Zack

Email:shiraz.zack@gmail.com

Phone:(650)245-4915

February

Special Dates

2-4	Gloria Dunn-Violin
2-5	Jim Carriere
2-8	Kerry Beissmann-Bacho
2-12	David Browne, M.D.
2-12	Ron Harness
2-12	John Ringgenberg
2-14	Jean Brown
2-14	Diane & Peter Oser
2-14	Susie Pflingst-McCurdy
2-17	Russ Ketron
2-22	Frank Falzon
2-22	David Gabriel
2-22	Penny Hansen
2-24	Marisa & Mike Remak
2-28	Sonia Seeman & David Hernandez





TGIF
with Live Music
at the Home of
Peian & Ron Harness
1-23-26

