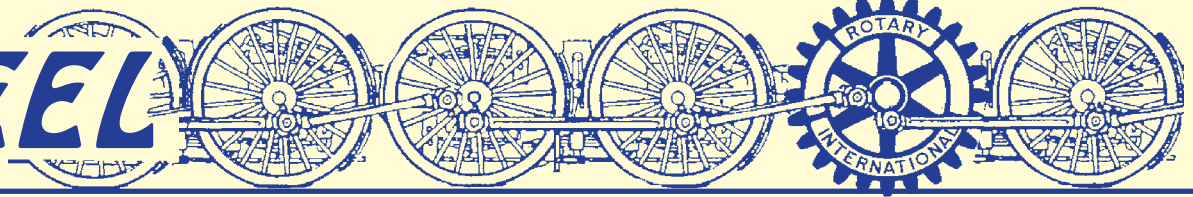


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**January 31, 2025**  
**Vol. 76, No. 22**  
**Editor:**  
**Butch Waxx (Dean H.)**

## Call to Order

**Prez Tommy** rang da bell and we were off and running.

### Pledge & Thought

**Maggie Shao** led us in the pledge and gave the Thought for the Day: “The first new moon of the lunar calendar year fell on January 29, 2025, kicking off the 15 day spring festival celebration. This year is the Yin Wood Snake. Overall the atmosphere in the world will become slightly more chaotic. Like a snake that sheds his skin, we can shed and let go of the negativity and focus on personal growth and embrace positivity.

### No Visiting Rotarians

Well, we really had one. It was former member **Dennis Hagerty** visiting from Colorado.

### Guests of Rotarians

We only had one guest and it was **Dr. Grant Shevchir**, **Prez Tommy’s** old friend who lives in Pennsylvania.

### Birthdays, Anniversaries, Seniority

**Marisa Remak** celebrated her birthday last Monday and **Mark Bosch** celebrated his last Tuesday. **Russ and Kathy Ketron** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary yesterday. **Kathy** says she was only ten when she married **Russ** which means she’s over 50! There were no membership anniversaries.

### Community Care

**Tommy Lee** is home again and feels much better. Send him a card!

## Announcements

### Thank You!

**Prez Tommy** thanked **Tiffany Fischer** and **Suzanne Bales** for the VFW social last week.

### Boo Hoo!

There will be no more printed Big Wheel after this week. **Bill Vespa’s** sister-in-law, **Tracy Rempe**, who has been doing the graphic design and layout of the Big Wheel is now retired. There will be no more printed copies, but we’ll still have it online. Thanks to **Ben and Frances Borok** as well as **Bill, Michele** and **Tracy** for all their years in getting the Big Wheel out to us.

## Club Assembly

### Logistics and Facilities - John Reuscher, Chair

**John** showed us the proper way to hold a microphone. Talk across it, not into it. **Melinda Durfee** said the College was going improve the loudspeaker system.

### Community Service - Peter Pelavin, Chair

**Peter** told us we’ve cleaned up the track at Loma Verde School. We’re also putting furniture in the Homeward Bound apartments. His committee also runs the Car Wash with **John Cutrufelli**. **Peter’s** group also does Teacher of the year awards and distributes dictionaries to third graders in Novato. And we’re getting another Police Dog for the Novato Police Department.

### International Service – Holly Axtell, Chair

**Holly** told us we are doing all kinds of international projects, including the recent trip to Ecuador for water and computer project. We’ve been involved for many years with Project Amigo in Cofradia, Mexico which is a small village, outside of Colima, Mexico.

### RI Foundation – Jorg Puhr-Westerheide, Chair

Our Club gets a lot of money from the Foundation. We’re involved in the Neonatal Clinic, Shelter Box, sent a team to Ecuador, Project Amigo, clean water in Nepal and we get the money for these projects from Global Grants. (We also get money from our Club Endowment. **Peter Oser** will have an Endowment presentation at the next meeting.)

### Treasurer – Al Shirley

**Al** says we have collected over 90% of our dues.

### Public Image – Jeff Slavitz, Chair

**Jeff** noted that **Penny Hansen** is our photographer and getting out articles in the local press.

### Environment & Sustainability – Gloria Dunn-Violin & Roy Pfiefer, Co-Chairs

They are planting trees and having people name their own trees, like **Maple** and **Willow**.

### Membership – Patty Dougherty, Chair

**Patty** is working on bringing social events to the community. We have 99 members, soon to be 100.

### Youth Service – Eliza Roesler, Chair

They are working with Rotaract at the high schools.

### President Elect, Lynn Dawson

**Lynn** stated that we will have a Fourth of July Rotary Float for the four Rotary Clubs in Novato.

## Raffle

**Joy Fillman** won the Andy Jackson and Abe Lincoln bills.

## So long Big Wheel!

Good bye, adios, au revoir, sayonara, arrivederci, auf wiedersehen, ma’a salama.

*Continued on page 3*

# 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?"



**YES, THIS IS THE LAST  
PRINTED AND MAILED  
BIG WHEEL!**

## We Need Your Email!

Contact Bill Vespa at  
zip@sonic.net

*The Big Wheel will only be available via  
email going forward!*

*Help share the meeting  
with family, friends  
and members unable to attend.*



## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### February

Feb. 7	<b>Deborah Haase:</b> Marin County Civil Grand Jury
Feb. 8	<b>Western BBQ &amp; Dance</b>
Feb. 12	<b>Board Meeting at Jonas Center</b>
Feb. 14	<b>Social Event</b>
Feb. 21	<b>Fire Marshall L Osgood: Wildfire Prevention</b>
Feb. 28	<b>NPD Canine Program</b>

### March

Mar. 7	<b>Scott Plakun: Rotart - DEI</b>
Mar. 12	<b>Board Meeting at Jonas Center</b>
Mar. 14	<b>Meeting</b>
Mar. 21	<b>Meeting or Social Event TBD</b>
Mar. 28	<b>Meeting</b>

### April

April 4	<b>Meeting</b>
April 9	<b>Board Meeting at Jonas Center</b>

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Tom Rickey**  
*President*

**Lynn Dawson**  
*Vice President*

**Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*

**Al Shirley**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*

**Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*

**Jeff Slavitz**  
*Public Image & Awareness*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

**Roy Pfeifer & Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability  
(NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

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

**Eliza Roesler**  
*Youth Service*

**Patty Dougherty**  
*Membership*

**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Dean Heffelfinger**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Peter Oser**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Phil Dougherty**  
*Past President*





## TGIF

Marine Tiffany got the Party started with over 30 Rotarians arriving happily to an excellent appetizer spread, wine and friends. Regardless of an unfortunate conflict with the annual Novato Chamber of Commerce "Paint the Town Red" with many past Rotarian Citizens of the Year attending.

★ 30th Annual ★

Proceeds Support Community and International Service Projects

**Rotary**  
Club of Novato



# Western BBQ & Dance

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Featuring  
Dennis Hagerty  
and Blind Date

Bill & Adele Jonas Center  
IVC Campus  
1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato

**BIG SKY AUCTION**

**PIE AUCTION**

## Saturday, February 8, 2025

5:30 - 6:30 - BELLY-UP to the Bar  
6:30 - Dinner  
Auctions through the Evening

### Gold Rush Ticket Package

Purchase one \$200 event ticket package and get a single entry in a drawing for one week at the Playa Grande Resort in Cabo!  
Additional event tickets may be purchased for \$75 each, subject to availability.

Tickets are Available From Novato Rotary Club Members  
Last day to purchase tickets is January 31, 2024!

Please make checks payable to:  
Novato Rotary Endowment  
P.O. Box 657 • Novato, CA 94948

**NO Tickets at the Door!**

# Announcements



*Tiffany thanks members for attending the TGIF and asks for a few more home made desserts for the Western BBQ Dessert Auction.*



*Past President Phil introduces Bill Vespa, who shared the nearly 50 year history of The Big Wheel, which was started by Ben Borok, and why it is time to stop printing and snail mailing. The Big Wheel will continue in an electronic form so members, family and friends can continue to stay informed about our Club, even when they miss meetings.*

## Club Assembly

12 of our Club Directors and Officers gave reports about their Avenues of Service and related Club activities. Some of them are pictured below.



*Community Service Chair, Peter Pelavin*



*President Elect, Lynn Dawson*



*Club Treasurer, Al Shirley*



*International Service Chair, Holly Axtell*



*Foundation Chair, Jorg Westerheide*



*Youth Service Chair, Eliza Roesler*