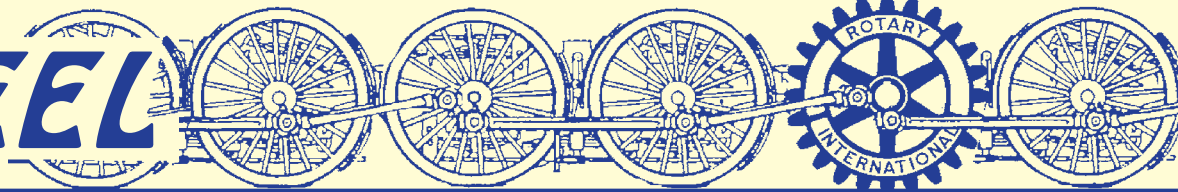


The BIG WHEEL

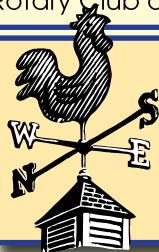


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



January 5, 2024

Vol. 75, No. 24

Editor:

Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

President Phil Dougherty, or should I say **Wild Phil Hickok**, opened the meeting resplendent in chaps, vest and a 10 gallon hat. Pledge of Allegiance led by new member **Scott Root**. The thought for the day came after we ate lunch and was a fun and joyful slideshow members submitted of "How I Spent My Holidays".

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Hugh Murphy, Assistant Governor and member of San Rafael Harbor, **Paul Chin**, retired Fire Marshall and two-time President of SF Chinatown and **Tom Snyder**, former President, Sgt. at Arms, and Foundation Chair of Solano Sunset - these Rotarians joined us today. **Mark Dale** came as a guest to remind us of his upcoming NSS presentation with **Dr. Michael Pritchard** on the Opioid Crisis on January 25. **Debra Roesler**, Therapist specializing in PTSD, joined us. **Marisa Remak** came with daughter **Sadie** and husband **Mike**, **Jorg Puh-Westerheide** brought wife **Linda**, and **Bill McDill** brought wife **Vicki** to celebrate her actual birthday January 5.

Sunshine Report

Don Violin is not feeling well and **Gloria** asked for cards and well wishes to **Don**. **President Phil** reported that **Christina Stroeh** has COVID and to wish her well. Sad news that **Peian Harness'** mother passed away. She and **Ron** will be in Taiwan for the funeral, a change in plans

as they were supposed to be on the India Polio trip at this time. Condolences via email to **Peian** will be appreciated.

Birthday & Anniversaries

Our first meeting of the month is a chance to commemorate and celebrate our members birthdays. Joining us via Zoom, **Ben Borok** celebrated his 90th birthday and 48 years as a member of Novato Rotary Club. **Ben** was born on January 1, 1934, and is home taking care of **Frances** and appreciates being able to join the meetings with Zoom. We then all sang Happy Birthday together.

Announcements

Western BBQ & Dance

Maggie Shao asked for volunteer bakers to sign up for the Western BBQ Pie Auction that raised over \$4500 last year, Yippee Kai Yay all 12 slots were filled!

Scottsdale Pond Signs

Jim Spilman announced there will be a dedication of the new signs at Scottsdale Pond on Saturday, January 6 and to come with your umbrellas at 11am.

Volunteers Needed

Jim also asked for volunteers for the next two weekends, January 13-14 and January 20-21 for installation of benches at Lynwood Elementary. We need help for two shifts each day, 9am to noon, and noon to 3pm.

Red Badgers

Roy Pfeiffer has an online sign up for new members (Red Badgers) to participate in setup, breakdown and greeting for our meetings to get active in our Club. Link for signup will be emailed shortly.

Magnolia Project

Burt Hoffman wanted to ask for our community connections to help the Magnolia Project, a 501(c)3 non-profit with the

mission of providing high school students with vocational experience and possible mentoring from local businesses. A student spent time at **Burt's** shop to get exposure and experience and getting some mentorship and guidance.

H2Open Doors

Rob Marshall needs funds, unfortunately a \$5000 pledge was pulled from the budget for upcoming H2Open Doors project departing on February 20. Contact Rob at rm@imainvestors.com to help bridge the funding shortfall.

Upcoming events:

The Western BBQ is only a month away. **Peter Rubens** has forms for Bonanza Sponsors and **Bill Vespa** has tickets printed and ready for sale for our biggest Annual Fundraiser. **President Phil** asked **Bill McDill** to reflect on how this all started. In 1993, when **Bill** was President, they came up with the idea for a Polenta Feed, Now 20 years later, **Bill** has pretty much won the costume contest every year and through some arm twisting from **Prez Wild Phil Hickok**, **Bill** offered up 10% of his past winnings (\$100) towards this year's Western BBQ.

Program

The scheduled presenter called Wednesday and had to cancel because of COVID. Our pinch hitter presenter, **Thomas L. Snyder** presented Part 1 on the history of the first Naval Hospital in California. **Tom** is a retired Kaiser Doctor, Navy Reservist, and self-admitted History geek. He has spent on a regular basis going to the Navy Archives in Washington DC for research. For example when asking for a decade worth of archives from the 1820s, he was presented with a cart brimming full of handwritten ledgers, journals, records. From his research for the last 20 years, he will soon publish a book on the history of the first Naval Hospital established on Mare

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?"



Featuring

Dr. Michael Pritchard & Mark Dale

**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, January 25th
7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Prepare for an unforgettable evening! Purchase your tickets today for the Novato Speaker Series, showcasing Mark Dale, a passionate activist fighting the opioid epidemic, and Dr. Michael Pritchard, a nationally acclaimed keynote speaker celebrated for his unique talent in blending humor and inspiration. The compelling narratives of Mark and Michael will leave you feeling motivated, uplifted, and sporting a heartwarming smile. Seize the opportunity to be part of this exceptional event – secure your tickets now!

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
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www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

January 2024

- Jan. 12 **District Governor Laine Hendricks:** Club Visit
- Jan. 19 **Marcus Combs, Retired Golden Gate National Park Ranger:** How the Bay Area changed through the 1950's
- Jan. 25 **Novato Speaker Series:** Dr. Michael Pritchard and Mark Dale
- Jan. 26 **NO MEETING**

February 2024

- Feb. 2 **Professor John Quigley:** Palestine & International Criminal Court History
- Feb. 9 **Karen Beale**
- Feb. 16 **Mike Morrisey:** Travels Picture and Story

March 2024

- Mar. 1 General Assembly
- Mar. 8 **Davis Perkins:** Marin artist and smokejumper
- Mar. 15 **Sylvia Whitlock:** First Women In Rotary
- Mar. 22 **Dick Spotswood:** Marin IJ

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Jim White**
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Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Craig Anderson
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Peian Harness
Past President

Island. In 1852, **Commodore Sloat** chose Mare Island. In 1854, **U.S. Navy Admiral David Glasgow Farragut** had taken possession of the island, establishing the very first naval yard on the west coast. Eventually, a hospital was commissioned and built with 1.5 million masonry bricks formed and fired from the local class where the foundation was dug. This was reinforced with steel rods and in 1871, the hospital was opened. Large floor to ceiling windows flooding light into this palatial building enabled surgeries and clean and dry beds for patients to recover. However, on March 31,

1898, a 6.5 earthquake hit Mare Island. The masonry building could not hold up and a new hospital was rebuilt with Oregon Fir and California Redwood. Unfortunately, speaker ran out of time and hopes to come back to present on Part 2 of the history.

The Winner

Lucky **Sadie Remak** won the \$25 Raffle.



Susan Wernick City Council, Rotarians: Alan Dunham, Al Shirley, President Phil Dougherty holding pup Copper, Chairman of Rotary Community Service Jim Spilman, Marty Wickenheiser and Mayor Mark Milberg

29th Annual
Proceeds Support Community and International Service Projects

Rotary Club of Novato

Western BBQ & Dance

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

Saturday, February 10, 2024

5:30 - 6:30 - BELLY-UP to the Bar
6:30 - Dinner

Auctions through the Evening

\$65 per Person
Tickets are Available From Novato Rotary Club Members
Please make checks payable to:
Novato Rotary Endowment
P.O. Box 657 • Novato, CA 94948

Tickets may also be purchased at novatorotary.org or use QR Code below

NO Tickets at the Door!

Event Proceeds Fund the Novato Rotary Endowment a 501(c)3

All CDC, State and Local COVID Guidelines will be followed



Sign installation photographer, Penny Hansen.



L-R Burt Hoffman, Aunt Abby, Artist Emma Oyle Britton, Emma's father Ben Oyle and Emma's Aunt Jan Hoffman.



Scottsdale Pond Trail Signs

Stephany Simmons Novato Recreation Coordinator introduces the Artist of the new Scottsdale Trail signs.



Prez "Frontier" Phil Dougherty.



Show up at sunrise to beat the rain at Scottsdale Sign Ceremony.



Birthday Table #1



Birthday Table #2



President Cowboy wires Dr. Thomas Snyder, Guest Speaker.



Burt encourages more mentors for Magnolia Project high school students.

Ben Borok started off the New Year celebrating his 90th birthday with his family and their traditional blintzes dinner.



Peter Rubens talks to us about the Western BBQ & Dance.