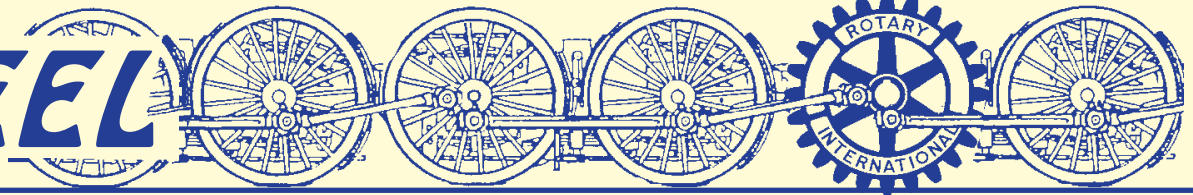


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 16, 2026

Vol. 78, No. 12

Editor:

Stan Andeliver (Dean H.)

Call to Order

Prez Peter Pelavin rang our Rotary International award winning bell.

Pledge & Thought for the Day

President-Elect **Rene Prado** led us in the pledge. Then he presented us with two part thought for the day. First, a quote: “You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life.” – **Zig Ziglar**

Then, **Rene** took this moment to provide some inspirational words for living a happy life:

Often when we pick up a magazine or tune into the evening news, it appears at times that the whole world is just full of doom and gloom.

As people are frantically trying to live their lives, they can’t even take a few minutes to reflect on whether they are happy or not.

Obviously, we are not saying that it is possible to be happy all the time. But many people manage to live in an overall state of happiness. But how do we achieve this?

When life feels overwhelmingly negative, it is easy to lose sight of how important happiness is. Most of the time people aren’t even aware that they are the root of their own unhappiness.

More importantly, they are completely unaware that it is within their power to change. They don’t understand that happiness comes from within, but that it is a journey,

taken one step at a time. We wake up in the morning with the full capability to say to oneself, “I’m happy” and believe it, no matter the circumstances.

Feeling happy is vitally important in life. It has many fringe benefits. When you are happy, you tend to attract happy people to you. Happy people tend to be emotionally and physically healthier, more compassionate, creative, and energetic.

Generally, if you are happy, people tend to want to spend more time with you. When you are surrounded by positive, happy, creative and energetic people you will see that the quality of your life improves.

Guests of Rotarians

Ed Ross introduced **William R. Reinus**. Past Prez **Peter Oser** intro’d **Gary Gonser**, a former member of our Club.

Community Care

Past Prez **Marty Wickenheiser** reported she is recovering from her fall, but still in a lot of pain. Buy **Marty** a drink or two!

Announcements

Next Friday Meeting & Social Event!

Yes! We have a meeting here at the Jonas Center on Friday October 23rd, at noon.

Don’t forget the Non-Spaghetti Feed on Friday evening at the **McDill’s** house. The party starts between 6:00pm and 6:30pm.

Tennis Anyone?

Past Prez **Phil Dougherty** reminded us all, the international tennis star **Rosie Casals** is the speaker next Thursday, October 22 at 7:00pm here at the Jonas

Center. **Rosie** is the first speaker of the new Novato Speaker Series season. Visit www.novatospeakerseries.com for more information.

Committee and Board Meetings

A list of Club meetings, when and where they take place was shown on the stage screen. They are also on our website calendar and published periodically in the Big Wheel.

Program

Phil Dougherty introduced our speaker, **Charlie Vogelheim**, a transportation specialist focusing mainly on automobiles and small trucks. He mainly talked about cars.

The first cars he discussed were the electric cars, beginning with the technologies of Tesla, Apple and Google. He talked about the features cars will have and costs from inexpensive to very expensive. Electronic features will be ranging from assisting agriculture to standard autos. He said to go to the San Francisco Auto Show (Thanksgiving weekend). It is a great way to see what is coming and test the fit of many different cars in one place, and without the bother of a sales person.

Raffle

The raffle was won by Past District Governor **Russ Ketron** who will buy twelve two dollar bills with it.

Continued on page 3

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Rosie Casals

A Golden Return

Thurs., October 22, 2026
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Rosie Casals is an International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee, 12-time Grand Slam champion, and a revolutionary force who fundamentally reshaped professional sports. Rising from the public courts of San Francisco as America's first prominent Latina tennis player, the 5'2" powerhouse defied the era's traditional tennis mold with an acrobat's speed and an unyielding, fiery court presence. Globally celebrated for her historic doubles partnership with Billie Jean King, Casals captured 112 professional doubles titles—the second-most in tennis history. More than a champion, "The General" was a fierce social advocate and one of the courageous "Original 9" players who risked their careers in 1970 to form the first women's professional tour, breaking gender barriers to pave the way for modern player equity and equal prize money.

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



Upcoming Programs & Events

October

Oct 22	Novato Speaker Series - Rosie Casals
Oct 23	Nick Tarlson - International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR)
Oct 23	Non Spaghetti Feed - The McDill's Home
Oct 30	Kym McNicholas - Peripheral Artery Disease

November

Nov 6	Julie Jacobson - NUSD
Nov 13	Dr. Smith - Polio Update
Nov 20	Marlon McWilliams, PsyD - The Aging Brain
Nov 27	No Meeting

Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



Friday, October 23rd
Arrive between 6:00 & 6:30 PM
at The McDills'
18 San Luis Court, Novato

Vicki and Bill McDill will be opening their home for the Annual Non Spaghetti Feed. Everyone should bring a finger-food to serve 4-6 people and their good humor, so we can enjoy the fellowship and celebrate Fall. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Nova-Ro

Independent Senior Living

www.novaro.org

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Jonas Center Liaison

Jim Carriere
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Jeff Slavitz
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Lynn Dawson
Past President

The Rotary Club of Novato's Monthly Board and Committee Meetings

Membership

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Rene Prado at rene.prado@technicalquestion.com for meeting location.

World Community Service

First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Jeff Slavitz JeffSlavitz@gmail.com for meeting location.

Youth Service

First Thursday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Ross Millerick at ross.millerick@gmail.com for meeting location.

Vocational Service

Second Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.

Please confirm location with David at dhgabriel@gmail.com

Environmental Sustainability

Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

Contact chair Randy Baker at vernalfalls1@gmail.com for meeting location.

RCN Board

Third Tuesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact President Peter Pelavin at peterotary@outlook.com for meeting location.

Community Service

Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Jim Spilman James_V_Spilman@msn.com for meeting location.

Nova-Ro Board

Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact chair Jim Carriere at james.carriere@gmail.com for meeting location.

Public Image Committee

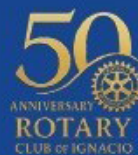
Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact chair Joy Filman at joyphd@gmail.com for meeting location.

Novato Rotary Endowment

Quarterly (Jul., Oct., Jan. Apr.) on the Fourth Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact chair Chris Degabriele at degabriele@novato.net for meeting location.



A Historic Rotary Conversation!



DR. SYLVIA WHITLOCK

**The first woman to serve as
president of a Rotary Club.**

Join us for lunch and an inspiring
conversation with a Rotary trailblazer who
opened doors to women's leadership.

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Homeward Bound - Key Room

1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato



\$40 per person ~ Includes Lunch

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15

<https://tinyurl.com/t4w2tcsy>

Presented by the Rotary Club of Ignacio

www.ignaciorotary.org



Larry Harrison asked for help with the 2/6/2027 Endowment Fundraiser dinner.



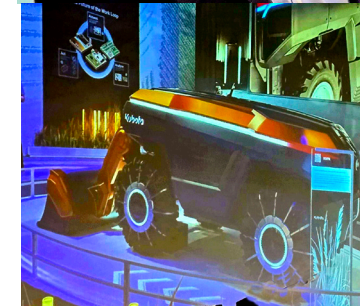
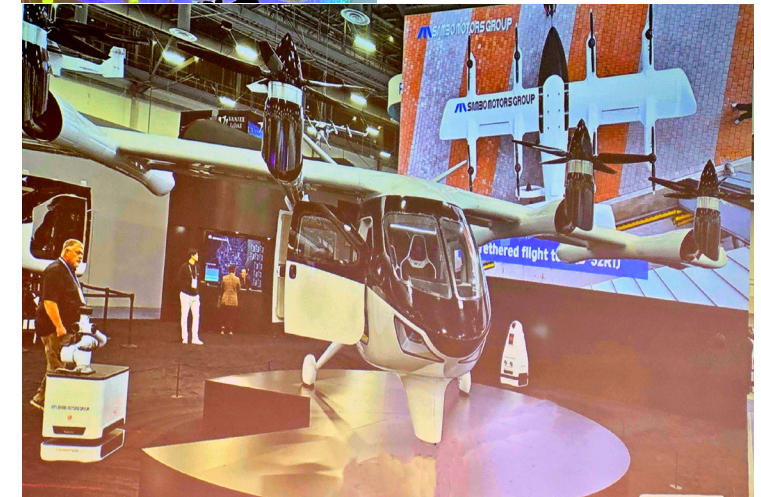
Randy Baker tested our knowledge of composting.



Phil Dougherty reminded us that Rosie Casals will be the NSS speaker on 10/22/26.



Speaker Charlie Vogelheim talked new auto technology. Waymo is approved from San Jose to Sea Ranch. There are driverless agricultural vehicles and flying vehicles on the way.



A-Frame Project at Hamilton School October 17, 2026