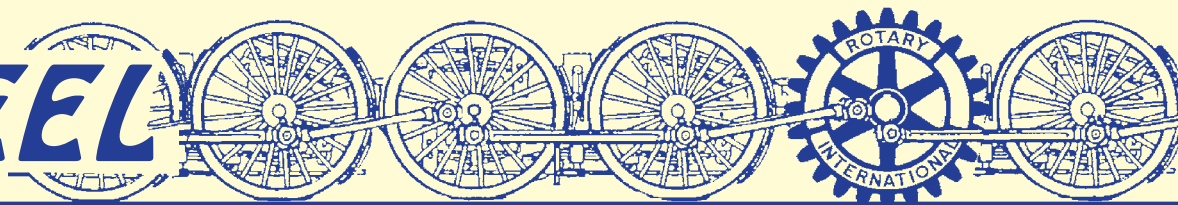


The BIG WHEEL

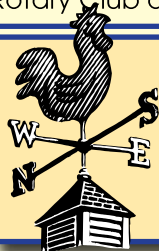


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 4, 2024

Vol. 76, No. 11

**Editor:
The Winner**

In the Beginning...

As the clock ticked to 12:15 pm, **President Tom Rickey** welcomed members, visiting Rotarians, **Dave Estes** of the Novato Evening Club and guests, rang the bell and asked **Roy Pfeifer** to give the Pledge and 'Thought for the Day' which he did in an expeditious manner! He quoted **Mark Twain**: "The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up."

Jumping right to the Celebration Table, **President Tom** recognized **Dean Heffelfinger** for his birthday, **Mark** and **Zenetta Bosch** for their anniversary, **Bill Vespa** who has an upcoming anniversary with **Michele**, **Dave Estes**, brother of our member **George**, and **Marty W.** who sits at the celebration table for the cookies!

President Tom invited members to introduce their guests which included **Zenetta Bosch** who accompanied Mark, her spouse of 55 years to enjoy the celebration table; **Chris Seifkes** with **Lynn Dawson**; **Ross Millerick**, who is returning to our Club soon, with **Jim Spilman**; and **Randy Baker** who is interested in joining us, with **Phil Dougherty**.

Community Care

With a Community Care report, **Marty W.** let us know that **Craig Anderson** is still dealing with the after effects of his hospital stay. Please do not call, but cards are very welcome. **Bill McDill**, who recently had back surgery, has had a lot of pain, and a couple of trips to the ER, but is now feeling better and **Vicki** is thrilled that he has taken a shower! Surely, he would also appreciate cards.

Pick Up Your Shirt!

One more request by **President Tom** for those who ordered

the new blue T-shirts to pick them up!

Announcements

Phil Dougherty reminded everyone of the NAMI – Nat'l Alliance for Mental Illness – Walk at McGinnis Park.

Peter Pelavin encouraged all to support the Novato Police Canine Foundation by attending bingo at Trek Winery on Sunday, October 5 at 1 pm.

Robert Marshall announced that there are two openings for a couple of adventurers who would like to accompany the H2Open Doors project trip in January to Ecuador. Talk to **Robert** for the details.

Lynn Dawson presented us all with an invitation to the first of the 2024-25 Novato Speakers Series, an interview with singer/songwriter **Maria Muldaur** at the Jonas Center. Tickets for the four-event series this year are \$30 each or \$100 if you buy all four. Go to Novatospeakersseries.com for all the details.

Jorg Westerheide wants to welcome us all aboard on Saturday, October 12 for the District Foundation event and encouraged each of us to get our annual The Rotary Foundation donations in so he can produce raffle tickets for you.

Ron Harness gave an update on the Club's Global Grant for a water project in Quito, Ecuador which was recently approved by the Rotary Foundation (those TRF donations at work!). This should help provide clean drinking water for about 5K people. There will probably be a trip associated with this project in 2025. More details to come.

President Tom told of his niece who lives in Asheville, NC and her experience with Hurricane Helene. He encouraged all to donate to the Rotary Disaster Relief Fund to help those impacted by Helene.

5 Minute Talk

Jim Spilman gave another 5-minute talk to refresh the memories of long-time Novato Rotarians and inform those who are new to the Club. He started out in Burbank, CA, attended a Seventh-Day Adventist school from 3rd through 11th grade and

then moved to a farm in Kansas, graduating from Holyrood Rural High School that had 24 students! He liked a girl in his class until he found out she was his second cousin! He attended one year of college at Kansas State University and then succumbed to the lure of SoCal and moved back to LA and started working for PacTel. His Claim to fame in that job was as the installer of phone service for **Dan Blocker – Hoss**, of Bonanza fame. Then the Army called, and he served for four years. He met **Diane** in early 1977. They were married in December 1977. He has two children from a previous marriage, and he adopted **Diane's** two children. Together he and **Diane** have seven grandchildren and one great-grand daughter. In 1987 **Jim** retired from PacBell and began IT consulting. His membership in Novato Rotary started in December 1992. His first sponsor was **Ross Millerick**. When **Ross** left the Club, **George Estes** became his second sponsor. For those of you reading this bulletin with any care, you will know that **Jim** is now returning the favor for **Ross**! **Jim** has been recognized widely for his extensive community service – in 1999 by the CA Parks and Recreation Community Service Award for the work done on the Gary Gates Softball Field at San Marin HS; in

Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



Friday, October 25th, 6:00 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 Spring. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill

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?"



BIG WHEEL EDITORS NEEDED

Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net

Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!

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

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Upcoming Programs & Events

October

- Oct. 9 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Oct. 11 **Meeting COM Farm: Tealy**
- Oct. 18 **US Marines Colonel Kearny: On Ukraine**
- Oct. 24 **Novato Speaker's Series**
- Oct. 25 **Non-Spaghetti Feed at the McDills**

November

- Nov. 1 **Frank Falzon: Lighter Side of Homicide**
- Nov. 8 **ESCOM: G. Gonsner & L. Weingartner**
- Nov. 13 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Nov. 15 **Social Event TBD**
- Nov. 22 **Jay Alexander: Magician**
- Nov. 25 **No Meeting-Thanksgiving**

December

- Dec. 6 **Meeting**
- Dec. 11 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Eliza Roesler
Youth Service

Jeff Slavitz & Patty Dougherty
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Craig Anderson
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Peter Oser
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Phil Dougherty
Past President

2003, Novato Citizen of the Year; and in February 2024 he was honored with the CA Parks and Recreation Community Service Award for the work the Club had done on Scottsdale Pond. **Jim** not only heads up all these projects, but he also vigorously participated in projects large and small! In Rotary years 2006-07, **Jim** served as President of the Rotary Club of Novato, despite a cancer diagnosis and treatment! He happily reports he is cancer-free! He reports his passion is community Service! And we as a Club are so lucky to have him as a member!

Who's Dat Rotarian?

Evidently, **Keith Axtell** was not able to guess the Who's Dat Rotarian last week, so he owed **President Tom** a joke. Thus, **Keith** set up this singles ad.

Single Black Female seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I am a very good-looking girl, who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pick-up truck, hunting, and fishing trips, cozy winter nights by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for **Daisy**. I'll be waiting...

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8-week-old black Labrador retriever! (Men are so easy!)

The answer to the trivia question posed by **President Tom** was the A's! Nobody knew!

The Speaker

President-Elect Lynn Dawson introduced our speaker **Danica Remy**, president of the B612 Foundation which is a non-profit science and research organization dedicated to protecting Earth from asteroids.

Ms. Remy indicated that the government definition of asteroids is non-cooperative objects in space and there are about 3 million near-earth asteroids! Of that number there are about 30K in the database, and we have found about 3K!

An asteroid impact on earth, large enough to destroy a city, happens about once a century, and the last one was in a Siberian Forest in 1908. However, chances are low that we will be impacted, because most asteroids are mostly water and loose gravel. The 5% that are metallic are the dangerous ones.

We can deflect asteroids if we know they are headed for earth, but we need to change their trajectories. If we can find asteroids early – 15-20 years out – and we “know it has our address” we can then put deterrents into effect.

Interesting facts:

Shooting stars are asteroids that are breaking up.

15 years ago, there was an asteroid over Marin.

The 10th anniversary of Asteroid Day, patterned after Earth

Day, will be next June 30.

President Tom thanked all who attended the meeting and let us know that next week's meeting will be in the garden at IVC. Check **Phil's** Wednesday email for the details.

The Winner

Holly Axtell won the \$25er and we can only hope that she and **Keith** spend it on a wonderful night!

Rotary Photo Album



Rotary District 5150 joins National Alliance on Mental Health NAMI presentation.



Ignacio Rotary members met under the umbrella.



NAMI welcome committee.



Official cookie test.



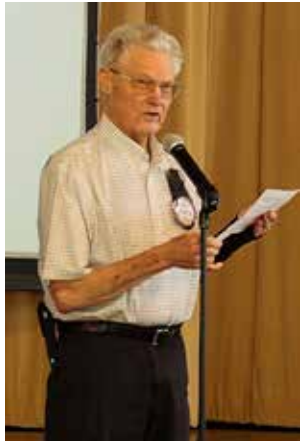
Our Club is attracting a crowd.



Celebration Party Table.



Announcements.



Keith tells joke of ambiguous dog ad.



Peian holds a piece of meteor from the Winslow Crater in Arizona.

Speaker Danica Remy, President of the Asteroid Institute.