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 9, 2026
Vol. 78, No. 11
Editor:
Don Weenow (Dean H.)

Call to Order

Prez Peter rang da bell that we won from Rotary International as part of the 100 year celebration of Rotary International during Jean Brown's presidency in 2005.

Pledge & Thought for the Day

Evan Blacksea led us in the pledge and provided the thought for the day: "Government regulation cannot substitute for individual integrity."

This directs us right back to the essence of Rotary. We all must maintain our integrity as Rotarians with following the Four-Way Test and practicing Service Above Self.

Visiting Rotarians

We were honored with a visit from the President of the Novato Sunrise Rotary Club, **Carol Joy-Harris**. The Novato Sunrise President-Elect, **Mike Ring** also graced us with his presence. We were blessed a third time with our speaker **Dora Zuniga**, a member of a Madison Wisconsin Rotary Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Past Prez **Tom Rickey** once again introduced Rob Pollar; Past Prez **Bill McDill** intro'd his first, best and only wife **Vicki**, who will host us all at her home on Friday October, 23 for the Non-Spaghetti Feed. **Jim Botko** introduced his driver, love and wife **Kathy**; **Pam Juckas** introduced **Sheila Buchanan**; while Past Prez **Lynn Dawson** brought two guests, **Arden Pennel** and **Katie Spahn**.

Community Care

Past Prez **Marty Wickenheiser** had a very painful accident. She tripped over a very difficult to see obstacle and spent three nights and four days in the hospital. She is still in a tremendous amount of pain. Send her a card and buy her a strong alcoholic beverage!

Happy Birthday's

It looks like the fewest number of our Rotary Members birthdays are in October. Only six members celebrate in October. They are **Lori Frugoli** on the 12th, **Dean Heffelfinger** on the 18th, **Christopher Mychajluk** on the 25th, **Homa Rassouli** and **Ed Ross** on the 26th and **Laura Joss** on the 31st. I (**Dean H**) turn 84 this month while **Laura Joss** celebrates her B'day on Halloween. And let's not forget that **Lori Frugoli** celebrates her's on Columbus Day and/or Indigenous Peoples Day.

Wedding Anniversaries

Only four members celebrated their wedding dates in October and they are: **Mark** & **Zenetta Bosch** 57 years, **David** & **Sara Gabriel** 53 years, **Chris** & **Joni DeGabriele** 45 years, **Bill** & **Michele Vespa** 29 years.

Club Service Years

Nine members celebrated years of Club Service in October. **Darrell Scott** - 49 years, **George Estes** - 43 years, **Brad Williams** - 34 years, **Christopher Mychajluk** - 22 years, **Ed Ross** - 6 years. The other four celebrate a one anniversary and they are **Evan Blacksea**, **Laura Joss**, **Marie Rios** and **Hannah Simon**.

Announcements

Jim Spilman's Rain Day

Past Prez Jim announced we'll be working at the trailer park and other placed in a couple weeks. Especially, at the Nature Learning Center on Saturday, October 17th. They provide a lot to the kids about what is going on in our fields, woods and waters. Unfortunately, I can't go because Sunday, October 18th is my birthday and I need to rest the day before.

Club Cruise Fundraiser

Mike Ring of Novato Sunrise announced the Club's Cruise Fundraiser next Saturday, October 17th at the Greek Orthodox Church from 5:30pm until 9:30pm. It's $100 per person, register at www.novatosunriserotary.org

Program

Past Prez **Phil Dougherty** introduced **Dora Zuniga**. **Dora** is the Chair of Project Amigo. This is a project in the Mexican state of Colima. This is a Rotary Project where we provide aid to the poorest children in the state to help them progress in life. We provide food, housing and education. In the beginning, thirty years ago, we basically provided housing, food and lower grade education. Now Rotary provides career exploration. This is after guiding the kids from grammar to middle to high school. We also support the young adults through college. Back in 2017 we sponsored 154 graduate students. Now, in 2026 we have 258 students! **Dora** is recruiting Rotarians to come to Colima for "Career Week" to engage with the students and help them process their thoughts on what careers they want to pursue. See Past Prez **Peian Harness**.

Raffle

Past Prez **Lynn Dawson** won the pictures of **Andy Jackson** and **Abe Lincoln**!

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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

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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

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Nova-Ro

Independent Senior Living

www.novaro.org

Upcoming Programs & Events

October

Oct 16	**Charlie Vogelheim** - Transportation Industry
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	**Meeting at Jonas** - TBD
Nov 27	**No Meeting**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO
2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Jim Carriere
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Jeff Slavitz
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Lynn Dawson
Past President

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Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise

Presents

Cruising Through the Decades

October 17 • 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Greek Orthodox Church, 1110 Highland Drive, Novato, CA

Come aboard for an elegant evening of fine dining and music you can dance to!

- Complimentary "Champagne" upon arrival
- Appetizers and Dinner
- Complimentary wine with Dinner
- An evening of everyone's favorite music from the last few decades
- Silent Auction with something for everyone

Tickets - $100 per person

This is our major fundraiser supporting over 40 community service projects

Use QR code to buy tickets or go to www.novatosunriserotary.org

50 ANNIVERSARY ROTARY CLUB of IGNACIO

Rotary Club of Ignacio

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

President Peter Pelavin called us to order.

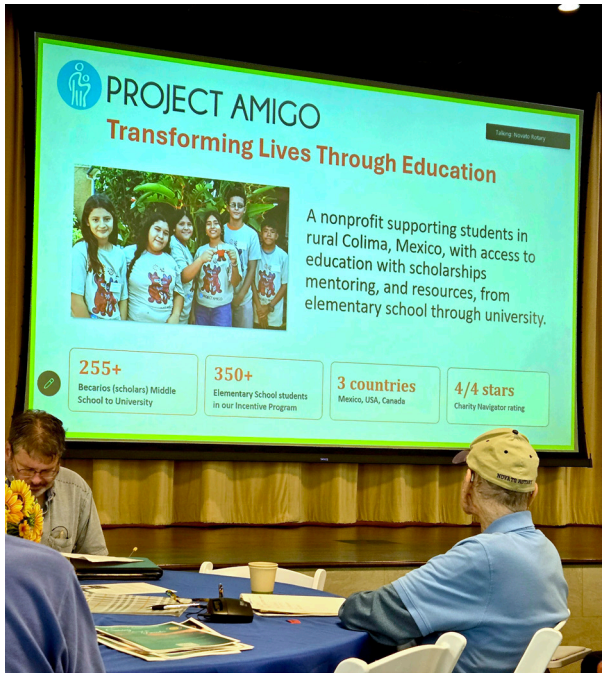
Evan Blacksea led us in the pledge and gave the thought for the day.

Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise President-Elect Mike Ring announced his Club's upcoming Cruise Fundraiser.

Jim Spilman (l) and Randy Baker announced upcoming RCN Community Service projects.

Phil Dougherty introduced our speaker.

Our speaker, Dora Zuniga from Project Amigo.



Project Amigo started as a service project of the Rotary Club of Novato from 1996 to 2002. Project Amigo is now an independent public charity.

Peian Harness is the contact person to volunteer for the upcomming Project Amigo "Career Week".