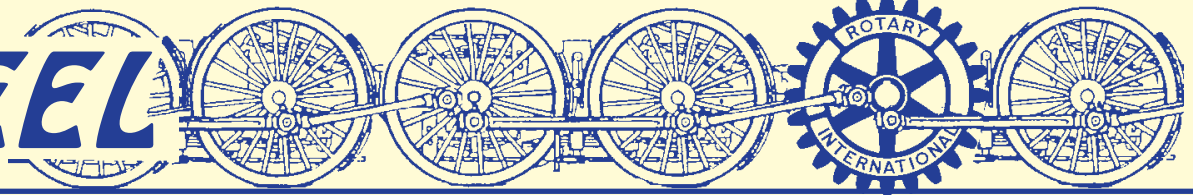


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



August 1, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 5
Editor:
The "Dean" of
Novato Rotary

Call to Order

Prez Lynn rang da bell. Whoops! There was no bell! There wasn't even a bicycle with a bell. We could have sang, "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead", but not even that.

The Pledge

Past Prez Peian Harness led the pledge and also quoted the 4-Way Test.

Thoughts for the Day

Past Prez Ron Harness gave us the thought for the day which was related to the 4-Way Test: "We live in an age of more communication than ever before and yet we often cannot trust what we see or hear. But there is a cure, and it starts with Rotary's Four Way Test. It begins with the simple question: Is it the TRUTH? Imagine if every post, every meeting, every conversation paused there. Honest words restore trust. Each of us can plant a seed of the honesty- In how we speak, how we listen, and how we lead."

Ron also had a few quotes from some very smart people: "Honesty is a very expensive gift. Don't expect it from cheap people." – **Warren Buffet**, "Being honest may not get you a lot of friends but it'll always get you the right ones." – **John Lennon**, "Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway." – **Mother Theresa** and **The Dahli Lama**,

"The first thing is be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself." - **Nelson Mandela**, "Every time we choose honesty, even in the smallest things, we lay another stone on the path toward a more trustworthy, peaceful and hopeful world." Warm Regards, **Ron Harness**.

Visiting Rotarians

Lisa Wilhelm from San Rafael Rotary joined us today along with **Jeff Moss** of the Terra Linda Rotary Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Eliza Avary Grady (Nohemi's grand daughter) and **Gary Lam** were guests of **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason**. **Evan Blackstone** (the photography expert) was a guest of **Mike Morrissey**. **Jen Marshall** and **Lamca Joss** were guests of **Prez Lynn Dawson**.

Birthdays!

Twelve of our members celebrate August birthdays. There were some busy parents in November and December! Those birthday boys and girls are **Tommy Lee**, **Lowell Smith**, **George Estes**, **Peter Rubens**, **Kyle Frazier**, **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason**, **Jim White**, **Chuck Hildebrand**, **Patty Dougherty**, **John Christman**, **Larry Harrison** and **Peian Harness**.

Wedding Anniversaries

Phil and **Laurie Dougherty** along with **Jeff** and **Nancy Slavitz** celebrate their thirty-fourth anniversaries. While **Larry** and **Marilu Mazzotta** celebrate their fifty-sixth anniversary!

Membership Anniversaries

Six members have Club Anniversaries for August. Sorry, no gold watches. They are **Bruce Palmer** with forty-five years, **Jim Carriere** (20), **John Cutrufelli** (19), **Penny Hanson** (9), **Maggie Shao** (5) and **Joy Fillman** (4).

Announcements

Sunshine

Lowell Smith could use some cars and notes. He could be doing better.

New Membership Roster

Patty Dougherty announced a new membership handout. It has names and photos. So, if you forget who you are just find your picture.

Foundation Raffle

Jorg told us the Foundation Donations will soon start and there's a raffle!

Featured Rotarians

Joy Fillman told us her biography. She's very deeply involved in helping others through her practice. She was great in last year's debunking. She is fascinated by how unique each of us are. (I think we each would find how unique we personally are).

There was another bio by **Past Prez Robert Marshall**. **Robert, Rob**, was born and raised in Marin County. **Rob** graduated from City College of San Francisco with a degree in Hotel Management. He worked for a couple of the large hotel chains after college, but eventually, **Rob** and his brother **John** bought The Alvarado Inn. At the time they bought it, The Alvarado Inn was a third rate motel which the **Marshall** brothers turned into a first class motel and restaurant (Rickey's).

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The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
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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?"

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Upcoming Programs & Events

August

Aug 8	San Marin High Robotics Team
Aug 15	Rotary / UN - Eric Schmautz
Aug 19	RCN Board Meeting - Marisa's House
Aug 22	Social! - At Christina Stroeh's home with Shawna McNulty performing (4 clubs)
Aug 29	5150 DG Visit - DG Mitone Griffiths & AG Judy Johnson

September

Sept. 5	Pickle Ball - Krishna Raichura
Sept. 12	Miwok Park - Picnic Meeting
Sept. 19	TBD
Sept. 26	TBD

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

They made it so nice that **Jo** and I had our Fiftieth wedding anniversary there.

The brothers have since sold Inn Marin and are now in the commercial property business. That industry is going through some trying times.

Speaker

Our program speaker today was, yes, **ROBERT MARSHALL! Rob** told us about his project H2Open Doors. They go to remote locations around the earth and provide access to safe drinking water to the remote villages and towns. Their last project was in Ecuador. Gee, I wonder if they had a chance to eat Guinea Pig (like **McDill** and I did during our Rotary Project Fair trip to Peru and Ecuador)?

What **Robert** and his group do (He's the President) is provide running, clean, water whether these villages can provide electricity or not. This is a complicated project, but they are very successful in their efforts. They are already planning their next project, which will be in Guatemala. So, contact **Robert** and sign-up!

Raffle

Reggie Winner was the winner! She took home pictures of **Abe Lincoln** and **Andy Jackson**.

One-Time Polo Opportunity!

Sunday, August 10th, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

President Lynn and Carl are inviting all RCN members to come watch their son, Michael, play polo at The Wine Country Polo Club in Santa Rosa. It is a private club; Carl and Lynn are going to host a simple field side BBQ for all the players, grooms and those involved in the game; and are being allowed to invite guests. The date is Sunday, August 10th, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Lynn will need your RSVP. Michael will give a history of the game, the rules, and will introduce you to one of his horses. Please bring a potluck side dish to share with the group. This is a one-time opportunity! If you are interested in polo and a lovely day on the field, **RSVP to LynnLDawson@comcast.net**.

Celebration of Life

Gregory Molloy

August 24, 1948 - June 13, 2025

Greg (husband of RCN member Marsha Molloy) was a Past District 5150 Governor and member of the Terra Linda Rotary Club.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Marin Yacht Club
21 Summit Ave, San Rafael
August 24, 2025 at 3:00PM



Maggie Shao at the final RYLA campfire.



District 5150's 39th Annual RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy) took place July 27-August 1 at Redwood Glen Camp in Scotts Valley. 130 High School Students, 25 Alumni leading team-building activities all week, and 30 Staff and Facilitators safeguarding students.



Ron Harness gave us thoughts for the day.



Jorg Westerheide let us know it is Foundation Raffle time.



Three generations of family. Nohemi is picture here with her daughter Kerry and granddaughter Eliza Avary Grady.



Chris DeGabriele was willing to get fined to let us know that a very small town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has a team in the Little League World Series.



Joy Fillman was a featured Rotarian.



H2Open Doors President Rob Marshall presented Ron Harness with a hat as a recognition of Ron's participation in the project in Ecuador.



The H2Open Doors Team in Ecuador.



Testing a solar powered filtration system.



During the H2Open Doors project they also brought the RACHEL sever system technology to students.



The team was treated by their hosts to tours and celebrations. One tour was of rose wholesaler. Here some very colorful roses were prepared for export.