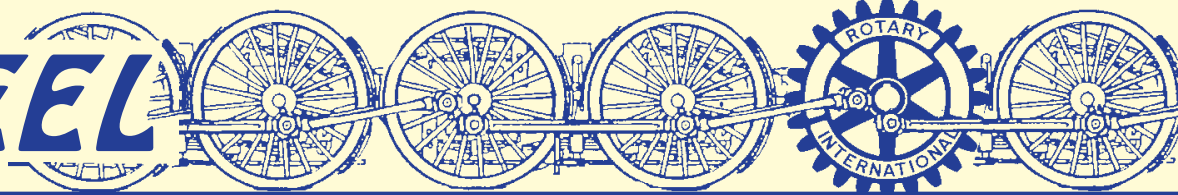


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**August 8, 2025**  
**Vol. 77, No. 6**  
**Editor:**  
**Chuck Wagon (Dean H)**

## Call to Order

**Prez Lynn** rang da bell and we were off and running.

## Pledge

**Maggie Shao** led us in the pledge

## Thought for the Day

**Marisa Remak** gave us the thoughts for the day: **Thomas Edison** quotes, 1) “When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this – you haven’t.”, 2) “I find out what the world needs. Then I go ahead and try to invent it.”, 3) “All progress, all success, springs from thinking.”, 4) “Wow! My electricity bill has gone way up!” 5) “I am going to start my own power company.”

## Visiting Rotarians

From the San Rafael Harbor Club, Polio Plus District Co-Chair **Hugh Murphy** visited us. He and his Co-Chair, **Past DG Russ Ketron**, did a skit on raising money and passed around a “Money Jar” to collect coins and bills for Polio Plus.

## Guests of Rotarians

**Mike Morrissey** again introduced his stepson, **Evan Blacksea**, who will be joining our Rotary Club! **Alan Dunham** intro’d his much better half, **Roberta**. While **Marisa Remak** intro’d her movie star daughter, **Sadie**. **Melinda Durfee** brought

**Marie Rios**. **Jim Botko** brought his pretty wife, **Kathy**. Our visual arts and audio expert **Rene Prado** introduced **Steve Vargas** and prospective member **Maysa Chankornapradit**. **Prez Lynn** brought **Grace Wong’s** nephew **Matt Chiang**.

## Announcements

### Get Well Soon!

It was announced that **Past President Bruce Palmer** is quite ill. He has a kidney problem and has had kidney dialysis. Please send him cards.

### Club Social Event

**Mark Bosch** announced our next social will be on Friday, August 22nd, at **Past Prez Christina Stroeh’s** home, at her outdoor theater. Early afternoon, 2pm – 5pm.

### I'm Walkin', Yes Indeed, I'm Walkin'

**Jeff Slavitz** told us we can move our legs in the NAMI walk on October 4th at McInnis Park, San Rafael.

### Rise Against Hunger

On August 23rd, there will be a packaging of food for very unfortunate people in other parts of the world. This event will be at **Druid’s** hall starting at 8am. Please sign up, contact **Chris Siefkas**.

## Lost in Space

Yes, **Robby the Robot** contacted **Prez Lynn** to provide her with a whole bunch of information on robots! Da Prez put together a bunch of questions about robots for us to answer:

1. What did the word “robot” originally mean?
  - A) Metal worker
  - B) Forced Labor
  - C) Machine Friend
  - D) Tech Wizard

2. Which movie features a robot named Wall-E?
  - A) Star Wars
  - B) iRobot
  - C) WALL-E
  - D) Terminator
3. Which of these is NOT a type of robot?
  - A) Humanoid
  - B) Mars Rover
  - C) Exoskeleton
  - D) Turtleneck
4. Which of these robots is from “Star Wars”?
  - A) R2-D2
  - B) Roomba
  - C) Optimus Prime
  - D) T-800
5. What programming language is commonly used in robotics?
  - A) JavaScript
  - B) Python
  - C) HTML
  - D) Scratch
6. What is a sensor commonly used in robotics to detect distance?
  - A) Thermometer
  - B) Accelerometer
  - C) Ultrasonic Sensor
  - D) Barometer
7. Which company created the humanoid robot “Atlas”?
  - A) Boston Dynamics
  - B) NASA
  - C) Sony
  - D) Tesla

# 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?"

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

**Rotary**  
Districts 9101, 9103, 9104,  
9111, 9112, 9126, 9127,  
9141, 9142

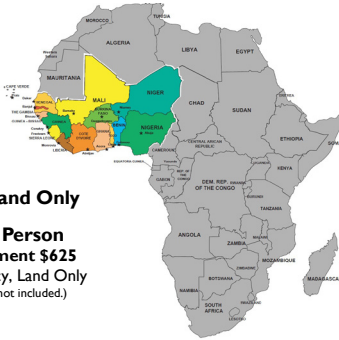


**November 4-13, 2025**  
**Lomé, Togo**

Includes polio  
immunization  
activities!

**8 Days • Land Only**

**\$1,899 Per Person**  
**Single Supplement \$625**  
Double Occupancy, Land Only  
(Round trip airfare not included.)



This week-long trip is a hands-on experience in working with the local Rotary clubs to participate in community service project, project site visits, friendships and learning how to support the Rotary projects of West Africa.

We spend two days in the field connecting with the local communities.

We attend **The West Africa Project Fair**, which showcases Rotary projects from 15 West African nations. It will be a time to learn, experience and see how you and your club can Unite for the Good of Africa.



### Howard Tours

526 Grand Ave. Oakland CA 94610 USA  
Tel: 800-475-2260; 510-834-2260  
Fax: 510-834-1019  
Info@HowardTours.net  
[www.HowardTours.net](http://www.HowardTours.net)  
Calif. Seller of Travel 101526-10



## Upcoming Programs & Events

### August

- 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 **Intelligent Justice** - Rick Grossman
- Sept. 26 **TBD**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Lynn Dawson**  
*President*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Vice President*

**Marisa Remak**  
*Secretary*

**Chris DeGabriele**  
*Treasurer*

**Francesco Arezzo**  
*R.I. President*

**Mitone Griffiths**  
*District Governor*

**Judy Johnson**  
*Assistant District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*

**Phil Dougherty**  
*Public Image & Awareness*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

**Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

**Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*

**Ross Millerick**  
*Youth Service*

**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*

8. Which robotics competition challenges students to design, build and program a robot to complete missions on a themed field?

- A) FIRST LEGO League
- B) BattleBots
- C) RoboCup
- D) Code Jam

9. In FIRST Robotics Competitions, what do students use to control the robot wirelessly?

- A) Game controller
- B) Cell Phone
- C) Voice Command
- D) Joystick

10. Which robot was designed to explore the surface of Mars?

- A) Curiosity
- B) TARS
- C) Megatron
- D) Rosie

**Robot Answers:** 1) Comes from Czech word “robota”, meaning forced labor; 2) WALL-E; 3) Turtleneck; 4) R2-D2; 5) Python; 6) Ultrasonic Sensor; 7) Boston Dynamics; 8) FIRST LEGO League; 9) Game Controller; 10) Curiosity

## Speaker

Our two speakers today are both seniors at San Marin High School. Their names are **Rehan Nazeem** and **Declan Field**. They talked about the exclusive robotic fairs that San Marin Robotics Teams have been invited to. Both **Rehan** and **Declan** are top students and have developed a tremendous amount of knowledge in the technologies related to robotics. They’ll be attending universities such as U.C. Berkeley.

## Raffle

I don’t know who won the raffle, but it was not me.



On Saturday, August 23rd, the Rotary Clubs in Novato will be jointly hosting a food packaging event for the “Rise Against Hunger” relief organization. The event will take place from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM at the Druid’s Hall (801 Grant Avenue, Novato) and we need additional volunteers for this event.

What better way to spend a couple hours on your Saturday morning?! So please consider signing up for this event. The link for volunteer sign-ups is <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/Rotary8/23/25> . See you there!

Chris Siefkas  
415-297-9007

## 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  
24 Summit Ave, San Rafael  
August 24, 2025 at 3:00PM

## Rotaplast International



### Bring Smiles to Children Around the World Bocce Ball Tournament and BBQ

Reservations or Tickets can be obtained below, at the event, or by calling  
Peter Lagarias (415) 902-6208

**Sunday – August 24, 2025**

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

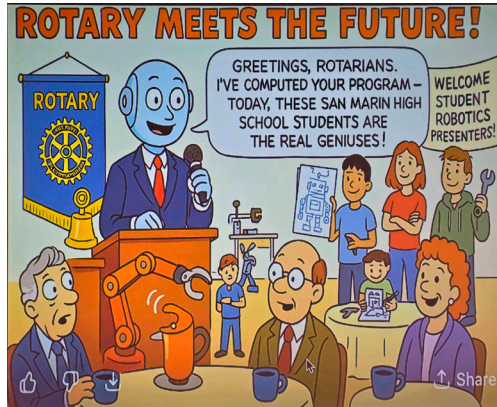
**A Benefit Supporting Our Mission to New Delhi, India  
Our Twentieth-First Year of Bocce Tournaments**

**Marin Bocce Ball Court  
550 “B” Street, San Rafael**

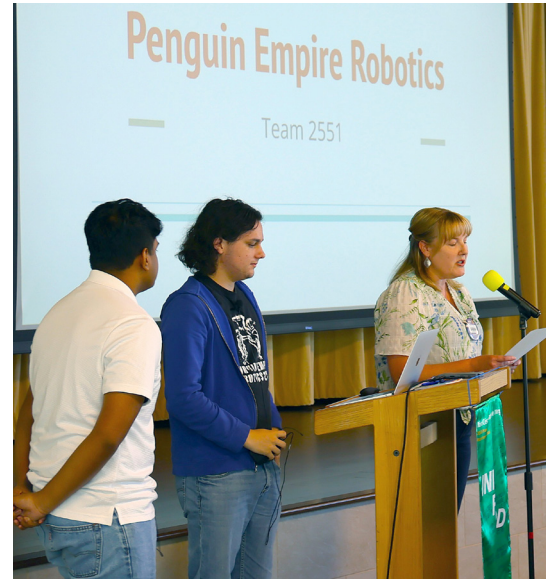
**Take Hwy. 101 to the Central San Rafael exit – proceed  
west on 3<sup>rd</sup> then south on B**



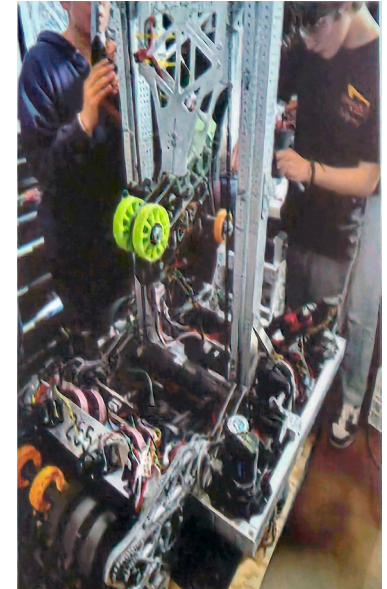
*Polio Plus District Co-Chairs  
Hugh Murphy and Russ Ketron,  
did a skit on raising money.*



*SMHS Robotics Team introductory slide.*



*Speaker Chair, Sasha D'Amico, introduces or  
speakers Rehan Nazeem and Declan Field.  
They are members of the San Marin High  
Penguin Empire Robotics Team.*



*Penguin Empire Team at work.*



*Moses Jacob was the  
"Featured Rotarian."*



*Melinda Durfee  
introduces her guest.*



*Rehan and Declan describe the  
exclusive robotics fair invites that  
the SMHS Robotics Team receives.*



*Lynn and Carl Dawson's son Michael is a Polo player. He explained the history and rules  
of Polo. The group was treated to watching a match and enjoyed a pot luck picnic.*



## President Lynn's Rotary Day at the Wine Country Polo Club

