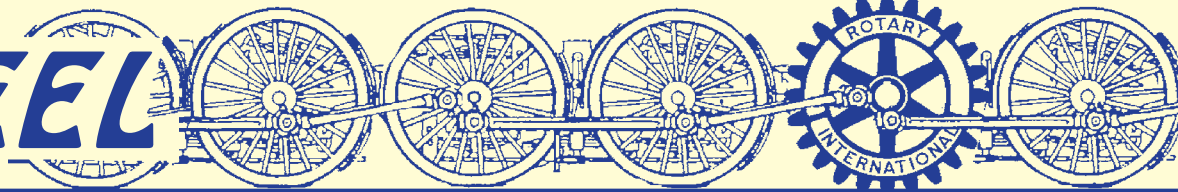


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**September 13, 2024**  
**Vol. 76, No. 9**  
**Editor:**  
**Bill Meelayder (Dean H.)**

## Call to Order & Pledge

Prez Tommy rang da bell and led the pledge himself and then requested a moment of silence to honor those victims of nine eleven that gave their lives trying to save others.

## Thought for the Day

Prez Tom reminded us that his father served our country as a police officer in Washington, D.C. for almost thirty years, so... Prez Tom gave us a brief thought for the day, quoting author, professor and veteran **Stephen Marboli**, "I will never forget what hate can destroy, but I also will never forget seeing what love can heal."

## Visiting Rotarians

**Jennifer Goldfinger** (no relation) from Ignacio Rotary was it.

## Guests of Rotarians

Sorry, I did not get down who our guests were, other than our speakers who'll be introduced later.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Craig McCurdy** and **Cindy Milano** were celebrating their birthdays today. Next Friday, the 20th is **Craig Anderson's** birthday. Buy him a drink at our happy hour. One wedding anniversary, **Jim** and **Kathy Botko** are celebrating 24 happy years.

## Announcements

### Sad Passing

There will be a service for former member **Dick Steinbach**, who passed away on July 25th. The service will be on October 19th at Our Lady of Loretto Church, followed by a reception at Hop Monk. In his will, **Dick** left \$2,000 to our Club. Thank you **Dick**!

### Party by Ignacio Rotary

**Jennifer Goldfinger** announced that they're having a comedy night on Saturday, September 21 at 5pm. There will be burgers and brews.

### Go to Trek!

Next Friday, September 20th there's no meeting. We're going to Trek Winery from 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

### NAMI! NAMI! How I Love Ya!

Yes, the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), on October 5th is having a walk at McInnis Park from 9am to 12pm to help families affected by mental illness. This is a Rotary District 5150 (ours) fundraiser.

### It's a Bird! It's a Plane! No, It's the Blue Angels!

Yes! On Saturday October 12th from 8am to 5pm for our annual Rotary District 5150 fundraiser. A day aboard the U.S.S. Hornet aircraft carrier where we can watch the Blue Angels flying above us; This will be a great event!

### Where are the Jokes?

Neither **Suzanne Bales** nor **Peter Oser** had a joke, so each paid up instead.

### Trivia Contest – Inventions

Everyone remembered **Thomas Edison** invented the light bulb, but no one remembered that **Benjamin Franklin** invented electricity and he only needed a kite to do it!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Rotary Social at Trek Winery**  
**1026 Machin Ave. • Novato**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup> • 4:30-6 pm**

No Host Bar (*some appetizers will be provided*)

We will gather out in the patio  
A bit of bonus – our own Dennis Hagerty and his band are playing at 7:30 pm  
Feel free to bring friends, spouses, and significant others  
Suzanne Bales • Cell 415 250 4859

## Speakers

**Moses Jacob** introduced our speakers, **Jeff Saperstein** and **Dick Spotswood**. They each talked about war in Israel. Israel is a country created by the United Nations but there were many, many Jewish people in what is now Israel for centuries before Israel was created by the U.N. They both talked about Iran wanting to eliminate Israel and that what should happen there is that Gaza should not be turned into a separate country, but Gaza should be policed by Israel.

## Raffle

**Lynn Dawson** took home two Hamiltons and a Lincoln.

# 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



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

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

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### September

- Sept. 20 **Social at Trek Winery**  
Sept. 27 **Julie Cohne: Sustaining Arts - Rain Forest**

### October

- Oct. 4 **Danica Remy: President Asteroid Institute**  
Oct. 9 **Board Meeting**  
Oct. 11 **No Meeting**  
Oct. 18 **US Marines Colonel Kearny: On Ukraine**  
Oct. 25 **No Meeting**

### November

- Nov. 1 **Frank Falzon: Lighter Side of Homicide**  
Nov. 8 **Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM)**  
Nov. 13 **Board Meeting**  
Nov. 15 **Meeting**  
Nov. 22 **Jay Alexander: Magician**  
Nov. 25 **No Meeting**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Tom Rickey**  
*President*

**Lynn Dawson**  
*Vice President*

**Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*

**Al Shirley**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*

**Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*

**Peter Rubens**  
*Public Image & Awareness*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

**Roy Pfeifer & Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability  
(NR-CAT)*

**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*

## Upcoming International Project Fairs And Travel Opportunities

Would you like to learn more about the projects of Rotary clubs in other countries? Would you like to get acquainted with Rotarians in other countries? If so, consider attending a Rotary Project Fair where multiple clubs in one or more countries come together to present their projects and look for international sponsors.

Below are multiple virtual and in-person country project fairs you can participate in starting in September. The information that is currently shown at Rotary.org about these fairs is listed below. Any Rotarian is welcome to attend and learn more about the projects being offered by clubs in these different countries.

### **Cambodia Academy Visit In Mongkoi Borei, Cambodia - October 2024**

In 2004, District 5150's current International Service Chair, John Barrett of the San Mateo Rotary Club, and his Rotary friends founded the Cambodia Academy in Mongkol Borei, Cambodia. Currently it has 345 grade school students in grades 1-9, and employs 20+ teachers and administrators. He is heading back to Cambodia for his 31st visit this coming October to visit our school and tour this country. Let him know if you're interested in joining him, and he will fill you in on all the details.

Contact: John Barrett, San Mateo Rotary Club, [John@barrettblock.com](mailto:John@barrettblock.com)

### **West Africa Project Fair (Accra, Ghana) - Hybrid Event - October 29 - November 5**

Participant districts: 9104 (host), 9101, 9103, 9111, 9112, 9126, 9127, 9141, 9142 covering projects in 15 countries.

The Hosting Organizing Committee has put together an interesting line up of activities for all participants in the fair: West Africa Rotary Project Fair and Rotary Family Health Days

Registration: <https://rotarywapf.org/>

Howard Tours in Oakland, CA is organizing a trip to this Project Fair and participation in the Health Days [www.howardtours.net](http://www.howardtours.net)

Need more info? mail to: [wapfghana@gmail.com?subject=West%20Africa%20Project%20Fair](mailto:wapfghana@gmail.com?subject=West%20Africa%20Project%20Fair)

### **District 4195 Project Fair (Mexico) Virtual Event - Saturday, November 9 At 9:30 Am Cst**

Information and Registration: <https://feriadeproyectos4195.org/>

### **Ecuador Project Fair (Quito) - November 2024**

Information: <https://projectsfair-rotaryecuador.org/>

### **Uniendo America Project Fair (Panama) - January 23-25, 2025**

Information Email: mail to: [feriadeproyectos@rotarydistrito4240.org](mailto:feriadeproyectos@rotarydistrito4240.org)

### **Colombia Project Fair (Medellin) - January 31 - February 2-3 2025**

Information Email: mail to: [wapfghana@gmail.com?subject=Colombia Project Fair](mailto:wapfghana@gmail.com?subject=Colombia Project Fair)





*Pres Tom gives Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> welcome.*



*Cruise Director Rob Oct. 2025 sign-up.*



*Jim needs help for debris removal in Bahia Lagoon.*



*Jeff Saperstein describes the Israel dynamics.*



*Moses Jacob introduces our Speakers.*



*Speaker Dick Spotswood talks about Israel/Gaza.*



*We honor our 9-11 First Responders.*



*Rotary Club of Novato supported Debris Box.*



*Rotary Club of Novato Community Service Bahia Lagoon cleanup.*



*Bahia Marsh Restoration Project  
Kelsey Lombardi  
Director with Jeane  
Rodgers.*



*Jim Carriere, Jim Spilman, Larry Mazzotta and Penny from RCN Sept. 14, 2024.*



*Rise Against Hunger, a combined Novato Project Sept 14.*