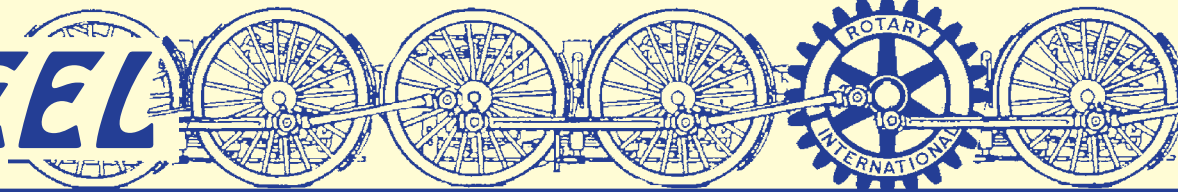


The BIG WHEEL

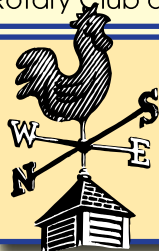


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



September 22, 2023

Vol. 75, No. 12

Editor:

Larry Harrison

In the Beginning...

The Bell rung at 12:20 pm by **Pres Phil. Fred Anderson** led the Pledge. **Robert Marshall** did the 'Thought of the Day': "*Loyalty is a feature in a Scout's character that inspires boundless hope.*" and "*The real way to get happiness is by giving our happiness to other people.*" **Lord Baden-Powell.**

The Club met today at **Christina's Stroeh's** home. Beautiful SLOPING back yard. You can almost see the stage **Christina** built from the upper terrace. Wonderful location for a meeting. Thanks, **Christina!**

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians: **David Stompe** (wearing lederhosen) from Sunrise announced Sunrise's Oktoberfest. **David** sold tickets and grabbed at his hosenträger.

Guests of Rotarians: **Chris DeGabriele** brought wife **Joni**; **Russ Ketron** brought his first wife **Kathy**; **Peter Oser** brought **Jackson Coster**.

Announcements

Speaker Series

Gary Bramon and **Pres. Phil** each contributed information as to the next speaker on September 28. **Dr. Michael Blodgett, Ph.D.** will speak on several topics including Iran. **Gary** informed us that 99 tickets will be sold by the end of next week.

Coastal Clean-Up

Pres. Phil reminded us that on Saturday, August 24 we will attend Coastal Clean-up at Scottsdale Pond.

Blue Badge

Peter Pelavin was awarded his Blue Badge; however, **Peter** did not attend the meeting to receive it. Feels like a recognition coming up!

District Walk for Mental Health

Jeff Salvitz (who also did not attend) announced through **Pres. Phil** on October 7 there will be a District walk at McGinnis Park to promote the need for Mental Health in conjunction with NAIM.

The Speaker

Before our speaker **Michael Dybeck** began his talk **George Estes** spoke to us from above the assembled Club (lucky him) recounting stories of the many decades he has been involved in scouting. **George** attended the 75th Anniversary of Marin's Scout Camp 'Marin Sierra'. **George** and his parents attended Marin Sierra for many years together. **George's** mom was a cook, and his dad was the Camp Director. **George** attended the camp as a small child in the 50's, a scout during the 60's and 70's, and an Assistant Troop Leader during the 90's. Four generations of **George's** family have been involved in the scout programs. In 1989 & 1993 **George** attended the National Jamboree with **Jim Spilman** before **Jim** joined Rotary. (Can't believe **Jim** wasn't in Rotary). Finally, **George** participated in Scouting's High Adventure Camp at Philmont Ranch in New Mexico. Hiking from 1-2 days up to 14 days and 50 miles. Don't want to miss **BAD George** breaking the rules. Hanging out by the railroad tracks during Order of the Arrow with his fellow scouts dressed in Native American attire, jumping, and hollering like...Native Americans scaring the folks on the train heading to Utah.

Russ Ketron introduced our speaker **Michael Dybeck**, Scout Executive & CEO of the Marin Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA). **Michael** has served as CEO of Marin scouting for over 20 years. Scouting is open to boys and girls from kindergarten to a person's 21st birthday. The pinnacle of scouting is being awarded the Eagle Scout Award. Only 4% of scouts attend this level of scouting. There have only been 24 men who have walked on the moon. 20 of them have been Eagle Scouts. **President Gerald Ford** was an Eagle Scout. There have also been 3 Governors of states who attained the high award.

The mission of scouting is for young people to make moral, ethical decisions, and learn skills.

Some Merit Badges to earn:

- Communications Merit Badge: Write emails, letters, learn to toast, make a speech.
- Citizenship Merit Badge: Help a neighbor, friend, join a committee.
- Cooking Merit Badge: Budgeting for food, cooking what's in the cabinet.

Michael told us he would never have a date in college if he didn't know how to cook. Skills he picked up in scouting.

There are 140 Merit Badges available. New badges include: Composite Materials, Photography, and Cinema.

A quote **Michael** gave us "Scouts are individuals acceptable at a dance and invaluable in a shipwreck." **Michael** spoke of the importance of a spark. What is a spark? One thing you do every day you know you doing it makes you a complete person. Spending time with friends, cooking with your family.

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?"

featuring
**Dr. Michael
Blodgett, Ph.D.**



**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
September 28 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Michael Blodgett grew up in Los Angeles and after graduating High School, enlisted in the Army as an Intelligence Analyst. He served with the 9th Infantry Division and Special Operations Command. He received his BA in Political Science from UCLA and went to graduate school at UCSB where he received his Ph.D. in History. He taught history at CSUCI until 2020, when he accepted his current job with the Air Force as an historian for the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base.

Introduced to Communism early—his grandfather, interestingly enough, was a Communist. He studied Communism and American diplomatic and military history with a focus on the Cold War and taught these subjects at CSUCI. He has a keen interest in global radicalism and terrorism, and had developed classes on these subjects for CSUCI. In addition to his work with the Air Force, he independently lectures on subjects including American international relations

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10

Where to Make Up

Contact the Club you wish to attend for dates, time and virtual meeting code. The District website lists the Clubs and websites for contact info at:

Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/

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Upcoming Programs

September 2023

Sept. 29 No Meeting (TGIF at the Dunham's)

October 2023

Oct. 6 TBA

Oct. 13 **Tracy Smith**, Superintendent of Novato Unified School District

November 2023

Nov. 3 **Mark Dale**, Founder of Families for Safe Schools and Co-Founder of RX Marn and OD Free Main.

Nov. 10 **Brian Sobel**, Consultant for Sobel Communications and author of "The Fighting Patton's"

Nov. 17 **Bill Bradfield** discusses the "almost" last battle of the American Civil War

Nov. 24 **Happy Thanksgiving!**

December 2023

Dec. 1 **Hawi Yema**, Ethiopian Refugee

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Sonia Seeman
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Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Rob Haff
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Peian Harness
Past President

Girls make up 15% of the Scouting BSA population in Marin. There is still a Girl Scout of the USA presence in Marin. Both groups work together hand in hand.

There are 1,500 families in the Marin Council, and 250 councils nationally. Numbers are down because of COVID.

There are 17 Scout Troops in Marin, 11 Cub Scout Packs and 8 Explorer Scout Troops working with Marin Fire and Police Departments.

Pres. Phil received a compass as a gift from our speaker.

The Winner

Peter Oser won the 25er.

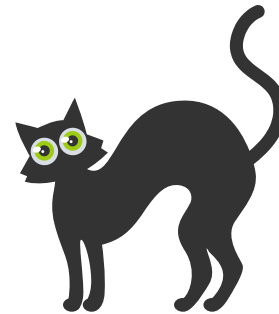
Reminder

Saturday, September 23, 2023, is Finnegans and Sunday is Trailhead Café to help Lahaina.

October

SPECIAL DATES

- 10-10 Gloria Dunn-Violin & Don Violin
- 10-11 Michele & Bill Vespa
- 10-12 Lori Frugoli
- 10-18 Dean Heffelfinger
- 10-24 Chris & Joni DeGabriele
- 10-25 Christopher Mychajluk
- 10-26 Greg & Marsha Molloy
- 10-26 Homa Rassouli
- 10-30 Ed Ross



Rotary Photo Album



Heart for Lahaina Dine and Donate at Las Guitarras with Hula dancers from the Hale Hula Dance Troop.



Pres. Phil at the Trailhead Dine & Donate for Heart of Lahaina Fundraiser



**Rotary District 5150
Marin Stigma Busters**

October 7, 2023



@ McInnis Park
San Rafael, CA

Join us! Walk or donate!

Team page: namiwalks.org/team/59711
Team Captain: [Jeff Slavitz](#), Rotary Club of Novato



#Together4MH



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



www.empathyestateplanning.com



Novato Rotary Clubs plus friends spread to 3 inland Novato waterways with gloves, bags and tongs.



Susan Stompe organizes the Saturday Novato Litter Clean-Up on her 25th year.



Gloria Dunn-Violin, Rotary Club of Novato Environmental Chair, with Susan Stompe.



Trash from the clean-up.



Rotarians at work!



Michael Dybeck, CEO of Marin Council Boy Scouts of America.



Rotarian's listening to our speaker in Christina Stroeh's beautiful backyard.