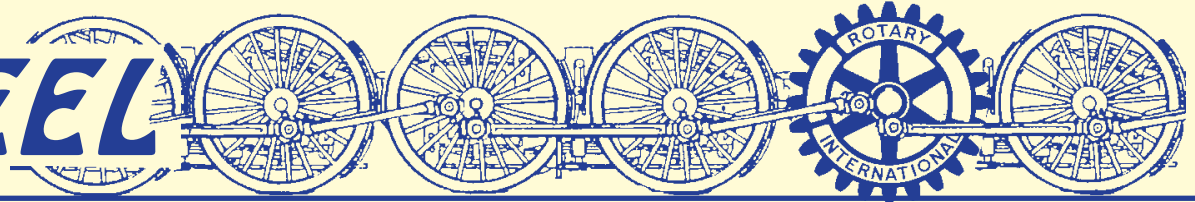


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



September 5, 2025

Vol. 77, No. 10

Editor:

Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

There was a bit of a kerfuffle, our lunch caterer was late in setting up (word is they were understaffed and preparing for a big event immediately following our lunch meeting and lost track of time to serve our lunch). **President Lynn** adapted and we started with introductions and announcements and the lunch of teriyaki chicken, broccoli, rice, roast potatoes, green salad, watermelon and chocolate chip cookies, delayed but finally arrived.

Pledge & Thought

Chuck Hildebrand had us join with him in the pledge to the flag, and **Moses Jacob** forgot he was giving the thought of the day. **Prez Lynn** gave us an Icebreaker topic to discuss at our table, "Would you rather plan a party or attend a party?"

Guests and Visitors

From Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise, **President Elect Carol-Joy Harris**, **Youth Services Chair Bill Davis**, and **Foundation Treasurer Rick Beach**, Rotary Club of Ignacio **President Charley Vogt** came with a big check (more later). Our old friend came in from Wet Mountain Valley Colorado, **Dennis Hagerty**. **Russ Ketron** brought wife **Kathy**. Three new applicants to our Club were introduced by **Prez Lynn**, **Mary Jane Waxler**, **Laura Joss**, and **Gary Lam**.

Announcements

Waiting for our lunch we commenced with announcements.

COM Events

Melinda Durfee had flyers and announced College of Marin Alumni Hunt Contest and those helping will enter a drawing to win an Apple Pie. Also look forward to a fun-run sponsored by COM.

Clearly not Black

Jim Spilman raved about the clear waters at Bahia Lagoon where volunteers are needed to dismantle some old docks on Sept. 27 from 9am to 1pm.

Endowment Fundraiser

Peter Pelavin asked again for help to gather from retailers and businesses for both silent and live auction items for our upcoming Endowment fundraising event.

Nearby Rotary Club Fundraisers

Other club fundraisers **Carol-Joy Harris** had flyers for Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise 12th Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 18 from 5:30 - 9pm at Greek Orthodox Church. **Charley Vogt** distributed flyers for the BBQ, BREWS & COMEDY quickly coming up on September 20 here at the Jonas Center Tickets \$100 with a great lineup of comedians.

AV Equipment Improvements

We now have a AV/Tech cart for sound board and computer, working out the bugs for volume and will help with setup and breakdown for meetings with rolling cart versus new setup every meeting.

Miwok Picnic on Friday September 12 - Noon

Reminder our off-site meeting will be held at Miwok Park, 2200 Novato Blvd. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. **John Cutrufelli** will be Grill Master serving up chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Please join the end-of-summer picnic.

Community Cares/Sunshine Report

Show your support by sending a note or card for fellow Rotarians: **Reggie Winner** let us know **Bill Vespa's** mom had passed away. **Marty Wickenheiser** talked with **Don Violin**, he's not doing well and grandkids are coming into town to visit, please no calls, but cards appreciated.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Lots of Birthdays in September. **Al Shirley**, **John Reuscher**, **Craig McCurdy**, **Cindy Milano**, **Art Crofts**. Many wedding anniversaries - **Larry & Chris Harrison** 52 years; live sighting of **Tom & Suzanne Bales** 51 years; **Delyn & Nick Kies** 51 years; **Christopher & Lucia Mychajluk** 38 years; **Jim & Kathy Botko** 25 years; **Dean & Jo Heffelfinger** 60 years; **Tommy & Tara Lee** 12 years. Member anniversaries - **Russ Ketron** 42 years; **Dave Kapranos** 42 years; **Phil Brown** 34 years; **Jim Botko** 30 years; **Tom Rickey** 22 years; **Peian Harness** 15 years; **Homa Rassouli** 11 years; **Ryan Pocock** 5 years; **Roy Pfeifer** 5 years.

Youth Leadership Novato

Mission Statement to help students connect with their community through monthly sessions with local leaders, hands on activities, and career exploration, building confidence and inspiring involvement and impact on their community. **Prez Lynn** was active in her Denver Rotary Club for 14 years on Youth Leadership Program and is this year initiating a similar program here with the support from Rotary Club of Ignacio (**Charley Vogt** brought a photo op huge check) and Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise - **Bill Davis** said that the past belongs to us and the future belongs to our youth.

Continued on page 3

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?"

Mike Robbins

Embracing Change: Thriving Through Uncertainty

Thurs., October 23, 2025

7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Mike Robbins, sought after keynote speaker and bestselling author, for a thoughtful, engaging, and interactive talk on how to navigate change and achieve deeper trust, better collaboration, and greater results.

With decades of experience from pro baseball to Silicon Valley, and an expert in teamwork, leadership, and emotional intelligence, Mike's clients include Google, Microsoft, Genentech, eBay, the NBA, Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, GAP, and the San Francisco Giants

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
ESTATE PLANNING

www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

September

- Sept. 12 **Miwok Park** - Picnic Meeting
- Sept. 19 **Intelligent Justice** - Rick Grossman
- Sept. 26 **TGIF Social** - At Home Care Givers

October

- Oct. 3 **Community Service Report**- Jim & Marcus
- Oct. 10 **Homeward Bound** - Off-Site Meeting
- Oct. 17 **World Photography** - Jim Codington
- Oct. 23 **Novato Speaker Series** - Mike Robbins
- Oct. 24 **Non-Spaghetti Feed**- at the McDill's Home
- Oct. 31 **No Meeting**

November

- Nov. 7 **Guide Dogs for the Blind** -

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President

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Secretary

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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

There are 18 students starting this 9 month program from Novato, San Marin, and Marin Oaks high schools starting soon with their first meeting at City Hall with the mayor.

Speaker

Moses Jacob introduced our speaker, **Krishna Raichura**, founder of Pickleball Organized. **Krishna** gave a brief biography of her family originally from East Africa and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania and then the family moved to the East Coast of the US where she went to school in Maryland studying GIS/IT. 20 years ago she moved to SF Bay Area for a tech career, spending her first 10 years in SF, then the last 10 years in Novato. **Krishna** was a tennis player and things pivoted during COVID and people started playing pickleball and she saw a need for organizing this new sport and founded her organization. History of Pickleball started in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, Washington State with a modified badminton net and ping pong paddles and wiffle ball. Interesting fact is that Novato Hill St. Park and Rec are the only free public Pickleball courts (6) in Marin. Other courts are at private clubs and popularity is growing as it's an easy entry sport. Current stats are 4.8 million play in the US. Basics of Pickleball, Court is 44' x 20', underhand serve, and 11 points to win. The mission of Pickleball Organized is to make pickleball accessible and organized for everyone. There are classes, clinics, events, socials, travel adventures and you can find more information at Pickleball Organized website at <https://www.pickleballorganized.com/>. Let's Dink Together!

Raffle

\$25 Raffle Winner this week, **John Christman!**

Miwok Picnic Meeting! Friday, September 12th, at Noon

Bring an appetizer, side salad or dessert. John Cutrufelli will BBQ chicken, burgers and hot dogs.

**BBQ
BREWS &
COMEDY!!**

Rotary
Club of Ignacio

September 20, 2025
5:30 PM

BILL & ADELE JONAS CENTER
Indian Valley Campus, College of Marin

TICKETS ~ \$100

VIP SPONSORSHIP TABLES ~ \$1,500
Seating for 8, Special Recognition and Wines at Table

Information & Tickets
Last Day to Purchase Tickets
September 17th
<https://tinyurl.com/46rx925v>



BBC4

**BBQ BREWS
AND COMEDY**



ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO SUNRISE

12TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Greek Orthodox Church (Ignacio) 1110 Highland Dr., Novato, CA



RCNS Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3). Taxable value of ticket: \$30.



This is our Club tech system, moving from lunch table to sturdy compact, wheeled shelf unit to reduce continuous assemble and disassemble weekly described by John Reuscher who saw a need and filled it with Board approval and help from Jim Spilman and Mark Bosch. John also adds that this will save wear and tear and reduced replacement costs on more than 30 connectors in this system that get stressed and wear out from plugging and unplugging at every meeting. Penny Hansen



Check presentation for the Youth Leadership Novato Program. A joint project of the Rotary Club of Novato, Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise and Rotary Club of Ignacio.



Former RCN member Past President Dennis Hagerty visited from Colorado.



P.E. Peter Pelavin asks for auction items to support our Endowment Fundraiser.



Our speaker, Krishna Raichura, founder of Pickleball Organized.



Time for announcements from the Rotary Clubs of Ignacio, Sunrise and former RCN member Dennis Hagerty, visiting from Wet Mountain Valley, CO.