

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

THE ACORN August 10, 2015



Speaker **Bill Wittich** and his wife **Ann**.

Dr. Bill Wittich is a speaker, consultant, and coach in the field of leadership, motivation, and nonprofit management. Bill earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California, and taught at California State University, Long Beach.. He is also the author of eight books.

For the past fifteen years, Bill and his wife Ann, have traveled an average of 200 days a year. Their speaking schedule has taken them to all corners of the United States and through much of Europe. They speak to non-profit organizations, government agencies, and professional associations.



Guest and Passport Club member **Carol Langley**

Rotary has had 1.2 million members worldwide for the past 25 years. The number has remained stagnant, because as many members are leaving Rotary as are joining. In North America, membership has been slowly declining over the past twenty years. As part of the effort to increase membership, Rotary asked Bill Wittich and his wife, Ann, to start a Passport Club. Bill came to share with us this new idea for a club whose main goals are to retain Rotary members who might otherwise leave and to attract younger members.

The Passport Club is the 41st club in District 5180. It is an e-club, that is, electronic. This club was formed primarily to address Rotary membership issues:

- Getting insufficient numbers of new members
- Inability to keep many of the new members
- Not bringing people in that we really need
- Not recruiting past Interact and Roteract members
- Not recruiting young members
- Not involving young family members of Rotarians

Bill did a survey to find the common denominators for why Rotary loses members and found them to be:

- Can't afford the time or the money
- Overcommitted and Rotary is not a priority or burned out
- Moving and might join another club when get settled
- Young parent/takes too much time with family and work commitments

Bill found that most left Rotary for serious reasons – they loved Rotary but just couldn't commit time and funds.

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The Passport Club addresses these issues by eliminating meetings, reducing dues, and providing flexibility as to what projects or events in which they choose to participate. Members may attend the meetings of any of the other 40 clubs at will and choose to participate in projects, events and fundraisers within any of those clubs.

- Dues are \$120/year.
- Members have a forty hour/year minimum-service obligation.
- There are four meetings per year – but they are essentially social events and not formal Rotary meetings
- There are no weekly meetings, which reduces costs to members
- A member cannot be a member of a Rotary club and the Passport club
- There are no service projects or fundraisers
- Members have access to My Rotary, Rotary Annual Giving and they have a Foundation chair. They may also attend District training and serve in District positions.

The passport club has leadership and a board. Mike Reinero is their current President – Mike has been a member of the Roseville Club for many years and under his leadership his club was named one of the top 3 clubs in the world at the 2012 Rotary International Convention.

The club was chartered in May of this year and they have grown from 51 to 65 members:

- 37% of their members have never been Rotarians
- 33% are returning Rotarians
- 31% are transferring from other Rotary clubs

The Passport Club is a source of manpower for each of the forty clubs in District 5180 and also a source of new members and other people's money! The hope is that Passport Club Rotarians will transfer into one of the other clubs in the district when time, money or other factors are no longer preventing them from being a member of a bricks-and-mortar club and that Rotarians who are thinking about leaving Rotary will transfer into the Passport Club and continue to be Rotarians. Our Communications Chair is already sharing our newsletter with the Passport Club and we will be able to contact their Service Chair to share opportunities to participate in service projects and help with fundraisers.

Although there are no meetings, the Passport Club does have mixers and social events for fellowship. We hope that our club members will attend some of these mixers and welcome any Passport Club visitors warmly when they come to our meetings or pitch in to help with a project or fundraiser!

Reporter: Karen Romines

Words of Wisdom Charlie Blatchford



I write down everything
I want to remember.
That way, instead of spending
A lot of time trying to remember
What I wrote down,
I spend time looking for the paper
I wrote it down on.

(Ed Note: Hey, I do that sometimes as perhaps do some of the rest of us.)



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

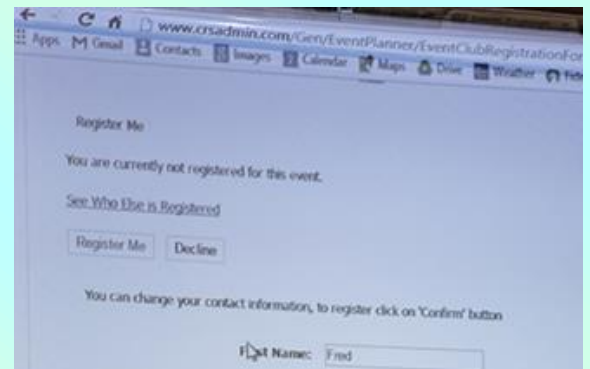


Our new inbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student is Stine Nikolajsen (pronounced Steena Nickoliasen). She is from Ringsted Denmark, she will be a junior at Del Campo High School and she will turn 16 on October 11.

Stine (in the photo to the right) brought a present for the club: a banner from the Rotary club of Ringsted, Denmark.



Joedda Wick has completed all of her requirements for full membership in the club and had her red ribbon removed. She was accompanied on stage by her sponsor, **Cathy Smallhouse** and her mentor, **Jeanne Maloney**.



Fred Rowe continued to market the upcoming annual District 5180 Foundation Dinner by demonstrating the procedure for online registration. A partial screen shot from Fred's presentation is shown above.

The title of the Dinner is "Rotary Night on the Red Carpet" and is described as "Oscar Night at the Foundation Dinner". According to Fred, "this will not be your father's foundation dinner".

Web address for more information: <http://rotary5180.org/event/b403b0b1-2499-4cff-8ab4-e277cb877dd4/>

Web address for online registration: <https://d5180.yapsody.com/event/index/15416>

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



On August 24th, District Governor Glenn Fong and his wife, Elise, will be attending our meeting. Elise was in Brazil for the Rotary International Convention and was deeply saddened by the living conditions of the children in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, which are called “favelas” in Brazil. She is supporting Project Favela, which works to bring joy into the lives of these children. This is not a literacy project, but a project to bring fun/joyful things to children of all ages – this might be chalk, drawing supplies, jewelry, flip flops. Each club in District 5180 is collecting things that children in a favela might need. Anne Browning is heading up our club’s efforts to help support this cause and is asking that club members donate items (she suggests shopping at the Dollar Tree or similar stores) throughout the year but would like to have a box full of items to present to Elise Fong at the meeting on August 24th.



Dawn Abatamarco thanked the club doing a good job on clean up and passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide center pieces for the tables.

In a similar vein, Dianna Cralle thanked everyone who RSVP’ed for the meeting. Now, if you don’t RSVP, you can still pay at the door and enjoy an excellent meal – but you won’t get a ticket and therefore won’t be eligible to win a free dinner or have a shot at the Ace of Spades.



Linda Aseltine promoted the upcoming Rotary District 5180 golf tournament. This is the fifth annual Governor’s Cup Golf Tournament. The proceeds will benefit the Camp Fire Day Camp (located at River Bend Park) renovation project. Volunteers are needed for this event and hopefully the club will have a foursome again this year.

The tournament will be held on September 29, 2014 at the Valley Hi CC-Elk Grove. It will be a Shotgun Scramble. The cost will be \$150.00 per player. Club Sponsorships are \$100 which includes entry for Governor’s Cup Award and one tee sign. For more info contact: beth@mcnellis.com OR c.parkins@comcast.net
Webpage: <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Accounts/50145/EventPlanner/9ea3566f-8a2e->

Ray Ward announced that there is a zone level membership training class this Saturday, August 15th at the Courtyard Marriott by UCD. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. Call Ray or Alice for details.

August is membership month! We need to share our organization with the community. Diana and Alice have challenged us to invite at least one person to a meeting. Oreo cookies were handed out to share with a person a member would invite with our meeting information on it. Oreo stands for Outreaching Everyone!

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the Happy fines

- Fred Rowe – had fun glamping but also paid a sad fine as he is certain he did not cheat!! LG fined him because his action cost Team Kyle a DQ in one of the games. (Ed Note: it has been alleged that Fred cheated during one of Maggie's team games.) (Ed Note 2: I think "glamping" means "glamour camping" or something similar)
- Lucy Martin – First granddaughter born August 14
- James Mann, Jr. – Paid a happy fine for turning 10!
- Gus Ballis - Paid for a wonderful birthday party Shelley threw for him and a fun time participating in Lunar Lunacy with Fred and Alice – a biking event by another Rotary club
- Diana and Jim Cralle - for their 42nd wedding anniversary
- Alice Rowe - for a fun camping trip and being on winning Team Lucy!!
- Stine - For her first meeting!! She was at Lake Francis over the weekend and was totally enjoyable!! What a great year this will be with her!
- Mazzy paid a fine for her first glamping trip and winning the Oreo cookie contest – moving an Oreo from forehead to mouth with no hands!
- Dianna paid a fine for dropping her phone in the toilet this weekend – a non-flushed toilet!
- Buzz was fined for "you know what".

More Announcements

Saint Francis Episcopal Church is now holding a Senior Produce Market every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Their primary goal is bring produce of outstanding quality at reasonable prices. The market is open to all and is no income test. They welcome special orders. Saint Francis is located at 11430 Fair Oaks Blvd.

The **annual club photo** will be taken at the August 31 meeting. Please attend and arrive early. We want as many members as possible in attendance for the photo.

The **Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation** will meet on August 15. The Foundation Board typically meets two or three times per year. All members are invited. The meeting will be held at the Primrose Clubhouse at 5200 Primrose Ave. Some highlights from the agenda are:

- An investment report and discussions on other financial matters
- An update by Pete Schroeder on his plans for fundraising efforts and the relationship between the Club and the Foundation
- Election of Foundation directors and officers for a two-year term of office

More info on the **District RI Foundation Dinner**:

Date: November 7, 2015 from 6:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: Doubletree Hotel at 2001 Point West Way in Sacramento

Details: Event Chair Jack Arney promises, "This won't be your father's Foundation Dinner."

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The Meeting: Comic Relief

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is extremely active with probably upwards of 100 organized meetings and events every year, including committee meetings. That's a lot of organizing and occasionally something doesn't quite happen the way it's supposed to. Invariably, people improvise and there's no harm done. The Pledge of Allegiance at the Monday meeting was a good example.

Pete asked Mike to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone stood up and some of us even has our right hands over our hearts. There was one problem: No US flag. Mike went looking for the flag. Pete, thinking fast, found a tiny US flag in the podium display. Before things could deteriorate farther, Mike returned with the correct flag.



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The Meeting: More Comic Relief



Dianna Cralle is Little Genius for the month of August. Diana fined her husband (and last year's club president) Jim for forgetting to pay for their cabin at the annual Lake Francis Resort campout. Two, maybe three, times.

This is somewhat hard to describe, but Diana essentially asked, "Are you listening, Jim" and then after there was no response from Jim, she said, "He's never listening." Depending on which photo was taken while Diana was speaking, Jim was either reading his email or taking a much-needed nap. In either case, Jim obviously had a really good time at the campout and was still recovering. (Ed Note: Personally, I think Jim is a very good listener.)



Buzz McClain was fined by Little Genius for a campout incident that was so egregious that even our most outspoken (see above) Little Genius would not provide details.



Alice Rowe won a warm round of applause for drawing something other than the Ace of Spades.

THE ANNUAL CAMPOUT

The annual F.O. Rotary Camp Out commenced on Friday afternoon at Lake Frances Resort in the Gold Rush town of Dobbins by Oregon House with Maggie and Joe Hoy arriving early and getting the cabins arranged for our occupancy. The fellowship began immediately with an impromptu Happy Hour around several outdoor tables. The fun fellowship continued, while Joe fired-up the BBQ's for an assortment of grilled foods. We extended into the evening (much to everyone's delight), and soon appetites were ready for the food bazar spread-out in abundance. It looked like a Thanksgiving Table overflowing with quantity and quality. Thanks to All who contributed, predominately Maggie & Joe Hoy.

When it came time to retire, we were all treated to entering modern cabins with A/C cooled temperatures, hot showers, fully equipped kitchens w/ frig & micro, and private bedrooms. Everyone agreed the next morning, that our accommodations "Is the Right & Only Way to Camp." NO tents, sleeping bags, nor dirt floors. All the ladies 'really' appreciated the well-equipped cabins (Guys too)! Even though we were out on the far edges of civilization, surrounded by the Wild-erness, the cabin conveniences made us fell cozy & comfortable. Others in the 1st night pioneers were: Karen R, Lucy M, Jim & Diana C, Fred & Alice R, Mazzy C, Buzz & Bonnie Mc, our exchange student Stine Nikolysen and her Irish host family Daithi Larkin.

Sunrise Saturday morning found none of us ready to get up and greet the first light of day. A group did head-out for a fishing trip to the Yuba River at 7:30 a.m. which included Jim C, Joe H, Lucy Martin and Sherrie Tobin (Way to go Girls). Also, a hearty group of hikers, Fred & Alice and Mazzy drove to nearby Bullard Bar Reservoir for a lake-side, in the woods, stroll. Back at camp a table setting of breakfast, Bloody Marys and a few red beers was assembled about 9 a.m. This group was content to sit - eat - drink - chat and enjoy each other's company and tall tales. A rumor spread that an unnamed person had dropped their cell phone into the toilet and it was yellow when removed. The only thing that could be heard on the earpiece was a flushing sound. The message of this story is don't sit on the pot with your cell phone in a pocket, or else pay \$75 for the fix.

Mid-day found several groups walking to Lake Frances for a dip in the cool waters, a swim to the island, or to dip their toes on the muddy bottom. We all gathered for Maggie's infamous team games at 4:30 p.m. on the sports field next to our cabins. Two teams were selected, Lucy's Lovelies and Kyle's Rowdies, for head-to-head completion in contests such as the Water Gun fill the bucket brigade, Knee hop-n-drop chicken walk, Ping Pong ball spoon relay, and finally a feisty Pictionary Game on painter's easels. All the while, two jugs of Margaritas and other beverages were consumed through-out the games. Needless to say, lots of loud laughs could be heard throughout the camp and countryside. Tons of Fun was had by all, even if one team was cheated out of victory, right Fred? Sat night featured a bring your wine - cocktail - snack time, followed by a group dinner (Too much good stuff!), and an after-glow fellowship which included desserts and smores with many a tall tale told prior to bed time. Sat arrivals included: Anne Browning & Joy Hurst.

Sunday morning was a sleep-in-day for all, so a worship service was out of the question with the late night partying. A brunch time, communal breakfast where many contributed great homemade dishes (Thanks Ladies & yum -yum), and hot pancakes flipped on the griddle, got everybody up and going. Clean-up and empty the cabin chores followed with many heading out by noon for home. Yet, some stayed for more Lakeside fun, play, sun & swim.

Our week-end stay in the Wild-erness turned out to be a Wild time of fun and frolic. Don't miss out next year, reserve you cabin early with Maggie Hoy.

Reporter: Buzz McClain

THE ANNUAL CAMPOUT

Maggie has reserved the St. Francis Resort cabins for the second weekend of August in 2016. If you wish to attend, she will be requesting reservations and deposit money by February 1st. If there is not enough interest, the weekend will be canceled.

A few photos from the campout last weekend follow. It sounds like everyone had a great time. For a photo of someone who might have had a really great time, please refer to the photo of Jim Cralle, which can be found later in this Acorn.



That's all, folks