



# THE ACORN

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

The Acorn for October 19, 2015

Rotary



# END POLIO NOW

“Polio respects  
no borders...  
as long as one child  
suffers, all children  
are at risk.”

— Nelson Mandela

## The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

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Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Facebook: [www.facebook.com\FairOaksRotary](http://www.facebook.com\FairOaksRotary)

## Weekly Meetings

We Meet Almost Every Monday Evening

Social Time 6:15 - 7:00 PM

Dinner & Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Fair Oaks

Visitors are Welcome



# THE ACORN FOR OCTOBER 19, 2015

## Iron Lung to Iron Butt Polio Plus



**Bob Mutchler**  
Speaker

Bob was diagnosed with polio when he less than one year old and he spent about three years in an iron lung. In 1970 Bob became a member of Rotary. In 1986 Bob came down with post-polio syndrome or PPS. The primary symptoms of PPS are progressive muscle and joint weakness and pain, fatigue, and muscle atrophy. After two years, his doctors told him that he would soon be bedridden for the rest of his life.

Instead of giving up, Bob bought a motorcycle and began riding – as much as 1,000 miles per day. He began to feel better - stronger and more capable. Bob was playing piano at a West Sacramento anniversary dinner and after drinking two bottles of wine, he decided to ride his motor cycle to every state capital in one long road trip - and to set a record doing so. He also decided to do it for Polio Plus with a goal of creating media coverage for Polio Plus and not fund raising. In Cheyenne (the capital of Wyoming) someone did a 90-minute documentary on him and he received big press coverage at every state capital from there on. When he arrived in Washington D.C., he got a front-page article in the Washington Post, which had never before run an article on Rotary.

He has ridden to every state capitol in the United States, every Canadian provincial capital, every Australian state capital and participated in many other riding events on his motorcycle – all to create public awareness of polio and Polio Plus. He has been featured on network television, talk radio, in newspapers and in magazine articles. Bob continues to be featured in the media two or more times every month somewhere around the world. This allows local Rotary clubs a wonderful opportunity to request donations from non-Rotarians (and non-Rotarians) who have seen, read or heard about Rotary because of Bob's motorcycle rides.

In 2014, Bob's biography was published. It is "From Iron Lung to Iron Butt: Riding Polio into history". The author, Linda Lahman, spent two years writing the book. It costs \$20, with \$15 going to Polio Plus. This is multiplied by a factor of three by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for a total donation of \$45 when you buy a copy of the book.

How Bob became a true Rotarian: He was administering polio vaccine drops to a very young girl in a foreign country. A polio victim, lying on the ground and unable to walk or even stand, got Bob's attention and said, "Thank you for saving my baby sister".

Bob's goal: To continue riding his motorcycle and spreading the word about polio and End Polio Now. There have been only 51 cases of polio so far this year.

### **More About Bob Mutchler**

He has owned Bob Mutchler Piano Service for 50 years. He specializes in older instruments and receives pianos from all over the world for restoration. Bob has been a member of Rotary since 1970, for a total of 45 years. Bob is a musician and a disk jockey. He plays keyboards and sings with the local rock band Have Mercy. Bob is a member of the Folsom City Utility Commission

# ROTARY AND POLIO FACT SHEET

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. The poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age but mainly affects children under five. Polio is incurable, but completely vaccine-preventable.

## PolioPlus

In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.5 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$9 billion to the effort.

## Global Polio Eradication Initiative

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness-building.

## Polio Today

Today, there are only two countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Less than 370 polio cases were confirmed worldwide in 2014, which is a reduction of more than 99.9 percent since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day.

## Challenges

The last few polio cases are the most difficult to prevent, due to factors including geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict and cultural barriers. Until polio is eradicated, all countries remain at risk of outbreaks.

## Ensuring Success

Every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year through 2018. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents. Governments, corporations and private individuals all play a crucial role in funding.

## Rotary in Action

More than one million Rotary members have donated their time and personal resources to end polio. Every year, hundreds of Rotary members work side-by-side with health workers to vaccinate children in polio-affected countries. Rotarians work with UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute mass communication tools to reach people in areas isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. Rotary members also recruit fellow volunteers, assist with transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support.

## 'This Close' Campaign

Rotary has a growing roster of public figures and celebrities participating in its "This Close" public awareness campaign, including Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; actresses Kristen Bell and Archie Panjabi; WWE superstar John Cena; supermodel Isabeli Fontana; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; action movie star Jackie Chan; boxing great Manny Pacquiao; pop star Psy; golf legend Jack Nicklaus; conservationist Jane Goodall; premier violinist Itzhak Perlman; Grammy Award winners A.R. Rahman; Angélique Kidjo and Ziggy Marley; and peace advocate Queen Noor of Jordan. These ambassadors help educate the public about polio through public service announcements, social media and public appearances.



# THE MEETING



**Jeanne Maloney:** There is a sign up sheet for Safe Halloween – or you can just call Jeanne. We need: people to read books, hand out free books, manage cool games and contribute treats. And we are always collecting books, so if you have children’s books that you don’t need, please donate them to Safe Halloween.

The club is co-sponsoring Safe Halloween with the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival.



Members **Ron Adams** and **Sunny Simmons** announced their engagement



**Reid and Mary Cate Gustafson** each won a potted-plant table decoration



**Rob White** arrived one week early for the Halloween costume meeting





**Marlow Simonetto** managed what club president Pete Schroeder described as “the best Fair Uncorked since I became a member”. Marlow asks that we patronize the restaurants and wineries that donated all of the food and wine. We would like them to participate again next year. When you partronize, be sure to tell them that you’re there because they served at Fair Oaks Uncorked and you liked their food or wine.



**Jeanne Maloney, Marlow Simonetto and Joedda Wick** were recognized for their hard work and excellent leadership on Fair Oaks Uncorked – Pete rewarded each of them with a bottle of very good wine.



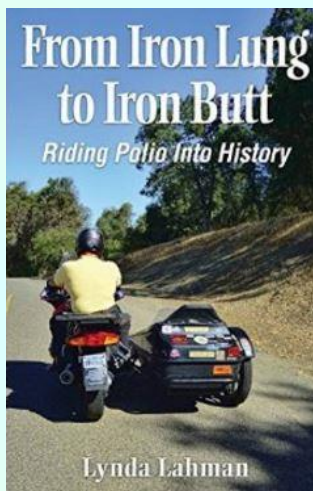




**Heather Gregory** visited from the Historic Folsom Rotary Club

### Future Events for your Calendar

- October 26 Club meeting: a Halloween party
- October 31 Safe Halloween in Fair Oaks Village
- November 2 Club meeting: club assembly
- November 6 Battle for the Oak
- November 7 District Foundation dinner
- November 11 Honeymooners group meeting at the home of Gus Ballas and Shelley Weisman
- November 15 Polio Plus fundraiser – Kings versus the Toronto Raptors
- November 18 Club Board meeting
- November 30 Polio Plus fundraiser – Kings versus the Dallas Mavericks
- December 12 Christmas party at the home of Peter & Karen Romines
- January 20 Senior Luau
- February 20 Crab Feed



This is **Bob Mutchler's** biography. You can buy it online or directly from Bob.



Another great dinner from our cooks. (Ed note: possible the best pork chops I have ever eaten)



Last but definitely not least – Little Genius **Diana Cralle**