

# The Orange Peel

2023-2024 | President Don Morris | "Have Fun and Share Rotary"

## Next Meeting Friday, Jan 19, 2024

**Jennifer Are** - Petal Association

**Greeters** - Keith Wright and Janice Haworth

**Invocation** - Diana Newman

**Vocation** - Keith Wright

**Prospector** - Don Russell's substitute while he is out of the office

## The Four-Way Test

**Is it the TRUTH?**

**Is it FAIR to All Concerned?**

**Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

## American River Parkway Foundation



Speaker-chair **Brad Squires** introduced **Julia Cassil** from the **American River Parkway Foundation** and noted that she is the first person to speak to our Rotary club this year! Julia is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Foundation.

The Foundation cares for the portion of the American River Parkway that runs from Lake Nimbus to Discovery Park at the confluence of the American River and the Sacramento River. It spans

## Recap of the Meeting Jan 12, 2024

### Guests

**Julie Cassil** - American River Parkway Foundation

2 guests of **Bill Wagner:**

**Bud Casey** - retired

**Dr. Peter Romines** - Pediatricist, Past-president of Fair Oaks Rotary

**District 5180 Governor  
Sidney Smith**

**District 5180 Theme  
“Go Meet Do”**

Saying Yes to our fellowship means:

- We get to **Go** places we never would have gone!
- We **Meet** people we never would have met!
- We **Do** things we never would have done!

23 miles, covers 4,800 acres and has 46 miles of paved trails (north and south side) on the parkway. It is considered one of the nation’s premier urban natural parks.

Julia said the Foundation headquarters is located in the William B. Pond Recreation Area on the American River Parkway.

The **American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)** is a Sacramento 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to lead and inspire the community to conserve and nurture the American River Parkway as a unique, accessible resource for everyone to enjoy.

Julia gave some interesting facts about the Parkway. It is a federally designated a wild and scenic river. More than eight million people visit the Parkway every year compared to the four million visitors that go to Yosemite every year! The Parkway generates \$364 million annually to the local Sacramento economy. And did you know that the Sacramento County drinking water comes from the American River?

The Foundation works with the county to preserve and protect the Parkway. The county owns the Parkway but the Foundation is involved with the daily preservation and protection of this valuable resource.

One way we work with the county is during the Spring Cleanup of the Parkway. Last year 99,000 pounds of garbage was removed by 8000 volunteers. This year the Spring Cleanup will be held on April 13 from 9am to 12noon. It will take place at multiple sites.



The Great American River Clean Up (GARCU) will be held on September 21 and it is part of a state-wide cleanup effort. There will be 1200 volunteers working at 23 locations on the Parkway.

President Don told Julia that our Rotary club cleans up a mile along Lake Natomas and we coordinate with the Friends of Lake Natoma. She was glad to learn that. She said the part of the trail that we clean up is state owned, not county owned.

The Parkway is used by walkers, runners, bike riders, equestrians, and dog walkers. The Foundation volunteers work with the county to maintain the 30 miles of multi-use trails. The dirt trails are pruned and mowed so they measure six feet wide and eight feet tall (for horse riders). Team Rubicon, made up of veteran volunteers, handles the heavy work such as using chainsaws and hauling.

Volunteers help the Foundation staff to rid the Parkway of invasive plants (non-native plants). They obtain the necessary permits from the County for removal of species such as Yellow Star Thistle. No herbicides are used; the plants are removed by hand. In 2023, 115,000 invasive plants were removed.

The Foundation headquarters sit on a one-acre parcel in the William B. Pond park. Beside the building is a demonstration Native Plant garden which helps people identify and incorporate native plants into their yards. It is also a teaching garden and on Tuesday mornings, people can come to the garden to learn about weeding, mulching and planting.

To park your vehicle at any of the parking lots along the Parkway you need to pay for a day pass (\$7) or purchase a year-long parking pass. The pass is required by the county and is available for purchase at the Foundation office or at thirty other vendors in the county such as REI. The standard vehicle pass costs \$70 and there is a discount for seniors.

The Parkway is dog friendly but cleaning up after your dog is required. The Pup in the Park is an awareness program which provides Mutt Mitt stations along the parkway. Business and organizations can sponsor a bag dispenser for cleanup and disposal of dog waste. There are currently 18 stations, each with a sponsor's name posted at the station.

The type of people who visit the Parkway can be affected by income and education level. This is why the Foundation works with the county to operate a free outdoor education program called SCOE - Sacramento County Outdoor Education. The Foundation's fundraising provides money for the schools to transport the students to the River Bend Park. SCOE provides the teachers with a curriculum. The goal is to have 30 field trips a year and increase the reach of the Parkway to the people who haven't visited the Parkway.

There are several special events planned this year:

- Spring Clean-up (April)
- Bike Fest (May)
- Summer Solstice (June) - a fundraiser and dinner in the Parkway
- Great American River Parkway Cleanup (September)
- Howlin' on the Parkway (October)
- Run the Parkway (November) - a 20-mile benefit run is a benchmark for runners who want to get into the CIM



For more information visit [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org)

When Julia finished her presentation and answered questions, President Don presented her with a thank you gift; an Orangevale Rotary mug.



## Vocational Talk

It was **Diana Newman's** turn to be the Vocational speaker and she told us that the cold weather we're experiencing reminds her of the nine years she lived in Truckee with her then husband. It gets cold up there and she remembers when it snowed on the 4th of July!

When the couple bought their home, it came with a snow blower. Diana loves to garden and she had experience using a rototiller. So after one bad experience, her husband gave her the job of snow blowing.



The tines (blades) on a snowblower cut into the standing snow like an auger and throw the snow out a chute. The chute can be aimed in such a way that the snow can be built up in a pile beside the driveway.

While living there, Diana had two large Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs, one weighed 110 pounds and the other weighed 150 pounds! A large dog equals a large "dog pile". Two large dogs equals two large dog piles.

Diana always let the dogs out the back door to do their business. Her husband let them out the front door. With a snowy front yard and driveway, it's hard to know where the dog piles were located under the snow.

Diana was snow blowing and trying to aim the snow chute at the side the driveway but that's not easy and sometimes snow and dog piles can accidentally end up in the pine trees. Oops!

Now what goes up must come down. During the spring thaw, on tax day in April, when the snow dropped out off the trees, so did the piles. And it was dog poop raining down in Diana's yard and her neighbor's yard!

Cold mornings in Granite Bay where Diana lives now aren't as cold as Truckee and so there is no more plowing driveways and streets in her winter. But they remind her of the best memories!!

## Announcements

**Lorie Rheams** reminded the members about the **Winter Sanctuary** program. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner on Sunday, January 14.

**Catrina Womack** said that five Fair Oaks Rotarians will be helping at our crab feed. When the Fair Oaks club has their crab feed on Saturday, February 17, we will return the favor. Check your calendar and let her know if you can volunteer to help.

**Joni Cyr** will be send out a membership survey in February to see how the club is doing and what can be improved. More details to come.

**Janice Howarth** brought in a Super Bowl pool and is selling squares for \$10 a square. Half of the proceeds will go to the winners (quarterly and the final score) and the rest will go to The Rotary Foundation.

**Dennis Sarkesian**, Community service, is looking for help on Saturday, January 20, the Orangevale Open House will be held at the grange and Dennis is looking for people to man the Rotary club booth.

Dennis is working with **Audrey Smith-Wiberg** to determine if we can help the local chapter of **Special Olympics** as timers at their next event on Sunday, February 18.

The next **Rotary House** yard cleanup will be on Saturday, 17-February from 9am to 11am. The American River **Trail cleanup** will be on Saturday, March 9.

Details will be coming about helping the organization **Growing Past Today**. Last year we handed out 60 pairs of shoes. The event will be on Saturday, March 2.

**Don Russell**, Club Service Chair, talked about giving blood. Last month he was rejected three times because he had low iron. Even if you've never given blood, give it a try. The great people at the clinic will evaluate your blood for you and see if you can donate.

Last Tuesday there was a **Dine Around** at Strobelli's Pizza and ten people showed up. They have good pizza, both Chicago-style and California-style.

On February 3, Diana Newton will host a **"Cocktails, Candles and Cotton Candy"** party at her home. Her address is 6805 Douglas Blvd, #83, in Granite Bay. Don passed around a signup sheet.

**Steve Blair**, treasurer emailed invoices for the cost of your meals. You can pay via a check, square, or Zelle. Just be sure to pay!

## **Crab Feed Announcements**

**Deanna Maddock** asked everyone to review the **Crab Feed work assignment** sheet she passed around. Add your name to a task if you haven't signed up. Everyone's help is needed. Deanna sent some test emails. Only review the last one she sent - it will have your assignments listed for the crab feed.

Deanna will be sending reminders to the ticket holders to bring their cash for the Cake Dash and the bartenders. Also a reminder to bring butter warmers, etc!

**Janice** still needs good quality auction items. This is the last weekend that she is accepting donations. Be sure to fill out a donation sheet for each item. She passed around a signup sheet was passed around for volunteering to pick up auction items from Janice's home and deliver them to the church.

## **Prospector**

**Prospector Don Russell** reminded everyone that he started the "101 club" last week. Make a \$101 donation to the The Rotary Foundation and you will be fine free for the month. Here's the names of the members - **Tommy Peno, Mairy Droese, Audrey Smith-Wiberg** and **Bert Smith**. **Janice Howarth** is in the \$51.50 club.



Don asked everyone to stand up. If you volunteered at the food bank or attended the Dine around sit down. All the rest left standing, pay \$1. Spot fines were given out to **Sue Frost, Russ Rheams, Jim Buntin, Jonathan Spangler and Diana Newman** (for arguing with the prospector, incorrectly addressing the prospector, arriving later or asking needless questions).

**Happy Fines** - **David Shepard's** birthday is January 15 and he opted to have the club "sing" Happy Birthday for him. **Bill Wagner** was happy because he passed the Series 63 Exam. **Steve Blair** paid a happy fine because his 6-year old grandson asked him if he lived during the "castle days" (no he's not that old). **Mike McKibbin** is happy because he and his wife adopted a dog from the SPCA and its name is Magic. Mike said the dog is eight months old and he thinks it came from Planet Destruct-o.

**Joni Cyr** is happy because she missed last weeks meeting to celebrate her 40th wedding anniversary with her husband! **Don Glover** is happy because he spent a winter vacation week in Mexico. **Visitor Dr. Peter** said he was happy because his seventh granddaughter was born on Dec 16 and her name is Raegin.

Prospector Don will be traveling next Friday so he has chosen a substitute prospector. Stay tuned!

## **The Orange Ball**

After a long absence, the Orange Ball Raffle was back. There were 4 balls and \$165 in the pot. Just before the drawing of the raffle ticket, **Rob Auernig** asked **Sue Frost** to trade tickets with him. So whose ticket was drawn? Rob picked the orange ball out of the basket!!!

## **The Thought for the Day**

"Do not overestimate the competition and underestimate yourself. You are better than you think." - Tim Ferriss (American entrepreneur)





## Have Fun and Share Rotary!

### Fun Places and Faces



Dine Around at Strobelli's Pizza.



Dine Around at Strobelli's Pizza.



Final Crab Feed Meeting - Deanna, Russ and Joni.



Important discussion at the last Crab Feed meeting - Dennis, David and Jeff



Tommy and Sean