

The Orange Peel

2024-2025 | President Catrina Womack | "Share Rotary"

Next Meeting Friday, Oct 18, 2024

Speaker - Jeanine Sparks & Mazzy Chirwa - Empowering Girls Project

Greeters - Jeff Valtman, Patty Wolff

Invocation - Jim Buntin

Vocation - Bill Wagner

Prospector - Rob Auernig

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?



From Seed to Scale

Brad Squires, the speaker chairperson introduced **Nick Kennedy**, the California State Record holder for his Giant Pumpkin that weighted an amazing **2,497 pounds**.

Brad met Nick last year when he advertised one of his giant pumpkins for sale. It weighed 2,036 pounds and Brad bought it to feed it to his cows. To get the pumpkin back to his farm, Nick and Brad

Recap of the Meeting Oct 11, 2024

Rotary Guests

Nick Kennedy - pumpkin grower

Joe Scheimer - visiting Rotarian from Fair Oaks Rotary Club

Gabriel Cano - Interact Club president

Savannah Judson - Interact Club Secretary

Derek Maldonado - Deanna Maddock's partner

District 5180 Governor Steve Turner
2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Rotary International presidential theme is "**The Magic of Rotary**"

used a Sawzall (a reciprocating saw) to cut up the pumpkin so the pieces would fit in the back of Brad's truck. It took them about two hours to cut and load the pumpkin!! Brad confessed that as he was driving from Nick's farm to Orangevale, the tailgate opened and chunks of pumpkin fell out all over the road. He had to stop and pick up all the pieces before continuing his drive home.

Nick started his talk by playing a 2-minute time lapse Youtube video of a giant pumpkin growing from seed to its final size of 2,480 pounds. (If you want to watch the video, search for Northeast Giant Pumpkin on Youtube).

In the video you could really see the pumpkin growth take off. During the hyper growth period which lasts two weeks, Nick said his pumpkin grew by 66 pounds per day and increased 12 - 18 inches in diameter.

Last year Nick's pumpkin came in second in the nation to a grower, Travis Gienger from Anoka, Minnesota whose pumpkin weighed 2,749 pounds.

Originally the giant pumpkin seeds were developed by **Howard Dill**, a farmer in Nova Scotia. He was the grandfather of Giant Pumpkins and he bred the giants of the giants.

He started selectively cross pollinating his pumpkins in the 1970s. He controlled the process by using pollen from the biggest pumpkins to genetically modify his pumpkins. His first big pumpkin weighed 213 pounds.

On the website GreatPumpkin.com the great pumpkin genetics are traced from Mr. Dill's earliest

pumpkin in 1971 down to today. There is a lot of good information on the tree diagram. Controlled pollination and seed selection are very important.

You can buy “giant pumpkin seeds” at Home Depot but they will produce pumpkins only in the 75 pound range. If you want seeds, look for a pumpkin club. They usually meet up a few times a year. Or contact Nick and he will help you get good seeds.

The seeds from the winning pumpkins are highly sought after. Last year’s winner ended up with about 600 seeds and he was selling them for \$500 each! Nick give his seeds away or donates them to a charity auction.

Last year, as an experiment, Nick took one of his seeds and threw it on the ground and didn’t water it. Even with this mistreatment, a 120 pound pumpkin grew. That shows you how good his seeds are. To grow a giant pumpkin It takes good soil, a good location, lots of preparation, lots of space and lot of water.

You can’t manage what you don’t measure. For example, you can’t manage the growth is you don’t have don’t know what is in your soil. He has his soil tested in the spring and in the autumn so he knows what micronutrients are missing and need amendments. Plan on having about 1000 square feet of growing area. The best time to to start growing your seeds is in March or April.

It takes a lot of water to grow a giant pumpkin. He was using 300 gallons a day toward the end of the season. Nick has the use of an old 25-acre farm in Citrus Heights that has a well so he has access to a a lot of water. He used hoop houses, shade cloth and mill fabric on the ground to keep the pumpkin dry. Mill fabric is a woven material used in pulp and paper mills and is common choice for growing pumpkins because its strong, flexible, and allows water to drain.

Last year was a great year for growing. This year Nick has been plagued by challenges - extreme heat, insects such as spider mites, and the mosaic virus that is transmitted by bugs. He also has to contend with rodents and birds.



Last year, when it was time to harvest, he had 20 people helping him. He recruited a Big Lift and a special harness to lift the pumpkin 10 feet in the air and onto a truck. He took his pumpkin to Half Moon Bay for the Safeway World Championship Great Pumpkin weigh-in. Nick played the video of the weighing of his pumpkin and his 2,497 pound giant pumpkin beat the previous California record of 2,356 pounds.

The 2023 winner was Travis Gienger from Anoka, Minnesota and his pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 2,749.0 pounds! It is a new world record! Nick came in second place to Travis's pumpkin. The winner gets a prize of \$30,000 but that's not why Nick is motivated to grow giant pumpkins. He does it for his family and with his family. His son and daughter are so proud of dad's giant pumpkin.

After the meeting, Nick invited everyone to come out to the parking lot to see a giant pumpkin that his son grew. It weighs 300 pounds and it's in the back of his truck. His son grew it for a beauty competition. The giant pumpkins that are grown for weight are ugly pumpkins. This beautiful orange pumpkin weigh less but is picture worthy. His son won first place in the Sacramento County pretty pumpkin competition.

A bit of history on why Half Moon Bay is the Pumpkin Capital of the USA. Fifty-two years ago there were two towns claiming to be the pumpkin capitol - Half Moon Bay and a town in New York. The two towns competed to see who could grow the largest pumpkin. Half Moon Bay won and they've had the title ever since.



President Catrina thanked Nick for speaking to the club about his pumpkin growing. Nick said that he was exposed to Rotary through a good friend that is a Rotary club president in Texas. He enjoyed speaking about his passion. Catrina presented Nick with a custom wooden pen made by Rotarian Bob Kurtz.

If you are interested in learning more about Giant Pumpkins, check out these two web sites:

BigPumpkin.com and The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth gpc1.org

Polio Update

Visiting Rotarian **Joe Scheimer** is on the Rotary District Committee for The Rotary Foundation. He gave the club an update on Polio eradication. It has been a dismal year. In 2023, there were only 12 new cases of Polio in the world. But now there are now 46 cases of wild polio: 22 in Afghanistan and 32 cases in Pakistan.



I have set up a D5180 Raise for Rotary Fundraiser for PolioPlus. My goal is to have Rotarians & friends of our district contribute \$75,000 for the fight to end polio. If you want to join this fight, contribute through my hyperlink, QR code or by giving a check to your club Foundation Chair. This fundraiser will run through World Polio Day on Oct. 24th.

<https://raise.rotary.org/Joe-Scheimer/fundraiser>



There were positive soil samples for the polio virus in Gaza so Rotary knows the more polio cases will come from there. The WHO and Rotary were successful in vaccinating 640,000 children under the age of 10, but it will have to be done again in 4 to 6 weeks. Rotary has donated \$500,000 to that effort, and will probably have to do it again.

We need to keep funding this war against polio. We can't let 39 years of our efforts to eliminate polio to be abandoned. Last year Rotary planned to raise \$50 million for polio eradication. Rotary came

up \$6 million short. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints donated \$5 million and Rotary International made up the last \$1 million from operating expenses. Bill Gates put in \$100 million.

Our District has set a goal to raise \$75,000 by October 24, World Polio Day. Joe will be joining 200 other bike riders for a Ride to End Polio Ride in Arizona. Joe handed out flyers with information about making a donation to eradicate Polio.

Bill Wagner reminded the club that 17 members made a pledge last year to donate \$100 every year until Polio is eradicated. Bill said that only one person has fulfilled that pledge this year.

Announcements

President Cartrina Womack read off the upcoming events to put on your calendar:

Oct 11 - Family Fright Night at Orangevale Community Park

Oct 12 - Community Food Drive for Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank @ Divine Savior

Oct 19 - The Rotary Foundation Dinner

Nov 7 - Turkey Bowl

Dave Shepherd said that 16 people volunteered at the Food Bank last Friday morning. There was also a large turn out by the Fair Oaks rotary Club. Friday, November 1 is the next time with will work at the Food Bank.

The **Rotary House cleanup** will be Saturday, Oct 19 from 9am to 11am.

Don Russell said that today is National Spread the Joy Day. Why did the dog leap for joy? Joy was holding a treat! Tuesday, October 15th is the next Dine Around and it will be held at Tano's. On October 31, Don is having a bonfire party in his front yard. at his home. Costumes are optional. The club's Christmas party will be on Saturday, Dec 14. Don is looking for a location for the event.

Vocational Talk

The Vocational speaker was **Jeff Valtman**. Jeff loves automobiles and he has been in the automobile business for 45 years. As cars keep advancing, he keeps learning. He works at Steve's Small Cars.

Jeff has been happily married for 40 years to Linda and they have three daughters and two grandsons. Benjamin is 7 years old and Patrick is 4 years old.

Jeff grew up in the midwest with a large family. He spent the summers with his grandmother in southern Illinois. He felt blessed to have wonderful aunts and uncles, great-aunts and great-uncles.

In high school, he played drums in the marching band. For a year, he was the school's DJ. He loved the job but his father told him that there was no money in the radio business.



Jeff and Linda have a goal to visit all 63 national parks and they have visited 25 so far. The park they visited most recently was Arcadia National Park in Maine. It was a stop on a cruise from Boston to Montreal.

Jeff has been in Rotary for 12 years and it will be 13 years in January. Rotary is like a big family and he needs his Friday mornings at Rotary.

Prospector

Rob Auernig is this month's prospector and he started off by fining **Steve Blair** and **Dave Shepherd** for getting in the breakfast line before the prospector. **Don Glover** get fined for having his phone ringing during the meeting. **Cindy Morris** was supposed to be a greeter and she arrived late. Cindy used Bert Smith's excuse that she had to buy a Starbucks coffee. It still cost her \$1. **Brad Squires** was fined for something he hadn't done yet and that is appearing on KFBK on Monday to talk about philanthropy. **Deanna Maddock** paid \$20 for her birthday and everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Trivia - Deanna was born one day after **Dennis Sarkisian** got married.

Rob moved onto asking Movie trivia questions. He read a quote from a movie. He wanted to know who said the quote and what movie was it from. He started at the table in the back of the room and went around table by table asking the for answers.

"Say hello to my little friend!" - Tony Montana, played by Al Pacino in the 1983 film "Scarface".

“Wax on, Wax off” - Mr Miyagi played by Pat Morita in the 1984 film “The Karate Kid”.

“I’ll have what she’s having.” - A female customer at a restaurant played by Estelle Reiner in the 1989 movie “When Harry Met Sally...”

“They’re here” - Carol Anne Freeling played by Heather O’Rourke in the 1982 film “Poltergeist”.

“Be afraid, be very afraid” - Veronica played by Geena Davis in the 1986 movie “The Fly”.

“Hello my name is _____. You Killed my father. Prepare to die” - Inigo Montoya played by Mandy Patinkin in the 1987 file “The Princess Bride”.

“Take off!! We are not going to crash, eh! There’s no way I’ll crash this. This is a beer truck, eh! - Doug McKenzie played by Dave Thomas in the 1983 file “Strange Brew”.

Happy Fines

Bill Wagner wanted his sports car worked on. The dealer quoted \$2,800 and Jeff did the work for 1,300.

Mike McKibbin is happy that 33 students showed up to the Interact Club meeting. He is also happy that he is going on his research trip to Kendallville, Indiana.

Tommy Peno was in Stowe, Vermont and he saw a March of Dimes monument to the 1894 Polio epidemic. It was dedicated by the sole survivor in 1956. He is going to research this story for his next vocational talk. Tommy donated \$100 to Polio Plus.

The Orange Ball

There were 5 balls and \$107 for the person who can pull the orange ball from the basket. This week, **Patty Wolff** had the right ticket but she pulled out a white ball and not the orange golf ball.



The Thought for the Day

“Many hands make light work.”

Enjoy your weekend...go out and SHARE ROTARY with your favorite people.

Family Fright Night

