

The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

Next Meeting Friday, Oct 2, 2026

Speaker - Debbie Holden -
Rancho Cordova Food
Locker

Greeters - Bert Smith

Invocation - Jim Buntin

Vocation - Mary Shear

Raffle tickets - Jim Buntin

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 Licia Green introduced Jackie Hadley and Jules Baez, both are with the American River Parkway Foundation. Jules Baez is the Community Engagement Volunteer Manager. She oversees volunteer programs that support trail maintenance, restoration projects, native plant gardens, and other stewardship projects along the Parkway. Outside of work, Jules enjoys spending time on the golf course (mostly driving the golf cart), taking weekend trips with her boyfriend, and training her energetic new puppy.

Jackie Hadley is the Education Manager for the American River Parkway Foundation. She leads the Parkway CONNECT program that brings people to the Parkway through free, guided outdoor experiences like fishing, archery, painting, and more. When not working, Jackie can usually be found chasing her two daughters, running the trails, or working on her latest knitting project.



Jules and Jackie took turns talking about The American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) which leads the community to conserve and nurture the American River Parkway as a unique, accessible resource for everyone to enjoy. The Parkway covers 4,800 acres and lies along 23 miles of the American River including eleven developed recreation areas.

The ARPF Programs include Trash Clean-ups, Multi-use Trail Maintenance, Restoration projects, a Native Plant Garden, Pups in the Park and River Connect.

Recap of the Meeting Sept 25, 2026

Guests

**Jackie Hadley and Jules Baez -
American River Parkway
Foundation**

Law Welsh - Scouting

**Annalise Graf - Inner Wheel
Treasurer**

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor

**Dave Veden
2026-2027**

Rotary International President 2025-2026

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

**The 2025-2026 Rotary
International presidential
theme is "Create Lasting
Impact"**

In 1962 the Sacramento County Parkway began with a plan to put in a six mile bike trail. Land was acquired over time and the bike trail was completed up to The Hazel Avenue Bridge. The county is responsible for the trash pickup, cleaning bathrooms, maintaining the asphalt trails and parking lots and mowing the grass areas.

There are two big trash clean-ups a year - the 2026 Spring Clean-up had 463 volunteers who collected 4,815 pounds of trash. The Great American River Clean-up brought out 1,020 volunteers who collected 11,3210 pounds of trash!

The Trail Maintenance covers 30 plus miles of multi-use trails along the Parkway. The trails are used by walkers, runners, dog walkers, equestrian riders, bikers and more. The volunteers clip, prune, rake and weed-wack.

There are two types of Mile Stewards, the Financial Mile Stewards and the Volunteer Mile Stewards. The Financial Stewards fund the maintenance of a dedicated mile. Its a two year commitment to contribute at least \$1,500 per year. There are 40 groups who steward both sides of the Parkway. The Volunteer Stewards maintain a dedicated mile, including trash removal and graffiti. They commit to work at least 20 hours per year. There are four open miles that need Stewards.

The Pups in the Park was created in 2003 to promote responsive pet ownership and reduce dog waste in our waterways and soil. There are 22 Mutt Mitt Stations along the Parkway and 85,000 mitts are used annually. That works out to be 8 tons of waste that is diverted from the waterways.

The Parkway Pick-Me-UP is a coffee cart run by volunteers near the Parkway office. The menu includes coffee, tea, lemonade, baked treats and a pup cup. Every dollar raised goes directly to the support and conservation of the Parkway. The hours are 9am to noon, Monday through Friday.

On November 8, 2026 will be the "Run the Parkway", an annual event for runners and walkers. There is a 20 mile run and a Half Marathon. Volunteers man the aid stations and hand out water.

The Summer Solstice event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Foundation. There is a sit-down dinner with entertainment.

A special area in the Parkway is the River Bend Outdoor Education area. The land was used by the Camp Fire Girls for camping. The camp was given back to the county and now its part of the Foundation. In 2008, it was rebuilt by the Foundation, Rotary District 5180, Save Mart and the community. An amphitheater and shade structures were built.

Today, the Foundation partners with the Sacramento County Office of Education to host students from grades 4 through 7 at Title 1 Schools for STEM education. Sixty students are taken on a field trip to the area. When they arrive, they are divided into three groups and they may experience one of the following - a nature hike, learning about macro aquatic invertebrates, water ferry engineering design, or living vs non-living identification/scavenger hunt. Since 2015, 8,600 students have participated.

Parkway Connect is a partnership with non-profits that serve and support diverse communities. Planned activities connect experience providers with people and children that lack awareness of the Parkway and may not have transportation to go to the Parkway. For example, a father-daughter fishing activity was started in 2024. From there its grown and next month will be the third year of Project connect. Another event partners with the Sacramento Library for silent reading in nature and creating nature journals. These are new ways for the community to enjoy the Parkway.

In October, there will be an event for Foster Youth involving pumpkin carving and pumpkin painting. It gets people outdoors and helps them learn to be creative. Four hundred people attended last year and they hope 800 people will attend this year.



The ladies finished their talk and showed their contact details.
Interested in Parkway Connect: Jackie Hadley, JHadley@ARPF.org
Interested in volunteering with ARPF: Jules Baez, JBaez@ARPF.org
For more information visit ARPF.org

President Steve thanked Jackie and Jules for their commitment to preserving the Parkway and presented them with a speaker's gift, a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

Special Request from Scouting America

Bill Wagner invited **Law Welsh** to the meeting. **Law** works as a substitute teacher but today he was visiting the club to talk about a Scouting Project. He got involved six years ago with Scouting America (Troop 310 and 311) when his daughter became a scout and she is still in scouting. She became an Eagle Scout and is now an assistant Scout Leader.

Every year the scouts place American flags on the graves of veterans at the Mount Vernon Cemetery just before Veteran's Day. The same plastic flags have been used over and over for at least the last six years and they are wearing out.

Law said that the scouts are raising money to replace the 2300 plastic flags with 3000 12" by 18" cloth flags. Law passed around this information.

To Orangevale Rotary Club,

I am writing to you regarding Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and the experiences that we provide to our Scouts, both boys and girls. The mission of Scouting is to help build community awareness, citizenship within our communities and country, leadership skills, and respect for the history of Scouting. Our goal is to give our Scouts confidence, life experience through mentorship and helping to provide stronger decision-making skills for their future endeavors.

One of the primary ethics we try to instill in our Scouts on is Reverence to the American flag and what it stands for. Every year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day we place American flags at each Military gravesite at Mt Vernon Cemetery in Fair Oaks. There are approximately 2000 graves sites that we place a flag at on these two holidays. This is one of the largest Military internment sites in the area and is given high media coverage annually. Entire Scout families attend this event and prior to placing the flags, we talk about why we are there and what it means to the families who come and pay tribute to their family members on these special days of remembrance.

Our project for this upcoming Veterans Day in November is to replace all the flags in our inventory with better quality and more durable construction to provide a more respectful image for our Veterans. We currently use 12"X 18" plastic flags that only provide 2 or 3 years of use before they are damaged beyond repair and need to be replaced. We plan to purchase a reinforced cloth product that shows better and lasts longer.

How can you help? As mentioned, our goal is to replace all our flags, over 2000 currently, and provide for future needs and expansion of sites, up to 3,700. This has a start-up cost of \$3500.00 dollars and smaller amounts in the future to keep up with growth. We are looking to multiple organizations within our community to help with this endeavor and show the Scouts that the community supports their cause of showing respect and courtesy to those who gave the highest sacrifice to our nation.

I would gladly meet with you and answer any other questions you may have and show what is currently used and what we plan to purchase.

Thank you for your consideration,
Eric Berg
Scoutmaster Troop 310
916 390 2674 cell

Law said that they set up a Go Fund Me request. Visit [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com/2e4d8a55) and search for Orangevale Scouts.



Announcements & Committee Reports

Dennis Sarkisian said that our next time to serve at the OVFO Food Bank is Friday, October 2. He sent an invitation to work. Please reply to his email so he knows who is coming.

The **7th Annual Community Food Drive** is coming up on **Saturday, October 17, 8:30am to 11:30am** at Divine Savior Catholic Church, 9079 Greenback Lane, Orangevale. All proceeds benefit the Orangevale Fair Oaks Food Bank. The goal is to collect 50,000 pounds of food. **Lorie Reams** volunteered to shop for you if you are going to be on travel. Give her money and she will shop for you!

Jim Buntin, International Chairperson said that the money we sent to Shelter Box is being used to deliver a Shelter Box to Nepal.

Don Russell, Club Chairperson said that it's National Lobster Day. What did the lobster give to the teacher? A crab apple! Why does the ocean roar? You would too if you had lobsters in your bed!

Don spoke about the recent social event held last Saturday at Don Glover's home. Don presented Don with a thank you card. The next social is **Dine Around** and it will be held on Wednesday, October 14, at 5:30pm. He is looking for three suggestions of where to dine. Someone suggested Mikuni's which has a Tuesday happy hour starting at 3pm and going through closing time.

Don said that the next **Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring a **Blood Drive** at Divine Savior Catholic Church on Sunday, November 01, from 8am to 12 noon. Don suggested calling Vitalant to make an appointment for that day. Call 877-258-4825.

Vocational

Bert Smith came up to the podium with **Annalise Graf**. Both ladies belong to **Inner Wheel**. Today Bert turned her talk over to Annalise who spoke about "**Camp No Limits**".

For years, the primary mission of Inner Wheel has been to give artificial limbs to children. They managed a limb bank that let the children borrow a limb and return it for a larger size as they out grew their limb. Each year, 2000 children are born missing a limb. Unfortunately, insurance doesn't pay for artificial limbs and that is why the limb bank was so vital.

Recently they partnered with a new company called Koalaa out of the UK that makes artificial limbs out of recycled plastic nets. This young company was started



by a university student that was given an assignment to create a project that will improve people's lives.

The limbs are soft, breathable, lightweight and washable. The Koalaa sleeve can be adapted to different uses by attaching different tools to the tip such as a toothbrush, a hairbrush, etc. They have three types of sleeves - the ALX, the Paww, and the Joeyy.

Camp No Limits is a camp where children learn about the limbs and how to use them. The camp was held in ten locations across the US this year. Annalise went to the camp in Big Bear and it was amazing to see the children adapting to their new limbs.

The cost is \$1500 per limb which is much better than the cost of traditional artificial limbs. Since last May, 46 children have been fitted at Camp No Limits. Twenty-one of those children were supported by the Inner Wheel Foundation. The Inner Wheel USA funding supports the "Pay What You Can" program. This enable families to received devices regardless of financial circumstances. It ensures that children can take their prosthetic home after camp.

Happy Fines

Mairy Droese is happy because she spent a week at Donner Lake and she is happy to be going on a family trip to her home town of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Lorie Reams is happy that three people gave her money to go shopping for the Food bank food drive.

Phyllis Macdonald thanked Bill Wagner for selling raffle tickets for her because she forgot that it was her turn to sell the tickets.

Don Morris was happy to have another birthday.

Don Russell was just happy.

The Orange Ball Raffle

There were six balls and \$110. **Jim Buntin** had the winning ticket and he pulled the white golf ball out of the basket! Too bad, so sad. That means that Jim will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.

Thought for the Day

"The Parkway reminds us that the best paths in life are those that keep us connected to nature, community, and ourselves."