

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

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The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista

Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340
Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

BOB SILVAS HISTORY OF COMMERCIAL AVIATION Friday, May 8, 2026, Noon



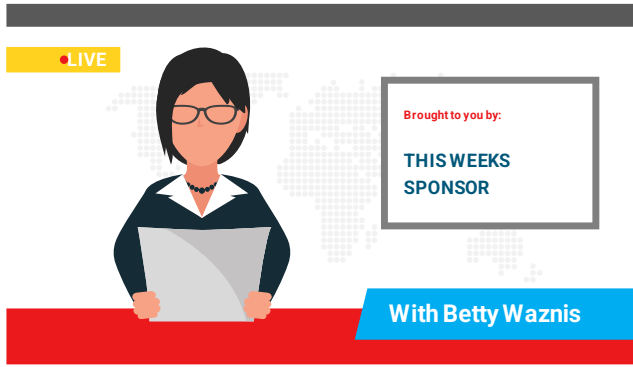
Bob Silvas is an airport consultant with 35 years of experience in the industry. During his 25-year career at San Diego International Airport (SAN) he was responsible for airline affairs, operating agreements, easements, cargo/land leases, business inclusion and concessions.

Some of his achievements include negotiating the acquisition of the former PSA headquarters building, he had a role in the last four terminal development projects at SAN; and participated in many of the airport's operations from the fuel farm to rental car center. He retired from SAN in 2014 as the Director of Small Business Development.

Bob was recognized by San Diego Metropolitan Magazine as 2012 "Metro Mover" and was the recipient of the Airport Minority Advisory Council's 2013 Airport Architecture, Engineering and Construction Award. He has been a panelist on multiple airport related conferences including an international conference in Stockholm Sweden.

His career experience led to his interest in commercial aviation history as a hobby, collecting unique stories, trivia, and other information about the industry he enjoys.

Bob is a Chula Vista native, member of the Paul Harris Society and past president when the COVID pandemic shut us down. He is a graduate of Castle Park High School (Go Trojans!) and Humboldt State University (Go Jacks!). Married for over 25 years to his wife Patti and enjoys their two grandchildren, Juliet (9), and Orion (4).



**JIM BIDDLE
NEWS AT NOON**

**BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rowena and Mike Bell and KOA Kampground Enterprises Inc.

On Tuesday, Apple agreed to pay \$250 million to settle legal claims that it misled consumers about the abilities of its artificial intelligence system, Apple Intelligence. Class-action lawsuits filed against Apple last year claimed the company oversold what its product could do during its rollout in 2024. The company promised big improvements to its personal assistant, Siri, AI features to summarize notifications and offer help on improving writing in emails and text messages. But those features weren't available on the iPhones that Apple shipped in September 2024. Instead, the company gradually rolled out the promised features, soon ran into problems and disabled that feature. Consumers who purchased an iPhone 16 and some models of the iPhone 15 between June 2024 and March 2025 will be eligible to collect up to \$95 per device.

In the 1980s, the infamous Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar illegally imported lots of exotic animals to fill his private zoo, including four hippopotamuses. After Escobar's death, most of the menagerie were relocated, but the enormous hippos were left behind because they were difficult to move. They multiplied and spread far beyond Escobar property to the swampy banks of a nearby river. Now an estimated 200 hippos are roaming there in the mud, attacking fishermen and devastating the fragile ecosystem. The lack of predators in the region gave them the perfect conditions to thrive. The hippo herd, believed to be the biggest outside Africa, constitutes "an invasive species. Experts warned their population could reach more than 1,000 in coming decades. The logistical problems of capturing and moving the hippos, weighing up to two tons each, stymied relocation plans. So Colombian authorities announced this month that the hippos would begin to be formally hunted and culled to bring their numbers under control. A reprieve may have arrived in the person of Anant Ambani, the son of India's richest man, who is proposing to entirely fund the safe, scientifically led transfer of at least 80 of the hippos to Vantara, his huge animal sanctuary in Gujarat, India. Discussions with the Colombian government are continuing.

The Padres bounced back from a series-opening loss with a pair of convincing wins this week over the Giants in San Francisco -- including a 5-1 victory on Wednesday afternoon. led by this Ty France pinch-hit, two-run triple in the seventh inning. Game 2 of a four-game series against the Cardinals started last night at Petco.

Since 1968, our sponsors Mike and Rowena Bell and the Bell family have welcomed campers to the San Diego KOA Resort in Chula Vista, helping generations of families create lifelong memories. Now with the third generation serving in leadership roles, the family has expanded the business from a single campground into a respected multi-state operation. At one point, the Bell family operated seven campgrounds across three states. Today, through their corporation, KEI, they own and operate campgrounds in San Diego, Temecula, Palm Springs, and St. Louis. In addition to campground operations, KEI has provided consulting services to both private and public campgrounds throughout the industry. The Bell family has earned recognition as an industry leader through their franchising organization, receiving the prestigious KOA Kampground of the Year award twice. The San Diego KOA Resort on Second Avenue offers accommodations for camping groups, corporate retreats, family reunions, youth organizations, church retreats, and vacation travelers alike. Whether guests prefer tent camping, RV sites, or deluxe cabin accommodations, the resort offers options designed to create a memorable camping experience for every type of traveler.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rowena and Mike Bell and KOA Kampground Enterprises, Inc.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MAY 8, 2026



Scholarship Committee Chair Kimberley Marshall with some of the 14 students who received scholarships from our Club this year. L-R: Ella Roberts (Bonita Vista), Ava Fish (Otay Ranch), Junghwan Kim (Olympian), and Jayleen Quinn (Chula Vista). The Scholarship Committee included Betty Waznis, Duane Buckingham, Jesse Fernandez, Diego Quilantan, Michael Oliveri, Mike Bell, Bill Torre, Carmen Sandoval, Bernard Hernandez, and Beta Dinsmore.



This week's sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, Mike Bell, with the drawing winners: Mora de Murguia, Ken Weimer (again?!), and Jan Mellinger. Thanks everyone for your support of the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation through your participation in the weekly drawing.

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SERVICE HIGHLIGHT—MAY 9, 2026



Members from our Club—Bill Torre, Bob Silvas and Jan Mellinger—joined with other Just In Time for Foster Youth to help set up an apartment for a young person last Saturday.

Join us for a ...

Rotary Social

After building bikes, come
enjoy drinks, a taquero,
and fun!

Home of Mark & Stacy Scott
4097 Bonita View Drive
5:30 PM



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The annual Manny Adler & Jon Miller Bike for Kids is coming. This year, we will be assembling 150 bicycles. We are looking for volunteers to help Friday (May 29) in the afternoon and Saturday (May 30) morning/afternoon.

A sign-up sheet has been circulated during the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but want to volunteer, contact Bob Silvas via email. Let him know the date and times you are available.

- WHERE:** CDA (Rick Richardson's office) located at -
180 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 103, Bonita, CA 91902.
- SCHEDULE:** Friday - assembling from 3 to ? (Will need a few strong volunteers to help transport bikes from Mark Scott's house to the CDA at 2:00)
Saturday - distribution from 8:30 to 2:00
- TO VOLUNTEER:** Sign up during the club meeting or contact Bob at bsilvas@silvygroup.com.
- BONUS:** The Social Committee is planning a social event after the last tire has been inflated. More to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE RED SHOE DAY—Wed, May 20

DARK—NO MEETING—MAY 22

BIKE ASSEMBLY—Fri, May 29

CLUB SOCIAL—Fri, May 29 at Mark Scott's Home

BIKES FOR KIDS EVENT—Sat, May 30—@ Child Development Association (Bonita)

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION LUNCHEON
Friday, June 5—Noon—Living Coast Discovery Center**

DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNORS' DINNER—June 26, 5:00 pm

**2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TAIPEI, TAIWAN—June 13-17**

