



WEEKLY MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROYAL HUA HIN – AMARI HOTEL
TUESDAY 11th JANUARY 2022

RICHARD BUCKLE – SURF 102.5 FM

Present: 25
Members: 19
Guests: 6

SAA Rick Rees opened the meeting with the National Anthem.

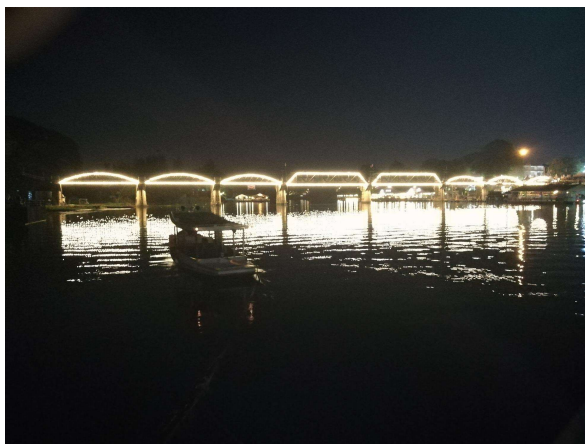
The following guests were introduced:

Michael Bedwell –	former Rotarian - UK
Patrick Meier –	Switzerland
Adrian Rowland –	Canada
Roger and Carol Ward –	RC Aireborough UK
Richard Buckle –	Guest speaker

President Phil opened the first meeting of 2022 and said it was good to see some of our overseas members returning to the club. He then summarised some of the recent events RCRHH had been involved in:

December 17th / 18th 2021 – D3330 Awards ceremony in Kanchanaburi, taking in both 116 and 117 years and catching up following the lockdowns.

Friday evening had been separated into two parties. Phil and Martin Harrison had been privileged to be part of a raft cruise along the River Kwai and to witness the Festival of Light at the famous bridge during which the attack on the bridge by Allied forces in 1945 was re-enacted with fireworks, radio-controlled aircraft and a light show. An extremely moving experience for expats.



On the Saturday there were 2-300 Rotarians present displaying their usual passion and commitment to the organisation. Phil showed a selection of photographs, including some of him, IPP Brian Anderson and Martin with a number of past DGs. Brian also received a trophy and certificates for 100% EREY contribution and public services. This was followed by another party on Saturday evening.



Phil also mentioned the first Fellowship event of 2022 held at Cool Breeze on Tuesday 4th January. A very well supported evening with nearly 50 people in attendance.

Phil talked briefly about Rotary International showcase. In Thailand, RC Eastern Seaboard Pattaya had been mentioned as having been involved in more than 30 food drives for needy residents during the pandemic.

He also mentioned RC Erdington in Birmingham UK where several sleeping pod tents had been provided to help the homeless during the winter months of the UK.

Upcoming events:

- 18 Jan 22 - Board Meeting
- 25 Jan 22 - Weekly Meeting - Matsumi Adachi - Sang Foundation
- 1 Feb 22 - Fellowship Afternoon Mr Ton's Bistro Bar
- 8 Feb 22 - Weekly Meeting - John Laroche CEO Phoenix Aviation
- 15 Feb 22 - Board Meeting
- 22 Feb 22 - Weekly Meeting - David Watson - Royal Coast Review

All events plus more are on Club Runner.

Phil then introduced the guest speaker Richard Buckle from Surf 102.5 who has been a great supporter of the club and has helped with publicity.



Richard introduced himself and explained he had always been passionate about the medium of radio from a very young age. It is now over 100 years since radio began in its current form following experimentation in the late 1800s. He ran through the progression of radio during the last century and first part of this one.

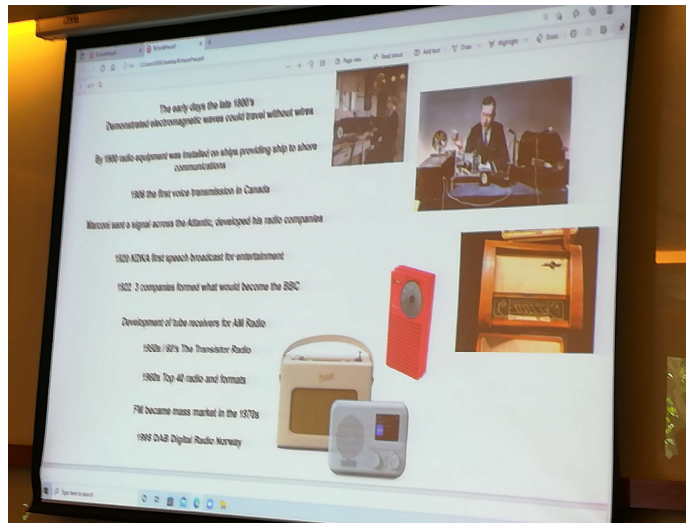
Richard played several recordings from different radio eras, showing how things had changed and progressed over the years from the initial BBC light programme in the 1960s, through to the pirate radio stations, Radio Luxembourg (this being the most popular in Europe), offshore pirates Radio Caroline and London and then Radio 1 on the BBC. All these later stations bringing a modern, fresh approach to broadcasting and encouraging a younger generation to tune in.

Richard enjoyed listening to these new stations and had actually worked in Radio Caroline in 1986-7. Caroline was the last pirate station to keep operating although faced with several problems in later years.



Richard was offered a job in Thailand 30 years ago in radio computing services, providing a scheduled curated music service for hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and businesses. He travelled all around SE Asia building up contacts in the radio world as he did so. In this modern age the system still exists but now music is 'streamed' to the various organisations.

Richard semi-retired in 2015 and moved to Hua Hin where he set up Surf 102.5FM. Marriot and Sheraton Hotels sponsor a show each. Richard's colleague Steve hosts the breakfast show live from the Marriott every Tuesday and Andy Curtis hosts Sheraton Drive on week days 4-7pm.



Richard added that running the station also enabled him to invite some interesting and fascinating guests to talk as well as attending events locally, golf tournaments, music festivals etc. He also believes radio should be interesting, fresh, professional and different, this includes the adverts, jingles and general production, all going towards improving the listener's experience.

However, the bad news is that the Thai regulators are currently restructuring and initially taking back all of the broadcasting licences and then auctioning them off to the highest bidder. This will mean Surf 102.5 may be off air for a while without any guarantee it will return! Richard went through the convoluted process by which the regulators are to restructure. Information is slow to come out from Bangkok and it is not known if Surf can even bid for a wavelength at this time. However, Richard remains hopeful that Surf will be successful and continue the service it currently offers.

Phil thanked Richard for his enlightening talk, and personally a trip down memory lane, he could remember listening to the pirate radio stations when he was a teenager. Questions were taken.

Lunch was then served.