

# The 5390 Roundup

## Rotary District 5390 • Montana

*The Rotary motto Service Above Self conveys the humanitarian spirit of the organization's more than 1.2 million members. Strong fellowship among Rotarians and meaningful community and international service projects characterize Rotary worldwide.*



## District Governor Dave Kinsey is looking forward to a great year in District 5390!

Welcome to the new Rotary year. Congratulations to all new/past club and district leaders. Most importantly thank you to PDDG Mark Finnicum for guiding the district through a year of economic uncertainty. It has been no easy task for the Finnicum's to put so much personal time into Rotary all the while knowing that everything in their business world might not be rock solid. Thanks again to both Mark and Jacque.



We are starting a team effort in District 5390. This is one of the few times that District 5390 has the ability to plan three plus years in advance. As often as possible all future DG types will be included in the decision making processes and add a common thread to the outcomes of all financial and functional efforts of District 5390. So when you see DGE Arlene or DGN Daryl they will have their hands on the pulse of everything that happens. We are fortunate and grateful for these folks assistance. In addition the plans that you have seen coming your way for the last several months have been supported by a group of everyday Rotarian advisors as well. If you cannot reach me you can get to me through Kevin Miltko my COS, and Eric Clemmensen our most valuable past District protection officer. In addition, PP Carol Bruneau had been part of our planning.

The new RI President, Ray Klinginsmith has a very useful theme and philosophy. When describing Rotary to anyone simply use this year's theme and expand it, BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND BRIDGING CONTINENTS. I agree with Ray that few words are necessary to get to the point and using Cowboy Logic (the Michael Murphy song) as a guide will do just fine.

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## CLUB NEWS

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I believe that having more than five goals at a time is just too overwhelming. Our current goals:

- Use the District Leadership Academy to develop Future District and Club leadership.
- Retain the members we have by supporting their Rotary dreams
- Every Rotarian should give something to our Foundation
- Financial Transparency for District 5390
- Start and develop our “Service for those serving US” project

There you go. If we can accomplish these few goals while maintaining and supporting your Clubs, our year together will be HUGE. From time to time, you will hear me repeat an easy message, let's work together to make our Rotary, BIGGER-BOLDER-BETTER.

Looking forward to fun year, visiting, learning, supporting and leading District 5390.

David

Governor Dave's district conference will begin on April 29, 2011 in Missoula. Before we celebrate the end of another Rotary year, though, club visits are the first priority. DG Dave has a busy schedule. If a club visit needs to be rescheduled, contact him as far in advance as possible.

### JULY 2010

- 6-10 RYLA
- 12 ROUNDUP 6PM
- 13 TOWNSEND 6:30PM
- 20 POLSON 12:15PM
- 21 BIG FORK NOON
- 22 KALISPELL NOON
- 26 BIG SANDY 5:45PM
- 27 CHESTER 6PM
- 28 WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS 7PM

### AUGUST 2010

- 4 BILLINGS WEST NOON
- 5-6 DIST. ASSEMBLY RED LODGE
- 7 ROTARY MARKER DEDICATION MILES CITY
- 9 GLENDIVE NOON
- 10 MILES CITY NOON
- 11 TWIN BRIDGES 6:30PM
- 16 MISSOULA CENTENNIAL 4:30PM

## Hamilton Rotary Club

Here are photos from our June 7th meeting.

The left photo is of Club Treasurer, Don Doerfler and in-coming President, Debbie DenBleyker. Don is holding the District Governor's Citation awarded to our Club for outstanding per-capita giving to The Rotary Foundation, May 2010.

The right photo is of Julie Foster, Executive Director of the Ravalli County Economic Development Authority, who discussed the new jobs created in Ravalli County through the auspices of the ECDA.



## Rotary Club of Red Lodge Donates Books

In the past, our Club promised speakers that the Club would donate a book to the Library in their name as a “thank you” for speaking to our members. Last week seemed the appropriate time to make good on that promise. President Sandy presented Jodie with a check for \$500 for new books.



## CLUB NEWS

### Rotary Club of Whitefish

On the evening of June 1st, the Rotary Club of Whitefish held its Annual Recognition and Roast Dinner. Approximately 80 Rotarians and their significant others were in attendance to recognize recent Paul Harris Fellow award winners and to roast outgoing President Scott Ringer. The no-host bar was busy and the food served by the lodge was excellent.

In addition to several humorous awards the following Rotarians were presented with Paul Harris Fellow awards by President Elect Dan Davis.

James Alderson, his 8th

John Zaiss, his 7th

Susie Moore, her 3rd

Myra Appel, her 2nd

Wink Jordan, his 2nd

Mark Kuhr, his 2nd

Ben Whitten, his 1st

Doug Wise, his 1st

A roast of our president whose term is about to end is a tradition started last year. This year Past President John Zaiss, the subject of last year's roast, got to turn the tables as he roasted President Scott Ringer. He provided several items of Rotary garb as he had Ringer's wife, Janet, assist in dressing her husband in a Rotary cap, shirt, safety vest worn on work projects, and an apron which we wear for our annual pancake breakfast. Nothing was off limits as Zaiss, much to the merriment of the crowd, zinged Ringer with barbs of his Rotary and business actions during the year and his career in the hotel industry.

When the good natured barbs had ended, Zaiss presented a President's appreciation plaque and Past President's Pin to Ringer.

President Ringer ended the meeting by thanking all Whitefish Rotarians for their efforts in making 2009/10 such a successful year.



President Scott Ringer on the left holding the plaque and on the right is Past President John Zaiss.

### Rotary Club of Big Sky

The Rotary Club of Big Sky finished our bus shelter project at the end of May. This project was funded by our club and a District Simplified Grant. Labor was donated by various construction companies in our area.



## CLUB NEWS

### ROTARIANS VOLUNTEER AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

On a beautiful and sunny Saturday, eleven members and friends of three Rotary Clubs in the Flathead spent the day assisting the park. Frank Garner and Jeff Laverdiere of the Kalispell Rotary Club and Melissa Hulvat of Kalispell Daybreak worked with Park trail crew members Bryan Allen and Lindsey Manzo building a foot bridge on Howe Ridge.

Other Rotarians helped plant 370 snowberry, kinnikinnic, purple aster, wild current and five other species at the Loop along the Going-to-Sun Road. They planted areas involved in construction last year. Malinda Shafman, Cindy Hartley, Bob Nilsen, Jean Fletcher, and Lorraine Measure represented the Rotary Club of Evergreen, Jim Hollensteiner, Kate Sorensen and Ed Rothfuss represented the Rotary Club of Kalispell. Leading the group was Glacier Park Horticulturist Joyce Lapp and her native plant revegetation crew Eric Schmidt, Annie Gustafson and Leslie Riser.

All had a great day – a little tiring but they left the Park feeling

good about giving something back to this national treasure right in our front yard during its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!



**Back Row:** Jim, Bryan, Scott, Frank, Jean, Kate, Lorraine, Leslie, Bill and Ed; **Front Row:** Melissa, Lindsey, Malinda, Cindy and Annie;  
**Sitting:** Jeff



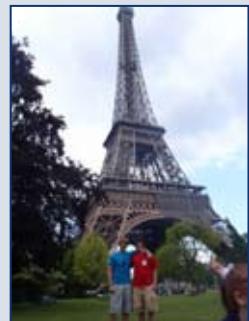
Rotarians Jim & Malinda

### BOZEMAN SUNRISE CLUB

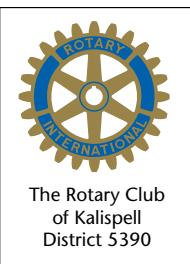
By Julie Schmidt

I've included some photos from Europe where my son Nolan Schmidt is on a Rotary long-term Youth Exchange. He is set to come back in 5 weeks and is really sad about it. Then again, who wouldn't be?? I really like the photo of his District conference held in Vienna. He is on the bottom right (back towards the camera) in his YE blazer. Wish we could have our District conference there!! Just wanted you to know that Euro-Tour went well with no problems at all. Walter and Doris are not a husband and wife, but rather a father/daughter. Nolan said they bonded well, and I've attached a photo of Nolan hugging Doris.

The photos show a variety of the trip. He said Paris was his least favorite and Jesolo and Monoco were his favorite. He attended District 1920 Conference in Salzburg and District 1910 in Vienna. The building was AMAZING! Can't wait to see his 1000's of photos.



## International Project Success Story



**International  
Project Success  
Story:**

**Rotary Club of  
Kalispell's  
Commitment to the  
Children and  
Community of  
Chacala, Mexico**

**Location:** Chacala, Nayarit, Mexico is a small fishing village (pop. 300) on the Pacific coast of Mexico between San Blas and Puerto Vallarta. It is set between beautiful, sweeping Chacala Bay beach and a dense tropical forest. Until the road from Las Varas to Chacala was paved about seven years ago, the village was only accessible by boat or by slow travel over a rutted dirt road. Chacala Bay is deep and the waters are clean, providing one of the few livelihoods for the villagers: fishing. The protected bay is also a favorite place for visiting sailors to lay anchor at night. Village businesses include several small beach palopolas (cafés), a grocery store, a small fish dock warehouse, and an auto/boat repair shop. There is a kindergarten, grade school (up to the 6th grade), and Catholic church which is visited by a traveling priest usually once a week.

**Background:** In 1996, Dale Reinhardt, a Rotarian and teacher from Oriental, North Carolina helped found a library building for the children of Chacala. Funds were provided through his club partnering with the closest Mexican Rotary Club in Compostela, about 35 miles from Chacala. However, once the building was finished it was locked up and left unused; the villagers were not familiar with what a library was, or what it was used for.

A year later, Jim Thompson, a Kalispell Rotarian, and his wife, Betty, arrived in Chacala for a multi-week-long visit. They found the library in a sorry state, as neglect and the tropical climate had taken their toll. They refurbished it at their own expense, and Betty (a teacher) staffed it for a month or so before they left. Upon their return to Kalispell, Jim presented a brief slide show to our Club about his trip to Chacala. He suggested that Kalispell Rotary help support the library because it seemed a unique resource for such a small Mexican town, and because he saw that the library was having a positive impact on the lives of the village children.

While Jim had been told of Dale Reinhardt's continued interest in keeping the library alive, he didn't know that another American couple, Poncie and Susana Escobido, arrived in Chacala just a few days after he and Betty had left. Susana also discovered the (locked again) library. She decided to re-open it and get it running as an after-school haven for children who needed help with their homework or who wanted to check out a book from the limited selection. Susana recruited a volunteer, villager Viky Robelo, to help her. Within a few weeks, the daily afternoon work of these two women was clearly beginning to have effect. Children went directly from school to the library next door, eager to participate in learning games, work on their class lessons, have stories read to them in a reading circle. Discipline was enforced, cleanliness expected, and respect for all required. Susana and Viky committed themselves to the library, even though at the same time Susana realized that soon, without funds, the doors would be locked again.

## International Project Success Story



The Rotary Club  
of Kalispell  
District 5390



**Page 2** **Kalispell Rotary:** In early 1998, a few months after Jim Thompson suggested our club help the library in some way, Club member Rita Fitzsimmons traveled to Chacala with her husband,

**The Commitment Begins** nine-year-old son, and \$400 US from Kalispell Rotary to give to the library. The gift was met with amazement and gratitude by Susana, as she had determined it would be a matter of just a few days before the doors would have to close once again. From that point on until the present, Kalispell Rotary has figured prominently in the growth, development and success of what is now known as the Dale Reinhardt Learning Center (named in honor of now-deceased Rotarian Reinhardt for his faithful support of the library he founded).

Rita's trip to Chacala was followed almost immediately by a visit from fellow Kalispell Rotarian Art Thompson and his wife, Diane. Rita returned in 1999 with nine boxes of Rotary donated library/office materials, Spanish books and videos, backpacks, art supplies and money. Several other Club members have made trips to Chacala over the years, most recently Dr. Jack Davis who returned last month after spending 10 days helping to set up a health care program for Chacala's first medical clinic and bringing donated medical supplies.

Kalispell Rotary has continued on-going support of the library and its programs, which expanded to include a tool-lending library for adults, computer access for a village that up to that point had no phone lines, a center for young adult and adult learning programs, and most important of all, a scholarship program to financially assist worthy students in continuing their education beyond grade school. As a result of this focus on education, *Cambiando Vidas* ("Changing Lives"), a non-profit scholarship foundation was started in 2001 and has grown to include not only the young people of Chacala but young people from surrounding communities as well as several adults who have seen the value of continuing their education.

In 2001, Kalispell Rotary helped raise the funds to build a small multifunctional extension to the library known as "el cuartito" to house the Head Start and Kindergarten after-school programs. When Hurricane Kenna devastated Chacala's beachfront in October 2002, the library served as staging area for the community's rebuilding effort. Chacala's scholarship students stepped up to the task of helping distribute clean water and food to their homeless

## International Project Success Story



The Rotary Club  
of Kalispell  
District 5390



**Page 3** Kalispell Rotary helped to inspire other US and Canadian Rotary clubs to become involved with the Learning Center Library. After Hurricane Kenna, Berkeley, CA Rotarians donated

**The Rotary Wheel  
Keeps Rolling**  
funds and countless hours of labor to build a second floor on the main library building, creating a space for a computer lab with Internet access for Chacala's students and other members of the community. Computers were donated to the library by visitors who arrived on sailboats, and by friends from the United States.

Rio Vista, CA Rotary led by Jack Hask donated the funds to install a tile floor in the new computer lab, which is the only one of its kind in Nayarit. In 2004, a group of Rotarians from Omaha, Nebraska arrived, headed by Janel Weeks. Assisted by some of the local parents, they began renovating the Secondary School, which was in danger of being condemned. During the extreme rainy season in July 2004, the library's new second floor roof overhang failed. Rotarian Pate Thomson of the Berkeley Rotary Club in Berkeley, CA, along with Art Thompson and Rita Fitzsimmons of Kalispell, led a fundraising drive in collaboration with Cambiando Vidas and raised enough money to pay for the repair and redesign of the roof. The Santa Cruz, CA Sunrise Rotary Club led by Jason Book, assembled and installed new playground equipment at the Kindergarten. In January of this year Kalispell Rotary raised \$4,000 in one afternoon of fun raffles with the majority of the money dedicated to the Cambiando Vidas scholarship program. The list goes on and on.

Susana and Viky saw the need, dreamed big, connected with and appreciated Rotary's help. Before the library was there, no child in Chacala achieved greater than a 6th grade education. Children have to go to other towns to seek higher education, and there simply wasn't enough money to do so. In 2007 the library-started scholarship program graduated their first University student, Candelario Gomez. In 2008, 13 students completed high school and five completed University. Young adults are coming back to their village, able to make educated decisions about the future of their community. And for the first time ever in the history of Chacala, a native son has completed medical training. Victor Gonzales, MD is now doing his residency in the Social Security Hospital in Las Varas. When the Chacala clinic begins running, he plans to "pay it forward" by volunteering there as an OB/GYN specialist.

On a closing note, Kalispell Rotary was particularly proud to find out that in 2009, both Susana and Viky became Rotarians in the Compostella Rotary Club of Mexico. At this time, Viky is in training to become an Assistant Governor.

**WHAT MAKES OUR CLUB GREAT - ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS  
ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR****CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASE**

At their annual state conference held last weekend at the Best Western Heritage Inn, Marianne Granlie of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, was named "Rotarian of the Year" for Montana Rotary District 5390.

To qualify for the award, a person from one of the forty-two Montana Rotary Clubs, must be nominated by a fellow Rotarian, give to The Rotary Foundation and have at least an 80% attendance record as well as have Hands-on participation in four of the following six categories: Polio Eradication, Membership, Public Image, Vocational Service, Service, Leadership.

Marianne Granlie, a retired investment advisor, was recognized for her management of the local club's financial affairs including spearheading efforts to realize more than \$80,000 in grant resources from the Murdock Charitable Trust for improvements to Camp Rotary near Monarch, for her leadership in helping organize regional and state-wide Rotary events, and for her innovative approaches for raising money to match Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants by initiating Recycle for PolioPlus and Pennies for Polio in the Great Falls area.

Granlie is the current Great Falls club treasurer and a past-president. She has served in leadership positions for all eight of the annual Harvest Howl for Camp Rotary fundraisers. She prepares all the business correspondence with Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, she invoices members for dues and Camp pledges. Weekly she prepares and distributes a news bulletin to over 100 Rotarians. Granlie has been instrumental in increasing the membership of Rotary Club of Great Falls by 13 since the first of this year. She has assisted with the District Dictionary Delivery project since its inception.

During the closing ceremonies Granlie was honored by District Governor Mark Finnicum with a personalized plaque.

Three Clubs in Montana also received awards for Rotary Club of the Year in their respective size category.

Criteria For Best Rotary Club Award: Member Attendance, growth, Retention programs and new member orientation; Service projects using criteria for Service Awards; how the club met the District goals for RY 2009-10 Sustaining member increase from prior year; Qualifies for Presidential Citation 09-10; Rotary Foundation Annual Fund Contributions increased by 10%; participated in Dictionary Project:

Glendive won the Small Club of the Year (fewer than 30 members) Bozeman Sunrise the Mid Size Club of the Year 30 to 100 members) and Kalispell was presented with the Large Club of the Year Plaque. (more than 100 members).



Marianne Granlie of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, was named "Rotarian of the Year"

## WHAT MAKES OUR CLUB GREAT - ROTARY CLUB OF KALISPELL

### Best Large Club of the Year

## Rotary Is More Than a Club...

Frank Garner, Past Pres-Rotary Club of Kalispell

I was asked recently by a friend to explain what Rotary is about. She saw a plaque our club received at the District Conference for being the "Best Large Rotary Club".

I explained to my friend that Rotary is far more than just a "club". I said Rotary is a lifestyle, a philosophy a passion; it isn't a "club". I told her that the wife of a friend of mine described it once as a "nice cult" and though we both laughed I had to admit I appreciated that she recognized how passionate we are.

Like any good Rotarian, I had to brag about what we do. I told her about how much I enjoy the weekly programs and the fellowship at our meetings. I raved about the food we have the comfortable environment and the great atmosphere. I told her I always appreciated the contribution of those that shared their thoughts during our meetings "inspirational" introductions.

I explained to her that those were some of the things that helped me come to Rotary initially, but I said the things that kept me coming back were far more exciting. I told her that becoming a "Rotarian" was kept me coming back.

She of course said "what does that mean?" I love it when people ask the right questions. I told her that Rotary was about "hands-on" projects. You know the kind that teaches people how to fish instead of giving them one. I said we always follow the Four Way Test and that it represents our values and I told her about item #5 "Keeping it Fun".

I was able to explain about our newsletter and how that helps the club to communicate between each other and learn more about the important projects we do. I told her about our website ([www.Kalispellrotary.org](http://www.Kalispellrotary.org)), its value and about how it helps us stay connected to the other 1.2 million Rotarians around the world.

I talked about new member orientation and how it helps members become Rotarians. I explained how a senior member (not old in age, a long-time Rotarian) of the Club spends 45 to 60 minutes with each new member showing the video "This is Rotary" and then talking to them about TRF and our hope they will become a Sustaining Member. They also cover the Peace Park, The Four Way Test, and their financial obligations. I said they are given opportunities to ask questions and then are given a folder of writ-



ten information about Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Kalispell projects and committees.

I told her that new members are asked to choose a committee at time of orientation and are given the new member "Red Badge". I took her through the process of how members earn their "Blue Membership Badge" and how it requires them to attend eight Club meetings plus five other activities such as: sit at the front table with Club President at a Club meeting, attend a Board Meeting, attend another Club meeting, help with a blood drive, and/or ring the Salvation Army bell at Christmas time. I emphasized that Rotary is a verb not noun. I told her it's a word that requires "action".

I talked to her about Rotary Basketball and how it has existed for thirty-two years in our community. I told her that Rotary Basketball includes nearly eight hundred kids in grades 3-4, 5, and 6 in the Flathead Valley. I included the information on how girls play in the Fall and boys in Winter at local gyms. I boasted about how a full third of our membership helps monitor gyms, coach, keep score and how Kalispell Rotary Members sponsor all of the teams. We also talked about how parents and players are given information about "What is Rotary" and how kids wear their Rotary T-shirts everywhere! It was fun to explain how the Rotary Tournaments are held at the end of the seasons and how well publicized it is in local newspapers.

I told her about our interest in international projects and the special relationship we enjoy with Chacala, Mexico. I went on to say that for many years the Rotary Club of Kalispell has helped build and fund a library in this tiny Mexican town. I said the program has expanded to include providing scholarships to children so they can go to high school and college and how this year the Club members raised over \$2000 by sponsoring an "Instant Library" fundraiser.

I explained that members donated nice, hardcover books and sold raffle tickets to give the winner a chance on an instant library of books. I told her about the fun meeting we had and how it had a Mexican theme. Most importantly, I detailed how with the money raised, and a little more donated from our general fund, we were able to help pay for a coordinator to head up a new leadership mentoring program, for more scholarships for students, for some repairs on the library building, to help start-up recycling center that will employ locals residents. I explained our fundraiser also helped provide equipment and supplies for the start-up of a medical center in the town and that I was equally proud that we were able to help a retired physician from our Club travel to Chacala in February to help get the medical center started. I could smell blood now and I knew I had her interested, so I went in for the kill. I went on to tell my friend about our support of the Food Bank and Veteran's Pantry and the donation of five

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## CLUB NEWS

*Continued from page 9*

thousand dollars around Thanksgiving that supported so many local families. I explained how we met the challenge we received regarding Haiti relief efforts by collecting almost eight thousand dollars for the earthquake humanitarian relief efforts. I talked to her about Shelter Boxes and how each one of them would help house and support at least 10 Hatians. I told her how proud I was to know our efforts would help nearly 100 Haitian earthquake victims.

I was able to describe the project we completed with a Rotary District Simplified Grant to help provide libraries of teaching aides to deaf children and their families. I explained how the teaching aids made it much more likely that those children would grow up to be successful in their lives. I told her that the project involved the purchase of two "Signing Times" full libraries that include a series of DVDs, flash cards, books and CDs that help teach young deaf children and their families how to sign and communicate.

I also talked about how our members participated in two Blood Drives with Red Cross; how we hosted a Group Study Exchange team from Brazil and how we hosted a District Foundation Dinner that helped raise thousands of dollars to help eradicate polio in the world. I was able to brag that at least 70% of our members help "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army every Christmas season.

I told her we also appreciated the fellowship of local clubs and have begun a regular program of sending a delegation of at least ten Rotarians to other Rotary Club meetings like those in Evergreen and Columbia Falls. I told her about the fun we had hosting about twenty five members of the Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club when their facility was being renovated.

I finally wrapped up by talking about how we are exceeding our pledge of twenty four thousand dollars over three years to the Rotary Foundation to eliminate Polio. I talked to her about how, through Rotary's help, we are about to see Polio become one of only two diseases to ever be eradicated in the world. I explained my excitement in being involved in an effort that has kept tens of thousands of children from being killed or crippled by the disease. I also talked to her about how our membership continues to grow, how we enjoy nearly eighty percent attendance at our meetings on a regular basis and how we were awarded the President's award for special achievements.

She told me she understood now why I was a Rotarian. You could tell she was in awe of what Rotary is all about and she asked me what she would have to do to become a Rotarian. She wanted to know what form she would need or what test she would have to take to get involved.

I made it clear that joining a Rotary Club isn't necessarily easy.

I told her that Rotary is made up of its community's leaders and that there were high expectations set for those that are called to serve. I made sure she understood the difference between joining Rotary and becoming a Rotarian. I explained that you don't become a Rotarian until your words, deeds and actions reflect Rotary's values.

I told her I'm proud to be a Rotarian, but moreover I'm proud to be associated with people who are Rotarians. She will be visiting the club in the near future. You can tell she's hooked, and so am I.

## Rotary Club of Whitefish Completes Community Project

Rotary Club of Whitefish President, Scott Ringer, recently approached city leaders about our club refurbishing the old and unsightly "Whitefish Welcomes You" sign located on the south side of the town on the west side of U.S. Highway 93 just at the edge of the old hospital site.

Ringer appointed Ross Doty as Project Manager who led Turner Askew, Scott Ringer, and Ben Whitten in completing the project. Originally planned as a "week-end" project, Whitefish's recent rainy weather stretched the project time line into 2 weeks.

Originally a dull brown with white lettering, the sign now gleams with its fresh coat of green paint with white lettering.

This project is another example of fulfilling Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self".



Turner Askew, Scott Ringer, and Ross Doty disassemble the old sign. Photograph by Ben Whitten.



The refurbished sign.  
Photograph by Ross Doty.

## WHAT MAKES OUR CLUB GREAT - BOZEMAN SUNRISE ROTARY

### Best Mid-Sized Club of the Year

# Quality Membership Drives Quality Clubs

By Michael Banville - Bozeman Sunrise Rotary

The most important aspect of our club's success, in our opinion, is our recruiting, member training and willingness to give new members responsible tasks early on in their Rotary career.

Though our club relies upon the general guidelines established by Rotary International for membership qualifications, and the process by which a new member is proposed and approved, our club emphasizes 'quality of person' in recruiting, not quantity.

Instead of accepting RI's suggestion that no more than 10% of our membership number be from any one classification, we consciously adhere to a 5% rule, coupled with an active membership committee who ensures that new members definitely possess 'significant discretionary authority' in their business or vocation. If, and once they are approved, we continue our commitment with an organized process of orientation and training on all aspects of the club, our district and RI around the world.

As part of our recruiting, our club members disclose the time and financial commitments they have accepted. That way, expectations are set and agreed upon enabling that new member to know the uniqueness of our group and how it is positioned among other possible organizations to which they can belong.

One excellent recruiting strategy we've used in the past 2 years has been a 'Rotary Open House', an after-hours party hosted by our club which is invitation-only to individuals we know meet our membership criteria. We do a powerpoint presentation that shows our accomplishments, our projects, fundraising programs and describe our financial and time commitments. People are then asked if they want to learn more about our organization: Those who show interest then go through our formal new member proposal process (anonymous to them). The results have been excellent and are now part of our annual recruiting plan. We also rely heavily on ClubRunner to manage our communication and organization processes. Without it, we would be nowhere as productive.

Being more visible in the media has also brought more visibility which in turns makes recruiting new quality members easier and more attractive to them. Busy business people will still commit time to causes if they feel relevant, appreciated and a sense of worth when the project is completed. Publishing our quarterly newspaper PR piece "Humanity in Motion" has boosted our name awareness tremendously.

Our committee chairs know to not stay in their leadership positions too long, and mentor their replacements early on so burn out is not an issue and fresh blood is able to show their skills in a relatively short time frame.

Overall, members who want to join a breakfast club are self-starters. Our Sergeant-at-Arms is witty and self-deprecating and always livenes up our meetings. Speakers who address us weekly are high-calibre and new members who secure such speakers take pride in this process.

## What Makes Our Club Great...

Submitted by Leslie McCleary - Bozeman Sunrise Rotary

**Leadership:** Our club nurtures and develops leaders. In the short time I have been a Rotarian, I have watched members come into the club and grow as they are encouraged to participate in committees and projects. This is our introduction to what it means to be a Rotarian - sharing the joys, struggles and excitement of personal growth while contributing to the community and beyond.

**Mentorship:** Senior members mentor newer members in their endeavors to find their way to becoming active in the club. There is an understanding that each member in his or her own way brings something to the whole of the club.

**Shakers & Movers:** Our members are people who are active and what I would describe as "busy making things happen". One cannot sit in our meetings and not feel a "positive tension" generated by members who are prepared to take on & do what needs to be done.

**Recruiting:** Careful consideration is taken in the selection of potential members to ensure the compatibility.

**Fun:** We don't take ourselves too seriously. With all that we do, we seem to always find a way to enjoy and savor the opportunity to laugh.

## One Thing I Would Add...

Cathi Simonson, Pres-Bozeman Sunrise Rotary

One thing that I would add to both of the above articles is that we have a well organized club. We delegate duties (such as Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Monthly Speaker Chair, Inspiration Coordinator, Children's Museum Reader Coordinator, Book Giveaway Coordinator, 4-Way Essay Test and RYLA coordinator, etc., etc.), to different Rotarians for the year and let everyone know who is in charge of these "sign ups". We pass sign up sheets around as needed during the meetings so everyone can see who is involved in what, and there is only one go to person for each activity. That go to person is usually not a board member, but a committee member. This keeps more people involved and helps spread around duties so one person does not get loaded up on or burned out.

## The District Leadership Academy Class of 2011 Is Being Put Together Right Now!

By JW (Joop) Thiessen

The Leadership Academy consists of a series of six courses intended to provide students with in-depth knowledge of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. As the name indicates, the Academy aims at participation of current and future leaders of clubs and the District. It provides ideal preparation for Presidents-Elect in the year before their tenure as President, for Assistant Governors in their first year, current Presidents, and other Rotarians preparing for future positions in their own club or at the District level. But every year, a number of Rotarians have applied simply because they have an interest in learning more about Rotary. For example, the class of 2009 consisted of one District Governor elect, one assistant Governor, six Presidents-elect, five Presidents, two club secretaries, and six club members.

This year, I, Past President of the Kalispell Club, and Past Assistant Governor will act as Dean of the Academy. I am ready to receive your expressions of interest in participating, and will, during the nine-month period of the Academy assist you wherever I can. The same is true for the instructors of the courses, and for Harriett Schloer, our Webmaster.

As a past-participant I know that this is not an "easy" experience. Students are expected to provide, on average, a total of two to three days per course. Every course is downloaded from the web, and is followed by an open-book test, so you must have experience with accessing the Internet, and use email on a regular basis. Sometimes, you have to access Rotary web sites, and download specific publications to be consulted during your study. Some courses I found to be amenable to more relaxed study, others requiring quite intensive work. But

I found all courses to be highly interesting, well-written, and full of practical information. As far as I am concerned, I feel that, given proficiency in working with personal computers, and providing adequate time to digest the presented information, every student should be able to graduate at the end of the nine-month period of instruction.

As we are on an accelerated schedule, I would like to receive expressions of interest in participating in the Class of 2011 at your earliest convenience. There will be more material of interest on our District's and the Academy web site, which is being prepared right now. When formal applications have been accepted, you will receive general instructions from the Academy Webmaster as to the processes involved. Harriett has been involved for years in helping to prepare and distribute materials relating to the different courses to three districts running Leadership Academies.

I suggest that interested Rotarians contact me as soon as possible!

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**DO IT, PARTICIPATE, YOU'LL ENJOY IT!**

