

# Big Sky Rotary News



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

Montana Rotary District 5390 Newsletter  
November 2017

## Joe Bear's Broadcasts

*A Message from District Governor Joe McBride*

### *On the Road Again*

As the song says, I was "on the road again" this month, logging 2,722 miles in some 47.5 hours of road time.

On Tues., Oct. 10, I visited the Laurel Club, recently voted the "Best Civic Organization in Laurel," which is quite an honor. David Keyes is leading this grand group. They buried a time capsule to be opened in 100 years; there was a major discussion on what should be placed in it. This year they are going to sell Christmas trees as a fund-raiser. Those in the area, please support them.



*Joe McBride  
District Governor  
2017—2018  
Rotary Club of Butte*

The next day I had a delectable dinner at Big Sky. President Kyle Pomerrenke is a first-rate leader. The club is hosting Matthias Buchner, an exchange student from Austria hosted by Gayle and Dale Palmer at present. Big Sky is an energetic group with an intense Interact club. They are planning on going to Nepal again in 2018 to continue their service project. I'm looking forward to their "Gold Auction" in January.

I had to backtrack a little to visit Red Lodge on Thursday of that week. Red Lodge is a blue-chip organization. Take a gander at their website – they are involved! Their wine cellar fundraiser has benefited over 600 kids per year and supports 12 different non-profits. Their mentoring program with the Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Group led by Kelly Heaton (Rotarian and Executive Director) and Anna Drew (PE and Office Manager) is making a difference. Al Bloomer is a peerless presi-

*(Continued on page 7)*

#### Events

PETS 2018 Renaissance Stapleton Hotel  
Mar 2-4, 2018

District Conference  
Fairmont Hot Springs  
Apr 27, 2018 – Apr 28,  
2018

#### Inside this issue:

Rotary Club News	2-5
Faces of Rotary	6
The Rotary Foundation	8



## Rotary Club News

### Bozeman Hosts 30th Annual Ag Community Appreciation Dinner

Bozeman Noon Rotary Club hosted its 30th annual Ag Community Appreciation Dinner on Oct. 30, with 175 local farmers and ranchers in attendance. The night included a free prime rib dinner, keynote speaker, and entertainment to show appreciation for our local farmers and ranchers that directly or indirectly provide the food we eat every day.

This year's keynote speaker was Montana State University Athletic Director, Leon Costello, speaking on the state of athletics at MSU and plans for further facility expansion. Entertainment was provided by local band, Comstock Lode.

This event has evolved in recent years into a major fundraiser for our club as local car dealerships, banks, and supply stores sponsor tables and invite their ag customers to attend the dinner.

### Rotary Club of Kalispell Serves through Action

When the Development Director of the Flathead Valley Food Bank, Bob Helder, made Rotary Club of Kalispell aware that individuals were coming in need of food, but often without can openers to utilize many of the goods provided, opportunity (to serve) knocked. The club had a special Rotary meeting on Nov. 2 to gather hygiene supplies and other basic items, like can openers, and assemble 25 personal care baskets for the Food Bank.

The project was rewarding in itself but became more so when members learned that just two short hours after the meeting ended, two of the baskets the club had assembled had been given to the needy. One of the individuals who received a basket was homeless and living in his vehicle. The man said, "This is just like Christmas. I haven't had Christmas in a really long time."

The club also partnered with the Helena Rotary Club to write personalized Christmas and holiday greeting cards for US troops who are deployed overseas. It was a great way to reach out and touch those who sacrifice their holiday at home to defend our country's freedom.



## Kootenai Valley Helps with Halloween

Kootenai Valley Rotary co-sponsored the very popular Trunk or Treat Halloween again this year. Some 600 plus kids with parents joined in the festivity, while Rotarians served several hundred free hotdogs and sodas, along with treats.

Local community volunteers set up their vehicle trunks with Halloween decorations and passed out candy to the Trick-or-Treaters in a safe and fun setting! “It was a very successful night for all at the school parking grounds,” Rotarian Malcolm Edwards reported.



## Kootenai Valley Provides 16 Bookshelves to Head Start Students

The Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley delivered sixteen bookshelves to Head Start students last week. The bookcases, constructed of solid oak and oak plywood with an adjustable shelf, were presented to the students and their parents at a brief ceremony in the school gymnasium. Each bookcase came complete with a starter set of books and each had the child's name on a brass plate affixed to the front. Additional books will be sent home later in the school year. All of the construction and finishing work was completed by local Rotarians. The materials for construction were purchased by the Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley in partnership with Big Sky Lumber Supply, Ace Hardware, and Frames Unlimited. These businesses generously offered substantial discounts. The books were purchased through a grant from Rotary District 5390. Twelve bookcases were donated to randomly selected four-year-old students in Libby and four went to Troy.



This is the eighth year of the project and over one hundred children have been beneficiaries of these gifts. The driving belief behind this project is that putting these resources in the home, combined with a commitment from parents to read with their child on a regular basis, will result in children who are more prepared to begin kindergarten and primary school.

## Youth Protection Training

Rotary International has launched an online course, ***Protecting Youth Program Participants***, aimed at club leadership and Rotarians that work with youth to better understand how to apply and address youth policies in their club or district. To access the module, log into My Rotary and visit [The Learning Center](#) to register for the course. Search for “Youth” at the “Course Catalog” screen.

### Twin Bridges Parties On

The Twin Bridges Rotary Club recently held its "Celebrate Us" gathering, featuring students who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) last summer. Pictured are Avery George, Rob Dale, Brooke Mehlhoff, and Counselor Jack Gilman.

The club also had its annual fall party, decorating from an autumnal palette.



### Rotary District Grant Helps Deer Lodge!

Over a period of three consecutive Monday evenings in late July and early August, the Deer Lodge Rotary Club undertook a project to replace the wood for seating for approximately one third of the Tri-County Fair grandstands at located in Deer Lodge.

President Jacque Lavelle applied for and received a Centennial Grant from Rotary to fund the paint and screws. Sun Mountain Lumber of Deer Lodge, a corporate Rotary member, donated all the lumber. The local Rotarians donated their time and tools to replacing very old lumber with new lumber. The project was finished in time for the start of the Tri County Fair in August. New seating on fresh lumber was highly appreciated by the community and county. Events at the grandstands for this fair included a concert, three rodeos, and a demolition derby.

### Clubs Celebrate with Fall Parties

Whitehall had its annual fall party in October, centered, of course, on Halloween. Photographed are Whitehall Rotarians Marlene Sanborn and Terry Ross. In disguise in the second photograph are several other couples we'd love to meet!



## Helena Club Makes a Monthly Difference

In keeping with this year's Rotary International theme, "Making a Difference, President Ann Dooling of Rotary Club of Helena is devoting the fourth meeting of every month to making a difference in Helena. In July, the club worked in teams to create birthday bags for Food Share. In August, the club created teams and randomly drew a non-profit organization in Helena to help in the coming month. Pictured is Team 2, painting rocks for Montana Children's Trust Fund. They logged 16 hours on their project, which included hiding the rocks around town and posting clues on Facebook about where the rocks are. Their website was also painted on the backs of the rocks.



re-  
co-

On the fourth Wednesday in September, the teams assembled and, team by team, introduced their volunteer coordinator, who then said a bit about what that non-profit was. The team then told the group what they did for their volunteer project.

The fourth Wednesday of October was spent writing some 400 Christmas cards for a non-profit called Montana Supporting Soldiers, which collects hand-written cards to send to military personnel overseas.

The fourth Wednesday of November is the day before Thanksgiving, so on the third Wednesday this month the club will assemble 48 "personal bags" for the men at God's Love, a shelter for homeless men. The bags will contain shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, wash cloths and socks. The tag attached to each bag will read, "Best Wishes. Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Helena."

Making a difference, one meeting every month. Great idea!

## Clubs Partner for Trivia Night to Fund Interact Scholarship

On Nov. 2, the Helena Sunrise Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Townsend sponsored Trivia Night at the American Legion in Townsend to raise money for an Interact Scholarship for a Townsend Interact Club student. The Rotary Club of Townsend is currently helping form a new Interact Club for Townsend Youth. Two potential new Interact Club students attended Trivia Night, along with ninety adults.

Nine teams competed to raise funds for the scholarship. Several teams challenged one another to see which team would get the highest score. The team losing would put extra money toward the scholarship. The Rotary team (aka "A Guy Walked into a Bar") challenged the Broadwater Area Lions Club team to an extra \$100 challenge, which Rotary won handily. The Broadwater Health Center Auxiliary team challenged the Creative Closet team (aka "Closet Trivia") to a \$90 challenge, which the Auxiliary team won. A team made up of last-minute walk-in entries and named "TK's Garage" won first place. Over \$1,500 was raised for the scholarship. Two clubs working together to make a difference!

## Faces of Rotary: Mike Wier

Great Falls Rotarians established Camp Rotary outside Neihart, MT, nearly a century ago. From its onset, the camp has provided a high-quality outdoor experience for Montana children at low cost or no cost.

Keeping the camp in good repair is a labor of love – and of funding. Sixteen years ago, Rotary Club of Great Falls decided to rely for its funding on a single signature event: Harvest Howl. For most of those years, **Mike Wier** has organized all the activities required to bring a name band to Great Falls, feed and entertain a crowd of 1500 Montanans, and sell everything that isn't nailed down: beer, 50-50 tickets, a silent auction, and a dessert auction.



The organizational details are mind-boggling – and extraordinarily time-consuming. Yet in his unruffled, easy-going style, Mike takes it all in stride. By December of this year, he'll have closed the books on Harvest Howl 2017. In February, he and fellow Rotarian Tom Nelson will begin looking for the headliner for Harvest Howl 2018. By May, he'll have set up the oversight committee, assigning each member a leadership role in some facet of the event: ticket sales, venue set-up, band accommodations, silent auction, etc. By mid-September, the subcommittees will be down to the final details. In October, virtually every club meeting will devote a major segment to updates and volunteer requests for the Howl. And the first week of November will be utter madness, with all hands on deck hauling supplies, setting up tables, cooking food, serving drinks, selling tickets, keeping the band happy, greeting attendees ... the list goes on and on.

Yet Mike Wier floats through it all as though he just happened to be passing by and thought he'd drop in – never panicking, never raising his voice, always smiling. There isn't a detail he isn't aware of and or a crisis that can stump him. He is so pleasant to work with and for that Great Falls Rotarians come back again and again, eager to help with the next Harvest Howl.

Now that's the face of Rotary: not just service above self, but leadership beyond stress. That's the face of Mike Wier.

*December is  
Disease Prevention and Treatment Month*

*(Joe Bear's Blog continued from page 1)*

dent; he is getting the job done.

"Ideas never work unless you do." I saw this sign in the senior center where Big Sandy holds their meetings, and it epitomizes the actions of this club. Last spring I attended their fund-raiser. The whole club and many volunteers made this annual event a smashing success. Big Sandy is strong supporter of RYLA. Led by Sheri Moore, all the members are active.

Dean Boyle is the current Great Falls president and future Assistant Governor. He and his members are also very active – again, review their website! Besides going to their meeting, Libby and I attended the Harvest Howl fundraiser on Oct. 27th. WOW – what an event! This affair required all hands on deck to prepare the venue, greet, feed, host the Guess Who, and run dessert and silent auctions for approximately 1500 attendees. The reward -- they netted at least \$40,000 – in the continued good works of Camp Rotary, a unique service project nearly 100 years in the making.

Prior to visiting White Sulphur Springs, my knowledge of this community was very limited. Things could be changing in White Sulphur when the new copper mine opens. I have a new nickname for Andy Lind and his group: "THE ICE MEN." They sell 5 tons of ice during the "Red Ants Pants Festival," netting the club about \$5,000. They have found a need and filled it. We all should be aware of opportunities.

Libby and I ended the month by attending the Twin Bridges Halloween party. We were completely outdone by many cracking costumes (pictured) - they know how to dress up! Four RYLA students gave presentations of their experiences. They are extraordinary teen-agers.

I have received many questions and comments---the question that dominates the discussion is: How do we get more members to become actively involved? I would like your feedback on that.

On Nov. 1, I delivered dictionaries to schools in Lodge Grass, Crow Agency, and Fort Smith. The students were all attentive and thankful. They energized me.

I am honored and humbled by our riveting Rotarians. You are Making a Difference. Thanks to all who have hosted me.

Joe



The Rotarian's The 4-Way Test  
*of the things we think, say, or do:*

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to all concerned?
- Will it build Goodwill and better Friendship?
- Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

[www.montanarotary.org](http://www.montanarotary.org)

PO Box 1091

Billings, Montana 59103

*Service above Self*



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

## The Rotary Foundation News

Earlier this month, three Rotarians and an engineer from Engineers Without Borders (EWB), traveled to Guatemala to gather the final information and documentation needed for the Rotary International grant application for the Guatemala Coalition water project in El Progreso.

Libby Rotarians **George Gerard** and **Mick Shea**, along with Engineer **Pat Murtagh** and **Sandy Carlson** from the Kalispell Daybreak Club, were welcomed by their dear friends from the Rotary Club of Mazatenango. After an evening of friendship and fellowship, they finalized the meeting schedule for the next 5 days.

Their focus was on meeting with the village leaders in El Progreso to get papers signed, measurements made and mostly just renew friendships and assure the villagers that they are determined to complete this project. It was a successful meeting.

Later in the week the group met with representatives from Pasac and Fundazucar and finally with townspeople of La Vega, home of a future project. They accomplished much in a very short time, but the most enjoyable aspect of the trip was the time spent re-establishing the bond with fellow Rotarians in Mazatenango. At a special Mazatenango Rotary Club Dinner held in their honor, George presented a Paul Harris award to their dear friend and Guatemalan counterpart Gerardo, without whose support this project would not be happening.



"I look forward to continuing to be involved with this project and seeing it to fruition," Sandy Carlson commented. "As they say in Guatemala, amigos para siempre, *Friends for Life!*"