

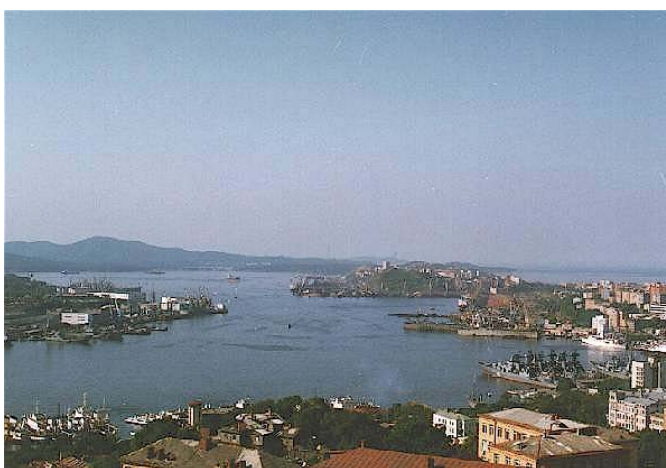
ROTARY IN EASTERN RUSSIA

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1. HOW ROTARY BEGAN IN EASTERN RUSSIA

By: Vladimir Donskoy (DG 2004-05) and PDG Carolyn Jones



Vladivostok Bay

The idea of Rotary in eastern Russia started in the middle 1980s in the heyday of Perestroika when a representative from President Gorbachev's administration came to a meeting at the Eugene Rotary Club, Oregon, U.S.A. As a follow-up, they wrote the Gorbachev administration a letter about the Rotary concept, asking permission to develop the idea of starting Rotary in Russia. A year later a positive response was received. RI President Hugh Archer gave a blessing and a team of seven Rotarians from Eugene was set up to travel to St. Petersburg, then Moscow, and finally Irkutsk. In St. Petersburg and Moscow, the city governments informed John Alltucker and Rick Cleveland, team leaders, that it would take two years to get a club started. However, in Irkutsk they were met with much enthusiasm and received an immediate go-ahead. Irkutsk, the second club in the former Soviet Union, was chartered almost overnight.

In Magadan, Rotary started to develop from within and Alaskan Rotarians did a wonderful job of nurturing the club, which in 1995 became known as the best club in Russia. Anchorage, Alaska is only 4 hours by plane from Magadan, Russia - a city on Russia's Pacific coast. Alaskans were eager to meet their neighbors and began organizing exchanges and charter flights between the two cities. Several of the original flights were all Rotary groups. Alaska Rotarians then invited Magadan residents back to visit them and to learn more about Rotary. Two flights involved a summer exchange of our children.

In 1989 a Rotary Friendship Club was established in Magadan. Five clubs in Alaska petitioned RI for permission to charter this club in 1990. However, RI had other plans; and those plans did not include chartering a club in Magadan at that time. In 1990, 4 clubs were chartered in Russia and introduced at the Portland convention. One of the 4 clubs was in eastern Russia: Irkutsk.

The future Rotarians in Magadan were discouraged but not defeated. For the next 3 years, they continued to meet; to do service projects. They sent a group of their members to Anchorage for 10 days for Rotary orientation and training. Their five "sponsoring" clubs continued to support them with Rotary information, funds, visits, advice, and encouragement.

Finally, in 1993, RI granted a charter to the Rotary Club of Magadan, and assigned to District 5010 the responsibility of extending Rotary into all of Russia east of the Ural Mountains. With this new assignment, the Rotary Club of Irkutsk also became a part of District 5010.

Within a year, RI seemed to have had second thoughts about its decision to have D. 5010 be responsible for this extension responsibility. The RI Board voted to take back eastern Russia from District 5010. District 5010 protested and the matter came up at the 1994 district conference in Kodiak, Alaska. The RI Board sent an observer. A representative from the Irkutsk and Magadan clubs each came to speak in support of remaining with D. 5010. Other D. 5010 Rotarians stated their strong support.

Because resolutions have to be stated in the positive, the resolution read: "Resolved that District 5010 supports the decision of the RI Board to remove Russia east of the Ural Mountains from D. 5010." There was a call for those in favor. The silence was deafening. There was a call for those opposed and the room erupted in "nays!"

There are currently 34 Rotary clubs east of the Urals and Vladimir Donskoy will be the first Russian District Governor in 2004/05.

And that, in a nutshell, is how Rotary began in eastern Russia.

2. THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF ROTARY IN EASTERN RUSSIA

By: Vladimir Donskoy (D-5010), DG 2004-05



In 1989-1991 I had the pleasure of visiting the Rotary Club of Eugene, in Oregon to study the inner workings of Rotary. The Oregonians definitely did a lot of work to help Russians understand what Rotary is about. They invested a lot in me personally by exposing me to the inner workings of Rotary and making us aware of pitfalls at the formative stage of Russian Rotary. While in Irkutsk in 1989, my home city in Siberia, I met PDG Dick McClintick (far left); DGN Rick Cleveland (2nd. Left) Rick's wife, Stephanie (2nd. Right); and, John Alltucker (far right). Together they can be considered the founding fathers of Rotary in Eastern Russia.

PDG Dick McClintick provided me with my first copy of RI's "Manual Of Procedures" and the "Rotary Basic Library" which I later translated into Russian. He was part of the RI-sponsored group who traveled to Moscow, St. Petersburg and finally Irkutsk.

John Alltucker and Rick Cleveland were also part of the delegation and jointly provided me with the support and expertise required to start Rotary in Eastern Russia. Rick and especially John have often visited Russia and been actively involved with projects in Siberia.

I thank them and all Rotarians in Eastern Russia thank them for their "Service Above Self" and willingness to "Lend a Hand".

3. MILESTONES OF ROTARY IN RUSSIA & DISTRICT 5010 BETWEEN 1993 AND 2003

The information provided here is based on the research of the author, PDG Carolyn E. Jones, D. 5010. It was prepared for presentation at the 2nd annual D. 5010 conference in Vladivostok, Russia (April 2003) in recognition of the 10th. anniversary of Rotary clubs in eastern Russia.

The presentation was intended to highlight significant events and first time events in the evolution of Rotary in eastern Russia. It is not a catalogue of every accomplishment or otherwise of the evolution of Rotary in Russia or the activities of the individual clubs in eastern Russia. It should not be considered the official authorized history of R.I. D. 5010.

“MILESTONES”

1993-1994 – RI President Bob Barth; “Do What You Believe In, Believe in What you do – DG Gary Stevens

- DG Stevens Attended a presidential conference in Vienna, Austria, on extension of Rotary in Russia. He lobbied for the charter of the Magadan Club;
- RI Board approves dividing Russia into 2 special extension areas: west of the Ural Mountains and East of the Ural Mountains;
- 1 club chartered: Magadan. Rotary Club of Irkutsk, chartered 1990, added to District 5010;
- RI votes to take back Russia from D. 5010; Magadan & Irkutsk attend conference in Kodiak to object. Grant Wilkins present. D. 5010 clubs unanimously vote “NO!” Silence on “Aye” vote was deafening!

1994-1995 – RI President Bill Huntley, “Be A Friend” – DG Steve Yoshida

- 4 clubs chartered: Yakutsk, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Novosibirsk;
- PETS conducted in Novosibirsk and Khabarovsk;
- RI approached to hold Presidential Peace Forum on Eastern Russia;
- Rotary clubs in Japan donate 12 Foundation scholarships with a value of \$300,000 for Russian students -- the first scholarships in what becomes an ongoing relationship with D. 5010;
- Concept of Rotary in Russia workshop developed; Minnesota Rotary clubs identified as first sponsors.

1995-1996 – RI President Herb Brown, “Act With Integrity, Serve With Love and Work For Peace – DG Jack Randolph.

- 6 YEX students outbound from Russia; 1 inbound from California – D. 5010 takes the first step to proving that “we can’t be at war with people with whom we share our children.” Challenging issues: visas, age restrictions, travel, school requirements, cultural, money. PDG Alana Bergh finds a home for her heart and commits for several years to make the YEX program in Russia successful;
- 6 clubs chartered: Blagoveschensk, Chita, Nakhodka, Palatka, Petropavlovsk, Yelisovo;
- RI Presidential Peace Forum on “Peace and Economic Development In Eastern Russia, held in Anchorage, Alaska in October, 1955. Rotary Russian Peace Ensemble is born;
- Rotary clubs in Russia donate money to the Rotary Foundation for the first time: \$10 per member;
- DG Randolph set the wheels in motion for the first all Russian/all Rotary GSE team;
- DG Randolph served next 5 years as district extension chair for Rotary in Russia;
- Rotary Russian Peace Ensemble sings for peace in U.S. and Canadian districts, at D. 5010 conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, and at the international convention in Calgary, CA.;
- R.I. District 9680 (Australia) launches “From Russia With Love” – a long-term district plan to support the extension of Rotary in Russia. First non-GSE vocational team invited to D. 9680.

1996-1997 – RI President Luis Giay, “Build The Future With Action and Vision” – DG Lloyd Morris

- 6 clubs chartered: Novosibirsk-Centre; Novosibirsk-Akademgorodok, Barnaul, Tomsk, Vlad-Eco and Petropavlovsk-Avachinsky;
- First all-Rotary, all-Russian GSE team goes to Canada;
- “From Russia With Love” – R.I. D. 9680 sends 5-member team to Novosibirsk, Russia in support of PETS training; sends its first youth exchange student to Vladivostok;
- Featured Russian entertainers at the district conference in Girdwood;

- DG Morris invited U.S. Consul for Vladivostok as featured speaker at Girdwood conference;
- 1st. Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Minneapolis, MN.

1997-1998 – RI President Glen Kinross, “Show Rotary Cares” – DG Carolyn Jones

- DGE Ernst authorizes Rotary leadership and clubs in Russia to take leadership in putting on PETS in Chita. PDG Ernst: “They put together a terrific program with very informative sessions, great attendance and camaraderie and very pleasant accommodations.”
- 6 clubs chartered: Omsk, Yuzhno Sakhalin, Ulan-Ude, Aginskoye, Irkutsk-Baikal and Esso;
- Districts sponsors 2 allRotary/allRussian GSE teams to Canada and USA;
- Children of Russia programs raises \$600,000+ to finance 30 humanitarian projects benefiting children in eastern Russia;
- District 5010 and its eastern Russia clubs participate in RI Presidential Peace Conference in St. Petersburg;
- District secures New Opportunity Grant to take country western/blue grass band on a humanitarian tour of eastern Russia: 28 performances in 12 days in Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Khabarovsk, Novosibirsk, Tomsk and Barnaul;
- Talented children contest produces cultural visit by the children of Esso to the conferences of Districts 5010, 5080 and 5100;
- “From Russia With Love” – R.I. D. 9680 invites 2 emerging Rotary leaders from eastern Russia to Australia for leadership training;
- 2nd Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Denver, CO.

1998-1999 – RI President Jim Lacy, “Follow Your Rotary Dream” – DG Peter Ernst

- 4 clubs chartered: Neryungri, Krasnoyarsk, Kholmok, Milkovo;
- R.I. D. 5010 clubs submit application to Rotary International to create a new Rotary district in Siberia and Far East, Russia. Application denied.;
- August 1998 economic collapse impacts Rotary in Russia; membership and extension of Rotary in Russia loses momentum;
- Deputy Governor Vladimir Donskoi is first Russian Rotarian to be awarded the RI “Service Above Self Award.”;

- 2 Rotarians in eastern Russia each donate \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation;
- “From Russia With Love” – first of 6 Rotary Volunteers from Australia shares small business skills in Vladivostok; Rotaractor from Vladivostok goes to D. 9680 in Australia;
- Japanese Rotary clubs share their culture and send a kimono show to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk;
- 3rd Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Tucson, AZ.

1999-2000 – RI President Carlo Ravizza, “Serve Rotary with Consistency, Credibility and Continuity” – DG Alana Bergh

- 5 Rotary clubs chartered: Ussurisk, Gorno-Altai, Kemerovo, Kholmsk, and Komsomolsk-na-Amur; 5 Rotaract clubs: Barnaul, Novosibirsk-City, Novosibirsk-Centre, Nakhodka, and Vlad-Eco; 3 Interact clubs: Nyurba, Nakhodka and Krasnoyarsk;
- DGE Livingston’s PETS held on River Amur;
- RI President Ravizza convenes Budapest meeting to district Rotary clubs in western Russia and confirm D. 5010 as the Rotary district for clubs in eastern Russia;
- Rotary health fairs – a new initiative developed by PDG Yoshida;
- 1st Rotaract Forum held in Gorno-Altai;
- “From Russia With Love” – R.I. D. 9680 sponsors Australia’s 1st “Rotary In Russia Workshop” in Sydney;
- 4th Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Seattle, WA [RI President Ravizza attends; Russian clubs contribute \$1,000 to Polio Eradication Campaign].

2000-2001 – RI President Frank Devlyn, “Create Awareness and Take Action” – DG Phil Livingston

- 36 Rotary Clubs; 38 Rotaract and Interact Clubs;
- 4 clubs chartered: Korsakov Rotary Club, Yuzhno-Sakhalin Rotaract; Vladivostok and Khabarovsk Interact.
- Russian clubs brought current on administrative issues, and RI and district dues;

- \$16,800,000 humanitarian aid delivered; 18 Russian orphanages “adopted” by Rotary clubs;
- \$125,000 HHH grant in Vladivostok to eliminate Hepatitis A and B;
- \$8,100,000 Project Hope flight with vaccine for Kamchatka region, sponsored by Medford, OR Rotary Club and Petropavlovsk Avachinsky Rotary Club;
- 25 Rotary Foundation Grants;
- DG Livingston personally delivered \$900 raised by Russian PEs at the Irkutsk PETS 2000 to the Yakutsk Rotary club to assist flood victims;
- 2 GSE teams from Russia to the U.S.: one medical exchange to D. 5330 and a mixed professional exchange to D. 5130;
- Rotary health fairs – a new initiative developed by PDG Yoshida;
- 5th Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Houston, Texas.

2001-2002 – RI President Rick King, “Mankind Is Our Business” – DG Wanda Cooksey

- First district conference ever held anywhere in Russia: Barnaul. RI President Rick King attends;
- 1 club chartered: Omsk-Dostoevsky;
- 2 clubs lose their charters: Milkovo and Aginskoye;
- DDG Donskoi makes all Russian Rotary club visits;
- Rotary health fairs continue;
- GSE team awry – TRF bills D. 5010 for the \$4,000 mistake; and 2 years GSE probation;
- Rotary clubs in Russia: donate \$3,000 to Children of Afghanistan; sponsor eye project for children of Nepal;
- Rotaract District created at 2nd Rotaract Forum in Novosibirsk.
- Vladimir Donskoi becomes first Russian Rotarian to be nominated to the office of district governor, at the D. 5010 Conference in Juneau, Alaska;

- 6th Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Washington, D.C. [RI President Rick King attends.].

2002-2003 – RI President Bhichai Rattakul, “Sow The Seeds of Love” – DG Arvind Phukan

- YEX program expanded from the first 6 outbound/1 inbound in 1995 to 60 outbound and 40 inbound;
- TRF clears Rotary Club of Novosibirsk-Ob of allegations of misuse of funds re MG 8634 and COG 1267;
- TRF accepts settlement offer of Rotary Club of Novosibirsk re monies misspent re MG 8639;
- 2nd district conference held in Russia – Vladivostok;
- RI sends a president’s representative to both district conferences in Wasilla, USA and Vladivostok, Russia;
- Rotary Health Fairs continue, and total of 14 held in eastern Russia;
- U.S. Consul for Vladivostok gives welcome address at conference in Vladivostok;
- 3 Rotary Community Corps chartered;
- Russian clubs collaborate and jointly sponsor two matching grant projects in India: a dam for clean water; an ambulance for rural patients;
- Yakutsk donates \$200, Nerungry donates \$100, Vladivostok donates \$210 and Novosibirsk donates \$110 to the PolioPlus Eradication Campaign;
- 1st. ever district Rotary Foundation seminar on cable TV and Internet with full video translation into Russian;
- Russian Rotarians present a PHF to Sharon Tennison, founder of the Center for Citizen Initiatives;
- 7th. Rotary in Russia Workshop held in Sacramento, California.

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