



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East
The Crown Jewel of District 5130

September 08, 2020

Edited by: Les Chauncy



Openings

President KIM McDONALD (PKM), quietly but skillfully clanging the opening bell, began the meeting a few minutes after 12noon on a smoke-filled but still beautiful, sunshiny date. First Gentleman, and visiting Rotarian, David McDonald, played The Star-Spangled Banner, after a brief moment of searching for the ON button, as sung by an extremely talented 7-year-old to open a baseball game. What a voice and could she belt that song outta the park! Our thought for the day was presented by the lovely, Ann McGinley, who shared this prayer: “Dear Lord, please keep your arm on my shoulder and your hand over my mouth”. With his dulcet tones for “My Bonnie”, our song of the day was soloed by our very own Songmeister, Larry Lira.

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Steve Page, President of Sonoma Raceway (and hopefully a new Rotarian?), Ron Herrerias, a guest of Barry Cogbill and First Gentleman, David McDonald, of Santa Rosa West.

Presentation

Steve Page, President of Sonoma Raceway, began his presentation with a brief history of the Raceway and it’s change of names over the years. Beginning with the name, Sears Point Raceway then Infineon Raceway with Sonoma Raceway being the latest name. And, what began as a funky raceway has evolved into what it is today. The Raceway has amphitheater style seating and some of those seats offer a view of the entire 2 ½ mile track.

The Raceway has a wide variety of programs from Cops Drag Racing Teens, The Challenge Momentum, 24 Hours for Lemons, Hot Laps and what seemed to garner the most interest of the Club members is The Shell Marathon. The Shell Marathon is open to high school and college

students to see who can build the most fuel efficient, single passenger vehicles. The most efficient vehicle was 1,600 miles per gallon but the student's goal was 5,000!

The Raceway has raised \$6.8 million dollars for children's charities but has been stymied in 2020 due to COVID as they have been shut down on two occasions this year.

Some personal notes about Steve: his favorite car is an '87 Porsche he purchased for himself and he will be retiring at the end of 2020 with 29 years at the helm. He and his wife live in Sonoma and he is excited to see what retirement offers. This is a brief overview of what was an exciting and informative presentation.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Happy Dollars

Kenn Cunningham was first up, called out by Steve Page, for not wearing his signature bowtie. Kenn said they were all waiting in his closet waiting for the proper time to reappear. He noted that due to sheltering in place he has discovered that a shirt and tie do not require matching trousers to which Steve chimed in with, "or no pants"!

Next up was Hap Culp. He has had quite the exciting life recently. He and Sue both had birthdays celebrated by dining with family at the River Grill in Truckee. His 46-year anniversary with the Club, from 1974 to 2020, was the next large milestone, congratulations, Hap! And finally, because a bear totaled Sue's car by ripping up the interior, with some mention made of the need to enter the car by reaching through the window because the door handle had been ripped off. They celebrated Sue's birthday by purchasing a 2020 Lexus 300 Hybrid which Sue claimed is her last car. Hap paid \$200 Happy Dollars plus added that he owed \$10 Happy Dollars from an earlier meeting. A bell ringer!!

Katrina Zavalney celebrated her 40th birthday by visiting Oregon where she did some hiking and visiting with family. She paid \$40 Happy Dollars.

Back to Kenn for the 52nd wedding anniversary with his bride, Elaine. Their son brought them dinner from John Ash with Elaine dining in the family room while Kenn dined in their home office. Another bell ringer with \$100 Happy Dollars.

Kim addressed the need for more sign-ups for the fundraiser, now a "done deal". She shared Dennis Sepp's thoughts on the fundraiser, "What we have to remember is not what you are getting but what is important is what we are doing".

Maria Robinson had her one-year anniversary with the Club, thank you, Maria!

PKM rang the closing bell at 12:55p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

September 22 Speaker: Maya Bisbiglia Club Talk: A Year in France (Maya is the 2019-2020 Youth Ambassador for Rotary Youth Exchange)

September 29 Speaker: Barb Spangler Club Talk: District Global Grants (Barb is the District International Service Committee Chair & Past District Governor)

**October 06 Speaker: Renee Marie
is U. S. Army Retired Reserve)**

Club Talk: Peace Poles at Schools (Marie

**October 13 Speaker: James Alexander
(James is an Author)**

Club Talk: Courage in the Face of Cruelty

The Link to Zoom Meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/880106692>

Please note, there are 3 attachments included with the Eastwind, from Rotarian Bob Rogers, regarding our Polio Plus program. Please take a few minutes to read through all 3.

Note from this week's scribe: My apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. After self-quarantining for a COVID scare for 14 days, happy to report a Negative test result, combined with a dead computer at home, distraction last night by the auction while attempting to work on the newsletter and an early (6a.m.) start at the office this morning, I humbly offer my brief Eastwind and express the need for a second, very strong cup of coffee.