



Rotary Club of Coeur d'Alene



Rotary Bulletin 01/26/24

NEXT MEETING February 2, 2024

Panhandle Health District-Silver Valley lead abatement

JOIN MEETING VIA ZOOM: click [here](#).

Presided.....PRESIDENT DOUG RUPIPER

Invocation.....ANN JOHNSON

Greeter.....RYAN JOHNSON

Sergeant at Arms.....JIM PIERCE

VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS

Madison Tebow, CDA Thursday evening Rotary on the Rocks

Dan Pinkerton, CDA Sunrise

Jeff Ottmar and Stephen Buckner, guests of Linda Coppess

Rayelle Anderson, guest of Sue Thilo

Janet Hicks, wife of Ian Hicks

Joel Hazel, husband of Christa Hazel

Jordan Thomas, guest of Britt Thurman

Samantha Green, guest of Rebecca Eyman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madison Tebow and JB the Gorilla from the Thursday evening CDA Rotary Club invited members to support their February Valentines Day fundraiser. For \$50 you can have a heart shaped box of See's Candies chocolate delivered to your love, child, friend, or colleague. For \$100, you can have JB the Gorilla either WOW or embarrass your favorite person with a minute of singing and dancing while delivering the chocolate! All proceeds help to fund the club's community service initiatives. To learn more or order, contact Madison at 208-819-3302 or mtebow@idfbins.com.

NEW MEMBER

SCOTT CARLSON introduced new member JEFF LUGER. Jeff hails from Yakima, WA and has been married for 50 years, has two sons and a few grandchildren. He has over 55 years in aviation including serving in Vietnam in 1971 where he flew over 200 missions. He also was the first plane to fly after 9-11 and was escorted by F-16s from Salt Lake City to the east coast. There is MUCH more to learn about Jeff, as I could not get it all in the bulletin!

BIRTHDAYS

01/26 Christa Hazel


01/28 Nicky Swayne

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

HANK MARTIN is enticing members to sign up for Rotary Direct with a \$20/month donation to the

Speakers


Club Leaders



[Doug Rupiper](#)
President




[Ashley Lenz](#)
President-Elect




[Michael Nail](#)
Treasurer



[Julie Amador](#)
Club Director



[Kim Jane Edmondson](#)
Club Director




[Rebecca Eyman](#)
Secretary
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Emily Moses](#)
Club Director
Community Service
Chair



[Mark Olson](#)
Club Director



[Larry Riley](#)
Public Relations Chair
Club Director

Rotary International Foundation. He will give you a Paul Harris Fellow if you sign up soon! You can designate where your dollars are invested.

A Paul Harris Fellow is awarded to donors who make a \$1,000 gift to the Rotary International Foundation, and each subsequent \$1,000 gift is honored as well.

Rayelle Anderson PHF, gifted by Tom & Sue Thilo

Julie Amador +2

Doug Rupiper +2

Scott Carlson +3

Rick Rasmussen +5

Jack Riggs +7

MAJOR DONOR AWARD for gifts of \$10,000+ to the Rotary International Foundation

MAJOR DONOR Level I for gifts of \$10,000-25,000- honoring Ian and Janet Hicks for their invaluable support of the Rotary International Foundation.

PROGRAM

BRITT THURMAN introduced Dave Eubanks, a local historian to provide a presentation on the BIG BURN of 1910. During the Edwardian Era, prior to WWI, Coeur d'Alene had a population of 10,000 and the main industries were timber and tourism. In 1910, the month of February had the last snowfall and also the last precipitation for many many months. The temperatures were record-breaking highs with March in the 90s and April-June being even hotter with still no sign of rain. By the end of June there were over 1,000 fires all over the region in the lowlands, grasslands, prairies, and east of Coeur d'Alene from dry lightning, untended campfires and slash piles. July was even hotter still with routine 100+ degree temperatures, more dry lightning, and 2,000 fires burning in the eastern CDA mountains. It was so smokey you could not see the mountains and there was no humidity or wind.

At the end of July, President Taft dispatched 10,000 soldiers and civilians to tend to the fires. By August 20, there were over 3,000 fires in the mountains and a big windstorm blew up from the Lewiston area, over the Palouse and headed northeast, straight for the Bitterroot Mountains. With the fires, the temperatures within the 60-60 mph winds were upwards of 2,000 degrees. Temperatures that hot can burn belt buckles, cast iron and turn human and animal remains to carbonized ash.

During this time, legions of loggers from Weyerhaeuser and Potlatch were in the mountains, along with multitudes of people and immigrants who were trying their luck at discovering the minerals and metals in the Silver Valley region. When the winds reached the thousands of fires in the mountain area, trees literally exploded and sent fireballs into the air. There were 3,500 people living in Wallace, ID at the time and were in a panic to leave town on trains, while watching the train trestles burn as they were riding out of town.

Coeur d'Alene did not burn, but within 36 hours, much of the eastern mountains, the timber within Glacier National Park and all the way to Canada burned in the fire of 1910. The total land mass burned was 3.2 million acres, 100,000 acres per hour or 1600 acres per minute! Officials say 85 people were killed and 100 went missing, but that does not account for all of the people that may have been literally incinerated by the fires on the mountainsides and valleys. Five towns on the Montana side of the border were completely destroyed, along with one third of the town of Wallace, which lost 100 buildings.

Among the living was Ed Pulaski, the forest ranger in charge of 300,000 acres in the Wallace area. The US Forest Service was brand new and Ed was in charge of fire fighters who were on the 1910 fire. When the fire overtook them, Pulaski ushered the men into an abandoned prospectors mine shaft and ordered them to the ground to breath what little air there was remaining. He held the men at gunpoint so as to not leave the area. He stood at the mine entrance and held canvas over it, which resulted in burns on his body. Pulaski saved 41 of the men, five of which died. He stayed with the Forest Service until 1929.

This is still the worst fire in American history. The trees at the time were 200-250 feet tall, which we still do not see to this day. The smoke drifted across the United States and Canada along the 49th parallel and blackened the skies. Ash fell on Greenland and turned the ice sheet black.

If you'd like to learn more, read the book ["The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America" by Timothy Egan](#). I am sure that our local Well Red Moose bookstore may have it in stock, or better yet, the local libraries also have it available!

PROGRAMS for FEBRUARY

More to come

In Service,

BRITT TOWERY



[Steven Roberge](#)
Club Director
Assistant Governor



[Ann Thomas](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Britt Towery](#)
Bulletin Editor
Club Director



[Chris L. Cheeley](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Hank Martin](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Claudia Jean Brennan](#)
Special Projects Chair



[Larry Gill](#)
Community Service
Chair



[Robert William Smee II](#)
Veterans Committee
Chair



[Ian Hicks](#)
International Service
Chair



[Alex Stanton](#)
International Service
Chair



[Candace Louise Godwin](#)
iPast President