



Rotary

Club of Coeur d'Alene



Speakers

Club Leaders



Doug Rupiper
President



Ashley Lenz
President-Elect



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Treasurer



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Club Director



Kim Jane Edmondson
Club Director



Rebecca Eyman
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Club Director
Membership Chair



Emily Moses
Club Director
Community Service
Chair



Mark Olson
Club Director



Larry Riley
Public Relations Chair
Club Director

Rotary Bulletin 02/23/24

NEXT MEETING March 1, 2024

Peter Grubb-ROW Adventures

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

Presided.....PRESIDENT DOUG RUIPER

Invocation.....BILL MUCK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 23 is Rotary International's anniversary, celebrating the organization's founding in 1905 in Chicago. There are 1.4 million members and clubs in almost every country. The original focus of the organization was Service, Integrity, Goodwill, Peace.

Former club member BILL WATT passed away and the Celebration of Life and luncheon will be on Tuesday, March 5 at the Hayden Lake Country Club. If you are able to attend, please contact Bill's wife, MJ at 208-719-0870 so she can get a headcount for food.

BIRTHDAYS

02/24 Luke Russell

02/25 Pattie Strub

02/28 John Young

02/29 Peter Riggs

PROGRAM

LARRY STAUFFER introduced Tom Mueller, a true life rocket scientist and St. Maries kid from a logging family that loved to tinker with taking apart engines and putting them back together. As a kid, Mueller had a fascination with space, rockets, astronomy, and cosmology. Tom made his way to the University of Idaho where he earned a Mechanical Engineering degree, then moved to Los Angeles where he earned a masters' degree in Engineering from Loyola Marymount.

Early in his career he worked for Highest Aircraft, on NASA and Air Force program development and design. He worked with every type of liquid gas propellant around today. In 1990, he joined an amateur rocket club, Reaction Research Society, and it was through this group that Mueller was introduced to Elon Musk in January 2002. The two men met a few times in an airport hotel conference room where Musk asked Mueller if he could build a 650,000 lb. thrust engine. Mueller said yes, and the rest is history! Mueller was the first to sign paperwork to join the team of Space X and, thus, became employee number one of the company, with Musk being employee number three! Space X was essentially a bunch of scrappy people building launch vehicles (rockets). Mueller was in charge of the development of propulsion and stayed with the company for 19 years until he retired in 2020.

In 2021, Mueller founded Impulse Space. To date, the company has raised \$75 million and has 90 full-time employees. They make their own equipment and components in order to control quality and schedule, and the goal is to be the first and "one-to-one" company to move things around in space. The focus is on low-cost, efficient transportation in space. Impulse Space wants to get from low earth orbit (LEO) where Space X runs, to a geosynchronous orbit that matches the earth's rotation on its axis.

He eventually sees refueling depots, or gas/propellant stations in space where rockets can be refueled to be reused and not wasted as a "one and done" type of rocket used today. Mueller believes the best real estate is in space, and it is a race currently for the US to beat China to stake claim on the shadow craters of the South Pole of the moon. Here, 95% of the surface faces the sun so there is potential for great access to solar power. Also, there is ice on the poles of the moon, so there is abundant water supply as well. Ultimately, the sky's the limit with Mueller, literally!

You can access Tom Mueller's presentation slides [here](#).

You can also learn more at the links below:

[Tom Mueller - Wikipedia](#)

[Tom Mueller: From Logger to SpaceX Co-Founder \(uidaho.edu\)](#)

[Tom Mueller Says He 'Learned Never to Tell Him No' Working for Elon Musk at SpaceX \(businessinsider.com\)](#)

[Impulse Space CEO Tom Mueller talks early days at SpaceX, lunar bases, and a blooming space industry \(exclusive\) | Space](#)

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