



MARCH 20, 2025

Events

March 20th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Joshua Savage

Subject: Author of "Secret Bend, Oregon"

March 27th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Chris Kealey
- CDO NeighborImpact

Subject:

NeighborImpact

April 3rd

Monthly Club

Business Meeting

April 10th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Nicole Ramos

Subject: Regional Economist

Birthdays

Dawn Ann Hudson

March 25th

Louise Sande Kaplan

March 25th

Debora Sepich

March 30th

Ryan Sale

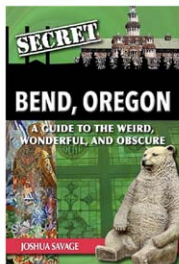
April 4th

John Nielsen

April 9th



This Week's Luncheon Meeting



President Paul Spain has returned from the Rotary Friendship Exchange to Uganda. This week our guest speaker is **Joshua Savage, author of "Secret Bend-Oregon"**, a guide to the weird, wonderful, and obscure". The author weaves together tales from the past with stories from the present. It delves deeper into history and local peculiarities to uncover why Central Oregon is so fascinating and why we love it here.

Please reply to: rotaryredmond@gmail.com if you are attending and let us know if you plan to invite a guest.

Greeters: Marv Kaplan, Deb Simonson, Brie Lindbo ([Greeter instructions](#))

2025 Gift of Literacy

A Gift of Literacy work party will meet at the Eagle Crest Falls clubhouse on Saturday, March 22nd, from 10:00 to noon with lunch to follow. Join in the fun with *Service above Self*.



Camp RYLA 2025



Camp **RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is now accepting applications for the June 16 - 21 camp in Dorena Lake, OR. If you know a high school sophomore or junior student that may be interested, give them a copy of this **POSTER** and forward this

VIDEO to them. RYLA contact is Dave Brenneman: dandbbrenneman@gmail.com.

This week's Member Profile

Jerry Wheeler Featured Profile

Jerry Wheeler has a wealth of experience to share that explains his value to the club and in his life's work as a construction management professional, where he honed skills that he built on throughout his career.

Born and raised in Tacoma, Washington, Jerry attended Washington State University where he studied in his chosen field. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree and gained a wife, Joann, two early success stories in his life. His first job after graduation




meant a move to Portland, Oregon, working for Owens Corning Fiberglass as an estimator. Still in training with the company, they moved to Clinton for a few weeks before being relocated back to Portland, then San Jose for a time. Jerry was ready to be his own boss by then, and bought a small lumberyard in Enterprise, Oregon, where Joann's father had a cattle ranch. Enterprise is where they raised their two daughters, Wendy and Cari, and where Jerry became involved with Rotary.

There was no Rotary club in the area when Jerry first moved to eastern Oregon. In 1978 he became a founding member of the Wallowa County Rotary Club that eventually grew to around 40 members. He served as their President during 1984-85, putting his business skills to good use in helping stabilize the club's finances and improve their project planning and implementation. A gazebo project built during his tenure as president still stands on the courthouse lawn in Enterprise. Jerry also noted that the club was one of the first in Oregon to induct a woman member shortly after membership was opened up to them around 1987. After 17 years in Enterprise, Jerry and Joann moved to Spokane, where Jerry was hired on with BMC West, a construction materials supply company that served contractors in the western states. He held a variety of positions during his 13+ years with that company and was stationed in Salt Lake City when he decided it was time to slow down a bit.

Jerry and Joann moved to Redmond in 2003, where they could be close to the two grandchildren, Riley and Bradi, and their parents, Cari and Jon. Wendy and Jake later moved to this area, so he and Joann feel blessed to have the whole family nearby. He was working at Parr Lumber when a Redmond Rotarian stopped by and sold him some roses, a fundraiser for the club. Jerry had visited some area clubs by then, but found a friend, a club, and an accountant when club member Craig Brooks sold him those flowers. The search was over, and Jerry has been a contributing member ever since he joined the Rotary Club of Redmond in 2004. He is a Paul Harris Fellow+2 and was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2012 for his many contributions to the club.

Throughout most of their years together, Joann has donated countless volunteer hours to her own service club of choice, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Dedicated to the same desire to improve the communities served, Joann devoted efforts to strengthening the organization's presence wherever they moved, including some founding work of her own. Her other interest is a booth located in the Redmond Antique Mall, where she sells treasures found during their travels. These days, Jerry works at the Terrebonne Hardware store just often enough to give Joann a break, which gives him plenty of time to take their dog Suzy out to chase balls in the sagebrush. Then they're ready to travel some more back roads with trailer in tow.

From a lifetime of building sales for other companies, a business of his own, and a family, Jerry has managed to build a pretty good life serving others, often through hands-on projects that meet a particular need, but also allow time to get to know



new members and vice versa. Leave it to a guy who is handy with woodworking tools to know what it takes to forge strong connections that stand the test of time. Stop by Terrebonne Hardware sometime and Jerry will gladly share the nuts and bolts story of his local hardware store.
