



### Club Meeting

**Bremerton**  
**Meets at Olympic**  
**College, Building 10**  
**1600 Chester Ave.**  
**Bremerton, WA 98337**  
**Time: Monday at 11:45**  
**AM**

### Speakers

**July 01, 2024**

**No meeting**

**July 08, 2024**

**Eric Morley**

**Krampus Bremerton**

**July 15, 2024**

**Derek Means**

**Coffee Oasis**

**July 22, 2024**

**R. Chris King**

**St. Michael's Cardiology**

### Events

**No Events found**

### Birthdays

**Dennis Treger**

**June 29th**

**Caroline Rivers**

**July 1st**

**Gordon N. Cromwell**

**July 3rd**

**John F. Mitchell**

**July 8th**

**Ana Orona**

**July 15th**

**William J. Drollinger**

**July 26th**

### Years of Service

**Steven M. Rice**

**06-01-1990**

**35 Years**

**Karen McKay Bevers**

**06-01-2012**

**13 Years**

**Caroline Rivers**

**06-04-2015**

**10 Years**

**Daryl Wayne Matheny**

**06-22-2017**

**8 Years**

**Laura McKerrow**

**05-31-2020**

**5 Years**



**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY--NO MEETING MONDAY, JULY 1**

**By Steve Landau**

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONâ€”Aka â€œKICKOUT DINNERâ€  
Thursday, June 20 at Evergreen Pizza

A little background for our newer members: Unlike most clubs, which hold Installation Dinners for their new slate of officers, we traditionally have held a Kickout Dinner in which the outgoing president is booted from office with a kind of roast. A few years back, a kinder but gentler version of this was crafted, which was called an End of the Year Celebration, where various awards were handed out. But the popularity of the kickout theme remains, as President Geoff rediscovered last Thursday night at Evergreen Pizza and a hybrid event followed.



*President Geoff, outfitted in a cardboard airplane, is serenaded by the Music Committee.*



Theme for the event was Geoffâ€™s love of flying his private plane. He was adorned in a leather cap and aviator glasses wearing a T-shirt that read â€œIâ€™d Rather Be Flying.â€ He was then outfitted with a cardboard replica of a small plane that he wore proudly throughout the ceremony. Nattily dressed as an airline attendant, **Carrie Rivers**, left, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The installation part of the evening ensued, in which President Geoff passed on the trappings of office to his successor **Karen Sawyer-Meehan**, believed to be the youngest president of our club (at least until **Marin Solace** takes over for her next year) and the first second generation Rotary President (Past President **Doug Berger** is her father).



She was given the notorious goatâ€™s head, which Karen is obligated to keep on display for the following year, in spite of the fact of its somewhat ripe odor. No one is quite sure when or why the goatâ€™s head originated. At an earlier meeting she was given the advice-giving Rotary 8-ball, with which she is tasked to use to make important decisions.

We enjoyed delicious appetizers of Spanish tapas prepared by Evergreen Pizza chef **Manu Aflau** followed by the restaurantâ€™s signature pizzas. Thanks to Manu and his wife **Marin Solace** and her serving crew for overseeing the food prep.

As a final act of office, Geoff presented our clubâ€™s three top awards to the following worthy recipients:

**The Spirit of Rotary Award** for newer members who right away make a significant

contribution to Rotary, as nominated by fellow Rotarians, went to **Ana Orona**. She was not present and will get her award at a later date.



**The Service Above Self Award** for selfless dedication to the ideals of Rotary, as nominated by fellow Rotarians, went to **Tom Long** and **John Stockwell** for their contributions to our youth exchange program, which Geoff said is without equal in our district. Tom heads up our club's youth exchange program locally and John is on the District 5020 Youth Exchange Committee. He is the country contact for Northern Europe and Scandinavia.



**The George M.H. Dibblee Rotarian of the Year Award**, chosen by the outgoing president Geoff, went to **Carrie Rivers**, who goes above and beyond the call of duty in so many ways. For instance, she organizes our wine booth at the Blackberry Festival and is there throughout the event. (**George Dibblee**, pronounced Dibbel was the oldest surviving charter member of our club from 1941 and had 53 years of perfect attendance upon his death.)

Geoff also presented bouquets of flowers to several individuals who had served him well during his presidential year:



â€¢ **Laura McKerrow** for her work as Treasurer;

â€¢ **Daryl Matheny** for his work on the Armed Forces Appreciation Luncheon;

â€¢ **Marin Solace** for her work leading the Wild Game Dinner and stepping up to be president-elect;

â€¢ his wife **Betsy Pentz** for supporting him during his presidency.

Then it was Geoff's turn to receive some swag.



**Carrie Rivers** presented President Geoff Pentz with an airplane propeller commemorating his presidential year and Immediate Past President **Denise Ledingham** gave him his presidential plaque.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the meeting of June 24, 2024*

#### REFLECTION

**Laura McKerrow** reflected on what she said was her favorite day of the year, June 24, also known as Midsommar. While this is celebrated as mid-summer, it's actually only three days after the official start of summer on June 21. Laura explained that the ancients had a different way of calculating seasons, using the "cross-quarters," which were midway between the solstices and equinoxes.

#### VISITORS & GUESTS

**Ruth Ross**, Past President of our club 2009-2010

**Sunny Saunders**, Blackberry Festival Manager and Speaker

**Evvie Bevers**, Karen's daughter

**Victoria Botta**, Evvie's summer exchange partner from Italy

**Karin Harkness**, property manager, interested in volunteering for Blackberry Festival

#### MUSIC COMMITTEE

The songsters performed a **John Stockwell** song to the tune of "Catch Me If You Can" by the Dave Clark Five, highlighting Thursday's upcoming presidential debate.

*Here we come again---Yeh!  
two debating men---Yeh!*

*Both want to be the winner---Yeh!  
Believe us if you can.*

*Pres-i-den-tial debate  
It may set our fate*

*Who will be the running mate  
It's only for us to know.*

*Seek four more years---Yeh!  
We're both getting older---Yeh!*

*Hope to still be here---Yeh!  
At the end of those four years.*

*Vote me if you can  
I want to be your man*

*You already know where we stand  
Sure to be an interesting four years*

#### SERGEANT & HAPPY BUCKS

As is our club's tradition, our outgoing president **Geoff Pentz** served as sergeant



at his last meeting. First came happy bucks . . .

**Doug Berger** said he was happy Geoff is done and his daughter **Karen Sawyer-Meehan** is taking over.

**Ruth Ross**, Past President 2009-2010, came for Geoff's last meeting. She said Geoff was club Secretary during her term, and he was the only man she knew "who weaponized dyslexia." She was wearing five badges that Geoff had given her in attempts to get her name and title right.

Incoming President **Karen Sawyer-Meehan** said she was happy to finally get the notorious goat's head from Geoff at the Kickout Dinner. She thanked everyone who has been so helpful in getting her ready for her presidential year.



Past President **Karen McKay-Beyers** said she was happy for Geoff that his year is done; she remembers how much work it was. Karen said her family is having the best summer of their lives as they host summer exchange student **Vittoria Botta** (center in photo) from Italy. Daughter **Evvie** heads back to Italy with Vittoria at the end of July. Also, her son **Keith**, heading into 8th grade, was second in discus and fourth in shot put at the youth state championships.

**Steve Rice** said the Music Discovery Center held its 5th annual Make Music Day Saturday in Rotary Evergreen Park. Steve was one of the founders of the organization. He thanked event organizer **Sunny Saunders** for steering the group in the right direction. She estimated a crowd of at least 500 persons attended.

**Gordon Cromwell** enjoyed going with a friend who had found a secret stash of a rare variety of orchids in the woods at Blewett Pass. There are 35 varieties of orchids in Washington State.

**Alexander Parker** enjoyed his first road trip around the Olympic National Park with a friend from Canada.

**Laura McKerrow** had promised she would contribute \$100 if everyone paid their year-end dues. This didn't happen, but she extended the payment period until June 30.

**Jim Cline** had company from California and said they talked about Rotary all week. He enjoyed telling the story of how he met **Geoff Pentz** some 40 years ago when Geoff gave a program to his Kiwanis Club about canoeing the Colorado River. Jim encouraged Geoff to join, which he did, and later became president of the Kiwanis club. Jim renewed his friendship with Geoff when he came back to this area and found him on Facebook. Now Geoff, president of Rotary, encouraged Jim to join our club, which he did.

**Jill Robinson** said she was happy the salsa, provided by downtown Bremerton restaurant Mezcalitos, wasn't any hotter than it was.

**Marin Solace** said her husband **Manu** is the cheapest man in the world, but when they went to look at an electric SUV Marin had been saving for, he bought it for her.

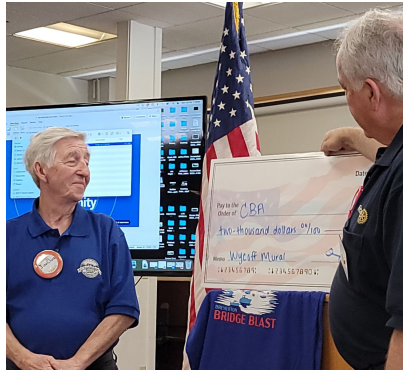
**Kyle Kincaid** echoed the happiness Geoff must feel in becoming a past president.

Geoff exacted revenge on the Music Committee because he had borne the brunt of their songs so many times. He had those pay who were sitting at a table with its members.

Although we don't normally fine guests, Geoff did so with **Sunny Saunders** because one of her slides about upcoming events referred to Evergreen Park, rather than Evergreen Rotary Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tom Long** read an email from **Brett Aho**, our outbound exchange student to Switzerland in 2003-2004. He has just completed a PhD in Global Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Brett had given us a zoom program during COVID. His area of research is comparative political economy.



**President Geoff** gave a check in the amount of \$2,000 from his presidential discretionary fund to **Jim Cline** on behalf of the Charleston Business Association for the Wyckoff mural.

Geoff reminded club members that while **Sunny Saunders** runs the show at the Bremerton Rotary Blackberry Festival, the job of staffing volunteers at the wine booth belongs to our club and there are many shifts to cover. We are also responsible for providing drivers for the shuttle van (provided by **Chuck Capps'** Advantage Nissan) that brings vendors to and from the festival. A signup sheet has been circulated by email.

#### AWARDS

Outgoing **President Geoff** reviewed the three special club awards he had announced at his kickoff dinner (see above). He gave some more bouquets of flowers, in addition to those mentioned above to:



â€¢ **Sunny Saunders** for her work on the Bremerton Rotary Blackberry Festival (she is the Festival Manager)

â€¢ **Steve Landau** for his untiring efforts to put out a weekly club bulletin and keep the club's website up to date.

â€¢ **Jean Mitchell** for all her work at the meeting registration desk and arriving early to set up.

â€¢ **Dave Anderson** for always being ready to carry out tasks Geoff requested of him.

#### PROGRAM



**Sunny Saunders**, whom we know as our Blackberry Festival Manager, was our speaker. In addition to the Blackberry Festival, Sunny's company, Sunny Jack Events, founded in 2017, produces the following local events:

• **The Kitsap Wedding Expo**, the largest bridal show in West Sound, Feb. 3, 2024, Kitsap Pavilion

• **Taste of Kitsap**, featuring a beer garden, entertainment and food, Aug. 2-3, 2024, Bremerton Boardwalk

• **Bremerton Bridge Blast**, the largest "bridge" fireworks show in the Northwest, from the Manette Bridge, June 29-30, 2024, Bremerton Boardwalk and Evergreen Rotary Park.

• **Bremerton Boardwalk Night Market**, featuring makers, music and food and a beer garden, Fridays May 3, June 7, July 5 and October 4, 2024, Bremerton Boardwalk.

Sunny also told us about herself. She is a third generation Bremertonian and a graduate of Bremerton High School, Olympic College and Chapman University. She got her start in event planning 20 years ago when the local Sorooptimist Club asked her to put on a crafts fair. She subsequently became manager of the Kitsap Fair & Rodeo and is now full owner of the Bremerton Bridge Blast event.

Sunny works with 300-500 vendors that have booths at her various events. Each vendor is a small business that needs outlets for sales and promotions. Sunny also books some 30 bands containing nearly 100 musicians, 80-90% of whom are local, including 14 bands at our Blackberry Festival.

Sunny said every community event she sponsors creates tourism and has its own economic impact. She estimates that the Blackberry Festival has almost a \$1 million impact on the local economy. This year's festival is the 4th she has managed over the last six years (with a gap for COVID).

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 1: No meeting

July 8: **Eric Morley**, Krampus Bremerton

July 15: **Derek Means**, Coffee Oasis

July 22: **R. Chris King**, St. Michael's cardiologist

***Photos and proofreading by Tom Long***