

Rotary



Club of Medford Rogue

February 24 Communicator

Medford Rogue Rotary: Chartered April 20, 1977

Bulletin Editor: Ian Foster, plannerfoster@gmail.com

Zoom meeting link: [Click Here For Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 962 5241 9348

Passcode: 140362

Involved Rotarians

Inspirational Moment: Linda Brown

Sergeant at Arms: Gene Taylor

Greeters: Paul Christy

Attendance: Danielle Atkinson

Technology: John VanSickle

Song for Today

"Teach Your Children"

[Click Here For Song](#)

Thanks to Frank Pulver

This Week's Speaker:

Feb 24: Randy Sparacino, Medford mayor

Topic: Thoughts From Medford's New Mayor

Last Week's Speaker:

Feb. 17: Matt Heverly, Mars exploration engineer and former driver of Mars lander

Topic: Mars Revisited!

Summary of last week's topic:

Matt Heverly spoke to Rotarians about his work at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a NASA field center that develops robotic spacecraft, and their upcoming landing of the next Mars Rover, [Perseverance](#), scheduled to land on February 18, 2021 (success!). Heverly provided background on Mars, which they believe may have looked similar to Earth and was on a similar trajectory about 3 billion years ago. About 1 billion years in, the Mars magma core stopped giving off heat. Ultimately, Mars lost its magnetic field, which caused high energy particles from the sun to strip away its atmosphere, and left the planet with an atmosphere that is about 100 times less dense than Earth's, and therefore, not habitable.

Because Mars seems to have had a similar trajectory as Earth during the first billion years, they expect to find evidence of a similar Eco-system that may have been able to sustain life. Heverly described that life during the first billion years on Mars likely was single-cell organisms, much like they were on Earth before fish, primates, etc. There have found evidence of the building blocks for life on Mars. [Perseverance's](#) mission, and the objective of scientists, is to determine whether there is evidence of life.

To that end, they have equipped Perseverance with sophisticated equipment to help answer that question. It has 23 cameras, a weather station, ground penetrating radar. It's also equipped with MOXIE, an experiment to determine whether it's feasible to produce oxygen from the atmospheric carbon dioxide. The rover is also equipped with a drill where it will take core samples from rock on the planet. In 2026, NASA will send a new vehicle, fetch, to collect the samples. From there, it will load them into a small rocket that will launch from the surface of Mars, a first for NASA. It will then be intercepted and brought back to Earth for analysis.

Heverly concluded by providing an overview of the complicated maneuvers required for landing Perseverance, and encouraged Rotarians to tune in.

Health News

Covid-19 Vaccination Program by Dr. Bud Bergstrom

As your opportunity to receive the vaccine occurs, I implore each of you to take advantage of it. The degree to which the vaccination program will be successful will be determined largely by the degree to which "Herd Immunity" is achieved, which requires approximately 80% of the population to be immunized.

Receiving the vaccine gives each of us the opportunity to "live" the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self". Yes, the vaccine will protect you from the virus, but more importantly, it will contribute to the protection of many others. On a personal note, I was very disappointed to read in our local newspaper a few weeks ago, the school board, in their "wisdom" (which I consider to be a combination of ignorance & gonadal inadequacy), stated they would not require teachers to receive the vaccine. I don't mind if some of the teachers want to risk becoming ill due to COVID, but I mind greatly that some will be so selfish as to be unwilling to contribute to the welfare of others, especially their students & co-workers.

Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus program, By Eric Hodnett, Co-Chair Polio Committee

District 5110 places an emphasis on Polio during the month of February. With that in mind I thought I would share some information that from a recent issue of the Rotary Magazine.

You may wonder what your donations to the Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus program go toward. One-month last year the Rotary Foundation approved the following grants:

- 19,306 vehicles were hired for frontline workers in Afghanistan
- 90 million doses of oral vaccine
- 12,139 vaccinators were trained in Sudan
- 2,530 community health workers recruited in Pakistan

Remember, all donations to the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus account are matched 2 to 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A \$100 donation generates \$300 toward polio eradication.

Finally, it has been recognized how valuable the polio eradication infrastructure is for other medical responses. Currently this infrastructure is being used in many countries for their Covid-19 response. We should all be proud of that as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions related to Polio eradication.

Friendship Zoom Groups

The New Members Committee has created Rotary Friendship Zoom Groups (RFZGs) to enhance our social connections during the Covid restrictions. It will help us expand our Rotary friendships and be especially helpful to our newest members. Zoom Group hosts will send Zoom invitations to those who send an email of interest to join a particular host. Members are encouraged to visit any of the hosted sessions. There are no rules as to frequency, length or topics discussed. But, in general, Rotary avoids political and religious topics.

Here are our Rotary Zoom Group Hosts and their emails. Let them know if you wish to join them for a session. Emmett Armstrong, emmett@metronomeagency.com; Paul Christy, ptc97504@gmail.com; Gary Newland, gdnw@charter.net; Debbie (McHargue) Graunke, dmchargue@hotmail.com; Beth Zerkel, 1bzerk@gmail.com.

Rotary Action Group For Peace

[Click Here For Video](#)
