

Rotary



Club of Old Town Eureka

Over the Coffee Pot February 7, 2025



Club Meeting Time

Tuesday at 7:00 AM
The Rotary Club of
Old Town Eureka meets at
Old Town Coffee & Chocolates
211 F Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Club Leaders

Michael Munson
President

Keith Flamer
President-Elect

Amanda Moxon
Secretary

Marcia Schaefer
Vice President

Tom Kingshill
Treasurer

Tyson Fisher
Club Director

Elishia Hayes
Club Director

Barry Pires
Club Director

Ted Stewart
Club Director

Kenny Carswell
Sergeant-at-Arms

Rusty Goodlive
Rotary Foundation Chair

Kim Brown
iPast President

Calendar

Tuesday, February 11

[Old Town Eureka Weekly](#)

[Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: TBA

Raffle Prizes: Kim Brown

Thursday, February 13

[Backpacks for Kids - 3:30 PM](#)

[Packing at Old Growth Cellars](#)

Tuesday, February 18

[DARK - NO Morning Meeting](#)

[of Rotary Club of Old Town Eureka](#)

Tuesday, February 25

[Old Town Eureka Weekly](#)

[Club Meeting](#)

**Speaker: Alida Nicklas -
Vero Communications**

Relations Specialist

Subject: Vero Fiber

Raffle Prizes: Jill Rice

Thursday, February 27

[Backpacks for Kids - 3:30 PM](#)

[Packing at Old Growth Cellars](#)

Tuesday, March 4

[Old Town Eureka Weekly](#)

[Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: TBA

Raffle Prizes: Collin Ewing

Birthdays

[Chuck Petrusha](#)
February 11

[Edward Weaver](#)
February 18

[Dave Creech](#)
March 1

Wedding Anniversaries

[Pam Powell](#)
February 9

[Lauren Blankinship](#)
February 21

[Harold Hilfiker](#)
February 26



Rotary members jump into action to help Los Angeles wildfire victims

Massive wildfires in California, USA, have destroyed at least 12,000 buildings, razed neighborhoods, and displaced tens of thousands of people. Rotary members have raced to help.

By Clara Germani

Bill “Chilly” Chillingworth walked out the door of his home in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood on 7 January — a normal, bright California, USA, Tuesday morning — for a business appointment 60 miles south.

He would never see the house again.

In the early afternoon, his adult daughter called to describe wildfire smoke blooming over canyons that descend sharply to the Pacific near where Chillingworth and his fiancé live.

He didn’t initially worry, because his neighborhood isn’t typical wildfire fuel: It’s a flat neighborhood with green lawns and no dry wildland around it, he says.

But he can vividly chart the crescendo of panic triggered when his phone alarm erupted with an evacuation order. As he raced northward to meet his fiancé, they talked on the phone and feverishly checked off the so-called “p’s” she should grab as she fled: people, pets, pictures, paperwork.

When they met at a California Pizza Kitchen in a community a short distance south of their home, their cellphone alarms were going off. Each new ping eroded hope, he explains: “There was smoke detected in our master bedroom. ... Five minutes later we got an alarm that was detecting excessive heat in the kitchen. ... Five minutes later we got another alarm detecting excessive heat in the fan in the laundry room, and then we got a notification our front door had been breached ... then we got a notification in two 15-minute increments that the front door was still open. ... After a half an hour those messages stopped altogether, and we knew that we likely had been facing a total loss of our house and all of our belongings.”

Chillingworth is the kind of guy who relates this dark chapter with self-awareness and some humor. The fire, he chuckles, drove the couple to break their 30-year streak of going without alcohol after the holidays during “dry January.” Even while hitting an outlet mall to buy shoes, socks, and underwear, he says he’s hyperaware he’s only one of thousands who have been displaced — and a privileged one, at that, financially able to start again.

But still, in a phone interview, his voice quavers twice: over the “profound distress” of seeing his neighborhood burning on TV news and in describing his heartwarming awe of being both giver and receiver in community service.

Rotary network brings aid to fire victims

Rotary is the platform for that reciprocity, he says. A member for more than 35 years and president-elect of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, California, USA, he has an extensive global network of fellow members calling, texting, and emailing to offer help.

Those connections buoy him as he helps plan and participate in two major fundraising events. On 1 March, the club's annual \$150,000 black-tie benefit will direct the bulk of this year's proceeds to fire relief. And Chillingworth is scheduled as a featured speaker discussing his fire experience remotely for a Seattle-area fundraiser in late January. That fundraiser in Washington was organized in a matter of days by Larry Snyder, who goes to California to serve as the auctioneer every year at Santa Monica's black-tie event. Snyder isn't a Rotary member himself, but on the sheer basis of his years of work with and respect for Santa Monica, he believes they are a conduit for philanthropy that "people can trust."

"Rotary is all about jumping into action as quick as we can," says Chillingworth, whose club of 100-plus members has kicked into service overdrive, even with close to a quarter of those members now without homes. (As a point of fire reference, all members of the much smaller Pacific Palisades Rotary club have lost their homes, as well as the business where the club met.)

That quick action is important, especially if it's the right action, says Brady Connell, governor-nominee of Rotary District 5280 (California).

How to help

- Donate today to Rotary's Disaster Response Fund.
- Learn how Rotary members help their communities respond to disasters and about local relief efforts by District 5280 and District 5300.