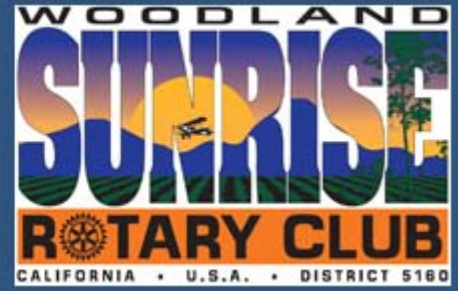




Woodland Sunrise Wake Up Call



Wake Up Call

WOODLAND SUNRISE ROTARY WHERE WE PUT SUNSHINE IN YOUR LIFE!

Notes by: **Robyn Drivon**
January 16, 2025

WELCOME President Pomeroy with the bell ringing by **Jim Odusola**. **Keith Rode** led the pledge and a very lively Sunrise Choir was led under the direction of **Jim Hilliard**.

GUESTS –John Roncoroni introduced his good friend **Drew Smythe**, who is related to **John Smythe**. John shared his broken hand cast for viewing [and Wake-Up Team disabled list]. **Eric Miller** and then **Chuck Santoni** introduced **Steve Harris** [formerly of Cross Courts Athletic Club], today’s speaker who will be talking about his trip to Alaska.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stream of consciousness follows...**Sue Westwood** made it back from Vallejo. The mystery sign person has been noticed by **John Beatty** and the crew who have replaced our Rotary Seal out in front of Cracchiolo’s and managed to get it up for viewing. **Don Easton** brings up Cherie Schroeder's brainstorming session which included the idea that foster kids might benefit from a visit with the Police Chief to see how boring paperwork is and meet a judge at the courthouse, followed by lunch at the police station for some discussions about their jobs. Late July/Early August would be the timing. April/May is a zoom program of 10 sessions about employment. The school calendar year is a zoom session again, about employment readiness. If anyone has ideas and is interested, let him know. **Dave Dumars** is chair of youth services - go see Dave about moving this idea forward. He came in under the wire before the mic was taken away...



Patty Arriaga – Likes the idea of letting people know about their jobs. As a kid in Winters, having heard people talk about their professions, she is here today because she was inspired by Rotarian speakers who gave her ideas for her future. Patty is being volunteered (railroaded?) Welcome to Railroad

Speakers

January 23, 2025

[David Wilkinson](#)

The History of Woodland

January 30, 2025

[Lizette Navarette, President, Woodland Community College](#)

WCC - Updates and Progress

February 06, 2025

[Josh Flushman, senior Associate, Athletics Dir of Football](#)

UC Davis Football

February 13, 2025

[Ken Hiatt, City Manager, and Councilman Tom Stallard](#)

Woodlands High Tech Park

Events

No Events found



Sunrise Rotary is taking effect.

Pres. Pomeroy – FYI, all the committee names are being forwarded per his recent request, so that we know who to go to for whatever.

Wayne Ginsburg – “As you may know,” there is a loose conglomerate from the District talking about the *unhoused*. There is a wonderful documentary on the subject entitled “The Dirty Divide.” On February 22nd, 9 to noon, a loose conglomerate has arranged to have [The Dirty Divide](#) screened at WCC, followed by a panel discussion featuring 4th and Hope's Doug Zeck, the documentary's director Paul Freedman, Jayne Williams of noon Rotary and All Leaders Must Serve, and Charlene Eckles, Basic Needs Coordinator at Woodland Community College. After snacks Doug Zeck has arranged for a tour of 4th & Hope. May it be “presented” by Woodland Rotary Clubs? Ok to say the movie is brought to you by, “Rotary Clubs in Woodland?” Yes, the vote was unanimous.

PROGRAM – STEVE HARRIS’S WILD ALASKAN ADVENTURE, subtitled ‘10 crazy guys jet skied 600 miles from Juneau to Ketchikan!’



Chuck Santoni introduced Mr. Harris by saying “our speaker doesn’t need much of an introduction.” Steve Harris ran Cross Court Athletic Club, has been on the Planning Commission, is part of the team helping to bring back St. John’s, and Chuck Santoni has known him since they both had hair.

Welcome, Steve Harris!

Mr. Harris looked around the room and said that he couldn’t believe all these people who come and are so lively at 6:30 in the morning! He does Kiwanis, which is at noon and not this lively in the mornings. Their club does talks about trips they have taken. Looking back, Steve said that he is still wondering why he did it, but he is looking forward to talking about it.



HINDSIGHT - Stay off a jet ski in the inland passage. His group of ten people left Woodland, then went to Sacramento and flew to Ketchikan and then Juneau. Yes, beer was consumed. This was seven days of a good time and they all knew each other beforehand. Once they checked in to their rooms in Juneau, the 'necessary' equipment list started the realization that they were in for an adventure. Dry suits are not recommended for everyday wear. Thermals, with no cotton not suggested (absorbing water is not good if you go in the drink). They were busy getting all this stuff together.

Morning comes. They are assigned to their jet skis. You get into this suit – a roommate helps because you can't do it solo. Then a vest that is essential with lifesaving stuff, it squeezes you very tightly. Fun time still. THEN...you have a bag the size of a daypack, that never leaves you on the jet ski. Gas for the jet ski is on the back of it. Your bag contains the sum total of all your stuff.



GET SET - Ready to go, now you walk like a drunk duck onto the dock and down to your jet ski. You realize that is your main transportation. On the jet ski that first day they went 125 miles. Juneau to Kake – 425 Alaskans and a few non-natives. Not much going on there. The fishing went away a while ago. That was a pretty good day. Steve had never been on a jet ski before. It is definitely Not so fun when there are 3 foot waves. They maneuvered with good water that first day, glassy and some chop, but not too bad. That stint took about 5-6 hours on a beautiful day. A pickup truck came to meet them on the beach; 12 guys with their dry suits on and their bags of clothes for later waddled up the beach. Other needed items are masks, safety glasses and rubber gloves. Moving is somewhat challenging on land (like walruses). Takes a while to unlock the pumps to refuel for the next day. Then, they were driven to a grandma's house – gorgeous on the inside where mattresses are on the floor. They eat outside and fade pretty quickly.



NEXT DAY – They woke up to wind, rain and treacherous conditions. A big discussion about whether it is safe to go on the water. The only way out is by water anyway. You don't want to stay very long, because there are few services or access to store items in Kake. Pictures shown are of the glacier near which they drove their jet skis that produced dropping ice and subsequent big waves. [PICTURES] A lot of butt-saving holding on prevents taking pictures during the adventure. They decided to leave at 8 am, grandma's breakfast was wonderful. Now they are headed to Petersburg – weather was questionable.

BAD WEATHER – It took 4 or 5 hours to go 70 miles through blinding rain, the currents were treacherous and then it got bad. Waves went up to 3 feet. Maneuvering and managing the jet ski was difficult. There was a leader you followed, and a sweeper watched for laggards. It would be hairy enough that a wave sent you into the air, down you came, then you figured out it is going to happen again. Egads! Then there are whales. It is not uncommon to have a pod nearby – the guide will raise a hand meaning whales around you and for you to stop, asap. "They are really big." Then there are fishing boats nearby and they are pretty big, too. This was one of those times when you thought that you may not get through this. People were looking up and questioning their life choices. Petersburg felt like a million bucks when you docked and hit that deck, praising the big guy! Then they got to walk a mile and a half uphill and across Petersburg to their inn. As you can imagine, they were the subject of much speculation as they walked by. The result was a very nice accommodation where considerable alcohol was consumed. Roommates had to help get each other out of their dry suits. Then they rejoined civilization for a good meal. This is a town of 3,000, so pretty big by Alaska standards.



The whole trip was 600 miles. Mr. Harris shows one picture of the vastness of being on the big water, intermediate whitecaps when they went all day with a water top refueling. Bowel control is important – it can be bad options if otherwise. He is pictured in his drysuit getup. [No smell-ovision].

NEXT MORNING – GLACIER – navigating the icebergs – some are very big and others bigger. While navigating, there are big mammals watching you, seals and others. You just throttle through the ice. One guy hit an iceberg that was a foot under the water, he flew up in the air. He split his jet ski and was in the water. One of the guides repaired the hull in 900' of water. The repair held well enough for them to go back to Petersburg where they found a repair location and spent another night. Yes, hikes to housing are all uphill. That was a tough day. Followed by singing around the campfire. One fisherman they met bought them a round of drinks for their insanity. There aren't very many tour groups of this sort – they are notable.

HOME - From Ketchikan they flew home. These guys are now bonded forever. Many are Woodlanders. It was a great trip. Fun and different. Thanks for listening.



Questions? Have you been back? He went on a fishing trip later, which was different and nice. Aaron Schmoekel: Did they think about bringing a support boat? Not sure how that would work. The dangerous waters wouldn't have been much better in a boat. They had experts with them. The job of fixing the hull was pretty amazing. Phil Marler: The inland passage is known for cruise ships – did you tangle with them? You stay as far away as you can – it's bad enough when a fishing boat passes with their wake. Cruise ships are given a very wide berth. Everyone is bigger than you. Mr. Harris added that they went into a fog bank one time: you instantly take your hands off the throttle, while the guides figure how to get out of the fog. Suddenly, he heard the guide say, "follow." You feel so lonely. You can hear everything, but you are sitting dead in the water. You don't know what might eat you. It is a short time, but pretty stressful.

Chuck Santoni – What time of year was the trip? Late August of 2023. A year later, he cruised on a similar route – talk about different terrain view!

Thank you, Steve Harris! Book signing.

President Pomeroy told **Sue Westwood** that she is forbidden from a trip like this for at least two years.

RECOGNITION

Jim Gillette – INDUCTION – it was a long time ago, like 2008, he had just moved into town. He met Bruce Denny at a father-daughter dance. His first Rotary year, Jim somehow got himself in charge of ticket sales. He knew no one, but sold so many tickets, including winners. His Bay Area friends didn't talk to him after not winning. Bell.

John Beatty – ANNIVERSARY - John and Kathleen spent a few days in the Old Sugar Bowl Lodge, built in 1939, which is the only snowbound lodge in the U.S. They've been married now for forty-one years. Bell.

HAPPY BUCKS

Sue Westwood – Happy to be post-surgery. She had eight inches of colon removed successfully. Thanks, Rotarians, for helping her get home from the hospital. This cancer was found very serendipitously because of her accident, and she is hoping for a full recovery.

RAFFLE with Don Sharp

The pot stands at \$898, with a sidepool of \$24. **Lynn Jepsen** is, always, a WINNER. Bye to **Don Easton**. **Lynn** gets a free breakfast. Lynn led the **FOUR WAY TEST. BELL.**

For those unable to attend the next meeting,
Join Zoom Meeting HERE: [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 856 8891 3321
Passcode: 730031