

Rotary



Club of Mt. Shasta

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[Heather Maria Solus](#)
Assistant Governor

Mt Shasta Rotary Meeting 03-03-2021

Wednesday, March 3, 2021



Call to Order & Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Guests/Visiting Rotarians: Craig Thompson, Rockside Ranch

Thought of the Day: Merle Anderson

Why I Wake Early by Mary Oliver
Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and crotchety
best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light
good morning, good morning, good morning.
Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.

Reports:

Donna reported there are a lot of challenges to the rainwater harvesting project in Tanzania because of the political issues around the government claiming there is no COVID. She is focused on the next grant which will be a similar size. Rotary has changed the matching. She is reaching out to other clubs with fund-raising. It is critical to find one more district interested in participating. Tom S feels the Berkeley club would be interested in participating.

Tom H said CalFIRE is punching in the emergency access at Shastice Park as we speak. This is relevant to the club because Blackberry Festival may relocate to Shastice which is a larger venue.

Ken BS reminded members of the emails regarding our two new members Ana Pringles, and Hannah Durbin, both in healthcare. Please reach out to get them involved in various committees. They have mentors: Audra is working with Hannah and Shayna with Ana.

Doug reported on the board meeting today. The board elected to not hold the Castle Crags Century Ride this year.

Mike Rodriguez has been assigned the role of Vocational Director for Mt. Shasta Rotary Avenues of Service. The challenge is that this position has not been filled for several years. Al volunteered to be on the committee with Mike.

Mark F receives emails from the foundation nearly every day. They announced they have added another Avenue of Service - Environmental. Mark gave a review of Paul Harris and the work of the Rotary Foundation

Guest Speaker/Program: Craig Thompson, Rockside Ranch

The Rockside Ranch motto: Help young men get out of crisis and into a job.

Craig is a fourth generation farmer. In 2010 he and his wife started Rockside Ranch in Etna, CA. They are working on a problem which is prevalent. There are so many young men who are in a crisis now. This crisis falls into addiction, mental health, Homelessness, Probation. All of these paths, without intervention, don't have happy endings. Rockside Ranch provides life restoration on a working ranch for young men in crisis through an eight month residential program. Restoration involves: mental health, sobriety, job and life skills.

Young men come in various stages of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Some have nothing and no needs are met, such as homeless men. Even if they come from a stable home life, they often don't have a sense of belonging.

If these needs aren't met they fall into war mode. As soon as they come to the ranch, their physiological needs are met with food, water, shelter. They start to feel safe, then start to feel love and belonging over time. It is at this point they can start to build the students up, satisfying their esteem and show their life has meaning. Victor Frankl says, Meaning is the real purpose and driving force in life. Freud said our driving force was to seek and find pleasure. When a person can't find a deep sense of meaning, they distract themselves with pleasure. Victor Frankl

The staff supports and coaches them through their process. The three main concepts of Victor Frankl Logotherapy which they employ are:

1. a person needs a project to work on
2. redemptive perspective on their suffering
3. community of people who love you

Work projects can include drywall and other trades. Classes include life skills, conflict resolution, interpersonal skills, and job skills training. Their evening session is a social time, play cards, basketball, etc. Horse lessons are on Tuesdays. Friday includes addiction therapy with clinicians who come to the ranch. Saturday is recreational therapy in Siskiyou County and beyond. There isn't a lot of free time. Students voluntarily hand over their cell phone, headphones for 8 months. They don't have cars. It is amazing the progress made without those devices.

The result is that students start to feel alive again. I feel I can breathe again is a common statement. They are lifted out of crisis and into a sense of community. They can make calls to the outside, but need to decide who they want to call that is a positive influence in their life.

Traditional Rehab and Jail -incarceration recidivism is over 70% of former inmates relapse and return to jail. 83% of their students are employed or in school full time since 2011 when they started this program.

Students can walk out any time they want, but they choose to stay the entire eight months of the program. After they graduate they all ask what they are going to do next. The last half of their program they work with the students to discover what they are good at and what they want to do. They encourage students to not go back to where they were before this program. They realized they could offer a next phase of their program and developed a workforce program which meets three needs. They have a location in Etna, Chico and Rapid City, SD. Each location focuses on different things - Etna has a fire academy, and work in utilities. Chico provides farming opportunities. In Rapid City there are a lot of trade opportunities in registered trade programs.

Their Workforce Program has had 1-4 years of continued success due to:

1. stable housing
2. full-time employment
3. supportive community

The ultimate goal is to create pathways to long-term success, healthy living, independent living, and sober living. How you can help and/or partner:

- Spread the word - refer students or share with friends
- Become a supporter - gifts are tax-deductible
- Volunteer - Teach a class or lead a project

RocksideRanch.org is their website. They can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

Tom S asked how many young men they have at a time. On the ranch there are eight students. Three different groups come through each year.

Gary what is the tributary which flows into this program. Craig said sometimes students come to the ranch to satisfy a requirement such as probation. Most other options are shorter and easier than this program, but it has the highest chance of restoring the life of these individuals. Most guys come because family and friends recommend it as a good option for them. They do have a probation team and they also work with the foster care program.

Kathy M asked about their vision for what is next. On the ranch they have one other house on the ranch for students to move into. The long term goal is to serve 16 guys at a time on the ranch in Etna. After that, the dream is that other farms and ranches across the country would adopt this model. Students receive certificates for 500 hours teamwork and communication training and 1000 hours in workforce readiness from College of the Siskiyous upon graduation.

Tim S asked if there is a similar program for females. Craig said he didn't know of anything like Rockside. There are women's programs, but not on a ranch.

Happy Bucks:

- Mark F - got his second shot today \$5
- Tom H - Got his second shot today, also he read an amusing article in the paper about a local landscape architect who nearly was killed. Tom H was there as well. Luckily the neighbor has just called them over, Chef Morley is a member of our club \$25
- Donna - the mask she is wearing was part of the mask creation program to raise funds for Goodbye Thirsty account. The ski club just ordered 40 masks for \$400.- Doug will pay Donna's \$25
- Mike \$10 chief Mello Cal Fire big improvement good things going on
- Kathy S - lots of things to be happy for. Thrilled to be back. She and Bill had both shots last month. PrePETS was held this past weekend. Tom made it all happen with his adaptability as a Rotarian. He was on Zoom in his truck while driving and participating during the entire event. Yesterday she delivered surprise PE gifts and met with Tom in McCloud -\$20
- Tom S - \$10 for Tim Stearns - we all know why. Also, \$10 for Merle - behind the scenes he provided a report on funding to one of our investors.
- Gary - Second shots both Cindy and he got last Thursday. Gary was feeling arrogant Sat aft until he started shivering uncontrollably. Keep your egos in check. - \$20
- Merle - \$15. \$5 thanks to Tom's kuddos. \$5 also just got a message he won millions of dollars from Publishers Clearing House. \$5 re Castle Crags Century decision.
- Kathy M - \$10 two things. On a hike yesterday they talked with a couple from LA who were working to get vaccinated. Mt Shasta was the only place in CA to have vaccines available. Happy to see Craig. Tom H said he knew two friends who were able to get vaccinated in Mt Shasta also.
- Tim S wants to thank everyone for the comments. He is encouraged by the good work Rotarians are doing \$100 to help out with cancellation of Castle Crags Century Ride
- Lorinda - \$10 Marc's mom visiting for a week

Marble Game: Mike R did not draw the blue marble

Birthdays



[Audra Beylik](#)
March 9th

Wedding Anniversaries



[Mark A. Foster III](#)
March 6th



Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Club Meeting

Mt. Shasta

Meets at Normally, Mt. Shasta Resort. Currently via Zoom. Contact us at mtshastarotary@gmail.com for link to join a meeting.

1000 Siskiyou Lake Boulevard

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

Time: Wednesday at 12:30 PM