

May 6, 2021

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La Rueda

S E R V I C E A B O V E S E L F
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTEREY, RI DISTRICT 5230



COG Bios

Christian Theissen &
Phil Deppert

Christian Theissen was born in Portland, Oregon in December of 1992. Moving several times as a child, he lived in the Vancouver, WA area until he was 10, then he moved to Olathe, KS, and finally he finished his last two years in high school in Tracy, CA. His mother, Janet Thiessen, was a law enforcement officer for 30 years and retired as the Chief of Police in Tracy, CA. Christian moved to San Diego in September of 2011 to attend San Diego State University. He received his bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering with an emphasis in Propulsion Systems in May 2016. Shortly after graduation, he com-

missioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and began basic officer training in Quantico. After completing training in 2017 he moved back to sunny southern California where he lived until 2020. During that time, he lived in Dana Point and deployed twice with the Marines. He now lives in Monterey and is a graduate student at the Naval Postgraduate School. Christian enjoys surfing, hiking, mountain biking, and snowboarding.



Phil Deppert was born on the South Side of Chicago in 1968. After graduating from St Laurence High School he entered Ripon College in Ripon, WI in 1986, earning his BA Degree in Political Science in 1990. His parents instilled a sense of service and giving back in him at a very young age, and that is what led Phil to explore the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (Army ROTC) during his college years. As Phil was the first (and still only) member of his family to graduate college, ROTC at first was the path to ensure he could keep himself in college, but he found he not only enjoyed the experience, but he thrived with the leadership opportunities and challenges that the Army provided. To that end, he followed through and completed the ROTC program along with his normal

coursework, and in addition to earning his BA Degree, was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant (2LT).

Phil spent the next 29 years in the Army, retiring in October of 2019 as a Colonel. In the course of his increasing roles and responsibilities over time in the Army, Phil also made time to earn two Masters Degrees (an MBA and an MA in National Security and Strategic Studies). Over the course of those years, the Army assigned him and his family to many great places across the United States such as Tampa, Colorado Springs, Newport Rhode Island and Hawaii. Phil's time in the Army was highlighted by his final assignment as the Commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center from 2015-2018. In that capacity, he not only forged great relationships with all the municipal leadership around the Peninsula, but also many Rotarians in our club, as he spoke to our club twice during those three years.

Upon retiring in 2019, he first worked as a Program Manager for Cloud Lake technology, providing high end geospatial IT support to Special Operations Aviation forces. However, the sense of having an impact and giving back was just not prevalent in that position, and when called back to public service by Congressman Panetta, there was no hesitation. Phil began as the Congressman's District Director in May of 2020.

Phil's sense of service has also manifested in his son Zach, who is now also in the Army, and stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. Zach entered the Army in August of 2019, by one of Phil's last official, but most personally memorable acts: formally enlisting his son into the Army as he was retiring. The immensely proud (and maybe a bit biased but now retired...) dad would tell you that Zach is part of "the next greatest generation."

Being a member of our Rotary Club really is a defining link for a lifetime of a sense of service and a desire to give back and have an impact. Being a Rotarian, and serving citizens in need in his current role are perfect bookends for lifetime satisfaction.

Caring For Membership

members
corner



Featuring Fellow Rotarian Member

Denis Horn



Denis Horn hails from Brooklyn N.Y. where he spent summers working as a Coney Island life Guard. He left Brooklyn before the Dodgers, after which his travels included a BS from Ithaca College, 20 years USMC, Vietnam service in 1967-8, and a second 25 year career in airport administration – the last 15 of which were as the Monterey Airport GM. Between careers he was both a graduate student and taught at USC.



He and his wife Claire arrived in Monterey in 1988. Denis was inducted into Monterey Rotary the following year, sponsored by Past President Dick Berlin (1983-4), gone but not forgotten, and remembered for always being able to line up the Stanford football coach as a program speaker. As a member of the Airport Board, Dick was instrumental in bringing Denis to Monterey.

In the mid 1990s Denis wrote the first of over 200 La Rueda articles. He participated in a dozen Presidents' Kick-Outs, using a "roast format," giving ample opportunity to have some fun at the expense of the newest past president. And he and Claire hosted numerous welcome receptions for visiting Rotary International Exchange teams.

On the Board during Roger Post's 1997-8 Presidency, Denis led the Homework Helpers Project – an alternative for children who normally went home after School to an empty house because their parent(s) worked late. It involved using school facilities, and providing seed funding for after school supervision and homework assistance.



The Car Auction – the Club's principle fund raiser – is all hands on deck. Until age flagged him in for a permanent pit stop, for perhaps 20 years Denis did his bit parking cars as they came off the auction block. Among the more memorable was a 1915 Packard touring car. No power assists. Lots of muscle required.

The club took a big chance in 2002-3. They let Denis be president. Fortunately there was a stellar Board that year and the club survived, barely. Among Presidential obligations is attending the R.I. Convention. Denis's year was Barcelona. He unflinchingly answered the call of duty.



The major Club Project of Denis's year at the helm was the kick off of a three year, multi-club undertaking to provide a climbing wall at Dennis the Menace Park. Check it out, just inside the entrance, on the right, opposite the locomotive.

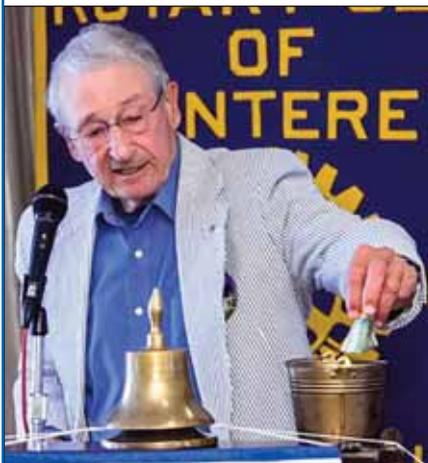
Once a program speaker (on the topic of Youth

Music Monterey) was a no show. Denis pressed wife Claire, past Conductor of the group, into service as a last minute substitute.



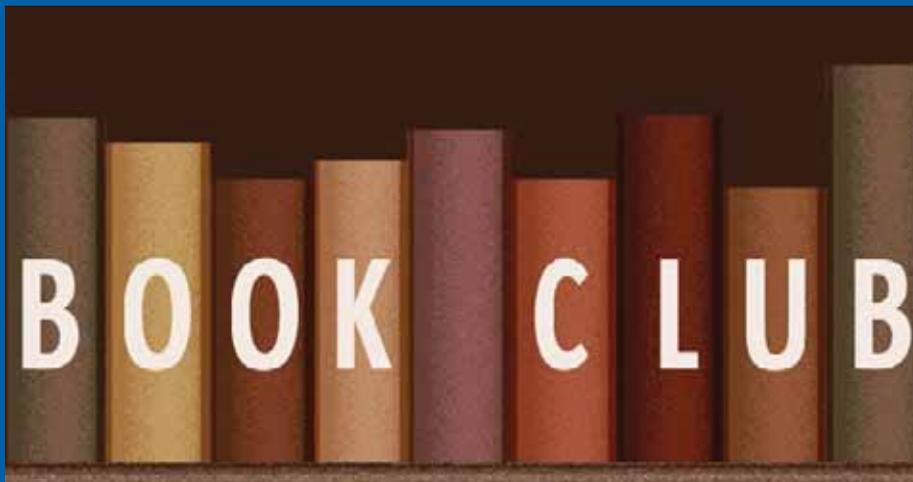
And it was a special experience for Denis to mentor a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Austria who studied at MIIS. She spoke five languages and was part of a team to win a Nobel Peace Prize for work in Nuclear Non-Proliferation, and today is with the UN-affiliated International Atomic Energy Agency.

While Airport GM, Denis served on the Monterey Chamber of Commerce, and Convention and Visitors Bureau. In addition he was Chair of the California Aviation



Technical Advisory Committee, President of the California Association of Airport Executives, on the BOD Airports Council International, a member of the FAA Airspace Utilization Steering Committee, and the Industry Task force for Airport Infrastructure Finance. Also, Denis had been a frequent speaker and panelist at air transportation conferences and symposia.

With this, for thirty plus years, Denis has arguably been a fine Rotarian. Here he is, as usual, arguing over a fine.



June 2nd The Code Beaker, by Walter Isaacson
Discussion led by Libby Downey

July 7th The Code Beaker, by Walter Isaacson (2nd conversation)
Discussion led by Libby Downey

Join us anytime by contacting Molly Bozzo at 831-574-4600 or
mbozzo@stevensonschool.org

We meet via Zoom, on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

MAY – JUNE

Thursday – 05/13 Board Meeting – 8:00 AM (Via Zoom)

Thursday – 05/13 Scholarships And Teacher Awards

**Thursday – 05/20 Grant Birindelli, USN – Images From Mars Rover
“Perseverance” And It's Helicopter, 'Ingenuity'**

**Thursday – 05/27 Dr. Stephen Palumbi, Hopkins Marine Station – Can
Adaptation To Warmer Water Help Corals And Kelp Slow
The Damage Caused By Climate Change?**

Thursday – 05/13 Scholarships And Teacher Awards

**Thursday – 06/03 Dr. Martha Honey – From Overtourism to No Tourism:
What Will Post Pandemic 'New Normal' Look Like?**

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**Support The Martin/Hurd
Rotary Club of Monterey Fund**

at the CFMC that provides grants to local
non-profit organizations supporting youth
and scholarships for students.

For More Information:
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Renata Barnwell – May 7
Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis – May 10
Rich Deal – May 12
Rob Klevan – May 12



JOKE OF THE WEEK An FBI agent tells a Montan rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs." The old rancher says "Okay, but don't go in that field over there." The agent verbally explodes saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me." Reaching into his rear pant pocket and removing his badge. The officer proudly displays it to the farmer. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish, on any land. No questions asked. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?"

The old rancher nods politely and goes about his chores. Later, the old rancher hears loud screams and spies the agent running for his life and close behind is the rancher's bull. With every step the bull is gaining ground on the agent. The agent is clearly terrified.

The old rancher immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs.... "Your badge! Show him your badge!"