



Rotary
ROTARY CLUB OF ALTADENA



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL

An Award-Winning Newsletter

**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon
at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

Rotary Club of Altadena - #772

Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003

RI Pres: Jennifer E. Jones, Dist. 5300 Gov: Roger Gutierrez

**THIS WEEK: District Governor 2022-23,
Roger Gutierrez**

Location: Altadena Town and Country Club

Speaker Chair for August: Mark Mariscal



Roger Gutierrez joined Rotary in Irwindale CA, in 1984. He served as a member of the Board of Directors and ultimately Club President in 1989. Roger spearheaded a merge with the Rotary Club of Foothills Sunrise in Glendora CA in 1993. There, he was Club President, 2001-2002. After losing membership, he again orchestrated a merge in 2005 with the Rotary Club of Azusa CA. Roger

served as Assistant Governor from 2010 to 2013, then Executive Assistant Governor for five years. He has been District Membership Chair, Chief of Staff, RLI, P.E.T.S. Facilitator, Master SSA at District Conference and at P.E.T.S. Additionally, Roger has served on a FOCOMETER Project with his wife Sheila, (member of Glendora Rotary Club), who, 20 years ago, started fitting eye glasses on children in Mexico, giving better reading ability to over 1600 children. Roger has attained the Major Donor Level 1 and is working towards Level 2. He is passionate about the service Rotary provides to the local community and globally. Three times he has been named Rotarian of the Year. Roger has owned RG Business Insurance Agency, Inc. since 1977, providing employment to many individuals, while maintaining a 92% client retention.



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**



**Performing Saturday:
UPSTREAM!**

AUGUST 11, 2022

August is: 'Membership and New Club
Development' Month

Officers

**President: Doug Colliflower
626-524-4158**

Vice President: TBC

President Elect: Dr. Dawn Digrius Smith

Treasurer: Mike Noll

Bus: 626-657-2287

Secretary: James Gorton

Bus: 626-793-6215

Directors

Craig Cox

Maria Perez-Arton

Mark Mariscal

Sarah O'Brien

Chairs

Membership: Maria Perez-Arton

International: Sarah O'Brien

Community Service: Craig Cox

Vocational: Steve Kerekes

Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards:

Mike Zoeller

Youth Activities: Tony Hill

Foundation: Steve Kerekes

Roger and Sheila have three grown children and eight grandchildren. The family loves to travel, celebrate together, and support everyone's endeavors to make a difference now and in the future.

<https://district5300.org/about/governor-biographies/> (edited)

LAST WEEK: DR. KRIS ZACNY HONEYBEE ROBOTICS

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal Program Review: Tony Hill Photos: Mark Mariscal



At our meeting last Thursday we had the pleasure of hearing from an amazing local entrepreneur, Dr. Kris Zacny, who oversees a business delving into the future. When we were all kids technology and the world portrayed in Star Wars was thrilling but seemed so much part of the distant future. But Dr. Kris' business, Honeybee Robotics, is part of that future right now.

Kris was born in Poland but he is a resident of the world, moving to South Africa as a teenager, then later living in the bay area of San Francisco, New York City, and Pasadena. He was also involved in exploration expeditions to the Arctic, Antarctica, Atacama and Greenland. Most recently Kris purchased a home in Altadena, where he now lives with his wife and 3 sons, describing this area as a "paradise" - quite a complement from such a world traveler.

Dr. Zacny told us that while living in South Africa he obtained a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cape Town. He also worked as an engineer in South Africa managing projects related to the mining of gold, diamonds and coal. Subsequently, Kris acquired a PhD in Extraterrestrial Drilling and Mining from UC Berkeley. He then applied his knowledge of drilling and mining to the exploration of outer space.

He co-founded a division of Honeybee Robotics called Exploration Systems, which focuses on developing space mining robots. This enterprise is located in the former Walmart building on Lincoln Ave. in Altadena. Kris described how shortly after moving in in September of 2019 with 50 employees, they had to move out in March 2020 when Covid struck and the employees needed to work from home. When they recently moved back in to the same space the company had grown from 40 employees to 150 employees. Jeff Bezos's company, Blue Origin, ended up purchasing Honeybee Robotics earlier this year. As a result,



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<https://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro/>

PRESIDENT'S REMINDER: District 5300 Governor CLUB VISIT on August 11th!



Please mark your calendars and do not miss our August 11th meeting when our District

Governor, Roger Gutierrez, will be visiting our club!

Roger's visit is primarily to meet our members and learn about the projects and activities our club has planned for the 2022-23 year. And, if you have thoughts about how the district can further support our efforts, please let him know.

This is an important meeting and a wonderful opportunity to share the message of Rotary with our community. I will be inviting some community leaders to join us. And I encourage you to bring a colleague, neighbor, or family member as your guest so they can see first-hand the value our club brings to our community.

We expect the meeting to be well attended and your RSVP is important so that The ATCC can properly prepare. Please look for Dawn's email on and confirm your attendance!

Honeybee is growing even more and is planning on leasing adjacent office building from LA County.



www.honeybeerobotics.com/

Dr. Zacny and Honeybee Robotics will be part of the upcoming Prime-1 lander and the Viper rover mission in 2023 and 2024 respectively, tasked with exploring the presence of water in the lunar South Pole. And in 2027, they will fly to Titan with NASA's Dragonfly mission.

Kris informed us that currently there is a critical shortage of engineers in the space and robotic industries, so Honeybee Robotics is always looking for new qualified employees. When asked how they decide on who to hire, Kris said the first quality they look for in a new employee is that they are "happy people" and secondly that they are "creative". He then mentioned as an aside that the fact that the new hire is smart and hardworking is a given.



We are clearly very fortunate to have Dr. Kris Zacny and Honeybee Robotics in our Altadena community, and hopefully Kris will visit again some day to provide us with an update. *Photo R: Guest, Hailing Yu*



Susan Applegate and Kris, deep in conversation!



A special guest: Tony Hill's sister, visiting from Toronto!

Rotary Participates in National Night Out

By Mark Mariscal

Altadena Rotary Club joined the Altadena Sheriff Station and other local organizations, at Farnsworth Park last Tuesday evening. This was part of the 'National Night Out' program coordinated by Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the United States. As part of the program, our Club donated \$250 to the Altadena Station Fund to help cover some of the food expenses for the night. Over 300 community members attended. A special 'Thank You' to Club President Doug, Craig Cox and Maricela Viramontes for joining me in representing our Club at the event.

Pictured opposite: Sgt Busch, Dep Balyan, Doug, Lt Battey, Maricela, Mark Mariscal, Craig Cox



CONCERTS IN THE PARK: DO NOT MISS 'UPSTREAM' THIS SATURDAY... PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY!
www.upstreammusic.com

Photo/Jim Gorton: Last week's FULL HOUSE!!!

