



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 12:00 p.m.....California auto Museum

Program

Tour of the California Auto Museum, 2200 Front Street, Sacramento.

NO MEETING AT CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB.

Last Week



Club members were treated to a two-part program last week, with our club's wonderful and enthusiastic Rotary Youth Exchange Student, **Francisca Rojas**, starting off with background information regarding her home country, Chile. Francisca was followed by **Dick Noonan** from the California State Railroad Museum, who gave an informative presentation on the Museum's Sacramento Southern Railroad line.

The ever effervescent **Francisca** gave an engaging and humorous presentation about Chile and provided many interesting details regarding her homeland. She commented that although Chile does look like a chili

pepper, there are more chili peppers eaten in the U.S. and Mexico than in Chile. Francisca pointed out that Chile is not only the world's longest country at 2,634 miles, but is also the world's narrowest at 112 miles. She also noted that Easter Island is part of Chile, although it's 2,300 miles from the closest Chilean shore! With a population of 16 million, Chile's greatest population base is in the capital, Santiago, which is home to 6 million of the nation's citizens.

Due to its length and location, Chile has three climate zones, ranging from the dry desert area at the northern end of the country, where in one area it hasn't rained in over 50 years, to the mountainous and beautiful scenic areas of Pantagonia in the south. Francisca commented that central Chile has weather similar to Northern California with distinct seasonal changes. Because of the range of climate conditions, Chile has great fruits and incredible red wines as well as some fantastic ski resorts. Francisca noted also that based on United Nations standards, Chile ranks as the 40th best country in the world and is ranked number one of Latin American countries.

Francisca shared some family photos which included her younger brother, Carlos, her 5-year old sister, Josephina, her parents, Carlos and Sandra, and the family's toy poodle, Bindi. She also stated the differences between schools in Chile and the U.S., are remarkable. The private school she attends in Chile covers all grades, kindergarten through 12th grade, and has a student population of 500, compared to Ponderosa High, which only has grades 9 through 12, but has over 2,000 students. Francisca observed that while at Ponderosa, she's made many friends, specifically close to her are the members of the PHS tennis team.

Next up was Dick Noonan, a volunteer with the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM), introduced by our Club's own CSRM docent, Art Cort. Dick is not only a volunteer with the CSRM, but a fellow 35-year Rotarian. Dick provided a great presentation about the CSRM's heritage railroad line, the Sacramento Southern Railroad, on which the museum runs a 6-mile, 40 minute, round trip excursion from April through September annually. The museum also conducts school excursions on Tuesdays and Fridays to acquaint students with the history of railroading. In addition, as a source of income for the Sacramento Southern, several times annually the engine and crew provide freight service for the Setzer Forest Products plant near the museum by moving freight cars to and from the plant.

Dick observed the Sacramento Southern is composed of a completely volunteer crew and currently operates on three miles of track originally used as part of the Southern Pacific Railroad's Walnut Grove Branch, which stretches from Old Sacramento to an area near Riverside Boulevard, known as "the Baths" (see Sacto Bee, Monday, Jan 25), as that's where the city used to have a huge covered swimming pool complex. The CSRM has track from Old Sac to Baths, as well as track from Freeport to Hood Junction, and is currently in negotiations with Regional Transit to acquire the connecting right-of-way for the area between the Baths and Freeport.

Sacramento Southern's focal piece in motive power is the classic 0-6-0 tank engine, Granite Rock Company #10. This fully restored 0-6-0 is fueled by recycled motor oil at 73 cents per gallon and has appeared in the popular motion picture "Memoirs of a Geisha". Dick noted that the volunteers recently completed a three-year renovation project on an observation car, the "El Dorado", and that piece of rolling stock is now in service on the Sacramento Southern.

Over the years, the Sacramento Southern has conducted a variety of special train rides and excursions, to include an annual "Goosebumps Express" at Halloween, "Train Time for Santa" three days each Thanksgiving weekend, a three-year run with "Thomas the Tank Engine", and the recent addition of the "Polar Express", a live entertainment experience aboard the train based on the book and the movie. Several Club members, including President Bill, have been on the Polar Express and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience with high recommendations.

As final observations, Dick stated that even though the past year or two have been tough economic times in the Sacramento area, the Sacramento Southern Railroad saw an 8-10% increase in ridership, which bodes well for this wonderful project and piece of Sacramento history.

Presidents Corner



Fritz Engel reminded members about the meeting at the car museum this week and requested that anyone interested in carpooling meet in the Cameron Park Country Club parking lot at 11:15 AM.

Vicki Christensen-McLain, the Club's International Chair, announced that in addition to Cameron Park Rotary's agreeing to send a Shelter Box to Haiti, the El Dorado Hills Club passed the hat last week and raised \$1,000 to send one as well and the remaining District 5190 clubs in our immediate area have raised \$2,400 to provide Shelter Boxes. According to available information, Shelter Box has \$1,000,000 worth of Shelter Boxes (that's 1,000 of them) enroute to Haiti

right now and has another \$1,000,000 being prepared for transit. Walter Phillip is the Rotary point-

of-contact for ShelterBox coordination.

President-Elect Anne Eckert reminded Club members that April 24th will be Rotarians-At-Work Day for "Christmas in April" on behalf of the Salvation Army and that the Georgetown Divide and Camino-Pollock Pines Rotary Clubs will be joining us in this effort.

WANTED: NEW MEMBERS:

The success of any organization depends on its members. New members are needed to replace those who leave, they bring new energy and they bring new ideas. Each member is an ambassador for the club and should be looking for likely candidates that will help the club achieve its objectives and thrive in the community. Membership Chair, **Mike Dugan** left cards on each table on January 14 for members to use to help attract new members. One briefly explains what Rotary is all about. The second invites potential new members to join us for lunch as a guest of the club. Anyone needing additional cards can get them from Mike.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS:

Vicki Christensen-McLain was happy to fork over \$20 in anticipation of her departure this week for Hawaii. According to Vicki, this is NOT a round-trip ticket and she will be spending much well-earned time in Paradise. Joining her over there in two weeks will be our Rotary Exchange Student, Francisca, who will provide Vicki with adult supervision for at least one week.

Mike Collom was willing to provide \$10 in "Curiosity Bucks" if Tom Keating had found any references to Art Cort in any of the documents in the Rescue Library's 100-year old time capsule Tom had recently been given.

Chuck LePere and **Joe Ryan** recently spent time at Ponderosa High School discussing the Club's Vocational Scholarship Program with many of the PHS students and to express his gratitude to Chuck and Joe, PHS Principal and Cameron Park Rotary member **Chris Moore** donated \$100 to the Club's Haiti relief efforts. Haiti holds a special place in Chris's heart, as he was assigned there during his time in the Army's 3rd Special Forces Group.

Birthdays in January

Anne Eckert

Bill Ettlich

-----Spouses-----

Joanne Clarke

Kathe Hughes

Luke Miller

Colleen Oliver

Anniversaries in January

Jim & Marilyn Bowen

Art & Helen Cort

Sig & Dian Hansen

Bill & Kathe Hughes

Upcoming Calendar

January 28, 2010 - **Karen McLaughlin** will present the Towe Auto Museum story. NOTE: This meeting will be held at the California Automobile Museum - 2200 Front Street in Sacramento.

February 4, 2010 - The Sugarloaf Program by **Bob Edwards**

February 11, 2010 - Club Speech Contest

February 18, 2010 - General **Doug Stone** "Battlefield of the Mind---who our enemy is and how we can defeat him!"

February 25, 2010 - **Steve Snyder** will speak on the future of the auto industry

March 4, 2010 - **Eric Driever** will discuss the vision for Cameron Park

March 11, 2010 - Club Music Contest

March 18, 2010 - **Shall Sinta** from Edmonton Alberta will speak on the origin of the Four Way Test

March 25, 2010 - **Sue Watson** from Snowline Hospice will speak to us about new programs available through that agency

April 1, 2010 - **Apiary Farming** will present program on bee keeping

April 8, 2010 - Club Assembly

Upcoming Words of Wisdom/Greeter Assignments

January 28, 2010 – Words of Wisdom by **Mike Collom**; Greeter **Sabrina Ho**: and **Shiva Frentzen** on the front desk

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 28, 2010 - Meeting at the California Automobile Museum in Sacramento. Meet at CPCC to car pool.

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 - Monthly Board meeting at noon at Bass Lake Golf Course. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

April 8, 2010 - Club Assembly

April 17, 2010 - District Assembly in Reno

April 24, 2010 - Christmas in April. Ring a Bell for the

Salvation Army.

May 21 to 23, 2010 - District Conference at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno.

June 12, 2010 - **Wine at Town Center** (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Mike Neal has put together a photo series of highlights of the 20th Annual Show & Shine Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The link is at the bottom of this web page.

Gear Up is written by **Art Cort**, **Jim Buckley** and **Rick Spicer**. Web site, photography, and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.