



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

February 5, 2009 at 12:15 p.m.Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Norm Headley**; Greeter **Rube Jessop**; and ? on the desk

Program

Chris Moore will sponsor the Annual Club Speech Contest

Last Week



Frank Dibbell, Head Docent at the **Cameron Park Rotary Community Observatory** reported on the many activities ongoing at the observatory and used a Night Sky Network Kit to demonstrate how he teaches basics to students.

In 2008, there were a total of 235 programs with over 4,500 visitors to the observatory. That included 36 education programs with a total of 645 students; 4 open houses with 665 visitors; 150 public programs with nearly 2,000 visitors; 9 scout groups with 166 boy scouts; 14 solar programs with nearly 600 visitors; 12 special events with 400 visitors and docent training every month for the 40 volunteer docents. These figures are all the more impressive when considering that early in the

year, overcast skies severely limited visibility at the observatory. Following 2007, with a total of 4,350 visitors, the observatory is established as an ongoing and important educational component on the Western Slope.

The observatory has joined the Night Sky Network, expanding their reach into the county and surrounding communities. The Network is associated with NASA, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology and was established to help astronomy clubs bring the wonders of the universe to the public. Membership gives access to a wealth of educational resources, including excellent training aids such as the ones Frank demonstrated last week. The web site for the Network is well worth visiting at: (<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>)

As the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the skies, 2009 has been designated the International Year of Astronomy. Docents, **Forrest Lockhart** and **LuAnn LePere** are driving related events throughout the year. Each month, there will be an open house focusing on a different theme as outlined on the Night Sky web site. January's theme for IYA 2009 is Telescopes and Space Probes: Today's Starry Messengers. Additionally, they are developing a partnership between docents and schools in an "adopt-a-school" program to provide an additional resource for teachers at many schools in the county.

Another significant development is a partnership with **Bernard Gibson**, a marketing professor at Folsom Lake College. While the observatory has attracted considerable interest from the educational community, only a small percentage of the community is aware of its existence. Professor Gibson has assigned a class to take on a project of assessing public awareness and producing a marketing plan to better publicize the observatory in the community.

To demonstrate how the docents take a 'hands on' approach to teaching young people about astronomy, Frank brought a Night Sky Network kit that demonstrated theory and application of

refractive and reflective telescopes. So effective was Frank's presentation, he involved the Rotarians in lesson's that he normally gave to students and developed considerable interest in this subject in a short time. It's easy to see why so many young people are returning to the observatory to learn even more. The Cameron Park Rotary Community Observatory is succeeding in their efforts to become better known. They are becoming a phenomenal resource for education and are establishing themselves as a destination for family nights out. With obvious pride, Frank describes the observatory as the Jewel of El Dorado County. He is certainly entitled to his pride, having given so much to the community. We are indebted to Frank and his outstanding volunteers for their incredible achievements at the observatory.

Presidents Corner



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Student Speech Contest:

Ponderosa High School Principal, **Chris Moore** announced that there will be five outstanding students competing in the annual club speech contest this week. This contest is one of the highlights of the year, with extraordinary students demonstrating their skills. If the last few years are any indication, we can expect to be introduced to some very talented young people this week. Don't miss it.

RED VALENTINE'S DAY;

President **Iain Marshall** is taking a lesson from Past President **Gary Reynolds** and is asking everyone to

wear red to the meeting on February 12. At least he didn't threaten with the wrath of Reynolds. President Iain will bring roses for purchase, with proceed going to the Cameron Park Rotary Community Foundation.

DATE CHANGE FOR BOARD MEETING:

Please note that the February Board meeting has be re-scheduled from February 3, to February 10, 2009, at Kobe's Restaurant at noon. All members are invited and encouraged to attend all board meeting.

PHILIPPINE BOAT PROJECT:

Bob Dorr reports that he received an email updating the activities of the **M.V. Cameron Park**. Due to unusually wet conditions and flooding in the Agusan Marsh, the boat is being used to meet extraordinary demands to dispense supplies in the Marsh. Cots have been placed on board to shelter more people. All indications are that the boat is exceeding expectations in serving the people of the Agusan Marsh.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS:

Rarely seen Rotarian **Mike Collom** is a proud grandfather who went to Camp Pendleton to see his grandson graduate from recruit training. So proud, he donated ten Happy Bucks. Speaking of proud grand daddy's, **Gary Gall's** four sons have given him six grandchildren and two more are on the way. **Art Cort** observed that this proves that Gary has a lot of Gall. For Gary, it is an opportunity to contribute five very Happy Bucks.

We all know that **Debbie Miller** thinks green, but she outdid herself by equipping her new office in Placerville to have a zero solar footprint. Not an inexpensive investment, Debbie did have enough left over to come up

with five Happy Bucks.

Principal **Chris Moore** and his predecessor, **Dave Sargent** are gloating over the stinginess of PHS boys basketball team. Against Union Mine, they allowed only 4 points in the first quarter and before it was all over, they were victorious by over thirty points. They were not quite as happy as expected,

coming up with only \$2.50 each. Also impressed by the PHS defense, **Mike Collom** noted that his two grandsons scored twenty points in their 8th grade game. That was good for another ten Happy Bucks from Mike.

Iain Marshall continues to brag about his skills on the links, offering five Happy Bucks for having shot an impressive 76 at Cameron Park Country Club. He claims that it was his best outing on this course. The only thing that golfers in the crowd heard is that Iain is so confident that he must be giving lots of strokes to all comers. Time for a challenge?

Birthdays in February

Coy Baugh
Bob Clarke
Mike Collom
Sig Hansen
Rube Jessop
Ron Losel
Dave Sargent
David Tavernetti
-----Spouses-----
Barbara Dorr
Gina Foulk
Starleen Keating

Anniversaries in February

Vickie & Christensen-McLain
Chuck & JoAnn LePere
Mike & Trudy Neal

Upcoming Calendar

February 5, 2009 - **Chris Moore** will sponsor the Club Speech contest
February 12, 2009 - Club Assembly meeting
February 19, 2009 - **Chris Moore** will sponsor the Club Music contest
February 26, 2009 - **Dave Sargent** will take us to the Galapagos Islands

March 5, 2009 - **Star Walker** for EDC Agency on Aging to discuss available programs
March 12, 2009 - Dinner meeting at CPCC to judge area music competition
March 19, 2009 - **Shiva Frentzen** will discuss Iran`s Political Revolution
March 26, 2009 - Mountain Democrat Columnist **Bob Billingsley** will speak on the Cherokee Indian method of meditation
March 31, 2009 - Tuesday evening meeting at Pollock Pines to judge area Speech competition

April 16, 2009 - **Dee Russo** will discuss **Project Amigo** and her December visit with her daughters to Mexico

Upcoming Words of Wisdom

February 5, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Norm Headley**, Greeter **Rube Jessop**
February 12, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Chris Moore**, Greeter **Shiva Frentzen**, Front Desk **Eric Pohl**

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 10, 2009 - Monthly Rotary Club of Cameron Park Board meeting at Kobe`s restaurant in Burke`s Junction. All members welcome.

March 12, 2009 - Dinner meeting at CPCC to judge area music competition

March 31, 2009 - Tuesday evening meeting at Pollock Pines to judge area Speech competition

Edie Liebergot has been proposed for membership by Coy Baugh. She is a branch manager with Umpqua Bank.

Mike Neal has put together another of his photo series of highlights of our 2008 Christmas Dinner & Auction. The link is at the bottom of this web page. Recent pictures of the Philippine Boat project are now posted in the link below entitled, ``Agusan Marsh Project in the Philippines.``

Gear Up is written by **Jim Buckley** and **Art Cort**. Photography and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.