



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

April 23, 2009 at 12:15 p.m.Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Vickie Christensen-McLain** ; Greeter **Sig Hansen**; and **David Tavernetti** on the desk

Program

`` Seward's Folly `` travelogue with **Art `` North to Alaska `` Cort**

Last Week



Last December, **Dee Russo** made her second trip to Colima, Mexico to volunteer with Project Amigo to help the poor children of this region. Accompanying Dee were her 14 year old and 16 year old granddaughters. The oldest granddaughter had been there with Dee a couple of years earlier and found the experience so rewarding that she wanted to return with her sister. Both girls speak Spanish, which proved to be a real asset on this trip.

Project Amigo was established by **Ted** and **Susan Rose** after Ted had come across the area while hiking in 1984. He was taken by the beautiful children and their many needs. Returning with Susan that Christmas to throw a party for those children, they ultimately moved to Mexico

to help them full time. The mission statement for Project Amigo is:

“To enable the poor children of Colima, Mexico, to achieve their highest potential by providing educational opportunities, material support, enrichment activities and medical and dental services.

To provide opportunities for volunteers from developed countries to help and become friends with disadvantaged children in Mexico.

To foster friendship and understanding between Rotarians from developed countries and from Mexico.”

Without Project Amigo, few children in this impoverished area would receive education beyond the 6th grade and many would not receive any education. Through their scholarship programs, over one hundred young people are attending junior high school, high school and University. This year, there are twenty-two students in University and another five will be enrolled this fall. In order to participate, students must maintain an 8.5 GPA (out of a possible 10.0), maintain good citizenship standards, perform monthly community service and attend a weekly homework club. The cost of a scholarship per student ranges from \$95 per year for an elementary student, \$420 for junior high school, \$600 for high school and \$4,000 for university. Dee showed the picture of a boy who she has been sponsoring for the past two years. She also showed pictures of Casa Amigo, a boarding facility in the city of Colima for Project Amigo’s higher education scholarship recipients. In addition to scholarship programs, Project Amigo conducts dental, vision and hearing clinics.

A key component of Project Amigo is the opportunity for volunteers to visit for a work week. Four work weeks are scheduled for this year. There was a literacy work week in November. Juneau Glacier Valley (AK) Rotarians joined forces with Centerville-Farmington (UT) Rotarians and their families for a special literacy work week dedicated to delivering mini-libraries to poor rural and urban schools. The mini-

libraries were purchased with funds resulting from the partnership of the JGV Rotary Club with the Club Rotario de Villa de Alvarez and The Rotary Foundation. All week at different schools, children crowded around to get their little hands on books as if they were candy spilling from piñatas. Visitors listened to the kids show off their reading skills and offered warm hugs and encouragement to enhance the reading-for-fun experience. Dee went down for Project Amigo's Fiesta Navidena, This service work week, dedicated to preparing for the annual Fiesta, combines work with tradition and culture to give volunteers an inside look at Mexico. In the coming year, literacy work weeks are set for November 2009 and March 2010. The Christmas Fiesta work week will be held from December 5 – 13, 2009. On January 10, 2010, there will be a vision work week in which glasses will be given to hundreds of children and adults. The last vision work week resulted in the distribution of 1,200 pairs of glasses.

On Dee's December visit, 27 volunteers put on the Christmas Fiesta with dozens of piñatas, lots of food and music and a gift of a full set of new clothes, from the skin out, for each of 170 children. While the primary purpose of the week is to work, there are plenty of activities that provide an opportunity to see other villages and to experience the Mexican culture. Dee told of a visit to the School at a Cane Cutter's Camp in Quezeria. This school is funded by Rotary and the majority of students are children of migrant workers who typically do not attend any school. Throughout the week, Dee relied on her granddaughters to translate. They had a chance to read with children who received books under the "Book of their Own" program. She reports that the experience has had a profound impact on the oldest girl who, after her first trip, is thinking of a career that will give her an opportunity to help people.

As Project Amigo's scholars move through the grade levels, the number of students needing this valuable resource in order to attend school has increased. Today, Project Amigo owns its own Casa Amiga – purchased and remodeled in 2008 with generous contributions from its Board President and members, and individuals who have sponsored rooms in the memory of loved ones. Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary Districts throughout the US and Canada partner with Project Amigo in order to further their international service efforts, to foster family service vacations, and to promote goodwill between their clubs and Mexican Rotary clubs. Project Amigo is an independent, non-profit corporation, and **IS NOT** part of Rotary International. They work closely with Rotary Clubs in Mexico, the United States, Canada and other countries. Project Amigo's programs and services are supported by donations from Rotary Clubs, individual Rotarians, corporate matches of employee contributions, non-Rotarians and businesses. A majority of Project Amigo's donors and supporters are non-Rotarians. All of their activities are open to Rotarians, non-Rotarians and their families.

In this limited space, it's not possible to relate all of the good works being done by Project Amigo. Nor is it possible to list the many opportunities for individuals to give meaningful support. Readers are urged to visit the Project Amigo web site at: www.projectamigo.org.

Presidents Corner



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT:

It is official, the Rotary Club of Cameron Park will be hosting a foreign exchange student from Santiago, Chile for the next school year. That doesn't leave much time to identify the first host family to provide accommodations beginning in late July or early August. Three or four families will be needed who will commit to a 2-3 month stint during the course of the year. Hosting a foreign student can be a fulfilling experience and anyone interested in doing so is asked to contact **Anne Eckert** as soon as possible.

Coincidentally, President Iain is scheduled for an Edward Jones conference in Santiago at the end of this month and he hopes to have an opportunity to meet this 16

year old incoming exchange student and her parents.

ROTARY AT WORK DAY ON APRIL 25, 2009:

Rotarians from Cameron Park and from Georgetown will be staffing Salvation Army pots for Christmas in April to raise funds needed to meet the increased demand for Salvation Army services. Five more volunteers are needed to meet our commitment to set up stations in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and Placerville. **Tom Keating** assured that there is no truth to the rumor that members not

volunteering will not have their homes and places of business subject to spot fire inspections. It is still a good idea for everyone to contribute a couple of hours on April 25 to this event. Volunteers can pick up their assignments at Rotary this week. Don't forget the unforgettable pot luck Christmas in April dinner to follow at **Bill Gallant's**. Anyone attending needs to sign up and indicate what side dish, desert or wine they will be bringing. The turkey and other alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. What a deal!!

Rotary DISTRICT 5190 CONVENTION:

The District Convention is coming up fast. To be held at the Peppermill Hotel and Convention Center in Reno on May 14 to 17, the program promises inspirational speakers and lots of good information about Rotary programs. Interact students and Group Study Exchange teams in attendance always bring good energy. This year's program promises to be a good time for all. The Rotary Clubs of Georgetown and Pollock Pines will both join Cameron Park to sponsor a hospitality room. Members planning to attend are asked to tell **Bill Gallant** and to bring refreshments for the hospitality and fellowship. Conference registration may be accomplished on the District Web site.

Noted Rotarians



FINES AND HAPPY BUCKS:

Bill Ettlich has much reason to be happy. His son is a submarine commander who returned from Iraq. Bill said something about his son grounding his sub on an Iraqi desert, but he's so happy that it really didn't matter. He shared his happiness with ten happy bucks. **Bob Clarke** is also happy, but for much different reasons. His dealings with the county building department are finally coming to an end. The work to reclassify a structure on his property is more grueling than building a new house. So far, he has made twelve trips to the county office and he thinks that approval is just around the corner. For that, Bob offered ten happy bucks.

Chris Moore claimed that he was late because he couldn't find a seal required for paperwork for the Rotary Youth Exchange student. After blaming his problems on the digital age, Chris reported that he had a wonderful time with his family in Disneyland last week. For that he had twenty happy bucks. Also late was a smiling **Ben Young**. Ben wasn't smiling because he was late, he is simply happy. Seems like he has been counting his blessings; a wonderful wife, great kids and a good job. What's not to smile about as Ben pledged ten happy bucks. **Bob Edwards** was not only late in his arrival, he tried to distract attention from his tardiness by telling a very silly story about a nun and a penguin. No need to repeat that here, but it cost Bob ten not so happy dollars.

Also happy is **Debbie Miller** whose daughter is about to start her career as a teacher. What better way to prepare than to spend time with Ponderosa High School Principal, Chris Moore? Grateful to Chris for being generous with his time and knowledge, Debbie contributed five happy bucks.

A child of the seventies, **Carla Carlson** waited until 2009 to attend her first big protest rally. She described the TEA party in Sacramento as non-partisan, informative and a good experience. Since it took her so long to find a demonstration that she could support, she pledged a whopping Fifty-six happy bucks to share her experience.

After a year of extensive IRS audits of both personal and corporate accounts, **Dee Russo** is happy to report that she owes no additional taxes. Always willing to share her good fortune, the club coffers now have five more happy bucks.

Birthdays in April

Doug Bisbee

Bob Edwards

Shiva Frentzen

Russ Lloyd
Mike Neal
Brian Silverthorn
Terry Wilson
-----Spouses-----
Dottie Bisbee
Jeff Frentzen
Gwen Headley
Pamela Johnson
Carol Sargent
Stephanie Silverthorn

Anniversaries in April
Norm & Gwen Headley
Eddie & Paul Liebergot

Upcoming Calendar

April 23, 2009 - ``Sewards Folly`` travelogue with **Art ``North to Alaska`` Cort**
April 30, 2009 - GSE Team presentation

May 7, 2009 - Folsom Lake College development, including Performing Arts Center
May 14, 2009 - Vocational Service experiences by **Norm Headley** and **Tom Keating**
May 21, 2009 - **George Eckert** - California Mortgage Association: Legislative Update
May 28, 2009 - Trip to California Military Museum for meeting and tour

June 4, 2009 - **Star Walker** from EDC Office on Aging about available programs

Upcoming Words of Wisdom

April 23, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Vickie Christensen-McLain** ; Greeter **Sig Hansen**; and **David Tavernetti** on the front desk
April 30, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Bob Clarke**; Greeter **Norm Headley**; and **Tom Keating** on the front desk

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 25, 2009 - Rotary at Work Day

April 25, 2009 - "Walk for Children" to raise money for the Children of St. Jude's at Ponderosa High School

May 5, 2009 - Monthly Rotary Club of Cameron Park Board meeting at Kobe's restaurant in Burke's Junction. All members welcome.

May 14 to 17, 2009 - Rotary District 5190 Conference at the Peppermill Hotel and Conference Center in Reno

June 13, 2009 - **Wine at Town Center**

July 17, 2009 - Cocktail party for new **Paul Harris Fellows** at **Iain** and **Sally Marshall's** house.

October 10, 2009 - **Show and Shine** at Cameron Park Airport

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