



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

July 17, 2008 at 12:15p.m.Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Steve Long**; Greeter **Ben Young**; and **Shiva Frentzen** on the fornt desk

Program

Debbie Betts, from Bank of America – Reverse Mortgages

Last Week



The guest speaker was **Mark Finan**, Chief Meteorologist for KCRA, Channel 3, in Sacramento. Rather than give a general presentation on weather, Mark chose to devote his time to fielding questions from members and guests. Mark has been with KCRA for 17 years, living most of that time in Cameron Park. All of the weather reporters at KCRA, including Mark, are trained meteorologists. Each prepares their own daily forecasts. At the end of each meteorologist's shift, they document their forecasts and what they have reported on the air for the next person's consideration. In this manner, they do their own work with the benefit of information from their colleagues and there tends to be a continuity from one news broadcast to the next.

KCRA meteorologists take information from a number of computer models and interpret it based on their own experiences. Data is gained from weather balloons released twice a day from 250 locations across the country. The balloons fail at altitudes over 100,000 feet, the capsules return to earth by parachute and have a label directing the finder to drop the capsule in the mail. The models provide independent and often conflicting forecasts. Computer forecasts tend to be premature in predicting the end of heat waves. After living and working in the area for 17 years, Mark applies his local knowledge to the information derived from computer models to come up with more accurate forecasts

Asked about changes that he has seen over the years, Mark said 25 years ago, they didn't go beyond 2 or 3 days forecasts. Now, all the stations are making 7 to 10 day forecasts and there are internet sites with 15 day forecasts for most areas. At the same time, he questioned the validity of such long term forecasts and said that 15 day internet forecasts do not provide information worth the "clicks" to access the information. He candidly stated that they do really good work on forecasts up to 3 days and cautioned against reliance on forecasts that went any further. As for changes at the KCRA, it was a single station 15 years ago and now has three channels, a radio station and a web site; all independent revenue sources. Mark's day begins at 2:00 p.m. daily, with his on the air appearances at 5:00, 6:00, 6:30, 9:00 (radio) and 10:00 p.m. and ends when he gets home around midnight. Television stations tend to measure success based on ratings, but it is difficult to tell how much the ratings are influenced by the weather element of the newscast. Mark measures his success by the accuracy of his forecasts.

Questions were raised about La Nina and El Nino which refers to temperatures of Pacific Ocean currents near the equator and their impact on the weather. La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Nino, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. These weather phenomena were first observed in the 1970s. Global climate La Nina impacts tend to be opposite those of El Nino impacts. The key word here is "tends." Each condition has an impact on the climate that may or may not result in wet or dry year. It is important to note that seasonal indicators provide a likelihood or trend for the weather and

no specific information for forecasting. There is a wealth of information on these climate conditions at: <http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tao/elnino/la-nina-story.html>.

Asked about hurricane names, Mark said that there are five sets of names from which the weather service draw, alternating over a period of five years. Names on each list are alphabetical and alternate by the gender of the name. The first name on each list alternates by gender every year. Once a named storm becomes a major hurricane, such as Katrina, that name is retired from the list.

Asked about global warming, Mark emphasized that he is a meteorologist and not a climatologist. His take is that the global warming is an interesting topic, combining science and politics. The problem he sees is that there is still much that has not been scientifically established. He contends it is people outside of science that assert that the debate is over. In science, the debate is never truly over and research never ends. He is concerned that the insertion of political views into the topic hampers scientific discourse.

With all the smoke in the air, last week was a perfect time for Mark to be the speaker. He acknowledged that smoke particles tend to float in the atmosphere and it is difficult to project where those particles will be. Even Mark relies on the National Weather Service for satellite pictures of the smoke. Check them out at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> or learn about National Doppler Radar sites at: <http://radar.weather.gov/>

Presidents Corner



ERIC POHL INDUCTED:

The first new member of the year, **Eric Pohl** was inducted by **Norm Headley**. Norm talked about the history of Rotary International and focused on the four areas of Rotary service; club service; community service; vocational service, and international service. Eric then got his last chance to talk about himself without risk of fines. He has been the head golf professional at the Bass Lake Golf Course for the last 6 years. He is a lifetime member of the PGA, having belonged to the organization for 30 years. Eric and his wife **Linda** have been married for thirty-three years. They live in Sacramento along with their son, a recent graduate of Sacramento State University and daughter who recently graduated from high school.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Unable to report last week, Director of Vocational Service, **Chris Moore** shared an informational handout that elaborated on the meaning of Vocational Service in relation to Rotary. The focus of Vocational Service is on high ethical standards, recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the contribution of member's vocational talents to the problems and needs of society. After listing the many examples of the club's vocational service programs, Chris explained his plan to seek volunteers from the membership to help with those programs. Chris is also compiling a list of members willing to participate in a speaker's bureau that can be used as a resource by teachers and others advising students, juvenile offenders, women's shelters and other groups. Members from all walks of life are encouraged to participate.

CAMERON PARK POOL FUND:

Cameron Park voters approved an 8.5 million dollar bond measure in 2005 to build a Community Center. Due to rising construction costs, the Cameron Park Community Service District was forced to choose between an assembly hall, a gymnasium and a swimming pool. District Directors chose to build only the assembly hall. The **Cameron Park Pool Fund** has been established to raise funds to build and maintain a swimming pool. A four-member advisory committee is being established to make recommendations on grants from the pool fund. One representative each will come from the Cameron Park Community Services District, Cameron Estates Community Services District, Soroptimist International of Cameron Park and the Rotary Club of Cameron Park. President Iain announced that **Shiva Frentzen** will serve as the Rotary representative.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer **Coy Baugh** distributed the first statements of the year with balances which are a little more than usual because of the annual dues. Signup sheets were distributed for members to become Bell

Ringers or to set a limit on the amount that they are willing to be fined over the course of the next year. Contact Coy to sign up or risk having no limit. Coy announced that members can expect future invoices in a PDF format as an email attachment. He also said that he will be working with the bank to seek a convenient means of electronic payment for future invoices.

HUMANITARIAN TOUR of CHINA with ROTARY and the WHEEL CHAIR FOUNDATION:

The Rotary Club of Foster City and Howard Tours presents a wonderful tour of China. Leaving on October 4, 2008, and returning of October 17, the tour will include stays in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Xian and Beijing. Anyone interested can get further information from President Iain.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER:

Bob Edwards announced that the progressive dinner originally planned for July 27, 2008 is being postponed to an undetermined date in the Fall. The reasons for this decision are twofold. First we can be assured of cooler weather with less smoke in the Fall. Second, Bob knows from experience that the number of road kill for BBQ will be much higher in the Fall.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS

Chris Moore thought he and **Alice** could have an Anniversary dinner in San Francisco with his family and friends and seemed to be surprised that his young daughter didn't feel like sitting through an adult dinner. Chris and Alice had a great dinner, separately, as they took turns walking outside with their daughter. Not to worry, President Iain gave Chris a long stem rose to take home to Alice and Chris responded with ten Happy Bucks.

Coy and Cheryl Baugh had an anniversary that seemed to be overlooked last month and Coy decided to give \$25 to brag about his marital

bliss. Combined with the \$40 to observe Cheryl's birthday this month, Coy's wallet is \$65 lighter.

Happy Birthday to **Janet Bunje** and ten Happy Bucks from husband **Dave** to celebrate.

Proud Grandpa, **Steve Long's** 18 year old grandson excelled at the National Karate Championships. Steve offered to pay \$10 for each of his grandson's 2 gold medals and \$5 for the silver for a total of 25 Happy Bucks.

There were 10 Happy Bucks from **Sabrina Ho** who hosted a successful Chamber mixer at the Bass Lake Golf Course last week that attracted over 100 people. A single Happy Buck was pledged by **Chuck LePere** to tell about the brilliant application submitted by **Andrea Ford** for a District Ambassadorial Scholarship. Writing in both English and French Andrea makes a compelling case for her proposal to pursue anthropology studies in Africa. Andrea will come to the July 24 meeting to talk more about her incredible ambitions.

There was a familiar face that turned out to be **Mike Collom** who hasn't been around lately. He missed the meeting two weeks prior to play in Mexico. The following week he chose Lake Tahoe over a rotary meeting in Cameron Park. Looking rested, Mike appears to have no regrets and he even contributed 20 Happy Bucks to talk about his good times. A more modest, yet no less fun vacation for **Dee Russo** brought another 5 Happy Bucks to the club coffers. Known for her motor home adventures, the family set a no motor home or trailer rule and Dee experienced tent living for the first time in a while. Apparently all had a good time and Dee looks no worse for the wear.

Birthdays in July

Fritz Engel

Pete Oliver

-----Spouses-----

Cheryl Baugh

Janet Bunje

Michael Davis

Dianne Ettlich

Linda Pohl
Chris Sanders

Anniversaries in July

Bob & Sara Edwards
Chris & Alice Moore
Brian & Stephanie Silverthorn
Ben & Lacey Young

Upcoming Calendar

July 17, 2008 - **Debbie Betts**, from Bank of America – Reverse Mortgages
July 24, 2008 - **Ron Nieme** - The current situation in Iraq
July 31, 2008 - **David Greenwood** - Hypnotherapy
August 7, 2008 - **Bob Clarke** - The Cameron Park Rotary Community Foundation annual meeting.
August 14, 2008 – **Shannon Guzzo** - Travelogue to Antarctica
August 21, 2008 – Annual meeting at **Bob Clarke's** Latrobe Vineyard (Speaker TBA)
August 28, 2008 - **Mike Neal** - Vocational Service
September 4, 2008 - Sacramento River Cats Rally
September 11, 2008 - Patriots Day with **Maj. Ken Ashworth** from the California Military Museum
September 18, 2008 - **Kyleen Cornell** - Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope
September 25, 2008 - **Tammy Mefford** with Cameron Park Community Service District on exciting progress with new Community Center (at Faith Episcopal Church)

Upcoming Words of Wisdom

July 17, 2008 – Words of Wisdom by **Steve Long** after a greeting from **Ben Young** with **Shiva Frentzen** on the front desk
July 24, 2008 – Words of Wisdom by **Mike Collom** after a greeting from **Bob Dorr** with **Tom Keating** on the front desk
July 31, 2008 – Words of Wisdom by **Vickie Christensen-McLain** after a greeting from **Bill Gallant** with **Fritz Engel** on the front desk

The Last Word



through the talents of **Mike Neal**.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 18, 2008 - Rotarians of Cameron Park take kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Placerville to a Sacramento River Cat game. Contact **Gary Reynolds** to join the party.

August 5, 2008 - Monthly Board Meeting at Kobe's Restaurant in Burke's Junction at noon.

November 13, 2008 - Annual Area Rotary Foundation Dinner at the Cameron Park Country Club

Gear Up is written by **Jim Buckley** and **Art Cort**. Photography and artwork