



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for February 2, 2009 Sonoma Land Trust with John Brosnan

By Casey Williams

Preliminaries



Sporting a **Snazzy** Hawaiian shirt, (*customary for the first meeting of each month*) **President David McDonald** brought The February 2, 2009 meeting of District 5130's "Cool Club" to order at 12:30pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Peter LaMonica** followed by The Rotary Moment brought to us by **Jim Hinton**, which reminded us all that it's important to seize the day, and embrace the random.

Thanks to the following people who helped make today's meeting happen: **Setup/Cleanup: Casey Williams; Cashier: Gary Lucas; Greeter: Ralph Lassen; Raffle Tickets: Will Richards.**

Visiting Rotarians: **Dr. Schishier** Santa Rosa Sunrise (?). **Alan Burchell** visited us all the way from Dunbar Scotland, which happens to be the birthplace of John Muir. He brought with him a flag from his home club which was warmly accepted by President David.



Guests of Rotarians: **Casey Williams** introduced as a guest, "for the very last time" **Kris Lepore** a realtor from Sonoma Coast living in Bodega Bay...more on him later...

Announcements & Such

This was our first meeting following the annual Crab *Feast* fundraiser which was held 1/31/09 and considered by

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Coming Up:

2/9 - Jerry Meshalum, Rotoplast

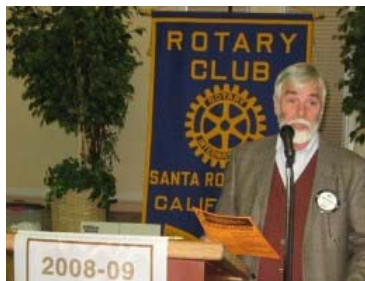
2/16 - Dark

2/23 - Renata Billinger, Climate Protection Campaign

2/26 - SCARC Dinner - Cloverdale

3/26 - SCARC Dinner - Santa Rosa West

all a success. **President David** started by asking all committee members to come to the front of the room where he thanked them for their hard work and dedication. This was met with a resounding round of applause from the club.



Bill Dodson then thanked ***Chris Young** as well as a special thanks to **Mrs. Dodson** and **Mrs. Young** for their help in spearheading another successful event. He announced preliminary numbers for funds raised, which were excellent considering the current economic times:

- Live Auction: \$22,000.00
- Silent Auction: \$14,000.00
- Raffle, Admission, etc: \$45,000.00

He stressed that these were round numbers, and not officially confirmed as of yet. Bill also took a moment to thank the new members for their help with cleaning up, and shared that during the cleanup members found \$55 in cash tips left on the tables by guests Saturday evening. This money will be given to the Boy Scouts who worked so hard and served a fabulous meal to everyone. He also brought souvenir leather pouches filled with limes left over from the Mai Tai bar for the members to take home as they left.

President David then called **Casey Williams** and his guest (and soon to be new member) **Kris Lepore** to the podium. **Jim Hinton** was spontaneously tapped to induct Kris into the club. He gave a thoughtful, impromptu speech about the wonderful organization that Kris was about to become a part of. His focus was on Rotary's far-reaching global contingency and spoke fondly of his time in Osaka, Japan where Jim attended an International Convention. Each member then had the opportunity to come up and shake Kris' hand welcoming him to "The Cool Club".



Gail Johnson congratulated the ironically named "*Team Cool*" of the New Member contest for being the front-runner in points earned by bringing guests and new members. She also stressed that there was still a month to go in the current contest, and that she would like to see more guests and potential members come each week.

President David said a few words about the SCARC dinner that he attended last week. The latest news is that Mr. and Mrs. Gates have offered another \$100 Million toward the eradication of Polio around the world if we can match the funds within the next three years. He reported that Rotary is currently 70% of the way there with matching

their first generous donation of \$100 Million. He also reminded our club that we will be hosting a SCARC dinner on March 26th, and mentioned that we still needed a topic. So far the only suggestion has been a program on "Two Cows" by **Jim Hinton**. President David was also kind enough to define the acronym SCARC (Sonoma County Association Rotary Clubs) which garnered the suggestion that perhaps our program be on choosing a more appetizing acronym.

Recognition

With 10 minutes to go until our program started, President David decided it was a "*Fine Time for Fines*". He first approached **John Hathaway** asking him what he had going on in the past, present, or even future. President David announced to the club that this should serve as an excellent advertisement for more 'snitching' as John was a complete cold call. It turns out that John is planning a trip to Russia, Finland, and other Baltic Countries in late Spring. He'll be gone for 3 weeks. David decided that John could pay \$20 now, and we'll hear more when he returns.



Jim Valinoti then produced a Business Journal issue with our President **David McDonald** not only quoted, but *pictured* on page 2. Jim asked him to finish the quote he was credited with regarding Worker's Comp claims in order to avoid a fine. David seemed to be under the impression that as a sitting president he was exempt from fining. The unanimous sentiment from the club was that President David's impression was incorrect. Unfortunately for our president, he could not finish his own sentence as quoted and was promptly fined \$20.00.

Gail Johnson was then approached regarding a recent trip to Hawaii. Despite a sore back, and a restrictive menu (due to her host's avid health consciousness) Gail had a fantastic time. She spent a week there with a dear friend of hers whom she had known for 35 years. She was subsequently fined \$1.00 for each year she had been acquainted with her host for a total of \$35.00. Thanks Gail! Glad your back is feeling better.



Next, our **President** paid a visit to **Chris Young**. Chris had nothing, but still managed to draw some laughs with his usual dry delivery and mugging for the club. He promptly paid \$20.00 for privilege of having President David move on to someone else.

Lastly, new member **Casey Williams** was addressed for having "Single-handedly reduced the median age of the club to (Ahem) 35" (!) David expressed his thanks from the club for bringing in a new member so quickly in the best way that the "Cool Club" knows how...with a fine of course! Despite David's questionable math skills Casey agreed to pay \$35.00.

Raffle

Jim Valinoti had the winning ticket and got to draw from 16 marbles for a chance at \$425.00. Jim missed the black marble...good luck next week! **John Palmer** had the other winning ticket and was presented with a bottle of

Fred's delicious Albertina wine.



Program: Sonoma Land Trust, John Brosnan

Believe it or not, after all that we still had 30 minutes left for a program. **Pam Davis** introduced **John Brosnan** who advised us all that he had been sent here as the "One with the sense of humor around the office." He introduced us to his non-profit organization which helps protect the scenic overview of Sonoma County. They accomplish this by developing land strategies, promoting funding for land, acquiring land through easements and direct donations, through stewardship programs, as well as promoting a sense of place and "land ethic" throughout Sonoma County.



One of the areas that **Mr. Brosnan** focused on was the Jenner Headlands. 5,600+ acres located on the Sonoma Coast which they are about to purchase and will be the single largest conservation land acquisition in Sonoma County history.

He also discussed what they call their "Anchor Preserves:" Little Black Mountain in Cazadero; White Rock, west of the Alexander Valley; Laufenburg Ranch in Knights Valley; Glen Oaks Ranch and Secret Pasture in the Stuarts Creek Watershed in Glen Ellen; the Estero Americano south of Bodega Bay; and the Baylands between the Petaluma River and Tolay Creek. (The Land Trust owns and manages properties in addition to the Anchor Preserves.)

Sonoma Land Trust offers member and public hikes through many of their preserved open spaces. Right now there is what **Mr. Brosnan** described as a "Carpet of wildflowers" blooming along highway 37, out by Sears Point, which is very popular for hikers.

After the short program there were about 15 minutes left for questions and answers of which there were many.

Your Bulletin Reporter:
Casey Williams



Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti

