



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for September 29, 2008

Bob Erlach, Colonel, USAR, on his experiences with dentistry in Iraq

By David Wattell

Preliminaries



President Dave McDonald called the meeting to order at the St. Rose Meeting Hall at 12:28 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Peter La Monica.

Rotary Moment: Bill Fisher read an excerpt from Sally Stanford's Diary.



Past President Chris Rosell introduced four visiting Rotarians including: **Clarice Bolles**, **Norm Owen**, and **John Smith** from SR Downtown, and **Roger Olson** from Healdsburg.

Guests of Rotarians were **Susan Silverman (Neil)**.

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Coming Up:

10/6 - Santa Rosa Main Street and Courthouse Square Reunification, Bill Dodson

10/13 - Bringing the Best Independent, Classic & Foreign Films to Sonoma County, Ky Boyd, Owner of the Rialto Theater

10/20 - Jim DeLaney, Matt DeLaney's grandfather, an Olympic silver medalist in the shotput at the 1948 London Olympics.

10/22 - Strategic Visioning Session - contact Mike Merrill

10/24 - Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Tour - RSVP Ginny Pitts

10/25 - Denim & Diamonds - Downtown Club's Fundraiser - details from Jim Hinton or Peter Lamonica

10/27 - Bill Fishman discusses the huge migration of Jewish settlers who came to Petaluma to become chicken farmers and the Japanese farms they saved during WWII.

Announcements and Such:

Jim Valinoti passed out individual Rotarian "personal summaries" that need to be edited and given back to **Jim**. Any changes in personal information can be handled individually on line, refer to on line email message for specifics.

Santa Rosa West Rotary Member Satisfaction Survey forms were handed out by **President Dave**. All members are asked to find a blank copy of the questionnaire on line and then complete and return it to **Club Secretary Janet Coddling**.

Chris Young and **Ken Kirshner** announced that the theme for next years Crab Feed will be "An Evening in Paradise". The preferred apparel to be worn by **club members** are **Hawaii Shirts** and the drink of choice will be Mai Tai's.

Ken also announced that designated committees would be formed to obtain items for both the silent and open auctions. Initial Committee chairs are: **Jeff Ray, Ken Dansie** and **Ken Kirshner**.



In preparation for the Crab Feed, the next **Hawaiian Shirt Day** is October 6th.

Chris Parr announced that **Rotary's Institute for Leadership** will held on November 14th and 15th. See the web site for further details.

Janet Coddling is back on Buena Vista (street) approximately 4 blocks from where she used to live. She thanked all those in the club who helped her find her new house.

President Dave has a special request for all **Rotarians** to buy tickets and attend a Boys and Girls Club sponsored basketball event between the Harlem All-Stars and Santa Rosa's Finest (Police and Fire) on Saturday, November 1st, 7:00 PM at Haehl Pavillion @ SRJC. It seems that **First Lady Kim** is on their board of directors and life at home can be a much happier place for **President Dave** when Kim is successful. I am sure that many of you reading this copy can appreciate the need to help **President Dave** and the **first lady** and attend the game.

The **Rotary sponsored Veteran's Lunch** is set for November 6, 2008 at the SR Veteran's Memorial. Tickets are \$15 each. [Details](#)

Recognitions

September birthdays (with zero fines) were recognized for: **Ken Dansie, Chris Rosell, Ruth Lincoln (9/22)** and **David Wattell (9/22)**.

Peter LaMonica \$20.00 for a recent vacation to Europe.



Lou Capuano gave \$100 to his **Paul Harris** for partially winning a lotto pool and his many travels to and from Houston.

Under the Mom's Pride category, **Ruth Lincoln** gave \$100 toward her daughters **Paul Harris**, for her accomplishments at Ursuline (4.57 GPA) and a full-page spread in The Press (Democrat).

Neil Silverman and **Chris Young** were fined \$20.00 each for separate/joint trips thru Nevada, Idaho, and Montana to reach Yellowstone National Park for a 12 days photo tour. Perhaps **Neil** and **Chris** will share with the **Club** the output of their Yellowstone trip.

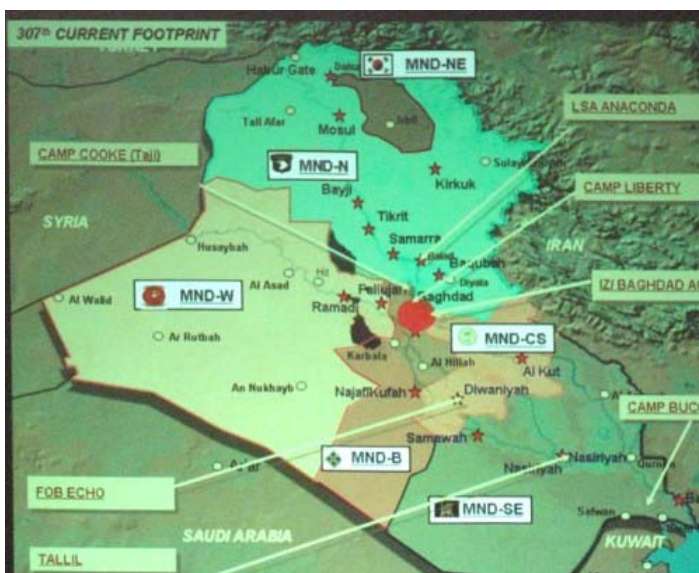


Raffle

Tarina Hall pulled a blue marble from the bag of 16 marbles for \$475. She needed the black one. Sorry.

Program: Bob Erlach, Colonel USAR, and Dentist serving in Iraq

Marv Hyman introduced **Bob Erlach** a Santa Rosa Dentist currently on leave between his second and third tours of duty in Iraq. In his Santa Rosa Practice, Dr. Erlach specializes in the art and science of cosmetic dentistry. In Iraq, Colonel Erlach handles everything from dental surgery to repairing chipped teeth.



Colonel Erlach said that life for the average soldier is somewhat boring unless they are in a combat area and then it can be terrifying. Much of his dental work is handled at his base camp where he uses up-to-date dental

equipment much like that, that would be found in a local dental office. His unit is also equipped with a portable dental setup that can be used for field purposes

Colonel Erlach mentioned both the positives and negatives of being in *Iraq. The positives include: good morale; excellent food (3 hot meals daily); decent living conditions (single wide trailers are used); accessibility to email and internet services. The negatives included: DANGER; hot and dusty conditions with sand storms; limited travel (feeling of being cooped up); boredom; long hours; inability to be with loved-ones, etc.

Whenever possible Colonel Erlach tries to include civilian (Iraqi) dentists to learn what his dental staff does and trains them as well. Many such dental professionals in Iraq are women who have been out of dental school just a short time. When asked how his own Santa Rosa practice continues while he is on active duty, he emphasized that he is grateful for the quality of his Santa Rosa staff.

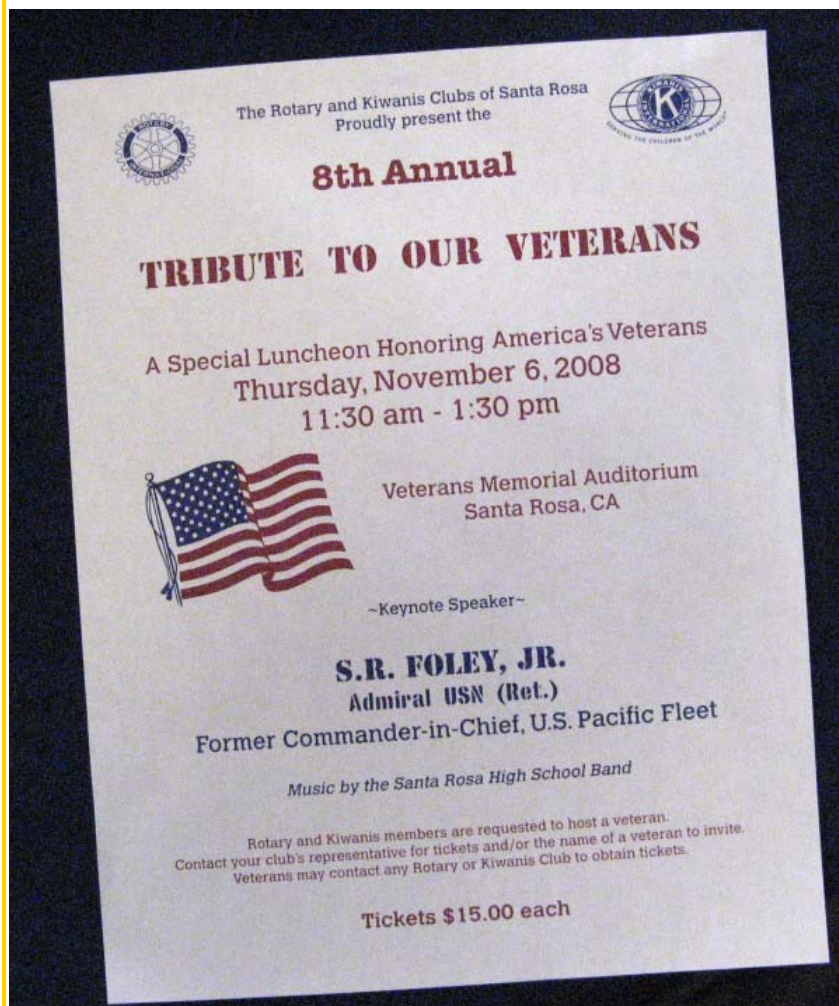
Your Bulletin Reporter:
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Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti



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