



# THE ROTARY CLUB *of* BELLINGHAM

BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

# TATTLER

June 30, 2008

## VISITING ROTARIANS

**Jim McCallum**

Bellingham Bay Rotary Club

**Scott Wallace**

Whatcom North Rotary Club

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

**Dale Rings** introduced

Liz Sterlins, Jeff Christner,

Dave Carpenter, Melanie

Mankemeyer, Scott Wilson and

Penny Wilson, employees of

Wilson Engineering.

**Steve Hoekstra** introduced his

wife Barb Kotsogean and her

mother Toula Kotsogean.

## OPENING REMARKS

Past President Brian Griffin served as the opening master of ceremonies for the annual changing of the guard. After an apparent internal struggle over whether to have Don Anderson play America the Beautiful versus the Star Spangled Banner, beauty won out in the end. Don performed with his characteristic reverence and style.

## BUSINESS NOTES

Next Monday there will be no meeting to allow for an extra long holiday weekend (and possibly some time in the hoosegow for any Rotarians unwise enough to take pyrotechnic celebrations into their own hands rather than attending the officially sanctioned Haggen's 4th of July festivities).

There will be a Board of Directors meeting, Thursday July 10th at 4:30 at The Dorothy Haggen Building.

The following membership proposals were approved by the Board of Directors and will be eligible for membership on July 21, 2008 unless written objection is received by Executive Secretary Sandra Lindhout at 2200 Vining St., Bellingham, Wa. 98229 on or before July 13th.

- *Cheryl Crazy Bull proposed by Karen Morse and Kathi Hiyane-Brown to fill the classification "Education-College President"*

## PRESIDENT DAVE'S FINAL WORDS

Outgoing President David was invited to share his final words as President. Dave called Bob Nichol called to the podium to usher in a new tradition. Dave presented Bob with a t-shirt reading, 2007/8 Rotary Club of Bellingham Swim Team in recognition of Bob's dip in the bay during the recent Club cruise. Bob clarified that he was, in fact, on a research mission: confident in the presence of viable alternative energy sources beneath the surface, he was seeking geothermal currents. President Dave probed to determine whether Bob had any success...Bob plans a follow-up search on a future date yet to be determined. Best of luck, Bob!

Nearly Past President Dave thanked the Club for a great year. We grew from 181 members to 188! (President Dave prudently omitted mention of any individual member growth or expansion.) We set a club record for Club philanthropy, raising \$155,000 for the Whatcom Hospice House. Club finances are sound, opportunities for giving are endless and complacency is our enemy. Dave wished Margaret the best in turning this year's successes into new ones that make the past pale in comparison. Lastly, Sandee made her annual pilgrimage to the front of the room. She received a gift from President Dave and a well-earned yet insufficient standing O.

## SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Past President Chuck Farrell presented the Will J. Griswold Club Service Award, named for our Club's founder. Our invaluable treasurer Steve Hoekstra is this year's recipient. Steve was born in Skagit County in August of 1950 and comes by his banking tendencies honestly. His father was a

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**July 7**

Holiday

**July 14**

New Member Talks

**July 21**

Bob & Mike Diehl - Diehl Ford:  
A Century of Service

**July 28**

Dale Henley - Haggen 75th Anniversary

## ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

**Roger Barnhart**, July 4th

**Ed Lowery**, July 5th

**Tom Mercadante**, July 5th

**Bob McDermott**, July 9th

**Nancy Steiger**, July 9th

**Patti Leach**, July 10th

**Mark Knittel**, July 11th

**Rob Westford**, July 11th

**Charlie Rendina**, July 12th

## SPOUSE BIRTHDAYS

**Gene Zoro**, July 2nd

**Dennis Foley**, July 11th

**Patti Wright**, July 11th

**Joe Sines**, July 12th

## CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

**Jim Hines**, July 1st, 28 Years

**Bob Morse**, July 1st, 48 Years

**Kay Sardo**, July 8th, 12 Years

## THIS ISSUE:

**Reporter:** Mauri Ingram

**Photographer:** Mike Diehl

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## HAPPY BUCKS/ FINES/RECOGNITION

### FINES & RECOGNITION

Fine master and sargeant at arms Dennis Murphy asked all cell phone owners to stand. He granted those with ear buds and similar devices a reprieve and fined those without \$1. Dennis noted that it will be the cheapest fine they'll receive from today forward. Bob Diehl remarked that those driving a Ford equipped with Microsoft Sync should also be excused from the fine...always risky to tempt the sargeant.

Next on Dennis' list was Tattler reporter, Mauri Ingram. Dennis inquired about a recent newsworthy gift to the Whatcom Community Foundation. Mauri gave \$20 for an incredibly generous anonymous gift of almost \$375,000 to support the Foundation's work. Dennis would like to meet Mr. or Ms. Anonymous at the earliest opportunity.

Board members of the phoenix Bellingham Festival of Music, new member Arlan Norman, Earl Settlemeyer and Bob Trunek were invited to express their joy at the upcoming 2008 Festival season monetarily.

With the St. Joseph Hospital/Peace Health/Madrona/Yahoo merger (the latter entity being unconfirmed at press time) coming to fruition, Dennis tapped all affiliates of the organizations, Dave Blair, Roland Trenouth among them, and then all patients \$1 each.

Dennis queried President Dave for any announcements. The president of few words, famous for his adeptness at making the interviewer work for the story, offered nothing. Cleary Cone was pressed into service for the assist, noting that President Dave managed to survive a robust impeachment effort mid-year. Dennis asked about Dave's thoughts as outgoing president. Dave had none at the time.

banker at Seafirst. Steve attended the University of Washington, graduating in '72 with a business degree. He worked at a car dealership during school and subsequently opened a truck wrecking yard with a friend. Steve sold his half of business and attended the West Coast Banking School in '87. Steve and Barbara have three daughters. Steve joined Horizon five years ago. Barbara owned Latte Books which she recently closed, allowing her more time for gardening and reading. Steve became treasurer in 2003, following long time treasurer Tommy Thomson (contrary to popular believe, Tommy was not the Club's first treasurer). Chuck noted Steve's integrity and wisdom, and lauded his availability to Sandee and the Club's volunteer leadership.

Past President Bob Diehl, after noting that he admired Steve's start in auto industry (and making a few frightening comparisons to his own accounting methods which apparently involved weights more than actually counting), introduced the David C. Morse, Sr. Community Service Award recipients. Don and Rick Haggen were honored for their longstanding commitment and generosity to the community. Some of the many organizations to enjoy the benefit of the Haggen community spirit include: the YMCA (board service as well as capital campaign support), Western Washington University board service, and athletic program support, Mount Baker Theatre, Whatcom Museum of History & Art and Whatcom Children's Museum, St. Joseph Hospital and the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation (most recently with a staggering \$2 million gift), local PTAs (with more than \$800,000 over the years) and our own Rotary Club of Bellingham. Unfortunately, Don and Rick were not able to attend the meeting. Club members will need to reserve their thanks and congratulations for another time. In closing, Bob noted the Haggen's truly exemplify the Rotary motto, "Service above self."

Elevation lover Dick Tucker presented the Karen W. Morse Vocational Service Award, recognizing a member who has made an exceptional effort in service to his or her vocation. The philosophy of Rotary is that members contribute their talents to meet society's needs; this year's recipient is an exceptional example of that philosophy. Dr. Charles V. Farrell was born June 21, 1933 in Bellingham. He attended Bellingham High School and played basketball and varsity football. Chuck attended the University of Washington and became a naval aviator, flying anti-submarine patrol. He attended the University of Oregon Dental School, graduating in 1964 as class valedictorian. Chuck is a member of the American College of Dentists and has served as vice president, president elect and president of the national organization. He is also a member of the International College of Dentists and the Board of Examiners. Chuck has been practicing for 43 years, and continues to participate as a mentor to the local study club. Chuck also volunteers his time to reach senior dental students at UW. In fact, he drives to Seattle every Friday during the academic year without pay. He has been teaching at UW for 18 years – that's 108,000 miles on the road!

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD CEREMONIES

Past President Joe Coons asked the Club to thank outgoing board members: Susie Thompson-Sines, Director of Club Service – Fellowship, Tim Farris, immediate past president and Chuck Snyder, Director of Vocational Service. Thanks to all three for their contributions to the Club.

Next year will be the 92nd year of the Club and President Elect Jim Visbeck (unavailable due to his knee surgery) will be on deck. Directors commencing the second year of their terms are: Steve Adelstein, Director, Community Service and John McPherson, Club Service-Fellowship. Thanks them for their continuing service. New Directors and Officers are: Paul Grey, Director, Club Service – Development, Mike Diehl, Director, International & Vocational Service and Kathy Hughes, Vice President & Program Chair. Welcome and thank you!



**Top:** Sandee receives much deserved kudos.  
**Bottom:** Chuck Farrell accepts the Karen W. Morse Vocational Service Award.

Immediate Past President Tim Farris explained that he has too much respect for Dave to jest about his year of service as president. Dave, looming behind Tim, stepped to the mic to explain that he did threaten Tim prior to the meeting. They participate in a breakfast club for early retirees/soon to be retirees which includes several Harley riders. (Tim owns what some might consider a lesser vehicle.) Dave explained that if Tim got carried away, he would arrange a trip with the Harley riders to Sturgis. Tim presented Dave with his past president's pin and plaque (noting that it did annoy him a bit that Dave broke his Club fundraising record).

Tim turned his attention to Margaret. Last fall, he asked her to meet with him and Jan Marchbanks to invite Margaret to serve as president. When the meeting was over, Margaret said, "I'm relieved. I thought you were coming to talk to me about my attendance!" Tim noted Margaret's energy and passion for Rotary and congratulated her on her presidency.

Margaret was impressed at Dave's ability to succeed "the evangelist Farris." She appreciated his calm, stabilizing, influence and the fantastic standard he set for Club giving with the Hospice campaign. She also thanked Cheryl Blair for her support and patience during the year and presented the couple with some nautical music ("Pirate's Choice") to be enjoyed, "while you wait for your boat."

Next, Margaret honored her mentor and friend Jim Wilson. Jim has been an active RCoB member for 24 years, serving most recently on the classification and membership committee.

He founded his own firm, Wilson Engineering, in 1967. Jim hired Margaret and her husband Marc Curtis in 1991 and mentored both of them. Jim honored Margaret and Marc in 2000 when he offered to sell them the business he had built. He also invited Margaret to join Rotary. Jim's community service ranges from Whatcom Community College to the Bellingham/Whatcom Housing Authority board and taking some of the stuffing out of Harold Heiner on the racquetball court. Margaret is grateful to Jim for inviting her to join the Club and encouraging a larger worldview. Margaret assigns responsibility for becoming a "community service Frankenstein" to Jim and thanked him with a Paul Harris Fellowship!

Joe delivered the oath of office to the 2008/9 Club officers. All answered in the affirmative and with that, Dave passed the gavel to Margaret. This reporter did not detect even the slightest tug of war on outgoing president Dave's part.



**Top Left:** Steve Hoekstra accepts the Will J. Griswold Club Service Award. **Top Right:** Soon to be President Margaret gets pumped up. **Bottom Left:** Tim welcomes Dave into the Past Presidents Club. **Bottom Right:** Passing the gavel.

New President Margaret bestowed the raffle proceeds and adjourned her first meeting – slightly ahead of schedule! No doubt winning a post-election vote of confidence from all in attendance and setting a cheery tone for her year at the podium. Congratulations, President Margaret and many thanks to Past President Dave and his RCoB Board of Directors for a terrific year of service! Let the fireworks begin!

#### HAPPY BUCKS

Bob Gibb offered \$63 for an extraordinary 63rd wedding anniversary!

Wayne Langei walked the precarious self-promotion line with WECU's new 18-month calendar. He volunteered \$20 for the privilege, Brian raised it to \$40.

Joe Coons celebrated his 49th anniversary of his marriage to the lovely Judy.

Irwin LeCocq, put off by Wayne's modest fine, suggested Wayne should pay \$100 because even his \$40 was probably tax-free!

This Tattler brought to you by:

**Tommy Thomson & Susie Thomson-Sines**

Thomson & Co. CPAs

# TATTLER

January 28, 2008

## 2007-2008

### OFFICERS

**David Blair**  
President

**Margaret Curtis**  
President Elect

**Jim Visbeek**  
Vice President  
& Program Chair

**Steve Hoekstra**  
Secretary Treasurer

**Tim Farris**  
Immediate Past President

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Chuck Snyder**  
Avenue of  
International & Vocational Service

**Susie Thomson-Sines**  
Avenue of  
Club Service & Development

**Steve Adelstein**  
Avenue of  
Community Service

**John MacPherson**  
Avenue of  
Club Service & Fellowship

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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### Club Website

[www.bellinghamrotary.org](http://www.bellinghamrotary.org)

District 5050 Website

[www.district5050.org](http://www.district5050.org)



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1917-2005

*Club meets Mondays - 12:00 Noon @ Northwood Hall*

Look for the new "Tattler On Line" at [www.bellinghamrotary.org/tattler.htm](http://www.bellinghamrotary.org/tattler.htm)

*The Tattler*  
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