



THE ROTARY CLUB *of* BELLINGHAM

BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

TATTLER

August 13, 2007

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Louis Strong brought Knud Kellumd from Bellingham

Ron Jepson introduced Ben Wasson

VISITING ROTARIANS

Louis Strong, Realtor Sun City West Rotary Club

Michael Brassil, Finance Midtown - Sacramento

Greg Van Acker, Teacher Midtown-Sacramento

Liz Balas, Attorney Sunrise Rotary Club

OPENING REMARKS

President Dave welcomed Rotarians and we lifted our voices to America the Beautiful, accompanied by Don Anderson. Rod Elin asked us to take time to appreciate each day, meet our challenges with determination, and always give our best in every situation. Irwin LeCocq sold raffle tickets, Jim Vos introduced visiting Rotarians and greeted along with Stephanie Bowers; Gragg Miller was Sergeant-at-arms. Joe Coons was Tattler photographer.

BUSINESS NOTES

President Dave announced that Chuck Beard needs to fill the last 26 slots for the football pool.

FINES & RECOGNITION

With a gentle reminder from Gragg Miller, Rob Westford gave \$20 to celebrate being named president of the Washington State Funeral Directors Association.

Called upon to comment about the "sub prime" banking conversation, Irwin LeCocq was proud to note that People's has had no foreclosures and wondered "how were the big guys so dumb?" He paid \$5.00 for being so smart and so little.

Chuck Snyder and Bruce McCormick, members of the Board of Directors for the Whatcom Museum, were each \$5 happy for their newly hired Executive Director.

Among the WWU Campus School grads standing to be noted were Rick Hagen, Brian Griffin, Ann Jones Richardson, Bob Morse, DC Morse, Bob Miller, John Griggs and Gragg Miller; many were happy to be attending the reunion at Western at the end of this month.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 20
Aaron Booker – The future of business communications

August 27
Bob McDermott – "Virgil" Community and the globalization of Art

September 3
No Meeting – Holiday

September 10
Rick Kaiser – Extreme Work Environment, Commuting to the North Slope

September 17
Rob Endsley – Fishing the Rivers of the Northwest and Alaska

September 24
Mike Hughes – Patent Law. How to get your invention through the maze

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Dave Blair, August 13th
Al Pemberton, August 15th
Tom Grinstad, August 16th
Fred Sexton, August 16th

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

Kiyoko Teraoka, August 13th
Virginia Fisher, August 17th
Matt Treat, August 19th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Vic Tate, August 15th
2 Years

Matt Hammatt, August 19th
5 Years

Wayne Langei, August 19th
11 Years

THIS ISSUE:

Reporter: Stephanie Bowers

Photographer: Joe Coons

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HAPPY BUCKS

Teri Treat was happy for a family vacation at Sun Mountain Lodge and Matt's kayaking trip in Leavenworth. She also pre-empted a car fine by pointing out her '97 Saab with a cheerios interior decor.

Andrew Evans issued a general invitation to everyone who qualifies for the "Men with Balls" class at his wife's new yarn shop. He was also pleased that his houseguests are out of the house!

Chuck Snyder was \$5.00 happy for a trip to the Oregon coast with his 81-year-old father-in-law.

Dale Rings questioned how out-of-the-county/vacation/retirement might be synonymous but thought it was worth \$5.00 to mention 5 days in Wyoming with his in-laws.

Robin Halliday was \$5.00 happy about the groundbreaking for the Art and Children's Museum and the annual TAG celebration last week.

Charlie Self was \$15.00 happy for his three-week trip to Scandinavia and to see his son in Stockholm; he did note that things were very expensive there!

JC Hickman tossed a buck in the box to help replace the motor on the Rotary lectern, thinking that it will soon wear out from going up and down so much at each meeting. President Dave suggested he would call on him once a week, but JC declined to be a regular.

Michael Plenkovich celebrated 45 years of marriage to his first wife with 45 happy bucks.

Mark Knittel gave \$20 to celebrate the marriage of his daughter last Saturday.

Don Anderson spent a vacation with his family in the Greek Islands and wrapped up the trip in Istanbul. He was \$20.00 happy.

PROGRAM

Rick Wright introduced the speaker for the meeting, Michael Bermudez, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Agent Bermudez, now located in Bellingham, was previously assigned to San Diego and spoke to the Club about border control challenges in the San Diego Sector. Although the land border area with Mexico is only 66 miles long in the San Diego sector, compared to more than 160 miles in Blaine, Washington, it is one of the busiest crossing areas in the nation.



Michael Bermudez, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agent Bermudez showed a video to the Club members and illustrated a time, 15 years ago, when people would literally run across the border -- even the official crossing areas -- by the thousands each day, hoping to make it without being caught. With the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper, better technology, and more effective management, the 550,000 illegal immigrants annually crossing to the US from Mexico in the early '90s has been reduced to less than 130,000 per year. Advanced electronic scanning systems, a secondary fencing system, night-vision equipment, and other high-tech gear has greatly improved the numbers of people deterred and detained.

Once in the hands of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, illegal immigrants are first finger-printed, and the results indicate the course of action for the person. If they are from any country other than Mexico, they are deported. If they are from a country with known terrorists and if they are on a "watch list," they are immediately detained. If they have a criminal record, they are arrested and detained for further processing. If this is their first try over the border and have no criminal record, they have some options, including voluntary return to their country.

Club members appreciated Agent Bermudez' work in San Diego and wished him well in our home county.

RAFFLE

Bob Miller held the winning raffle ticket.

We adjourned at 1:30.

LETTER TO YOUR PETS

Dear Dogs and Cats,

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years --canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:

All Non-Pet Owners Who Visit & Like to Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

Remember: Dogs and cats are better than kids because they:

1. Eat less
2. Don't ask for money all the time
3. Are easier to train
4. Usually come when called
5. Never drive your car
6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
7. Don't smoke or drink
8. Don't worry about having to buy the latest fashions
9. Don't wear your clothes
10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and
11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children

Scott Renne gave \$10 in anticipation of being happy when he finally sells his boat. We are happily anticipating how happy he will be!

Terry Robertson was happy that his nursing home made it to the front page of the paper, featuring its great rehab department; Terry noted he prefers that reputation to another nursing home feature on having cats in residence.

Joe Coons provided empathetic happy bucks to Louis Strong who asked his guest, Knud Kellumd, to introduce himself...Joe recalled having to introduce himself at his first meeting as Rogan Jones' guest many years ago.

Louis Strong, visiting from Sun City, was happy for driving safely in Washington for a week.

Rick Haggen was fishing for 10 days....caught a lot of fish, brought a lot of fish home, and gave the treasury \$10 for every happy day on the water.

Larry Ziels was \$20 happy for great weather and a great time in Canada on vacation.

Dick Tucker had a memorably happy time fishing with his 84 year old father and gave \$84 in honor of this special trip.

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TATTLER

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2007-2008

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BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

1917-2005

Club meets Mondays - 12:00 Noon @ Northwood Hall

Look for the new "Tattler On Line" at www.bellinghamrotary.org/tattler.htm

The Tattler

Rotary Club of Bellingham

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