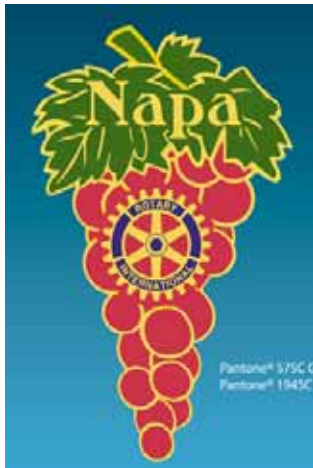


# The Napa Rotagram

## October 1, 2008



### Thought for the Day

**Jim Riley** had some  
Yogi-isms:

"Baseball is 90% mental --  
the other half is physical."  
In honor of the playoffs,



"I'm not going to buy my  
kids an encyclopedia. Let  
them walk to school like I  
did."

Crowds will gather on the banks of the Napa River on Friday. **Jim Riley** and **Brenda Speth** will take advantage of Steve Orndorf's standing invitation to go fishing. Bring life preservers!



### Dean Donaldson

dons a Beaver hat  
prior to the weekly  
college football fines.

The exercise  
continues to bring in  
a tidy sum, but I note  
with some sense of  
savings that  
Minnesota's Golden  
Gophers finally lost!

### Welcome Maya Mackenzie Cody!



Maya Mackenzie Cody was born at 11:20 p.m. on September 26. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces and is 21 inches long. Maya, Elizabeth and Dan are all doing great.

Once again, the luau has been cancelled. Seems the other Napa clubs just couldn't keep up with us party animals, so we'll try again at a later date.

The Enchanted Hills BBQ is on, however, for Sunday, October 26, 3-6 p.m. The cost will be minimal and it will take the place of our normal weekly meeting. It will feature a tour of the camp facilities, brief presentations from Pathway Home and Enchanted Hills camp directors, interaction with veterans in the Pathway Home Project and thank you presentations for all of our sponsors for the Cycle For Sight. The BBQ will include beer, wine and live music.



Visiting Rotarians **Frank Leake** from Calistoga is a retired physician who helps lead delegations to needy communities in Mexico and Guatemala. The teams perform surgeries to aid youngsters with cleft palates and related maladies.



Frank said Rotaplast is "loosely affiliated" with Rotary but does its own fundraising. The operations would cost \$100,000 in the U.S. "We're not just 'hello' and 'goodbye'," he said, noting there is a great deal of follow-up.

### Tribute to Bob Hansen

Remember on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m., our friend and former Rotarian and past president, **Bob Hansen** will be remembered, as the boardroom of the Napa Valley Unified School District, Lincoln & Jefferson, will be dedicated to his memory. Join family, friends, colleagues and Rotarians for a brief ceremony.



**John Woodbury** reports the annual Teacher Appreciation Day was a great success. Some 500 educators and supporters were on hand. Our own **Dr. Barbara Nemko** served as MC.

### *Our Speaker ...*

The Napa Valley Register's Executive Sports Editor Marty James introduced Donny Robinson.



James described Robinson as a 5'5", 150 pound fireball he's been watching develop for some 17 years. He recently won a bronze medal at the Beijing Olympics.

Robinson has dedicated his life to BMX – or bicycle motocross – racing, calling it a family sport. There's a course behind Kennedy Park, and membership is inexpensive for those wanting to check it out.

Robinson had his first BMX success at age 12, went into the doldrums of puberty for a while and emerged as a champion at 18. He said 2002-05 were not great years, but when he started accumulating points for Olympic participation in 2007, it was all uphill.

Robinson not only wore his bronze medal, he also dons a key to the city of Napa presented by Mayor Jill Techel. "It's great when you can do what you love and make a living," he said. He turned pro at 19 and eschews drink and smoke.



The bike used is a simple, single-speed machine, the only requirement being 20-inch wheels. This little number will run you \$850.

Robinson said the Chinese course was large. The ride for the medals takes only about 40 seconds.



Robinson met the U.S. Ambassador to China and noted the differences between a dirty, crowded Beijing before the Olympics – and a cleaned up city when he returned for the games.

"This is my passion," he said.

### *In Days Gone By ...*

**May 6, 1981** - Sterling Cook, celebrating his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, gave Rotary eight \$1 bills, eight \$10 bills and eight \$100 bills for a grand total of \$888. Thank you Sterling for your kindness and generosity. John Cochrane pointed out that in his (John's) year as president, Sterling graciously donated more than three grand to Rotary.

**March 25, 1981** - Jim (Military) Ford was asked, during his military service, whom in the club did he salute? \$2.00 each came from Harry Chrisman, Sterling Cook and John Cochrane.

### **This year's board has adopted the following goals to enhance future operations of the club. They are:**

- Increase membership;
- Support the Pathway Home Project at the Yountville Veterans Home--a first-of-its-kind program designed to assist returning veterans with post traumatic stress disorder;
- Grow the Scholarship Endowment Fund;
- Support Interact at New Tech High School;
- Continue Festival of Brotherhood as an International Project;
- Continue local projects;
- Develop a repeatable fundraiser;
- Be a 100% sustaining member club (\$100 per member to Foundation per year);
- **Have Fun!** We believe that we can enjoy fun and fellowship while accomplishing the above goals.