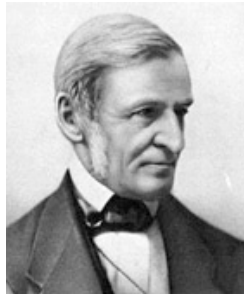


# The Napa Rotagram

April 22, 2009



*Thought for the Day*  
**Bruce McCall** started by asking the assembled masses to give themselves a "Standing O" for the highly successful cycling event last week.



*The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.* --  
 Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Visiting Rotarians



**Bob Deering**, E. Sacramento; **George Shanks**, North Napa; **Jeanne & Joe Maloney**, Fair Oaks; **Jeff & Patty Tucker**, North Pole, Alaska; **Erna Stevenson**, North Napa; **Debra Matteri**, Petaluma Valley; **Robert Mutert**, Napa Sunrise.

## How Successful Was It??

## Cycle for Sight



**Well, how about more than 1,300 cyclists ... 250 other guests ... 150 volunteers ... 500 pounds of trash ... 2,920 pounds of recycled material (an increase of from seven-percent to 85-percent over last year!) ... and a whopping \$60,000 to \$70,000 in profit for the designated charities?!?!**

A contingent of Rotarians from several clubs in Brazil was on hand to present banners from their home clubs. Not coincidentally, they are representatives of that country's wine industry.



*In turn, Pres Gary presented each of them with a handsome banner to take back to Brazil.*

**Jerry Medlin** reminds us our own Brazilian visitors arrive on May 30, staying through June 3. Hosts and helpers are still needed.

**Jill Barwick** hasn't collected yet, but said she would donate a portion of her winnings from last week's raffle to complete a **Paul Harris** and an additional amount to help with others. Check's in the mail, Jill.

Napa Kiwanians are asking for Rotary's help with this year's Grad Night party for some 900 students. This event, born of a tragic traffic mishap involving high schoolers, is in its 21st year. Besides financial assistance, volunteers are needed for the event.



Representatives of Napa's Products, Services and Industries -- PSI -- were on hand to invite members to a celebration of Ray Sercu's 20+ years on the PSI board. It's May 1 on the Napa Mill patio at 5 p.m.



## Words of Thanks!



*Pres Gary showed off a large, homemade thank-you card from the kids at First Christian School whose third-graders recently received their dictionaries thank to Rotary.*

## Yes, Virginia, there is ...



... a Rotary Club in North Pole, Alaska. Not only is **Jeff Tucker** a Rotarian, he's the fire chief. He didn't say if he could see Russia from there.

## Our Speakers ...

Staff Sgt. Richard Russell and Sgt. Hotzel are in charge of the recruiting office for the U.S. Army in Napa. It's located in the Gasser Building, and Bruce McCall has gotten to know the young soldiers.

Russell, who served in the infantry and eventually realized his early goal of airborne ranger, said he didn't care for his recruiting assignment at first. Almost two years in Napa have shown it to be a choice assignment. He noted Napans are far more friendly and accepting than in many other locations.

He was involved in search and rescue at the Pentagon following the 9-11 attacks and notes recruiting is affected by news of war, world events and the economy.

Hotzel, whose focus is on the Army Reserve, has been a soldier for six years and served in Germany.

The recruiters say they represent the military, not a specific branch, with longtime rivalries becoming a thing of the past. Russell also said the Army has taken on a more respectful and less harsh approach to new recruits in training, adding the educational and housing benefits are top-notch.



Hotzel and Russell emphasize their community involvement and said they would like to participate in local activities. They can be found at 433 Soscol Ave.

## In Days Gone By ...

*September 17, 1980* -- Rotarians proved that they were winners, by leaving Kiwanis and everyone else in the dust in the first annual "Great Bed Race," taking first place in both the Men's Division and the Senior Division. Who's the youngest club now? A special thanks to **Nelson Bettencourt** for the design and construction of the fastest bed in town.



## A few views of the great cycling event ...



**Pres Gary is ready for a refill after toasting the success of Cycle for Sight.**

**What do 1,300 bicycles look like??**



*It was a party for some 1,700 cyclists, revelers and volunteers ...*



*Not sure if these guys arrived by bike ...*



*... but they're enjoying the ambience of the Napa Rotary "hospitality suite."*



*These two are definitely cyclists!*

*Pride and Joy provided some of the musical entertainment for the day ...*



**Local guitarist and singer, Leigh Wyckoff led off the day's music on the main stage.**

