

The Napa Rotagram

July 7, 2010



Thought for the Day



Visiting Rotarians



Two Club Presidents:
Joe Peatman,
Napa Sunrise, and
Tom Webber,
North Napa.

Guests of Rotarians:
Laura Wincz, (her
attendance is better
than **Bill Dodd's**).

Club President Tim Cooney

**Tim Reminded
Members that our
Noon Time Club
was formed
April 1, 1920
90 Years Ago!**

Larry Wolfe headed the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Tim Cooney presented a clip to commemorate the history of our Independence Day celebrations on July 4.



In a History of the Holidays video, we discovered how and when Americans celebrated Independence Day in the past. Although **Benjamin Franklin** thought we'd celebrate the 2nd of July, the 4th of July is closest to our hearts.

Tim reminded Rotarians that he, too, is a member of a family with strong military ties. We celebrate Independence Day to show our gratitude for coming from English control over colonial affairs to the Bill of Rights guaranteeing us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Independence Day has been celebrated in good and bad times, during war and during peace times. **Chuck deLorimier** added that King George was of German descent. The taxes imposed were to pay for the French and Indian wars in Quebec.

The Raffle:



The Raffle pot started out with an impressive \$100. **Dick Lonergan** almost walked away with \$50.

Bruce McCall was granted time behind the podium to take care of unfinished "Thank You" business to acknowledge the great accomplishments of various Board members.



Gary Rose and **Steve Orndorf** received the 2010 – 2011 Rotarian of the Year award. **Dana Zanone** was honored for his artistic work on the Rotagram. The photos are just wonderful. Dana also has been a steady presence at the Pathway Home events. **John Woodbury** was acknowledged for his tireless work on teacher appreciation. **John Cardinale**, our ever-present Sergeant-at-Arms, was acknowledged for his efficient collection of funds.



The 2010/11 Board members:

Tyler Cokeley, Club Secretary, financial advisor at Wells Fargo in real life; **Tom LeMasters**, Bank of Napa, a **graduate of Napa High**, Treasurer; **James Barrett**, financial matters, **Dana Zanone**, Rotagram and website maintenance; President-Elect, **Jim Reilly**, a financial advisor, **Jeannie Christofferson**, who keeps our Paul Harris accounts up to date, and immediate Past President, **Bruce McCall**.

Gene Kelly explored various East Coast places conducting his high security and executive protection business. He had the opportunity to visit the Pentagon Memorial where the plane came through. It was a chilling moment to see the exact spot and to realize what that terrorist act put in motion. Other stops included New York, Mexico City, Miami, Veracruz, and Minnesota. The U.S. just recovered a surveillance plane from an area where we could not operate overtly. Gene contributed \$100 to a current Paul Harris account.

John Cardinale just returned from the East Coast where he and his family endured the sweltering heat as they visited historical sites, such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives.



From each place he retrieved a memento, from coins, bookmarks, gavels, to a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence. From the Space Museum he bought a container of freeze-dried ice cream. A \$150 bag of shredded bills came from the Bureau of Engraving. At Mount Vernon Gene bought a nice bust of George Washington, a coin depicting our First President, a T-Shirt for the little

guys saying “Future President” and a . From a distillery John brought an interesting blend of 11 whiskeys. From the Holocaust Museum Gene brought a broach with the inscription: “Remember.” A visit to the Statue of Liberty generated a clock depicting the latter. You think that’s all? Think again! John also retrieved a Yankee’s game baseball and a “**Fuggeddaboutit**” T-shirt.



Steve Orndorf reported that serious fundraisers are planned for the Pathway Home.



There is \$400,000 in the State budget, but it is uncertain whether this money will actually come through. A lot of things will have to happen to keep the Pathway Home going. **Fred Gusman** is not taking a salary for a couple of month to keep things going. There is a Tim McGraw event on Saturday, November 13, at the Lincoln Theater in Yountville. It costs \$175 per ticket. Graduation from Pathway Home is on July 29 at Silverado Country Club. If you can make it, please attend. You will not regret it. Next Thursday, we have a Barbecue at the Pathway Home at 5 PM. Please bring potential donors to this event.

Reminder to Board Members

A Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Morning, July 14th, 7:30 am, at Napa Valley Country Club.

Today's Program

Jim Reilly introduced our speaker, **Mike Pechner**. Mike is a consulting meteorologist for Stanford University, Pacific Railroad. He is a member of the Meteorological Society and the TV and Radio artists. Mike's career started at KCBS, where he worked with **Jim Reilly's Mother, Jane**. Jane headed the radio station for 25 years, and she had a famous show, "Bay Area Women," which ran without commercials. Today, Mike was volunteered for his Rotary appearance by Jim Reilly.



Mike is no stranger to Rotary. He was a member of the Fairfield/Cordelia Club. Because of his very early morning work hours, Mike was able to make the 7:30 AM meetings. He was reclassified as an honorary member. Mike's work typically starts at 3:30 AM with information he gathers to make his forecasts for TV and his private clients. Mike was quite lucky to get acquainted with **Lowell Thomas**, the famous writer, broadcaster and traveler. Lowell Thomas was a great friend of **General James Doolittle**. They were talking about the Doolittle raid on Japan and they went to Monterey to visit the General. In 1986, KNBR was sold to Susquehanna Broadcasters for \$23 million. In the first meeting with the new owners, the staff was told that their American Federation of TV and Radio Artists contract was not to be honored. See Mike's weather blog on kcbs.com/weather.

<http://kcbs.cbslocal.com/2010/06/16/mike-pechners-weather-blog-2/>

There are timely and long range forecasts that you would not normally hear from a meteorologist. Most forecasters on TV spend all their time trying

to forecast and they do not give an explanation of weather. Today there is a lot of free weather information on the internet. In the 60's and 70's, Mike received his research information via Teletype for \$400 per month. In grape growing areas it is very important to receive accurate frost forecasts in the early spring. Most TV stations employ a service called Accu Weather. They aggressively market their services in certain markets. Mike feels he knows the California weather patterns better than anybody. Mike has seen many errors in forecasting winter temperatures. The words "hard freeze" are almost never used because advertisers don't want to see anybody alarmed. The Napa County Airport is one of the coldest locations in this area. The cold air drains out of the Valley and settles there. The most critical time for accurate frost forecasts is April and early May when budding occurs on the wines. Weather forecasting was supposed to be a public service, but frost temperature forecasting was turned over to private companies. Two years ago the Napa Valley lost 20% of its crop due to a surprise late spring frost.

An important question came from concerned club members: **Rotary's Cycle for Sight event will be on April 18, 2011**. What will the weather be on that day? Impossible to tell! The long range forecast, however, sees a cool summer, a hot September, high fire danger, early fall wet weather pattern, rain in October and November.

Final Thought: According to Lily Tomlin



"The trouble with being in the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat."



Maren / Dana