

# The Napa Rotagram

July 28, 2010



## Thought for the Day

The oldest chartered club in district 5130, the Rotary Club of Napa was first chartered in 1920.



## Visiting Rotarians



**Don Staul**

Consultant, Sarasota  
Noon Club.

### and Guests

**Oliver Ramsay,**

Director of  
Development,  
Queen of the Valley  
Foundation.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oakland. From its original membership of 24 men, the club has grown to a membership of 112 men and women in 2008.



Also, Prohibition becomes law. Many Napa Valley wineries go out of business.

**Denys Michaud** headed the Pledge of Allegiance.

## The Raffle:



The raffle pot is growing. Guest Rotarian Don Staul was almost a winner today.

**Gary Rose** thanked **Dorothy Lind** for her help in getting a bicycle donated to a Pathway Home veteran who will participate in the bicycle ride from San Francisco to San Diego.

Gary also promoted the sneak preview screening of the movie **"The Tillman Story"** on **August 4<sup>th</sup>** at the **Cameo Cinema** in **St. Helena**.



You have to become a Film Festival Founder to participate in this 6 PM Premiere screening. An Encore screening will be the same day at 8:45 PM. Call 227-7621 for tickets.

The bowling scene is becoming more and more humiliating for **Kent Gardella**. Maybe his handicap should be upped once again.

## Birthday Celebrations

**Jill Barwick** presided over the birthday celebrations with questions that should not embarrass anyone. "Dive Heart" was a project to teach blind and deaf people to scuba dive. **Tom LeMasters** didn't get this one right.

Napa High graduate, **Jim Fehring**, knew that "Shelter Box" is an international program to provide tents and basic necessities in Haiti.

Birthday victim **Dale Carricker** did not know what Jack Nicklaus, Claudius, Robert Oppenheimer, Francis Ford Coppola, Sir Walter Scott etc. have in common. They are all polio survivors.

**Ed Barwick**, after some coaching, realized that Ray Klingensmith is Rotary International's current president. His mission is to build communities and to bridge continents.



## Today's Program

Past President, Mike Loughran introduced our speaker, **Dr. Thomas Stauffer**, who spoke on the Subject of Afghanistan.



At this time we have all time high casualties there. Dr. Stauffer has lived in Kabul, Afghanistan, as president and professor of management at the American University of Afghanistan. During his tenure, Dr. Stauffer ended up on the Taliban and Al Qaeda hit lists. (He did not tell his wife some of the details...) A picture of several students was described as “the faces of Afghanistan.”



The students are optimistic and well educated. They see themselves as future leaders of their country. Kabul is described as a “City on the edge.” Here you will find severe pollution, smog, dust, fecal particles, dirt, odors and danger. The people are hospitable, friendly, proud and ambitious. From his window in Kabul, Dr. Stauffer sees a wall built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The

wall was to keep the Muslims out. It did not do a very good job.



California's “Governator” is highly revered in Afghanistan. Bring your AK-47 to enjoy a round of golf on plain dirt. You may use a small square of artificial turf to hit your ball.



You may be interested to know that the golf course has been de-mined.

The Pashtun are tribes of poor, backward, uneducated people. There are 25,000 Taliban. They have lost important sources of funding and they have become more criminal. Trafficking, bank robberies, kidnappings are new sources of income.

Afghanistan has seen 40 years of peace and prosperity from 1933 to 1973. This time was followed by 37 years of war. Afghanistan ranks among the poorest countries in the world and its citizens' life expectancy is about 50% of that of the Japanese people (86 years). Afghanistan has an illiteracy problem – it is around 75% and there is high maternal and child death rate. Afghan citizens rank government corruption as the biggest problem. Afghanistan has become a Narco state with lots of poppy fields. It is now a huge provider of cannabis (hashish).

Women are wearing the burqa, chador and high heels. Victory will mean that the Afghans can run

their country successfully themselves. Last week alone there were 181 Taliban attacks.

There are changes in Afghanistan that are technology-driven. Cell phones are everywhere. There are 31 television stations. "Afghan Star" is the most popular TV program. There are 93 radio stations. Through the Internet, people are getting new ideas on the status of women. The Western presence consisting of American troops, NATO troops and contractor personnel amount to 320,000. World War II lasted 45 months and the war in Afghanistan is now in its 106<sup>th</sup> month. The impact on the American economy is less than 1%.

The US Hellfire missile attacks are very effective. Afghanistan has requested more money for de-mining, communications equipment, rural development, agricultural development, and education. Afghani soldiers receive a wage of \$100-\$132 per month, a nice uniform and a good rifle. Many are illiterate and hard to train. There is a high rate of desertion during the poppy harvest time. The grape vines in Afghanistan were torn out by the Taliban and the irrigation systems were destroyed.

We have a good number of troops and personnel in Afghanistan. This number does not give the population the idea that they are being occupied. There are now 8 million children in school. If we can hang in there until the educational level of the population is elevated, then Afghanistan may have a good chance to rule itself. The three biggest problems in Afghanistan are: corruption, the Taliban, and unemployment. **Hamid Karzai** is a corrupt leader. It is encouraging that a Chinese company is presently developing a copper mine.

### **Announcements:**

### **The Tom and Mike Show!**

**Do you know someone who deserves to be fined?** How about someone who just bought a new car or returned from a nice vacation or had a great round of golf? Or did

you do something noteworthy for which you wish to be "recognized" ? Let this year's finemasters know so they can do their thing!! **Contact Mike Loughran** or **Tom Nelson** with the latest gossip. We don't even care if it's accurate. Thanks

### **Final Thought:**



“Nice guys appear to finish last; but they appear to run in a different race.”



**Monday Evenings - Napa Bowl with the Pathway Warriors (6:30 to 8:30 pm)**



**Pathway Veterans are available for weekend work** (labor, truck away, pressure washing, etc.) Contact Christiana at 707.774.5646; Julie at 707.290.4225; or Program Desk at 707.948.3031 - (Cathy) for details. Please call before weekend.



Maren / Dana



Graduation – July 29, 2010  
Silverado Country Club



Travis, Ryan, Myung, Mike and Ben



Fred Gusman – The Pathway Home  
Executive Director



Rotary President  
Tim Cooney



Tommy, Mathew, Kevin, Lucas and Bryan



Graduation Setting  
Silverado CC