



THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley
Founded June 7, 1926 • "Service Above Self"
August 20, 2013 • Volume 87, Issue #8
<http://millvalleyrotary.org>
District Web Site: www.rotary5150.org



PRESIDER

- President **Susan Royce**.

JIM EGGER, 1923-2013

- Today's meeting was started with a moment of silence in memory of **James E. (Jim) Egger**, honorary member who passed away on August 15. Jim was 90 years of age.

The owner of Egger's Nursery (now Sloat) in Mill Valley, Kentfield and Novato, Jim joined Mill Valley Rotary in 1955 and served as its president in 1972-73. He was a Paul Harris Fellow as are several members of his family. We hope that details regarding plans for a memorial service will be available next week.

GREETER

- **PP Burnett Tregoning** who reminded us that *Knowledge is realizing that the street is one-way; Wisdom is looking both directions anyway.*

VISITING ROTARIANS

- Former Mill Valley Rotarian **Eric Chipps**, now a member at Sausalito, paid us a visit today.

BIRTHDAYS

- **Jim Wickham**, 'the Mystery Rotarian,' has a birthday coming up—August 22.



Patrick Callahan receives his blue badge from Doug Scherf.

ANNIVERSARIES

- **Bob Roberts** and **Betty** will celebrate 47 years of marriage.
- **Pieter Bogaards** is celebrating "30 wonderful years of marriage" - no word yet on the total number of years.

GOOD GUY AWARD

- The Good Guy Award went to **Howard Harker, Peter Mason** and **Peter Straube**. A big thank you to this threesome for both setting up, and taking down all of the accoutrements of Rotary every Tuesday. Your tireless efforts are appreciated by all of us every week. Peter Straube was rumored to be lounging on the beach in Hawaii, so he'll have to pick up his award, including a nice bottle of red wine, next time he attends.

BLUE BADGE ALERT

- **Patrick Callahan** got his blue badge! He said his most memorable Rotary moment ever was when **Burnett** pulled him

CLUB HONORS TWO OF THREE "GOOD GUYS"



- ☛ President Sue reads the proclamation honoring our Sergeants at Arms Peter Mason and Howard Harker. The third member of the crew—Peter Straube—will receive his certificate upon his return from vacation.

over to the side at the Mountain Play, sat on some boxes, looked him square in the eye and asked simply "How are you?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Bob Canepa** said that on Sept. 17th City Council candidates will grace our club. He also wanted Rotarians to remember that the club will match any George Hoyle fellowship contribution of up to \$250.00.

■ Cutting a dapper figure in his beige shorts, suave and debonair Membership Director **Ken Brooks** said the Club has the discretion to create a corporate membership category. The board is considering that option now.



■ Our own annual BBQ and zucchini race will be on **Sunday September 8th, from 2 till 6PM** at the Mill Valley Golf Course Clubhouse (Google it). The investment is \$20 adults, \$12 for children (\$20 for adults who act like children). Race cars must be made of real zucchini, don't try to sneak a cucumber in. Wheels can be made of wood, metal or plastic from a toy car. If you thought you could repurpose your childhood roller skates, you're out of luck because no roller skates or skateboards are allowed. There will be prizes for most creative zucchini!

RSVP - BUY TICKETS NOW
Checks payable to: Mill Valley

Rotary Service Fund
Mail to : P.O. Box 506,
Mill Valley, CA 94942

Today's Zucchini Fun Fact

The world's largest zucchini was 69 ½ inches long, and weighed 65 lbs. (Ed. Note: Can Burnett possibly top that?)

GOOD TIMES

Go To PRLS!

The Basic PRLS Program consists of six hours of classroom lectures on one day split among five modules:

- Basic Leadership Principles
- Leading a Meeting
- Rotary - Your Club and You!
- Communications
- Basic Public Speaking

Comment from the Peanut Gallery

As a Master PRLS graduate, I can say that without a doubt PRLS is well worth it. Just do it, you'll be glad you did.
— Your faithful scribe.

■ **Attack of the Eucs: Burnett** called the County complaining of a rogue eucalyptus tree he found stalking his house one morning. He was pleasantly surprised that after about five weeks the County responded favorably to his request and had it trimmed. We're sure Burnett would appreciate it if someone would volunteer to come over and cut the wood for him.



Burnett's Euc, before or after?

■ Presidential Raccoon

Negotiations: Sue had an alarm system installed in her house. A couple of nights ago while watching Criminal Minds (CBS) the alarm went off, she was surprised by a whole family of raccoons that had sauntered into her home. Countless hours of TV watching had prepared Sue for this eventuality. She stood, made eye contact with the 'Alpha Coon' and began.... applauding. Nonplussed, the raccoons began to negotiate with Sue. Word on the street is that the raccoon family eventually left of their own volition – terms of their eviction were not publicly disclosed.



RAFFLE

■ **Tracy Cook** put every inch of her body into it but still came up short—see next page!

PROGRAM

■ **Matt Cerkel** has been a Park Ranger for 18 years on Mount Tam. Matt became interested in aviation accidents on Mount Tam and was shocked to learn just how many have occurred in Marin County over the years. He mentioned that during World War Two, 25,000 people were killed on

When chemists die, they barium.

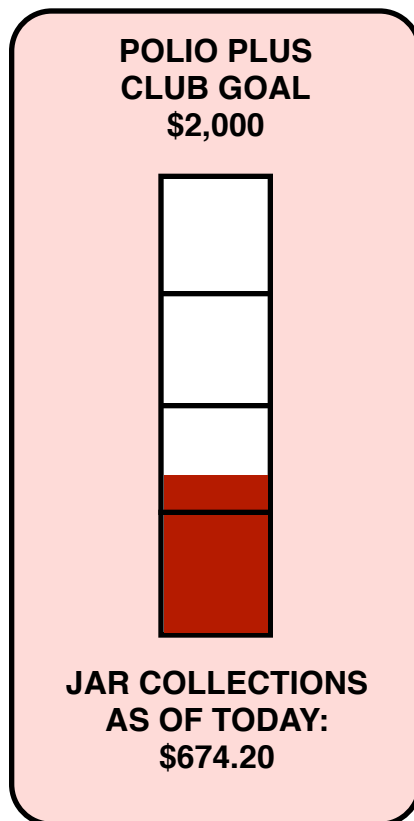
PROGRAM (Continued)

the Home Front. For pilots this was mainly due to incomplete or rushed training. He said there were at least 60 serious military crashes in Marin County during WW2.

Mr. Cerkel illustrated problems associated with what he called 'inverted landings'. He suggested that successful landings were far more probable if the landing gear made contact with the runway rather than the top of the plane.

He spoke of one story he called 'The Lone Tree PT 3A'. On March 27 1931 a PT-3A airplane took off from Crissy Field but found itself mired in fog. It tried to climb out of it by angling towards Mt. Tam. We can imagine the momentarily surprised expression the pilot must have had by the discovery of a tree apparently floating so high in the clouds. Unfortunately the tree was firmly rooted to the mountain. That original crash site not yet been located, but Ranger Cerkel continues his search.

During WW2 'The Nipper' was a heavy bomber. Back then pilots



and crew were often sent home to train others after their tour of duty. The crew of The Nipper was flying from Hawaii to Hamilton Field. Nearing their destination the pilot thought he was over San

Pablo Bay, but was in fact over Richardson Bay. Realizing the error he tried to climb out with landing gear down, but clipped a eucalyptus grove just off highway 101 near Spencer Avenue in Sausalito. Sadly, all eight passengers and crew died. Little of the wreckage exists today.

A PBM 5 known as 'Peter 9' that served in the Atlantic and Caribbean against German U-Boats was the victim of another unplanned rendezvous with the mountain. Combat aircrew 'Charlie' consisted of 13 crew, thankfully the day of the crash only 8 crew were present. The PBM 5 was a huge plane with a 118-foot wingspan; the plane was two stories tall. Peter 9 took off from Alameda at night, and proceeded to head out over the Golden Gate Bridge. Soon after, they radioed with engine issues and were advised to wait. The plane apparently turned to the right, colliding with Mt. Tam. All eight crew were killed. A day or so later, five Mill Valley boys of about 12 years old made their way up the mountain trying to find an auxiliary fuel tank they thought had fallen from a plane. Instead they were shocked to find the remains of Peter 9.

In 1945 the 'Sausalito PBY' was flying over San Francisco Bay in heavy fog. Coming over Mt. Tam they clipped the ridge, and proceeded to cartwheel down the hill. The plane crashed about half a mile from where 'The Nipper' had. To make the rescue even more challenging, the PBY had been carrying live depth charges, so the rescue crew had to detonate the charges. Thankfully, two people survived the crash.

His last story was about 'The Rock Springs Corsairs'. On October 4th 1945, not long after the end of the war, two Corsairs demonstrated why it's important not to invade the 'personal space' of another pilot while flying



You never know.....eventually somebody will have to pick that red marble. Tracy makes a valiant try—the result: free lunch!

PROGRAM (Contd)

separate planes. The Corsairs were flying about 10,000 feet over Mt. Tam. As the planes moved into formation, the Corsair below pulled up and collided with the plane above. The two pilots bailed out, one suffered a broken back. Wreckage rained down on the Rock Springs area. Today, both engines can be visited on Mt. Tam.

NEXT WEEK

■ **Cindy McCauley** and members of the Tam High School contingent that earlier this year went to play baseball and softball in Cuba will share some of their experiences.

Got Raffle Tickets?

■ All contributions you make to The Rotary Foundation between July 1st and October 1st will qualify for raffle tickets at the District 5150 fundraiser. If you were unable to attend the last two club meetings, Doug Scherf will mail your raffle tickets to you. The tickets are \$20 each.

CLUB CALENDAR

■ **September 3: NO MEETING**

■ **September 8: Annual BBQ & Zucchini Race** at the Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse, 267 Buena Vista Ave., 2-6 p.m. \$20 adults; \$12 children 12 and under. Great food, drinks and tons of fun. In addition to thrilling zucchini races, exchange student **Julia Daniel** will be on hand to tell us of her experiences in Sweden.

■ **September 10: Paula Reynolds** (Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce Chair) and **Daniel Escalzo** (Chamber Executive Director) will bring a message titled *Mill Valley: A Chamber for the 21st Century*.

■ **September 17: Mill Valley City Council Candidates Forum.** Here's your chance to ask questions of the future leaders.

■ **September 24:** The 2013 District 5150 **GSE Team** will talk about their spring trip to Finland.

■ **October 1:** A speaker from the Asian Art Museum will update us on the goings-on at the museum.

■ **October 8:** The folks from District 5150 RYLA will make a presentation. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is one of the groups that our club supports.

WHEN WILL WE GO OVER THE TOP?

← **GOAL**
\$12,000



ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY

ROTARY FOUNDATION GIVING*

2013-2014



← **YTD:**
\$3,640
(30%)

* 50 out of 59 members are Paul Harris Fellows. Let's achieve 100% participation this year.

ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2013-2014

President: Susan Royce
President Elect: Jane Hall
Secretary: Raymond Palmarini
Treasurer: Stephanie Ricardo
Past President: Burnett Tregoning
Membership: Ken Brooks
Management: Phil Richardson
Club Service: Larry Davis
Community Service: Barbara Hofling

Events: Roberta Keller
World Community Service: Bill Lambrecht
New Generations: Liz Bayer

THE MILL WHEEL STAFF

Managing Editor: Burnett Tregoning
Reporters: Suzanne Irwin-Wells; Margareth Tanner; Burnett Tregoning; Kent Campbell; Patrick Callahan
Today's Reporter: Kent Campbell

Sergeants at Arms: Howard Harker, Peter Straube & Peter Mason
Program Committee: Bob Canepa & Elizabeth Suzuki

