

Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon

Number one Mid-size Club in District 5130 - FY 2008-09

6572 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Volume XII Issue No. 19 Frank Sites, President December 9, 2011

www.valleyofthemoonrotary.org



The **Four-Way Test** of things we think, say or do:

Is it the **Truth**?

Is it **Fair** to all concerned?

Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

OPENING

President **Frank Sites** rang the opening bell at 7:30 a.m.

The flag salute was led by **John Brodey**.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Ron Nicholson got very scientific with us. Pay attention now: **NEW HEAVY ELEMENT**

A major research institution has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been named "Governmentium". Governmentium has one neutron, 12 assistant



neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons and 11 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it a mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A minute amount of Governmentium causes one reaction to take over 4 days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 4 years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. Moron-promotion leads some scientists to believe Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "Critical Morass".

When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium – an element which radiates just as much energy, since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons!

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Frank introduced our Assistant District Governor **Gordon Freedman**, his wife Irene, along with District Governor **Maureen Merrill** and her Rotarian husband **Mike Merrill**.

Maureen and **Mike** are both members of the Windsor Rotary.



Frank thanked **Karen Sites** and **Pat Gooler** for a wonderful job on the reception for the District Governor last night at the Saddle Club.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Sgt-at-Arms **Jerry Dion** introduced the only guest, **Bob Jackson**, who will very shortly be a member of our club as he has been accepted and will be inducted in January.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

New Generations

As proxy for **Caroline Keller**, **Mike Isola** announced that the wreaths are ready for pick-up in the hallway at Sierra Youth Center. Also, anyone who loaned sawhorses to SYC can go over and pick them up.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friendship Alliance Cynthia Macariola-Brooks

passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to sing carols in our community on December 19th and 20th. We'll be singing one of those nights at Oakmont Gardens during their dinner hour from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. It would be nice to have at least 12 carolers.



FUND RAISER

Crab Feed

Mike Isola said there would be a few changes this year at our Crab Feed, which is on February 25, 2012. The back room that was set up for



overflow customers was sort of lonely and isolated from the rest of the party, so will be used this year for silent auction items. The tickets are still \$45 and will be available at our January 6th meeting. Also, it

was noted that every year people show up early and have to wait out in the cold, so this year we're going to be ready to open the doors 15 minutes earlier, and open promptly at 5 p.m..

Frank took over to talk about the green folders that were passed out to all of us. They contain sponsorship information.

This is the only time our club asks community businesses for a donation, which is basically inexpensive advertising for those businesses. Not only will their ads be placed in our very professionally-done program, but will also be played in a PowerPoint presentation throughout the evening. Last year's Crab Feed netted our club \$30,000 and we're hoping to go over that by 20% by bringing in 15 sponsors instead of 12.



OTHER REPORTS

Christmas Dinner

Karen Sites thanked everyone for turning out at the Saddle Club for the DG Reception last night and reminded us that our Christmas Dinner at the Quail Inn is Friday, December 16th. All checks should be in by now.

Pin Check

A pin check was done and the pot earned a few bucks.

Birthday Recognition

Dennis

Schroeder's lady friend celebrated a birthday. They walked from her apartment in San Francisco to Chapeau! - a very nice restaurant down the street. Great dinner.



HAPPY DOLLARS

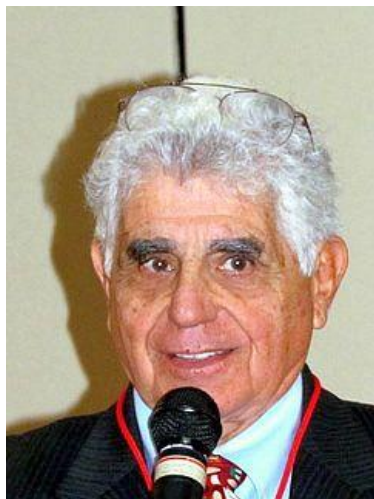
Frank Sites started us out with a donation on behalf of the Press Democrat article featured on the front page of the Sports section on Nov. 18th about a special athlete, which was none other than our **Rich Irwin**. For those who might not know **Rich**,

he's blind and that's what's so special.

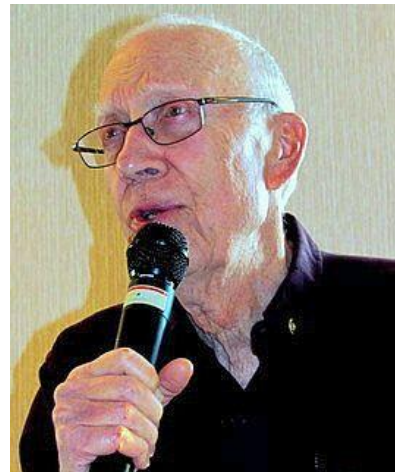
Rich Irwin added that a piece was also shown on KPIX Channel 5 about him participating in the SIRS Golf Tournament.

Gordon

Freedman was excited to tell us that he finally bowled his first



300 game. Of course, he meant in Wii bowling, but just the same . . .



Al Blake said there was a rift in his household. Nina introduced him to Angry Birds (an internet video game) and life is not the same at his place.

Randy Ruark

has quite a family. One of her granddaughters is dancing in the Boston production of Nutcracker, playing 5 different parts and even played a 6th part last night when a performer turned up sick. Another granddaughter just graduated with a nursing degree, earning very high marks and putting her in the 98 percentile.

RAFFLE

Mary Brodie had guest speaker **Maureen Merrill**

draw the ticket for the \$207.50 pot. The winning ticket was **Ron**



Nicholson's, but he had stepped out of the room momentarily, so **Jack Monahan** didn't draw the Joker for him, but **Ron** gets a free breakfast.

GUEST SPEAKER

Gordon gave **Maureen** a glowing introduction. Just a few of her accomplishments with Rotary are that she joined in 1987, served as President of the Windsor club in 2001-02, during which her club was named the District's "Best Club" and earned Rotary International "Distinguished Rotary Club" and "Distinguished Rotary Club President". **Maureen** and her Rotary husband **Mike** have attended 14 international



conventions, plus traveled extensively on Rotary projects, visiting India, Vietnam, Uganda and Mexico. **Maureen**, by trade, is a writer and communication consultant.

She's been on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, Windsor Boys and Girls Club and Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. She was also an elected member of Windsor's first City Council. In her spare time (?) she likes to read, paint, draw, socialize and throw parties.

Maureen thanked **Gordon & Irene** for hosting them for the night after the wonderful reception Thursday night at the Saddle Club. She regaled us with great stories of how she had been involved with our club over the years, even to the point of belly dancing at an Egyptian-themed dinner party at Pat Randall's, an auction item.



With no notes in hand, **Maureen** smoothly launched into why she loves Rotary, some of the 106 year history of Rotary, and how to recruit new members. One of her secrets is to create "aha!" moments for visitors to a club by having great meetings, projects that touch hearts and

well-structured projects. "Heart" is her theme – giving people motivation, fire and enthusiasm. The club is where things happen.

Part of her duties as District Governor is to visit



all 46 clubs in our district. Rotary has added 2% new clubs throughout Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt Counties. Every club is different. Valley of the Moon Rotary is unique due to the demographics of

our community and we're one of the most successful and fun because of that very thing. Maureen threw the mike out for our members to say why our club did so well. Barb Spangler chimed in that we actually like each other. Mike Isola suggested we have the opportunity to give something back to the world because of our prior busy lives and what we've learned. Karen Sites has been to many other clubs and suggests we do likewise just to witness the vast difference, especially between the west and east coasts.

Maureen touched on how Rotary has changed the world in the last 106 years, especially coming near the complete eradication of Polio.



End Polio Now is the only international project that has ever topped out, especially after it partnered with

the Bill Gates Foundation. What will be our next world-changing endeavor? Will it be?

1. Peace and conflict resolution
2. Food for all
3. Environment projects
4. Economic development
5. Basic education and literacy
6. Disease prevention
7. Clean water

There are exciting moments to look forward to in Rotary and we need to get the Baby Boomers to join with all their fresh and innovative ideas.



Maybe we can't change the world all at once, but we can keep chipping away at it. The core values of Rotary are service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership. The most important meaning of the 4 Way Test is the question mark (go back to the top of this bulletin and notice them).

Maureen gave us lots of challenges and Jim Spangler added that Rotary is so tuned up and working well on international projects that it would be a shame to not continue on.

What a dynamic and interesting speaker. No wonder **Maureen's** profession is communication. She's certainly evokes the meaning of Rotary and is an inspiration to all.

Maureen ended the meeting with an "ode" that she wrote entitled "Where Will I Meet You?" Would it be under a 'wide and generous sky?' . . .? Look for me by a blue banner . . . I will meet you at Rotary.

I asked her to send me a copy of her ode, but being the busy woman she is, I can see why she hasn't had time to send it. If she does, I'll incorporate it in the January bulletin. See you all next year – 2012.

Closing

Maureen had the gavel and closed our very fine meeting to a standing ovation. Thanks so much, **Maureen**. Can't wait to see you again. You were an inspiration to us all.

The closing bell was rung at 8:45 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP

2nd Posting for New Member Myma(Mi-Mi) Jones.

Share Rotary with your friends. We should invite business friends and neighbors to a meeting. Who do we do business with, what neighbors do we know, what former Rotarians could be asked to join us? **Clip and save the invitation below to give to a friend, neighbor, or business associate. Please tell or email Todd VanDenburg if you are bringing a guest.**

Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club's expense.

MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE JOINED ROTARY HAD SOMEONE ASKED THEM!

Cut and put in your wallet

You are invited as a guest of _____ to attend a breakfast meeting of Valley of the Moon Rotary. The Club meets Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Quail Inn Restaurant 7035 Oakmont Drive in Oakmont.

Anyone interested in joining Rotary is encouraged to contact our Membership Director, Todd VanDenburg at todd@thevandenburgs.com for information

FUTURE CALENDAR EVENTS

12/16 – Club Holiday Dinner at Quail Inn

12/23 – DARK – Happy Holidays

12/30 – DARK – Happy New Year

January 6, 2012 – Regular meeting

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Hah! Caught all of you not reading the bulletin. Last week, under Happy Dollars, I intentionally left in the sentence about Andrew Luck winning the Heisman Trophy (which hadn't been awarded yet). The trophy went to Robert Griffin III, the first ever Heisman winner for Baylor. Gotcha!

I also flubbed up when I referred to Dennis Cronin as a 'former and/or retired member of our club, when, in fact, he is a very active "Honorary Member" of our club. Sorry, Dennis.



Please submit any corrections or omissions to Jack Monahan or Star Power for insertion in the next bulletin.

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