



# The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

April 16, 2014

## Builders Club Rolling

by Donalee Shackelford



*Builders Club officers and members organize Saturday's work day.*

The Nature Trail cleanup at RLS was only 3 days away, so Wednesday's Builders Club meeting included listing the many jobs that needed to be done for the annual event. Members expected some 20 participants, so jobs from pruning and weeding to compost turning and spreading had to be delegated.

Students also put the May 10 date for the Red Cross cleanup in their planners. It was discovered that day had many conflicts with members and faculty from softball and baseball to one member that will be involved in a basketball tournament. The following weekend, May 17, many students are planning to help with clean up at the Veterans Home.

Club membership also was discussed. This year all members are 8th graders who will soon graduate.

It seems recruitment is in order in the near future.

Saturday was a successful work day. The Nature Trail is beautiful. Students in St. Helena are so fortunate to have such beautiful campuses. Builders club advisors are very dedicated teachers. They did hard manual labor for about 3 hours Saturday morning. It was cool. One Kiwanis Club member was present.



The Kiwanis Club of  
St. Helena, a chapter in good  
standing of  
Kiwanis International  
since 1950,  
is dedicated to serving the  
Community of St. Helena.

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### The Powers That Be Club Officers 2013-2014

President Lester Hardy  
President Elect Bob Matheny  
Vice President Tom Davis  
Secretary Mike Hardy  
Treasurer Jeff Farmer  
Past President Lester Hardy  
Directors Bob Beckstrom  
Tom Belt  
Jan Darter  
Donalee Shackelford  
Lowell Smith

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### Kiwanis Foundation

President George Watson  
Officers and Directors Tom Belt  
Tom Davis  
Jeff Farmer  
Mike Hardy  
Bob Matheny  
Lowell Smith

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### Committee Chairs

Fundraising Jay Lewis  
Membership Jeff Farmer  
Projects Don Richardson  
Publicity Lowell Smith  
Youth Donalee Shackelford

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### The Bung Starter

An almost regular publication of  
the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena.  
“We don’t print retractions.”

Editor Bob Beckstrom  
bbeckstrom@pacunion.com  
Reporters Bill Savidge  
Ryterz Block

# This Week at the Club

## The Heights... and the Depths

(April 9) No Heights today, since Leader **Lester**’s usual command performance was not to be. He was under the weather. Depths? His frantic phone calls down the depth chart finally found someone at the bottom, **BobB**, who at least knew what to do with a bung starter. After the boink and song the Minister of Love (**Lowell**) took over: “I love everybody... Some I love to be around... Some I love to avoid... Some I would love to punch in the nose.” Everyone must have been hungry, as no one left. After some grub **BobB** started the meeting by noting the absence of His Lestership. “Yea!! No jokes,” mentioned several members... politely, of course. As for guests, **Howard** introduced guest speaker **Alan Galbraith**, Grand Jury Foreperson. **BobB** then asked if anyone had H or S \$\$ and then realized a predicament. How to run the meeting and take notes at the same time. Luckily, **Ryan** volunteered to handle the B.S. reporting duties. That’s right... *volunteered*. And did a beautiful job of capturing everything worth mentioning in his concise notes:

H/S \$:

**Tom Belt** – Home improvement  
**Mike Hardy** – Lost fish  
**Jim Aldred** – Phone call from Bob “where you been”  
**George Watson** – “Project Hope.” Eye is a mystery  
**Jeff Farmer** – Science Fair  
**Bob Beckstrom** – Santa Cruz. Kids here. Giants opening day.  
**Lowell** – 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Birthday List:

**Dave Kerr**, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Anniversaries

none

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

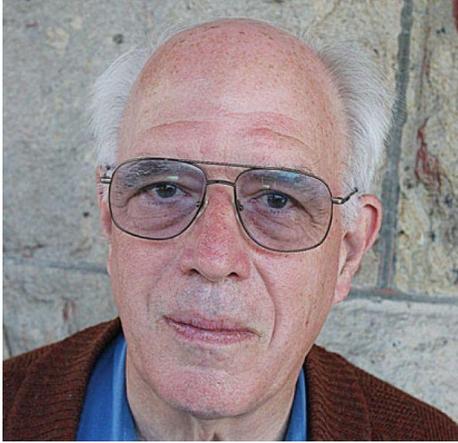
- 1) **Jay Lewis** – April 19<sup>th</sup>: Governor will be in Vallejo from 12-3 p.m. (20<sup>th</sup>).
- 2) **Georg Watson** – Free breakfast cards
- 3) **Don Richardson** – May 10<sup>th</sup>, clean out Red Cross garage
- 4) **Mike Hardy** – Board Meeting recap
- 5) **Jay Lewis** – Fundraising Committee
- 6) **Jay Lewis** – Club elections coming up. Board needs to finalize slate by May 1.

### DRAWINGS:

**Howard** won Fine Free.  
**TomB** tried marble game.

Thank you Ryan. Nice precision.

## Grand Jury Duty



**Alan Galbraith**, former St. Helena Planning Commissioner, is foreperson of the Napa County Grand Jury for 2013-2014. He talked about the jury's history and work.

"The grand jury of 23 members, vs. the petite jury of 12 members, has its origins in 12<sup>th</sup> century England. In the U.S. it is used to initiate criminal proceedings but is also an investigative body to look into the affairs of government. California is one of the few, if not only, state where it is used to look at county governments, cities, schools, etc., but not to initiate criminal proceedings because it's a body of volunteers rather than a randomly chosen jury of summoned citizens.

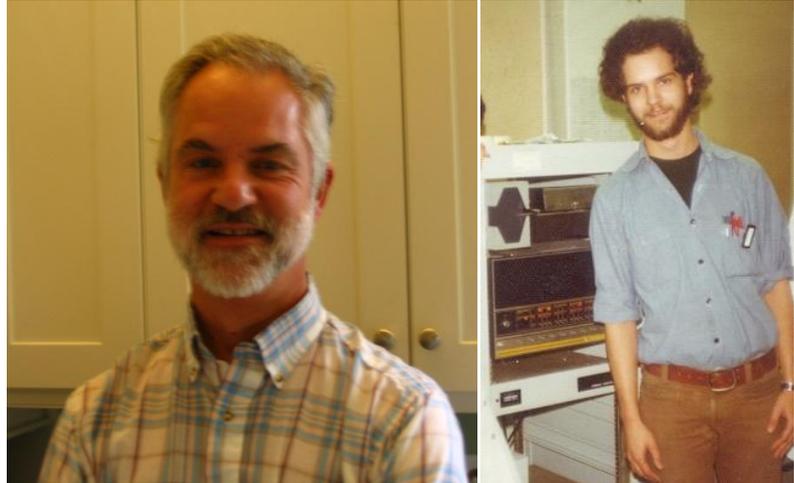
"Most people volunteer but this week my wife got a summons from Superior Court for grand jury duty... to augment the pool of applicants. The foreperson is chosen by judges.

"The grand jury process seems more formal than it is. We must inspect custodial institutions each year [jail, juvenile hall] and report on at least one county agency. This year we wrote on the Vine as well as another agency. The key to the Grand Jury is choosing issues. Complaints are not a great source; they're too individually specific. A good source of ideas is newspapers. We didn't have a hard time finding issues. Officials are usually very cooperative in suggesting problems to investigate."

Q&A followed his introduction.

## Member Profile

*by Bill Savidge*



### Jeff Farmer

If you see Jeff huddled with a kid over a table in the coffee house, he's tutoring math. That's the business he started after moving here from Silicon Valley in 2001, where he had worked, among others, for Stanford Hospital, Data General and Sun Microsystems. Tutoring and volunteer work keep him busy these days.

Jeff was born in New York City in 1950. His father was a LIFE Magazine senior editor, his mother a research reporter. He grew up in Port Chester, NY, 25 minutes by train from Manhattan. The town, pop. 25,000, held a Guinness World Record: most bars per capita. Jeff admits to being a math and science "geek." One high school physics project reverse engineered the first atomic bomb. He played trumpet in the elementary school band. During high school karate he broke an ankle, causing him later to flunk his draft physical.

In 1972 Jeff earned a bachelor's degree in physics "by the skin of my teeth" from Cleveland's Case Institute of Technology. Graduate studies in Madison, Wisconsin led him to Chicago's Hines VA Nuclear Medicine Technology Program. He was the first student in a program to use computers in nuclear medicine imaging. For room and board at the VA Hospital, his job was drawing blood, 50-100 veterans per morning. Jeff says, "When I saw a girl, first thing I looked at was her veins."

As a nuclear imaging technician at Hines VA Hospital, Jeff taught physicians to use computers, ran imaging research studies for a computer model to predict myocardial infarctions and wrote data acquisition and analysis programs in FORTRAN and assembler. His computer expertise opened gates to a career in Silicon Valley. In 1977 Jeff left Chicago's snow in a VW Rabbit, with two cats and a litter pan on the other front seat. "Best trip of my whole life." He headed to Mountain View where he met his wife, Kim, and her daughter. They married in 1980, had another daughter who made them grandparents a year ago.

9-11 moved Jeff to become a disaster volunteer for the Red Cross. He went to Texas to help flood victims, ran St. Helena's shelter for the 2005 New Year Eve flood. He was the Napa County American Red Cross board Chair from 2006 to 2010. For fun, he plays trumpet in the St. Helena Community Band. Next performance: May 4 at Inglenook.

# Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

## *Guinness World Record Holder*

*Longest continuous wine toast 10/7/12*

## CLUB CALENDAR

**Every Wednesday** – Club Meeting at American Legion Hall, 7:30 a.m.

**April 16** – Guest speaker, Whitney LeBlanc

**April 16** – Builders Club, RLS Rm C2, 12:45. Check in at the office.

**April 23** – Guest speaker, Jay Greene

**April 30** – Guest speaker, TBA

**May 5** – Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m.

**May 10** – Red Cross garage cleaning project, 9:00 a.m.

**July 17** – DCM at Crane Park, sponsored by St. Helena and Yountville

### Worthy Causes

**April 19** – Appellation St. Helena bASH event at the CIA.

**May 4** – St. Helena Community Band performance at Inglenook

## Special Notices

1. Membership Committee seeks names for potential club members. Contact Jeff, George, BobB or BobM.

2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Steve, David or TomD.

4. Publicity and Outreach Committee needs your help lining up weekly speakers. Contact Lowell, Lester, Steve, Mel or Jay.

# Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

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