



The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

June 11, 2014

Flags On Main Street



Gary, Tom, Howard, BobM, BobB, Bill, Lowell, Jay, Jeff and John showed up last Thursday morning to put up flags for the Wine Auction. They'll be back on their ladders for the Fourth of July weekend at 7:00 a.m., July 3.

Saturday Is Work Day at Bothe Park

Don and his Kiwanis crew have designated the second Saturday of each month as a work day, which means that this Saturday club members should show up at Bothe Park. The project is to convert a pile of lumber into sawdust and some useful items. The actual design of the doodads wasn't available at press time but they're variously described as *traffic barriers*, *sawhorses on steroids* and *organic speed bumps*. Bring your carpentry tools, paint supplies, sawhorses and drinking water. Also, please wear your Kiwanis shirt – it's possible that a photographer from the *SH Star* may drop by.

As the Board has pointed out, these work days are a great opportunity to invite friends and community members to join us. Bring somebody. It'll be fun. See you at 9:00 a.m.

2014 Kiwanis Scholarship Winner

On Thursday, May 29th, at 6 pm, St. Helena High School hosted its annual Awards Day presentation of scholarships for the graduating senior class. **George** presented our \$2500 Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship to **Carlotta Santado**, "a truly fine young lady who earned the award based on her excellence in academics and her significant contributions to school and the community. She will pursue her higher education in the biosciences. Maybe a cancer cure?"

*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
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 Jan Darter
Tom Davis
Jeff Farmer

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

.....

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

(June 4) **Lester** got things started with a nice bell tone, followed by rapturous warbling of the choir and some words of wisdom by **Lowell**. “Being male is a matter of birth... Being a man is a matter of age... But being a gentleman is a matter of choice.” As members pondered the meaning of these words over breakfast they noticed unearthly screeching sounds emanating from under one table. Then the room fell silent as members looked up to see **Lester** fondling something at the podium. “Whoa... I’ve got a microphone. [Blissful grin.] How are you? I’m fine. Our Jester of the Week is not here. I’ve had to improvise.” These were his exact words, but you had to be there. He continued, “I’m instituting... promise not to be weekly... Believe it or Not... worst operatic singer ever to perform... singing lessons... Any guests?” **Bill** introduced **Julie Spencer** from Rianda House. **Lowell** followed with a H\$ “that SH Kiwanis has a tradition after elections... voting stub... 5\$ fine.” What!?!?!?, said other longtime members. “Being stubless is just a buck.” Which still kept Pot-Carrier **Drew** very busy. **Bill** paid a H\$ “for my trip to NY over Memorial Day... saw the 911 Memorial... very impressive.” **George** paid a H\$ “for a nice experience for awarding our \$2500 scholarship to a SHHS grad... well deserved... great kid.” **Jeff** paid a H\$ because “I’m glad George did that... fine young lady... cure for cancer.” And another H\$ “because last night I was privileged to play bocce for the Charlatans. It was fun... changing the team name is really helping us change.” **TomD** paid a H\$ “for my granddaughter Mykala graduating from Vichy Elementary School. She got the Perseverance Award at the school [for her struggles with cancer].” **Gary** paid a H\$ “because my oldest grandchild graduated from Kindergarten.” “She was 9 years old,” quipped someone from the bad table. **Lester** paid a H\$ and a S\$ “because a newly remodeled home on my street is listed for \$2m. Nobody can afford this town anymore.” “We can thank all the realtors for that,” said **Bill** (Bureau of Real Estate License #00002468). **Lester** adjusted his specs and squinted at his calendar. “No birthdays this week.” **Gary** groaned, “And I was ready to sing today.” Good Guy? **Jeff** cited **Lowell**, **Drew**, “and the laggards, **BobB** and **Steve**, and myself, for not shaking my own hand.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **Howard** reminded the ladder guys, “Tomorrow morning, flags for wine auction.”
- 2) **Julie Spencer** said, “I’m here today for Mike... do something collaboratively for all that he’s done... Memorial Service on June 21 at Clos Pegas, 11:00 a.m....do a Proclamation: Kiwanis do a paragraph, Rianda House, Christian Bros., etc.”
- 3) **Lowell** said, “I got an email from Donna... has some of Mike’s Kiwanis stuff... I will pick it up... what to do with it? Archives? I have stuff in my garage too.”
- 4) **Lester** added that “we need a Secretary, and someone to chair the golf tournament. **Lowell** said it would cost too much \$ to rent a course. **Howard** suggested “taking a hiatus for a year.”
- 5) **Lester** asked for nominations for Officers and Directors for next year (see p3).
- 6) **Lester** recapped Monday night’s Board Meeting. “We had a fairly broad, serious discussion about membership... decided to focus on service projects.”
- 7) **Jeff** announced the July 17 DCM. **Drew** will tend bar; **Howard** will provide raffle tickets; entertainment will be the Silvertones from the Veteran’s Home; Crane Park is reserved; NEWS is the beneficiary; Armadillos will provide food. \$35/person.

DRAWINGS:

Jester of the Week is... **Lester** Fine Free is... **Jeff**
Marble game was... **Gary** [nothing to sing about]

Nominations for Officers and Directors 2014-2015

At Wednesday's meeting the following slate of officers was nominated for upcoming elections. Note the available opportunities.

President: **Bob Matheny**

President-Elect: **Tom Davis**

Vice President:

Secretary: [appointed] Need a Volunteer

Treasurer: **Jeff Farmer**

Past President: **Lester Hardy**

Directors, to 2015:

Bob Beckstrom, Tom Belt,

Donalee Shackleford,

Directors, to 2016:

Ryan Ellis, John Ponte,

[need one more]

July 17 DCM

Members should have received an announcement about next Thursday's District Council Meeting (DCM) at Crane Park. **Jeff** and members of the Yountville club have a great event planned. "I'm excited about the Silvertones Jazz Band playing. They're all vets from the Yountville Veterans Home. That's a first ever for us."

Cost for dinner is \$35 per person. We will need volunteers to handle set up, food service, bar service, and cleanup. Arrive at 5:00 p.m. Thursday to help.



The Charlatans bocce team plays in the Tuesday night league at Crane Park. Jeff took a pic of some of the members doing what they do best, enjoying good food and wine together.

Member Profile

Tom Davis



By Bill Savidge

"My high school yearbook photo has a quote: *Take it easy, but take it!*" Tom has taken and met many challenges: pedestrian paperboy to 70 hillside customers, Eagle Scout, 1968 Penn State accounting degree, a first job with prestigious Arthur Andersen & Co. in New York City. "But that was way before Enron," he says. Fifteen years later he started the prominent St. Helena accounting firm that includes his name. Meanwhile, he's been treasurer for Kiwanis (20 years) and for the local Sierra Club. He's also a SH Library Foundation board member.

Tom was born in Scranton, PA in 1946. With a younger brother, the family lived on 2 ½ wooded acres bordering scenic Gravel Pond, a lake near Clarks Summit, pop. 5,000, five miles north of Scranton. His father owned and operated the local drug store. Growing up, Tom played Little League baseball—catcher one year—swam, boated and ice-skated on the lake. He still enjoys the outdoors – cycling and mountain biking, as well as high altitude backpacking in the Sierras.

In 1968 the draft was imminent, so Tom left Arthur Andersen to join the Air Force, serving four years as a payroll clerk at a base in North Carolina. In 1973 he headed west, spent a semester at UC Berkeley before going to work with a small accounting firm on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. He received his CPA designation in 1975 and the following year met his wife, Ginny, who also worked in the City. They married in 1978, moved to gold country's Sutter Creek—real estate sales for Ginny and a long commute for Tom to his Stockton office. In 1979 they moved to Napa Valley.

One day 33 years ago, their fertility doctor called unexpectedly, "We have a baby girl, just born; you can adopt her, but take your time. Think it over." Tom immediately replied, "We have; we want her." Her name is Summer, now an RN at St. Helena Hospital. As a single mother of an 11 year old daughter recovering from brain cancer, they live with Tom and Ginny in Napa. Tom and Ginny also have a son, Christopher, born to them three years after Summer's adoption.

Tom likes Kiwanis because "it's a fun group of guys. Just fun." He doesn't always take it easy, but he still seems to take every opportunity to serve.

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.

June 11 – Guest speaker, TBA

June 14 – Work Project: Build sawhorse/benches at Bothe Park

June 18 – Guest speaker, Christy Pestoni, Upper Valley Recycling

June 21 – Memorial Service for Mike Hardy at Clos Pegas, 11:00 a.m.

June 25 – Guest speaker, Greg Clarke, Napa County Ag Commissioner

July 2 – Guest speaker, Thomas Jefferson

July 3 – Put up flags on Main Street

July 7 – Take down flags

July 9 – Guest speaker, Dave Yewell, Appellation St. Helena

July 16 – No meeting; come to DCM instead

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

Worthy Causes

June 11 – “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament for SH Boys & Girls Club

June 27–July 4 – Volunteers needed for Napa County Fair, Calistoga

Special Notices

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

2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Lester or TomD.

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

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

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