



The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

March 5, 2014

Down to Business



Club Officers and Directors meet on the first Monday of each month.

Monday's Board meeting was attended by Prez **Lester**, Prez-Elect **BobM**, Secretary **Mike**, and Directors **Lowell**, **Tom** and **BobB**. Special visitor was Lt. Governor **Jay Lewis**.

The financial report included a review of accrual vs. cash accounting and a discussion of breakfast charges.

Lt. Governor **Jay** outlined the goals of a Kiwanis club: good leadership; secretarial skills; active committees; clear bylaws; active foundation; communications; service activities. Each club should strive for 1,500 hours per year. He also reviewed Saturday's Midwinter Conference in San Ramon. "The main focus was ProjectEliminate. The International goal is \$110m by 2015; we're at \$50m. Every time a club raises \$1,250, it is eligible to give out a Zeller Award." He added that the

Four Kiwanis clubs of Napa Valley will be donating \$1,000 at the Red Cross Heroes Breakfast on March 19.

Also discussed were this Friday's Foundation Board meeting, an update by the Fundraising Committee and a report about Little League snack shack.

Sign Project Postponed



Rain delayed Saturday's work on the town's welcome sign. Stay tuned.

Cyclin' in the Rain

by Donalee Shackelford



Builders Club advisor **Malcolm** and some club members displayed true grit at their meeting last week as students gathered and dumped garbage cans and put them in the appropriate area to kick off this year's recycling campaign at RLS Middle School in the pouring rain. Students are making a video and making general awareness to fellow peers on campus of the importance of recycling. It is clear that the Builders Club is one of the most active clubs at the middle school. They can be proud.



*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.”

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Reporters Bill Savidge
Ryterz Block

This Week at the Club

The Heights... and the Depths

(February 26) **Lester**, batting from the left side of the plate, took a mighty swing at the bell. It was worth being on time for. And for the lusty singing. And **Lowell’s** prayer, which he attributed to past club member **Marty**: “God grant me a vacation to make bearable what I can’t change. A friend to make it funny. And the wisdom never to get my knickers in a knot... because it solves nothing... and makes me walk funny.” Midway through breakfast **Lester** launched the meeting with “another more or less true story... 1978... employee relations... winery and wage issues... complaint to the State... temp workers 12-15 hour days without a day off... friend of mine at Charles Krug... 1970s... legendary supervisor... young college men who could survive... forgot what day it was... [punch line]. Any guests?” **BobB** introduced guest speaker **Tim Miller** and **Bill** introduced **Ryan Ellis**, the second speaker. **Mel** introduced **Don Fraser**, “an ex-Marine.” Oops. No such thing. “I mean former Marine.” **BobB** paid a S\$ “because, as your *B.S.* reporter, I had to use up half of my note paper on Lester’s joke.” **Mel** paid a H\$ because a *B.S.* article had asked, “What is Kiwanis?” and he had an answer. He read a poem which had a certain bed-time cadence, confirmed by mass snoozing. “Sounds like Dr. Seuss,” yawned someone barely awake. **Lester** added, “I’m not sure that was a H\$... or S\$.” **BobM** was sure about his H\$. “After weeks... caged my critter... a raccoon... changed bait to sardines from pet food.” **Jeff** had a H\$ “for the test hole in my backyard... PVC pipe 10’ in the ground... before the last rain the water level was down to 8’11” and now it’s at 3 ½’ and has maintained that level.” “It’s probably your septic tank,” **Howard** explained. **Lowell** also wanted to explain something, “I’m going to talk slow for Bob to take notes... no food in my mouth... a work joke... wildcat driller from OK... one fellow from MS dropped his wrench down the hole... stopped everything for 3 days to retrieve it... owner gave wrench back to guy and said, You’re fired... the worker said [punch line]. Guffaws. **Drew** paid a H\$ because “my son and his wife informed us that I’m gonna be a grandfather. I still don’t think he knows how it happened.” **TomD** paid a S\$ “for Bob’s raccoon.” And a H\$ “for my car... no dents... no BB holes.” **Jim** paid a H\$ “to see my grandkids in Denver... had to stop over in Tulsa for 4 hours. Which is way more time than you need there.” **Lester** pad a H\$ “for the Warriors... Jermain O’Neill’s inspired speech.” Then he looked at the calendar and discovered no birthdays or anniversaries this week, so he called for the Good Guy. **John** rose and said, “I’ll give our illustrious prez this much: he asked me *after* I came in the door. Then he roamed the room and pointed to non-shakers **Jay, TomB, Drew, Jeff, Lowell** and **Steve.**” **Jeff**, who avoided the fine because he’s fine free, paid a H\$ “because the only reason I know I’m FF is the BS.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) **Drew** reported that the formation of the Marble Committee “spawned an investigation... when podium was built... fine tolerances... clear marble is slightly larger than the others... has to go back in the bag... otherwise won’t go down the hole... because it’s bigger you see... so it ended up stuck in a cranny of the podium... because it wouldn’t go down the hole.” 2) **Lowell** started to make an announcement but, clearly still pondering this presentation by Sherlock Holmes, found himself digressing about “Malcolm Gladwell’s take on statistics.” Huh? He eventually found his way back to announcing the signup sheet for the sign project.

DRAWINGS: **Don** won the Fine Free drawing. Then **Mike** won a shot at the marble game for the second week in a row... and came up with the same result. Nada.

Combat Stress



Guest speaker **Tim Miller**, a deputy sheriff in Marin County, shared his experiences serving in the Army and then adjusting to civilian life.

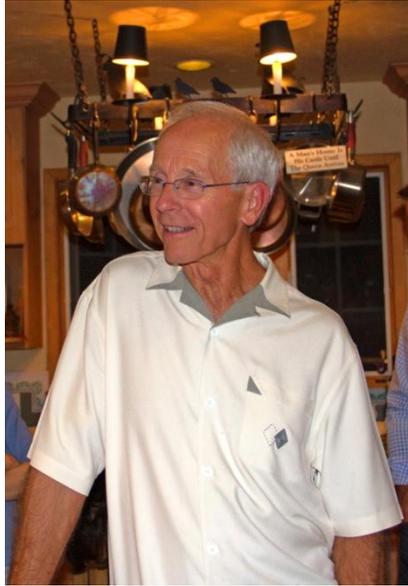
“I was born in 1978 in Healdsburg and grew up in rural Sonoma County. I was raised by my father, a Marine, and my stay-at-home mother. I later found out my father had PTSD.”

Tim talked about growing up in poverty and helping his dad “make ends meet” while he attended Santa Rosa HS. “I learned rural skills and figured I’d grow up to be a soldier. Dad said I was too soft to make it into the Corps. I was 17 when I graduated. My parents agreed I could go into the Army but didn’t want me in combat. Dad wanted me to learn skills.”

The next 18 years of Tim’s life took him through military training, various duty assignments (including Iraq), reenlistment, police academy and a domestic roller coaster ride. “At times I felt good... nothing wrong with me.” But his life spiraled downward, including work setbacks, marital problems and suicidal tendencies. “My dad said I have combat stress.” That revelation led him to the Veterans Administration and, in October 2013, the Pathway Home in Yountville. He graduated in February. “I still go back. I want to give back.”

Member Profile

by Bill Savidge



Bob Beckstrom

Bob was born in San Francisco during WWII, where his father worked in the shipyards. The family moved to San Bruno, then Menlo Park, where Bob grew up with an older brother and two sisters. In 1965 he graduated from Bethel College in Minnesota, majoring in history and English lit. Then he did graduate work at SF State and UC Berkeley.

“I was in school during the Vietnam War so I was exempt from the draft, but it didn’t feel right. In 1967 I didn’t tell my draft board I was in school. Luckily, I discovered alternative service and joined VISTA before being inducted. I ended up in Lower Kalskag, Alaska, for a year: population 170 people, 108 dogs, 150 miles from the nearest town.” Bob and his wife lived in a log cabin and worked with the native residents. Besides teaching, he built things, including a community hall. “My daughter was born there. She’s a journalist now, living in St. Paul, MN, with her husband, also a writer, and three kids.”

Bob returned to SF State, changed course and got his teaching credential. For the next ten years he taught elementary school in SF. He and six associates started Rooftop School, which is still a top-rated K-8 school with a long waiting list of students across the income spectrum. There Bob met Linda, a student teacher. “I finally got it right. We’ve been married 34 years.”

“I’ve done a lot of things because I like variety,” Bob said. After teaching elementary school he became a remodeling contractor. He also taught at the East Bay’s Owner-Builder Center, which led to writing how-to books for Ortho Publishing, and the managing editor’s position at Ortho’s San Ramon office. Now he’s a real estate agent with Pacific Union Real Estate.

Bob and Linda moved to St. Helena in 1988, bought a house with enough land to plant 700 cabernet sauvignon vines. Bob is proud of the vineyard, says its 2-ton yield “pays for the vineyard and our property taxes.”

Bob joined Kiwanis in order to give back to the community. He attended the 1997 Kiwanis Wine Auction, saw an opportunity to improve club activity, and has been an energetic, essential participant in every Kiwanis fundraiser since. He served on the Chamber of Commerce Board for 12 years, including a year as president, as well as the St. Helena Renaissance Board.

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.

March 5 – Guest speaker: Builder's Club Presentation

March 5 – Builders Club, RLS Rm C2, 12:45. Check in at the office.

March 7 – Foundation Board meets. Brotemarkle Davis, 5:00 p.m.

March 12 – Guest speaker Ryan Ellis, Pathway Home graduate

March 19 – Guest speaker TBA

March 20 – DCM in Fairfield, Paradise Valley Estates, 5:00 p.m.

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

Worthy Causes

March 19 – Red Cross Real Heroes Breakfast, Silverado CC, 8:30 a.m.

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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