

ROTARY CLUB OF BIG BEAR LAKE
MEETING November 17, 2005 Best Western Chateau

President Ron opened a rather eclectic Rotary meeting on time with the clang of the Rotary bell. We enjoyed the presence of some spouses for our last meeting before Thanksgiving. We had some members remember that this was the last meeting of November, because next week is dark, and wear their Paul Harris medallions and some were in coat and tie while others were in jeans oblivious to the foregoing. Anyway, we were all glad to be together on this Thursday evening. **President Ron** read the preamble to the congressional proclamation declaring Thanksgiving a National Holiday for the Invocation. "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor: and Whereas both houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

PP Paul Simon led us in the pledge to our Nation's Flag then Ghost of Christmas Past, **Handy John Grandi** led us in "God Bless America" and "R-O-T" accompanied by pianoman Glen Wonacott. Good show!

President Ron asked all guests to stand for a welcome round of applause.

Past president, **Rob Shepherd** read the third and final reading of **Queen Anne's Court**, giving a last opportunity for nominations from the floor before asking us to cast our secret ballots. Showing once again democracy reigns the following were elected:

Heir Apparent -	Dick Shaw
Queen's Consort -	Dave Leach
Chancellor of the Exchequer -	Garry Dokter
Footmen -	Rusty Barnes, Alan Clark, Larbi Loucif, Darrell Mulvihill and Vince Smith.

Congratulations one and all!

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Respectfully submitted: **Bob McNutt**, Scribe, with the assistance of **Rich Lambert**.

Dick Shaw reminded us he needs help driving the Interact kids to deliver phone books. Remember, this is our commitment to Interact, helping them earn money rather than us giving it to them - please help be the example.

PP Paul Simon presented a check toward the Katrina Relief Fund on behalf of Carolyn Dawley and the Bear Valley Church of Religious Science. Thank you! **P-E Anne** came up to tell us about the end of the year party December 29th that she will only reveal to our wives because we can't be trusted to get the information home. **Anne** was thanked for the vote of confidence - even though what she said was true!

Prez Ron invited **Harry Neumann** up to the podium to thank him for the years of service to our Club and for all the hours he put in at Oktoberfest this year (66 alone netting \$900.00 to our club) and years past. **Harry** is transferring to Rancho Mirage Rotary Club the same Club Hans Bandow transferred to a few years ago. We will all miss **Harry** and Elizabeth and they will be remembered fondly. **Harry** says he may try to come back next year for Oktoberfest if we participate. **Harry** was presented special recognition pins and thanked for his years of dedication to our Club. *Auf Wiedersehen, Harry, Vielen Dank!*

So as not to embarrass our members in front of their wives, recognition was passed on - what happens at Rotary - stays at Rotary (until the Bulletin editor get a hold of it)!

Even though we passed on recognition tonight, **Prez Ron** couldn't help noting that **John Bartley** didn't wear his shaggy boots, however, he was observed holding his wife's little bear purse! That'll cost you next time, **John!**

Our program tonight was another step-and-fetch, as it was necessary to juggle dates. When it was almost said and done, we had two programs. I asked **Ken Dally** and **Steve Schindler** if we could slip their BBARWA program into January or February. They kindly helped me out. Thank you **Ken** and **Steve!**

Ron Peavy brought a very informative program to us by John Chino, Workers Comp specialist with Arthur J. Gallager & Co.

In the State of California, in 2003, Workers Comp was in a crises. In 2004 reform was born thanks to then Governor Gray Davis and his automobile license tax. Gov. Davis crossed the line and was recalled! By doing this, Arnold Schwarzenegger replaced Davis and recognized the overwhelming problem with Workers Comp. Unlike his predecessor, Schwarzenegger challenged the Democratically controlled State Assembly and Senate to make reform or he would go direct to the people. Unlike the most recent election, this ploy worked, largely because the Dems were still reeling from the crushing defeat and recall of their chief executive. Prior to the reform package, injured employees never got healed. Claimants were rewarded for staying off work longer, adding drastically to the costs. At the height of the crisis, insurers were taking in record premiums but still paying out 20% more than what they were taking in. Many employers maintained a presence in California but moved their employees to states that had more reasonable Workers Comp rates and practices. Time was that injured employees could go from employer to employer or even return to their original employer, aggravate the same injury and file a claim that had to go back to the beginning of the initial injury and start claiming all over again. Under the new system employers are only responsible for the portion of the injury caused by them. The new system is working, as large insurance companies are coming back to California. Regarding Workers Comp claims, there are three things you need to do: 1. Report all claims immediately and submit them to the Utilization Review. 2. Direct all medical care through Carriers Medical provider network - smaller is better. 3. Have an active Return To Work program. There is still plenty of room for improvement but things are getting better.

President Ron thanked John and presented him with a Rotary book mark.

Jean Brownie gave an overview of the Christmas activities. December 15 - Stocking stuffing party - will not be at Best Western - location to be determined. December 16 - Santa Ski-Nite at Snow Summit. December 18, 19 & 20 - Santa visits staged from Meadow Park. The next Santa Committee meeting will be December 1st at the Best Western prior to our regular meeting. Everyone needs to participate.

Meeting adjourned.

Congratulations again to the three new members inducted November 3rd. Welcome to Rotary **Craig Smith, Arnold Urias and Louis Weiner!** They'll all three make fine Santas!

Upcoming meetings:

November 24, 2005 - DARK! Happy Thanksgiving!
December 1, 2005 - Regular Meeting
Program - WWII Normandy Invasion Medal
Of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers.
December 8, 2005 - 5:30 Board Meeting. Regular Meeting
Program - Police Chief Pat McKinley
L.A. SWAT Team in Patty Hearst days.
December 15, 2005 - Stocking Stuffing party. Spouses Night.
December 16, 2005 - Santa Ski-Nite, Snow Summit.
December 18, 19 & 20 - Santa Visits.
December 22, 2005 - Dark for Christmas.
*December 29, 2005 - **P-E Anne's** end of the year party.*
January 5, 2006 - Regular Meeting
Program -

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