

Forward

The biggest problem with the history of Lakewood Rotary that follows is that it doesn't adequately name all the names. So many people have given so much, but it's impossible to recount all the worthy contributions of everyone. I have instead focused on some key individuals from the early years for mini-biographies, while describing some of the biggest and most high profile of the events. The intent is to give this writer's view of an amazing body of work by Lakewood Rotary, accomplished by as interesting a cast of characters as a Hollywood movie could envision.

So to those who have given so much and may have escaped mention or adequate representation, I apologize. I also apologize in advance for errors. The source for much of this history is 50 years of club bulletins and board minutes. (My writing motto continues to be that to steal from one writer is plagiarism, to steal from many is research. The following is well researched.) In addition, I conducted a number of interviews with surviving spouses and Rotarians. I have undoubtedly gotten some things wrong. I welcome any corrections for future updates.

This history also comes with a warning. In the first few decades of this club, drinking (and drinking to excess) was not only tolerated but accepted by society in general. Much of the social fun of the group included fairly copious amounts of alcohol. This resulted in a lot of stories to tell, and tell them I have. But I remain concerned that the balance between this lubricated fun and their great accomplishments be represented properly.

I would like to especially thank the following for their help and stories: Dave Burgoyne (author of the bio on his dad, Gene), Mel Neighbors (my sponsor in Rotary and keeper of

many tall tales), Ralph Lockhart, Rick Selden, Norm Tremaine, Harold Carlson, Don Jacobson, Mike McGowan, Gordon Quick, Greg Ootkin, Olga Ootkin, Venette Hagen, Randy Peterson, Jim Strait, Don Greenleaf, Jean Mansfield, and Ralph Lockhart.

Also, thanks to the many bulletin writers through the years. Their musings preface each chapter, and they are quoted frequently throughout. Those writers include Al Stearns, Jim Rediske, Mel Neighbors, Dave Burgoyne, John Magnuson, Kay Shinn, and others. And special thanks to my Dads, Jim Rediske and Russ Klauser: my personal inspirations in Rotary, and more importantly, in life.

March, 2006
Greg Rediske

1:00 pm, August 19, 1966, Lakewood Terrace

At the regular Friday meeting of the Rotary Club of Lakewood, noted member Kay Shinn began his introduction of the visiting speaker. As he spoke the first few lines, one of the waitresses in the back of the room was jostling some dishes, causing some distracting noise. Kay, surprisingly, stopped his introduction, and called to the waitress to tell her to please keep it quiet, along with some other choice comments. The waitress flared up in anger, and yelled back. Kay told her to just keep it quiet, further angering the poor woman. Finally, she took her tray with all the dishes loaded on it and dropped it on the floor, breaking most of the dishes and making a great deal of noise. Looking first at Kay and then at the restaurant owner, Benni Anderson, seated nearby, she yelled, "I quit!" and walked out. The place was now as quiet as a church, with all the Rotarians and guests wondering what had gotten into Kay to call this poor woman out like that, completely out of character for him.

And then it came. The sly smile across the face of Mr. Shinn. The smile peculiar to people who have just accomplished a big "gotcha!" As Kay began to chuckle, it dawned on everyone that the whole event was staged. The waitress returned with a dust pan and broom, laughing agreeably. It seems Kay had cooked up the whole skit, and had gotten Benni to supply some chipped dishes that were going in the garbage anyway. The place erupted in laughter, as much due to relief from the tension as the humor of the joke.

Rotarians are most often characterized in print and in the movies as rather staid individuals, usually wealthy, almost always quite dour. Even boring. But from the beginning, Lakewood Rotarians have been anything but dour. Or boring. These guys were characters. This colorful cast has been dedicated to making their community a better place to live. They have been generous. They have worked hard. And all the while they have had fun. Lots of fun.

9/14/56: Visiting Rotarian Chuck Pearson told the first Swedish joke, soon a staple of the club, and probably told referencing Charlie Peterson. Credited to Yogi Yorgesson, and delivered in a heavy Swedish dialect:

*I got a sugyestion from Hulda, my vife,
Dat I tell our small boy, da bare facts of life.
So one day I called him in back of de barn,
an' I start to begin dat most difficult yarn.*

*I stammer and stutter to find da right vords,
as I tell him vot goes vit' da bees and da birds.
"Now, Ole, you've got a cute girl friend,"
I said, "Pretend she's a bird vit' a bright yellow head*

*Dis girl bird, she shirps at de bird she likes best,
And de next 'tin you know, dere's eggs in a nest"
Den, I learned a lot and heard many big vords,
'cause he knew more dan me 'bout da bees and da birds.*

Not to be outdone, John Magnuson carried on the Scandinavian joke tradition with a borrowed poem in 2004 (to the tune of O Christmas Tree):

*Lutefisk, O Lutefisk, how fragrant your aroma
O Lutefisk, O lutefisk, You put me in a coma
You smell so strong, You look like glue
You taste yust like an overshoe
But Lutefisk, come Saturday
I tink I'll eat you anyway.*

9/21/56: "A ringing of bells and a stumbling around was heard from the door. The Sgt-At- Arms investigated and found an unusually horrible Santa Claus, speaking with a thick Finn accent and somewhat the worse for liquor. Gifts

were distributed, and President Bob Bernnard received a gas shaver run from an enema tube, complete with beans for fuel. The gift was considered to be very apropos by the membership."

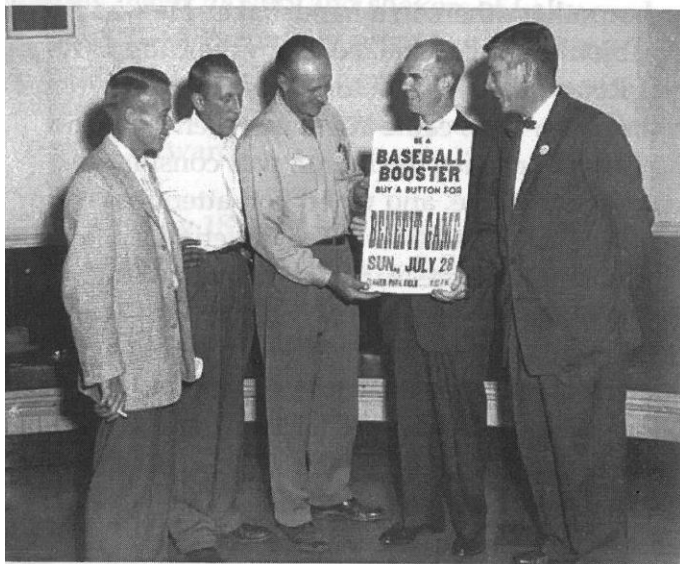
No, I believe we can rule out "dour" and "staid", at least for this particular bunch of Rotarians from the community known as Lakewood.

The Beginning

2/7/58: "Charlie West and Howard Williams have a fine program lined up for next week entitled, 'I Don't Know Yet But It Will Be Something.'"

In 1954, Ernie Thompson and Floyd Snider of the Tacoma #8 Rotary club contacted two men from Lakewood, Charlie Peterson and Bob Bernnard, and requested that they start putting some names together for a new Rotary club. Clearly not ones to move quickly, especially Charlie, it took two years to put together a list of 23 names. On March 16, 1956, in the Lakewood Terrace dining room, the first meeting of the new club was held. Twenty men were present, which included several from Tacoma #8, and the meeting was chaired by founding father from #8, Floyd Snider. No doubt, there was some business conducted, though there was considerable discussion about the bumps on Chuck McCallum's head. Chuck was the second President of Lakewood Rotary, and clearly a good fit into the menagerie. At the second meeting on March 23, discussion was held on their first fund raiser, selling Daffodil Festival buttons. Their first program came on April 6, with a "timely talk on the troubles in the Near East, ending with an interesting comparison between the Arab and Israeli civilizations."

Still not a legal club, without an approved charter from Rotary International, the group received its first solicitation for money from Charlie Peterson: \$125 to sponsor a Pee Wee baseball team was requested on April 13, 1956. This would be more than \$800 in present day dollars, a lot of money for a new club with no source of income beyond dues and Daffodil buttons. The request was made by Charlie Peterson, however: it was a done deal.



Al Stearns on left, Charlie Peterson in the middle

Charlie Peterson

6/30/67: "It's rather difficult to tell whether Charlie Peterson is hitting a home run, catching a steelhead, or actually dancing when he's on the dance floor."

Charlie, a.k.a. "Pete", was a large man, 6'2 and over 230 lbs, with hands so large they would smother others in a handshake. He was a builder by trade, a baseball coach by avocation. As a Rotarian, he was notoriously late to meetings, or absent. This came at a time when 91% club attendance for the month was considered unacceptable, and when attendees were regularly chastised in the bulletin for their sin of non-attendance. Charlie was not overly concerned with such things, he didn't care if you cared, and no one was about to challenge him on this. Everyone knew the situation: "Congratulations to Charlie Peterson. He spent the entire meeting with the group and was not the last to arrive" read the bulletin on November 29, 1957. When Charlie did arrive, everyone knew it. Big in size was he, but bigger in presence. There are some people who can enter a room, and you know they're there even if you don't see them. Charlie was like that.

The first fund raiser of consequence that was repeated was an Old Timer's Baseball Game, organized by Charlie. He got radio and television coverage, and the club sold over \$700 worth of tickets/buttons in 1956. In 1957, they raised over \$1200, and in 1958, they made over \$2000. It was understood, because Charlie expected so, that all the money would go to youth sports in the area. The bulletin reported once, "Charlie Peterson had no report on our kids' rec baseball team.....for once." Youth baseball was by far his overriding passion. He was on the first board of directors, but was never president of the club. Virtually all of the major movers and shakers of Lakewood Rotary have eventually served as president. There have been exceptions,

and Charlie was the first. He moved, he shook, and Lakewood Rotary moved forward.

On February 18, 1966, the first “retreat” was held. The Toutle River vacation home of Charlie was the location for many years. At that first social gathering were Charlie, Rudy Tollefson, Howard Williams, Jim Rediske, and unidentified others. Steelhead salmon were caught, cards were played and gambling money exchanged, cigarettes were smoked by the carton, and much liquor was imbibed. It was “boys’ night out” from the beginning, and the event stayed that way for decades.

Charlie and Thelma had two sons, Cap (Charles A. Peterson) and Randy. Both played professional baseball, and both were Lakewood Rotarians. It was Cap who galvanized the club in the late 1950’s, as they followed his exploits in the minor leagues, and then the majors. From September 18, 1959, came the following bulletin report: “It seems that we may lose two other members, namely Pete Peterson and Bob Bernnard. It appears that these two guys, along with Cliff Olson, took a fast trip to San Francisco to watch Pete’s son, Cap, work out with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Cap did a fine job and I know his dad is mighty proud of him, but both Pete and Bob are rather large in places and they both tried to sit in the same seat on a United Airlines DC6. The airline is suing them for destroying private property. Since both of these men are not too well fixed financially, they may have to spend a few months on a county prison farm, working out their debt to United and working off a few pounds from the right places. We will miss you.” The bulletin writer was kidding, of course. About most of it, anyway. At a subsequent meeting, Charlie was fined \$21 for mentioning Cap’s name 21 times during the meeting. Cap signed with the San Francisco Giants organization in 1960, after receiving offers from 12 other major league teams in the Peterson

home. He signed for a staggering \$64,000 (reportedly), a huge amount at that time. The bulletin continued to report regularly on his progress: "Latest word from Fresno is that Cap Peterson is batting .500, including a home run." "Big News! Cap was just honored as the Minor League Player of the Year." "Cap was just named MVP of the Texas League." In 1962, Cap made it to the SF Giants, the youngest player in the major leagues that year. He didn't qualify to play in the World Series with the Giants, but he gave first hand reports to the Club. He was installed as an Honorary Member of Lakewood Rotary that year. Reports on his hitting prowess continued to be a regular bulletin item, including a 1967 report that began, "Did you hear how Cap Peterson broke into the Senator's lineup?! 3 for 4 with two home runs and 5 RBI's! Wow!"

Cap finished his career in 1969, stopped by kidney disease. His best year in the major leagues was 1967 with the Washington Senators: .240 batting average in 122 games, with 8 home runs, 46 RBI's. In the grand scheme, these statistics are probably not that great, but to the members of Lakewood Rotary, he was their guy, and they loved both him and his baseball success. And he was Charlie's boy.

Charlie Peterson died in March of 1973. Rudy Tollefson and Charlie had gone to the Toutle a day early to get ready for the Rotary event there. That evening Harry Mansfield, Jim Walter and some others arrived late in the evening. Hearing no answer to his calls, Harry walked in and went upstairs to Charlie's room, and found him dead. Shook up, Harry walked out of the room only to discover white haired Rudy walking out of another bedroom, in a white nightgown no less, looking like a ghost. It was a devastating evening in every way.

Over \$12,000 was raised for a scholarship fund in his name. Soon thereafter, the club made plans for another memorial: baseball fields at Ft. Steilacoom Park. The club contributed \$10,000 for this, along with physical work in the construction of the fields. They were dedicated on June 14, 1975, and thousands of kids have played baseball there since. Charlie would be happy.

Cap died on May 16, 1980, at the age of 37, of a staff infection related to his treatment for kidney disease. Two days after his death on May 18 came the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. When the mudflows hit the Toutle River, the Peterson family vacation home so loved by both Pete and Cap was destroyed by the flood.

Back to the Beginning

4/28/61: "A number of members have asked me what happened to Al Owyen. Al had an opportunity to purchase a funeral home on Bainbridge Island. He would probably enjoy seeing you in most any shape, dead or alive."

On April 25, 1956, Lakewood Rotary finally received their official charter from Rotary International. On June 19, 1956, at 7 pm at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club, the club had their charter night. Over 300 Rotarians, wives and guests dined on Whale Rock Cornish game hens. Lakewood Rotary was officially a member of Rotary International and District 151, though they wouldn't be for long: District 151 was split, and Lakewood fell into the newly created District 502 (later to be renamed 5020). In 1956, there were 210,000 men in Rotary, in 5000 clubs in 60 countries. Fifty years later, there would be 1.2 million men and women in Rotary, in 31,000 clubs, in 167 countries.

The first president of Lakewood Rotary was Robert “Bob” Bernnard. He was 41 years old at the time of the charter, and served as manager of the Tacoma Country and Golf Club. He was one of the two men, along with Charlie Peterson, who were called upon to organize the new club. When he left the club to move to Spokane in December of 1959, the bulletin had this to say: “We owe our existence to this dedicated Rotarian. Let’s never forget him and his efforts.” Bob’s relatively short stay diminished his personal influence on club history, but he was clearly a huge part of the club’s formation and early years.

Twenty members on the original list of 23 were inducted as charter members. The youngest member was 27, and the oldest was 77. But the range in ages was actually pretty tight: two men in their 20’s, seven in their 30’s, ten in their 40’s, and the 77 year old (Ray Thompson). Two men resigned shortly thereafter, and were replaced with Richard Worthen and Al Hagen.

One of the early programs (8/31/56) was by Bob Bernnard’s brother, William. He reported that “we’re losing the propaganda war to the Russians in Palestine because we fail to meet the people at their own level.” In February, another speaker reported on the Middle East: “The basic issues of the dispute are anti-Semitism, water and oil. The problems are insoluble and there will be trouble for a long time if not actual war.”

While the Middle Eastern situation seems to have not changed at all in 50 years, there have been significant cultural changes, as evidenced in the program schedule. Another early program in 1956 reported that “there has been some

progress made in the treatment and cure of cancer. Old herbs and other natural drugs are being replaced by the antibiotics." September 27, 1957: "The program speaker noted that jet transport is the coming thing." And in 1959: "Next week's speaker is Lyndon Crowe, a pro football player currently on the road for Marlboro cigarettes. So leave your smokes at home as they should furnish us with lots of samples." September 24, 1959: "Next week's program on alcoholism will be given by Bernie Ootkin. Any samples?" May 15, 1959: "Our upcoming speaker, Princess Catherine Caradja of Romania will certainly be able to give us a most interesting talk, even if she is female."

After the \$125 for Pee Wee baseball in April of 1956, the next big expenditure was \$160 for a polio fund. Members fined themselves, and the newly arrived polio serum was sold at cost by Al Stearns. Dr. Bernie Ootkin provided the needles, and members were given shots at the meeting. "Dr. Ootkin received the first shot himself at the hands of Bill Chisholm, Tacoma #8, Veterinary Medicine. The first needle bent, causing some alarm amongst the members." A year later, a follow up vaccine was requested by members. "Dr. Ootkin stated that he didn't know of anyone that had the vaccine yet. He'll acquire some as soon as possible so he can use his dull needles again." The occurrence is especially significant, given that Rotary International's biggest project in its 100 year history became the PolioPlus program: a several hundred million dollar project to rid the world of polio. Started in the 1980's, the end is nearly in sight.



Al Stearns, Tom March, Clay Huntington, Russ Klauser @ Waughop Lake site

Al Stearns

2/14/58: "I understand there will be a program on armored cars next week. This is not official, and so don't be disappointed if the speaker talks about making doll clothes."

At 28 years old, Al was the second youngest of the charter members. He took over as secretary of the club in the second year, and eventually served in that post for twelve years. He was President, 1966-67. On June 27, 1969, he was given a plaque by the members of Lakewood Rotary: "Award to Alvin "Al" G. Stearns, the title of 'Mr. Rotary' of Lakewood for his continuous, dedicated, and devoted service to his community and to the Lakewood Rotary Club. Service Above Self." In the history of Lakewood Rotary, there has never been anyone who gave as much time to the club

as did Al Stearns. Never has anyone else been named “Mr. Rotary”. And in the history of Lakewood Rotary, there has never been a more controversial member.

Al Stearns was the pharmacist and owner of Clover Park Pharmacy. He took over as secretary midway through the '57-'58 year, and served in that capacity until 1965 when he became President-Elect. He became secretary again in 1968, and held the post until he was forced to accept a leave of absence from the club for 6 months in 1972. As secretary, Al was almost frightening in his directness. Secretaries in the early days were also responsible for the bulletin, and that became his bully-pulpit. A large portion of the bulletin was reserved each week for those who missed the meeting (names without capital letters), as well as those that made up their missed meeting (the good boys!). He would regularly take poor attendees to task for missing too many meetings, often by name. He once wrote in the bulletin, “Dear Joe, We miss you and we hope that you miss us, but it is evident that you do not or you would attend our meetings once in a while.” He proceeded to continue on the same line for two more paragraphs. Another time he wrote, “We have doers (10%) and talkers (90%) and we have our do-nothing members (10%)” He then challenged the members to be in the first 10%, to be a doer and complain to the board to have “this RADICAL” removed from bulletin writing by the board. He was fearless in his pursuit of Rotary excellence, and abrasive in his methodology. He spent countless hours assembling attendance numbers, keeping track of pancake breakfast donations, organizing district conferences, lining up and overseeing many, many Rotary projects. When he stood before the club with the donations chart on display, he meant business, and everyone knew it. His loud and sharp voice was easily heard across the room. Members couldn't

help but listen, and they did. It is difficult to imagine those early years without him and his acerbic commentaries.

At the Installation Dinner at the Tacoma Country & Golf Club on June 24, 1972, a drunken Al physically abused his wife in front of all the Rotarians present, and then proceeded to total his car after leaving. It was an ugly incident, certainly the ugliest in the history of Lakewood Rotary. The general feeling was to remove him permanently from the club. A committee led by Russ Klauser was formed to formulate a recommended action, and their decision was to suspend his membership for six months. If Al requested it, the suspension would become a leave of absence instead. This was, in fact, done. After the six months were over, he came back into the club, and continued his sometimes abrasive efforts at making the club better. But severe personal problems, which became legal problems with jail time, eventually ended his service in Lakewood Rotary. It was an ignominious end to the Rotary career of a spirited leader of the club.



The Pancake Breakfast, 1961

The Pancake Breakfast

4/11/68: "Pancake Breakfasts: It's kind of like the old story about the fellow who was asked why he kept hitting himself in the head with a hammer. His very obvious answer was because it felt so good when he stopped. That's us and the Pancake Breakfast, right?"

After four years of existence, Lakewood Rotary was doing lots of little things, but they were getting restless to make a much bigger impact. The feeling increasingly became, "is that all there is to Rotary?" In the bulletin one week, the writer described a very fun party held at the Rediske's, 17 couples enjoying themselves mightily. "Just think of the manpower that was used at that social affair. Imagine the impact that we could have on a good Rotary project!?"

Shortly after that, the trio of Jim Rediske, Al Stearns and Russ Klauser met in Rediske's basement. Russ brought up an idea that his former partner had used at his service club, a pancake breakfast. Klauser recalled, "With all the drinking (at that first meeting), it's a miracle it ever got started in the first place." But it did, and just like that, the plan was hatched for the first Lakewood Rotary Pancake Breakfast.

Of course, they had no grills, no utensils, no place to have the event. Details, details....all of which were worked out in short order. On Easter Sunday, 1961, the 44 members of Lakewood Rotary held their first event at the Lakewood Lanes bowling alley. In the first couple of hours, they had virtually no customers, and some of the Rotarians were calling the fledgling event "Stearns' Flat Jack". But then, as one member put it, "all hell broke loose. We blew fuses, burnt pancakes, cremated the sausage, and drove trucks like crazy from Dez Isaacson's bowling alley to the Terrace

(where the sausage was cooked). But we fed 'em all." Russ Klauser donated all the ingredients. Dez Isaacson donated his facilities, and the net was an astonishing \$2000. The event continued to be held at the bowling alley for three years, until it burned down, and it moved to the Lakewood Terrace for four years, then Clover Park High School, then Olav's Family Restaurant in 1968, when the first grills were purchased. In 1969, it was back to Clover Park High, where it remained until the last Pancake Breakfast, the 44th, in 2004.

Gene Burgoyne said, "We used to work 5:30 am to 3 pm. Charlie Peterson, Jim Rediske, Russ Klauser, a dozen others, all day long. I tell you, the rapport that comes from people working side by side, that's the best. Working together for something good, that's the most important thing, the best thing about the Pancake Breakfast." And from Mel Neighbors, "Really fun times, lots of fellowship. The neatest memories, though, are of the kids growing up over the years."

There are today a number of current Rotarians that received their first introduction to community service through the Pancake Breakfast, and countless others as well. There were always many, many family members and friends who came back year after year to help out. Like almost all things in Lakewood Rotary, the line between "fun" and "service" seemed a total blur.

In the early days of the event, most of the tickets were actually sold to people outside of Rotary, and individual ticket sales were charted weekly. If you had a zero by your name, the member was likely to be taken to task by Al Stearns. Others got competitive. One year, Mel Neighbors infiltrated the church of fellow Rotarian (and minister) Ken Anderson. When the parishioners opened their hymnals one

Sunday, they found a ticket form with Mel's address. It worked for Mel: he received many ticket sales in subsequent weeks. But Mel was somewhat surprised not to hear a word from Ken. Then, during a Friday Rotary meeting, Harold Gray (Assistant Superintendent, Clover Park Schools) was called up and asked to identify a piece of paper as being school district property. After doing so, Judge Spirro Damis was called upon to note the serious nature of the crime of stealing federal property for personal use. Finally, Mel was called up. Being a school district employee (elementary school principal at that time), he thought he was being called upon for a similar identification. What he soon found out was that Ken Anderson had taken many of the ticket request forms and plastered them all over the window of Al Stearns' pharmacy window. Al then instigated the "legal" challenge. Ken had his revenge, and Mel had his fine.

Most years, the sausage was cooked offsite very early in the morning. This particular committee was a select group: you were chosen---volunteers need not apply. They started at 2 or so in the morning, and the sausage frying "required" a generous amount of drinking in order to accomplish the task. And they weren't drinking water. Harold Gray suspected that alcohol was involved (it wasn't a state secret), and would try and catch them in the act. They were, after all, on school grounds and the drinking of alcohol was strictly prohibited. He never succeeded. Meanwhile, it was lucky no one died in the pursuit of superbly cooked sausage: the grills were parked up against a wall, and all the cooks were behind the gas grills in a single line. If there were to be a fire, someone would surely have been hurt, as escaping would have been impossible. In the end, no one was hurt, aside from the odd hangover the next day. And that sausage was good.

Dave Sclair (future District Governor) wrote of the event after his first year as a Lakewood Rotarian, in his Suburban Times newspaper, on April 20, 1977: "The experience was new to me, and totally exhilarating. I couldn't believe the scope of that operation, and the turnout to get things in shape (for the setup). Husbands, wives, sons, daughters, in-laws and probably a few out-laws were on hand with VP Mel Neighbors, who was walking around the room with this instruction sheet in one hand telling everyone what to do and why. Sunday morning's performance amazed me even more. The turnout of workers was outstanding. Both club members and family members showed up by the drove and often times people had food sitting in front of them even before everyone at the table had been seated....sudden service was the name of the game. Everyone pitched in and helped....from the old-timers to the youngest kids who put butter on the pancakes. Where in Lakewood can you see 3500 people get together in one building on one day? Sure, they were not all there at once, but between 9 and 10 am there were more than 600 people in the building at one time. There isn't any other activity that gets that many area residents together in one place on one day." Rare is the event that continues basically unchanged for 44 years. In Lakewood, nothing else came close.



Bennie Anderson, Jim Rediske, Al Hagen, Unidentified (1960's)

From an initial net of \$2000, the Pancake Breakfast grew to net nearly \$25,000 per year. Toward the end, the feeding of 3500 people had dwindled to barely a 1000, with the competition that came from church Easter breakfasts, among other things. All good things must come to an end, they say, and so it was with this event. But there can be no denying the place that the Pancake Breakfast holds in the history of Lakewood Rotary. It was the first large event staged by the club, and it was the event that galvanized the club. It is not going too far out on a limb to say that much of the personality of Lakewood Rotary comes from the Pancake Breakfast. Families worked together, Rotarians worked together, all in the spirit of community service. It was an unbelievable amount of work, with many, many man-hours. And fun.



Bernie Ootkin

10/28/66: "Dr. Bernie Ootkin did a stint behind the rostrum, and said he's never been so nervous, having to address so many dressed men."

Charter member Bernie Ootkin's father and mother emigrated from Siberia in 1912. His father took up barbering, and his mother became an excellent tailor. Through their hard work and Bernie's tenacity, he graduated from the Marquette Medical School, eventually going to work for the Dupont Company, as well as opening a private practice. His Jewish heritage was both a source of pride and humor to Bernie. He once proclaimed at a meeting, "Roses are red- ish, Violets are blue-ish, If it wasn't for Jesus, We'd ALL be Jewish." As befitting one of the great "characters" of Lakewood Rotary, he was also the brunt of jokes by others---

which he delighted in. "Jim Early was sick this Friday (the weekend of the Pancake Breakfast), so Dr. Bernie Ootkin said he would stop in to see Jim. At that news, the work chief automatically crossed off Jim's name from the work list."

Very often, the invocation at the Rotary meetings would be offered up by Lutheran minister Ed Nesse. Ed would finish the prayer invariably with, "We ask these blessings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen." If Bernie was nearby, he would scoot over near Ed and whisper in his ear, "You left me out again." Humor was the great equalizer.

In 1967-68, Bernie served as President of Lakewood Rotary. While noteworthy, it hardly encompasses all that he meant to the club. While his son Greg was in high school, they were having a serious conversation about life. Bernie told him then that Rotary took the place of organized religion in his life. He felt the synagogue could be monotonous. Greg said, "He did feel strongly about Judaism, but it was more the philosophy than the practice. I think the message (my Dad gave) was that Rotary is an organization that encompassed people from all faiths, religions, and ideologies."

Bernie was instrumental, along with Clayton Peterson, in starting the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly) program in this Rotary district (one of the first districts in the world to adopt it, only a year after Rotary International authorized it). He loved the student exchange program, helped people in need with loans and gifts for schooling, and he most of all loved the Pancake Breakfast. Greg said, "It reminded him of when he was in pre-med at UC Berkeley where he bused tables and lived in the International House."

After completing his studies at Marquette Medical School, Bernie and his classmates all left for their internships.

Circumstances at the time made it impossible for the students to return for a proper graduation, and 50 years later, the school decided to give them their ceremony. Bernie and Olga joined the festivities, and on the last day of the event, just before the big banquet, Bernie told Olga, "Come with me, I want to show you something." It was an hour before the start of the event, and they weren't nearly ready, but off they went down the side streets of Racine, Wisconsin. After walking and walking, Bernie stopped, and with a big grin on his face, said, "What do you see?" Olga saw a suburb with not too many houses, and said so. Bernie said, "Look again." So Olga looked again, and saw that the house they were standing in front of had a plaque on the door. The plaque read, "Paul Harris was born in this house in 1868." They were going to be late for the gala, but Olga had been shown Paul Harris's birthplace, the birthplace of the man who founded Rotary. And that was more important to Bernie.

After Bernie's death in May of 1991, Olga set up the Bernie Ootkin Non-Rotarian of the Year Award. Each year, the club picks a community leader, not a Rotarian, who exemplifies the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. Olga donates \$1000 for a Paul Harris Fellowship, in the recipient's name. It is a big moment each year for her when Olga gets to do this in memory of Bernie. It also illustrates the continuing impact of a great man, a man whose faith, religion, ideology, family and friends all converged in a group known as Lakewood Rotary.

The Projects

6/27/03: "Projects, community, world, foundation and more/We've all been involved – nearly 7 score!/Our Programs educate, entertain and inform/The best part? Our members are way above the norm."

With the advent of the Pancake Breakfast in 1961, there was finally a fairly major revenue stream with which to donate money back to the community in a big way. Up until then, there were old-timers games, button sales, March of Dimes support, and so forth. But Lakewood Rotary still had not found its identity as a community support group. With the extra money from the Pancake Breakfast, they financed their first fairly large project, \$1560 toward the building of a new center for the Boy Scouts. In the years after that, there were donations near that amount, but nothing significant, until 1971. At that time, the club resolved to give \$15,000 toward the construction of picnic beach and bathhouse facilities at Waughop Lake in Ft. Steilacoom Park. Working with Pierce County proved difficult, at best, and when nothing had happened by 1974, the club rescinded their commitment to the project. Charlie Peterson had died in 1973, and the club voted to help build athletic fields in his honor at Ft. Steilacoom Park, for \$5,000. After ending the beach facilities financing, they increased the commitment to the baseball fields to \$10,000. Along with the money went labor in helping to build the two full sized baseball fields. In 1978, the club donated \$5,000 towards a piece of equipment used by the fire department, called the Jaws of Life, which is used in extracting people from damaged cars. Soon thereafter, the club continued its support of the developing fire department by purchasing their first rescue vehicle for \$42,500. One month after receipt of the vehicle, a life was saved, a life that wouldn't have been saved without

it. Lakewood Rotary was stepping up with some serious community support money.



Cap Peterson, Charlie Peterson, Harold Carlson, Rudy Tollefson

1980 was the year that Cap Peterson died of end stage renal disease. Besides being a focal point for the early years of the club because of his baseball success, he was much loved by many members, and his death hit them hard. When Cap was getting his treatments at St. Joseph's Hospital one day, Mike McGowan and Ron Herbel were present. They were disturbed by the quality of the care available. The two resolved to do something about it and after Cap died of a staff infection due to the treatments, they did. In September of that year, a committee was formed: The Friends of Cap Peterson Committee of the Rotary Club of Lakewood. Members included Max Flockerzie, Ron Herbel, Russ Klauser, Doug Cole, Bill Conley, Gene Burgoyne, Ben Bassett, Mike McGowan, and Harry Mansfield. The committee voted to approve the raising and spending of \$175,000 towards the construction of the \$1.5 million John A. Kennedy Renal

Dialysis Center. The committee wanted a wing named after Cap, but Cap had insisted otherwise, preferring it be named for his doctor, Dr. Kennedy. The club voted to give \$35,000 per year for five years, with \$10,000 per year coming from outside sources.

This was a lot of money for a club with an annual income of about \$25,000 per year, and disbursements to the community of about \$20,000 plus. Their intention was not to stop the other giving, but to add to the fundraising an additional \$25,000 per year. Needless to say, some of the more conservative elements of the club were more than skeptical. Many thought it folly to think that the club could fund that type of commitment. Some of the doctors were displeased about the money going to a hospital outside the community.

Mike McGowan proposed bringing in the internationally renowned economist, Milton Friedman, to speak at a Seattle theater. Friedman was the most eminent economic authority of the time. He won the Nobel Prize for Economic Science in 1976. He had authored 20 books, and received 13 honorary doctorate degrees. Mike and others sold the event to banks, other financial institutions, and major corporations. On September 22, 1981, at the Fifth Avenue Theater in Seattle, Friedman spoke. This event alone netted over \$65,000 (on a gross of \$104,783, less a speaker fee of \$20,000 and other expenses).

The bottom line: the club ended up raising over \$253,000 (original commitment: \$175,000), in just over 18 months. On March 18, 1983, the club had its Friday meeting at the John Kennedy Renal Dialysis Center. Mission accomplished.

In 1986, the club raised \$100,000 for the new Lakewood YMCA building. In 1992, \$100,000 was donated to the Mary

Bridge Childrens' Sexual Abuse center, a cornerstone of that multi-million dollar project. In 1994, \$100,000 was committed to the remodel of the Lakewood Theater as a community meeting hall. It would have served as the new meeting place for Lakewood Rotary, as well. The project fell apart, and \$50,000 was instead donated to the new Lakewood Boys and Girls Club.



Jim McGranahan, Ash White, Greg Rediske at Springbrook

In the late 1990's, the club dedicated \$50,000 toward the building of a new park near the McChord Air Force Base main gate. This area was, and is, economically depressed, and a park for the kids to play was a huge improvement. Several work days were spent clearing the brush and blackberry bushes. As the project progressed, several more work parties were held to install basketball hoops, spread

wood chips, and the like. Springbrook Park was dedicated in late 2000.

Around the same time as the Springbrook project, several members joined with a Rotary club in Gig Harbor to help build a hospital in Latvia. Club funds helped, but the biggest impact came from the individual endeavors of Lakewood Rotarians Richard Simmons, Ward Fletcher, Norm Tremaine, and Gordon Quick. These fellows made several trips to Latvia, physically building the hospital.

In 2004, the club committed more than \$100,000 toward the building of a huge playground at Ft. Steilacoom Park. Club fund raising efforts were so successful that over \$200,000 was eventually raised. The work of Dave Betz, John Magnuson, and Dave Sclair was the driving force behind the efforts. The park was physically built in one week, with more than 2800 community volunteers. It was another galvanizing Lakewood Rotary project.



Several of the projects undertaken by Lakewood Rotary have met with skepticism by some members, notably the Renal Dialysis Center and the Playground. And that skepticism was reasonable and viable. But in the end, the men and women that comprise Lakewood Rotary have yet to fail in any commitment they have made. In 50 years, all major projects have been successful. Taken in total, it is difficult to imagine the community of Lakewood without these projects having been completed. And that is the essence of Rotary.

Jim Rediske

11/23/73: "During January, Jim Rediske will once again dust off his copy of the 1897 Encyclopedia of Sophisticated Patter, Vaudeville Skits, and Music Hall Blackouts. From this book, Jim will select material to spice up the Bulletin for the next four weeks."

Jim Rediske was born and raised in Roy, Washington. Drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals at age 16, his practical German-farmer parents declined consent, and he instead starred in baseball and basketball at Pacific Lutheran College. He married Bonnie in 1951, which proved a benefit to his intended teaching career. The Clover Park School District needed a Spanish teacher (Bonnie), but she wouldn't sign up unless they took Jim. Soon, he was named principal for the newly built Idlewild Elementary. Directly due to his administrative abilities, Idlewild became THE elementary school in the district, driving property values up in the area. It remains, more than 20 years after his death, a premier school in the district.

He became a member of Lakewood Rotary on January 24th of 1958. From that day forward, Jim served to exemplify a Lakewood Rotarian during the early years. What he exemplified was fun with service. Or maybe service with fun. Jim was at virtually all the social events, and was somewhat renowned for his beer drinking. He was always kidded about it, partly because he was pretty much exclusively a beer drinker. With this, he fit in well with the party-like atmosphere of most Lakewood Rotary events. He was known to enliven the events, too, with his loud laughter and seemingly never ending rural clichés: "Holy Cow!", "dirty wisha washa bricka bracka", "don't take any wooden nickels", "son of a gun", and on and on. But it wasn't just the party. An accomplished educator, he was motivated by the

reasons for Rotary. Yes, it was fun, and fun was a good thing. But in the end, the service was why he, and they, were there. He was one of the three who came up with the Pancake Breakfast, and he spent 12 hours or more each Easter Sunday working the event, despite a great devotion to his church. He was the writer of the club bulletin for many, many years: perhaps writing more than any other member in the history of the club. For so many years, he would set aside his Sunday afternoons for slamming away at the manual typewriter, trying to create an entertaining bulletin. He served as secretary for five years (fourth longest tenure in the club history), and was president in 1964-65.

Serving the community was of paramount importance to him, leaving the world a better place. The only thing more important to him was his family. This attitude created a lot of good works, and countless Rotary friendships. He was diagnosed with pre-leukemia/aplastic anemia in 1982, requiring a bone marrow transplant. Six months later, the doctors told his family one morning that hope was gone. They immediately called fellow Rotarian, Pastor Ed Nesse, to ask him to be present for the final moments. Ed's wife, Ruth, told them that she was very sorry, but Ed wasn't there: he had recently left with friends to see the Mariners at the Kingdome. Jim's family was, to say the least, disappointed. Fifteen minutes later, Ed walked into the hospital. He said that he wanted to stop and see Jim on the way to the game. As a result of this caring, he was there with the family for Jim's last breaths.

Jim Rediske was the secretary of Lakewood Rotary the final year of his life. He asked his good friend, Mel Neighbors, to take over for him during his hospitalization. Jim had sponsored Mel in Rotary, and he knew Mel was more than happy to help out, but he felt badly about turning his job

over to Mel. Jim had his wife Bonnie order a wall clock with an inscription thanking Mel for his help, presented posthumously. Ed Nesse was there for him when he needed him. Mel Neighbors was there when he needed him. And Jim Rediske was there for a multitude of Rotarians and community people when they needed him. That was his idea of Rotary: together having fun, together making the community better, and together making friendships. Jim Rediske never thought of himself as anything remotely like a saint, but he believed that anyone can, and everyone should, try and make the world better.

And it was a joy doing it.



Jim Rediske at his desk at Idlewild Elementary

The Wild Game Dinner

9/8/73: "I overheard Harry Mansfield and his wife having a chit-chat at home one day, and they were discussing the forthcoming marriage of a very pretty family acquaintance. His wife says, 'We should give her a shower!' Harry answers back, 'Great idea! I'll bring the soap!'"

On November 13, 1970, the first Wild Game Dinner was held. Charlie Peterson and Harry Mansfield, avid hunters, thought up the notion. Another of the big hunters in the club, Gene Burgoyne, chaired the event, and Russ Klauser volunteered to bring the wine. The original concept of the dinner was to be a social event. Members donated wild game that they had caught/shot. The original cost of that first dinner: \$1.00. The club paid \$2.50 of the \$3.50 total dinner tab, with 43 members and 5 guests enjoying the night. The club also donated \$150 to purchase prizes. In 2006, the event will raise more than \$65,000 on this one night event. This first one showed a negative \$270.

In the history of Lakewood Rotary, there have been many functions dedicated to the ideals of class, virtue, and the pursuit of excellence. This was not one of those functions.

In the second year of the Dinner, it was decided that a little entertainment was in order. Charlie Peterson had a good idea for a skit. Charlie was a plain-talking, burly guy, a man's man, not one to ever see the inside of ballet performance hall. But this idea for a skit was a bit much, even for him. Charlie was nothing if not persuasive, and he managed to sit Jim Rediske down, ply him with a few beers, and get him to agree to the performance. So the time for the entertainment arrived, and Jim took the stage. It was announced that Jim would be playing a one-armed duck

hunter out in a duck blind. There is a lull in the action, and Jim has decided to take advantage of this, attempting to take care of a bodily function. It is sometimes referred to as “going number two”. Meanwhile, Charlie is behind the curtain with a duck call. As Jim goes thru the motions of setting down his shotgun, and getting himself in position to take care of his business, Charlie blows on the duck call. The one-armed hunter hurriedly stops what’s he doing, reaches for the gun, only to be a little too late. It’s tough to be a one-armed duck hunter trying to take care of business. Jim makes the attempt again, and again Charlie makes the duck sound, with the same results for Jim. Finally, the one-armed hunter is able to proceed with his business, and is finishing up the “paperwork”, when Charlie makes the duck sound again. The clearly frustrated hunter leaps up, and mistakenly puts the recently used toilet paper in his mouth in his hurried attempt to shoot the nearby ducks.

Dignity. Always dignity.

In the mid-1970’s, there was a federal judge by the name of Judge Boldt. He was despised for his decisions by almost all hunters, as he generally sided with the Native Americans in the battle for fishing rights in the area. With this as the background, Mel Neighbors dressed up as Judge Boldt in one of his stints as MC at the Wild Game Dinner. He proceeded to speak of the righteousness of his recent decisions, as the hard-drinking audience of hunters and fishermen booed him mercilessly. It was then that two barely dressed Indian “maidens” arrived at the proceedings, cooing at the “Judge”. The Judge (Mel) then left the stage, picked up one of the “maidens” and threw her over his shoulder, declaring what a darned good catch he’d just made. As he departed, some of the front row diners received quite a view of the departing damsel.

At least Mel had women at the event. The stag affair later had Norm Tremaine as the MC at the event for several years. As part of his very humorous patter, Norm would proclaim that a bus was on its way from Ponders (a notorious “red light” district) loaded with girls. This announcement never failed to raise a chorus of “whoopee” type responses. By the end of the evening, after numerous allusions to the soon-to- arrive girls, Norm would come up with some reason why they couldn’t make it, like the bus broke down or something. This went on for several years, until the girls finally did arrive. Much to the shock of Norm, two “girls” emerged from behind the curtain as the place went nuts. Too bad these were the ugliest “girls” anyone had ever seen: Rick Selden (as Little Bo Peep) and Dennis Shade, both in drag.



Dennis Shade, Norm Tremaine, Rick Selden

The event very soon became more than a social affair, raising money for local youth sports teams. Several baseball teams

sponsored by the club went on to play in national competition, and do very well indeed. Part of the money-raising aspect of the event resulted from a raffle and an auction. One year, a mounted giant marlin was donated. When Mel Neighbors was handling the master of ceremonies duties, he would search out a Rotarian to help with the bidding. The idea was to get this person to bid up the price to \$1000, and then drop out. The person was told that so and so had indicated they'd go over \$1000, if they had to, to get the fish. Mel made sure that the person whose help he was soliciting had been drinking plenty. This was the easy part, as there were so many choices. When the bidding reached \$1000, the person Mel had lined up to force the bidding was left holding the bag, as all other bidders dropped out. The marlin was donated the next year by the "winner", and Mel was able to bring off a similar outcome a second time. There's something about alcohol which inhibits the proper function of brain cells. Sadly, the marlin "scam", which raised so much money for the community, came to an end. Art Hudtloff was the last of the helpful bidders who paid \$1000 for the fish. He subsequently put it up in his bowling alley, and when the alley burned down, so did the fish. But he was a very, very profitable fish, indeed.

A promo for the 1994 Wild Game Dinner parodied the dictionary: "wild, adj. 1. not cultivated; 2. not checked, not restrained; 3. boisterous, as in 'wild boys' (See also: Harry Mansfield)." In 1995, another promo in the bulletin said, "Lord, help me to be pure, but not yet." And wild this dinner was. Times were different in the 1970's and 1980's, in that drinking excessively was much more accepted. These events had plenty of drinking. One chairman of the event (Greg Rediske) had as one of his tasks the responsibility to purchase the hard liquor. Being a beer drinker by avocation, he wasn't well versed in the type to get. He relied on the

liquor store sales person, who assured him that the brand he was recommending, while on sale, was excellent stuff. The drinkers did not agree. That was Greg's last time as chairman. Indeed, it was the last year he was even on the committee. Some sins cannot, and will not, be forgiven. It wasn't all good times, as you might expect when excessive alcoholic intake is involved. One year, a guest took to throwing bags of hickory chips (a minor prize) around the room, resulting in quite a mess. He was not invited back. Pyramids of beer cans were routinely stacked high on tables, and people were loud and sometimes rather crude. One year, the early diners, "tipsy" as most of them were, filled their plates to the overloaded level, and many of the later diners had little or no food to eat. But it was always a much-anticipated event, and attendance grew each year, and the fundraising kept climbing.

In January of 2004, resident Swedish jokester John Magnuson parlayed a few facts (very, very few) and much conjecture into the following history of this event. "Not too many people know that T. Torvald Torvaldssen III, a second generation Norwegian, was the progenitor of the event. He was originally from the Poulsbo Rotary Club. After having been run out of Kitsap County for trying to fob off lefse and lutefisk as Kosher meals during Hanukkah one year, he settled in the Ponders Corner area. Apparently he enjoyed the view. He was taken into Lakewood Rotary by Al Stearns, a Lakewood Pharmacist who enjoyed a reputation of taking his position as 'drug peddler' a little too seriously. Nevertheless, Mr. Torvaldssen (henceforth referred to as TTTIII) immediately became a protégé of Greg Rediske's Dad, Jim Rediske, later a president of our club. Torvald had a reputation of sorts regarding hunting, fishing, lying (redundant), road kill, and cooking (or should I say stewing) the product of his efforts. He was well known for his

prowess in concocting white sauce. He served white sauce on everything, but his specialty de la casa was---are you ready for your saliva glands to start juicing up?---Wonder Bread with white sauce. Mmmmm, mmmm. On a date that remains a mystery (but it was the '60's, and we all know what a time of turmoil that was) TTTIII decided to institute an event that remains today, but under a far more politically incorrect moniker: The Wild Game Dinner. Borrowing from a theme begun many years earlier in Gillette, Arkansas, he thought we could profit from their historic dinner called "The Gillette 'Coon Supper". Now everyone knows you can't call something that, but that's what they call it down there, and I have been there a couple of times and it is a rousing, successful event. They collect raccoons from hunting safaris, highways, traps, and 'coon hounds too numerous to mention and cook 'em up for folks to enjoy! So in Lakewood, in our meager attempt to replicate what happens in Arkansas as naturally as cousins marrying, Rotarians brought duck, goose, salmon, eel, and lutefisk. TTTIII even found he could charge for it! The rest is history."

With women in the club and with the stature of the event growing along with the fundraising, the evening was renamed "The Sportsman's Dinner" in 1995 during the Cindy Thompson regime. No more stacking beer cans on the table. No more excessive crudeness. No more "guys' night out" stuff. It was the '90's, and the excessive drinking thing was not as accepted anymore. The hunting angle and the unusual "wild game" dinner menu make for a very unique event that is the biggest annual fundraiser in Lakewood Rotary history. No one (or almost no one!) wants to go back to the ways of the original Wild Game Dinner. But are there ever stories to tell.

Gene Burgoyne

3/7/69: Cancer program promotion: "Smokers beware! Lung cancer is increasing each year. So that Winston may taste good, but have that checkup right after you finish the next pack, or it may finish you. (Boy, am I glad I don't use that brand!)"

By Dave Burgoyne

Dad was happy to be a Rotarian. No, that doesn't quite say it. Dad was very proud, very honored to be a Rotarian. That still doesn't express how he felt. You need to understand that it was almost a spiritual thing for him. The ethics of Rotary were a perfect match for Dad and the fact that Rotarians actually lived by them made his participation even sweeter. I guess you could say it was his church – without the guilt, without the shoulds and shouldn'ts. It was mature men doing what was best for their community while living life together. Male bonding at its finest.



When he moved his family from Bellevue to Lakewood in 1956 and started his insurance business, he probably didn't really know much about Rotary. But, by nature he was a doer and he soon discovered what was worth knowing about Tacoma, its people and its environs. A natural salesman, he did just what good insurance folks were supposed to do: he belonged to every community organization in existence – and frequently became the president; he coached kids baseball; he led Lakewood United; he was president of Sales and Marketing; he was a Lion; he played poker; and he golfed, becoming the first president of Oakbrook Country Club.

Soon, my first name became “O yer.” When I said my last name, the inevitable response was “O yer Gene’s son.” Dad was a force to reckon with in the community.

Then he met an even bigger (at least in reputation) force, Russ Klauser, and the “grande old arm twister” asked if Gene wanted to join Lakewood Rotary. Dad didn’t hesitate. He trusted Russ and trusted his Rotary brothers implicitly.

At that time, membership in our club was a plum. There was, literally, a “black ball” and not every prospect made it to the roster. Dad did make it, and I remember the day. He was absolutely thrilled. He was with the “do-ers and shakers” of Lakewood. The guys who got things done. The owners and managers, school leaders, medical professionals – the top achievers. And that was Gene’s cup of tea. Plus, they liked to party and Dad was never a wallflower.

As the years went on, Dad knew many Rotary highlights: In 1970, he, Charlie Peterson and Harry Mansfield formed the first Wild Game Dinner, now called the Sportsman’s Dinner. At its inception, it was, literally, wild game – duck,

pheasant, goose, moose, venison, ad infinitum -- all provided by Rotary hunters and their friends. In later years, it earned the teasing moniker: "Road Kill Grill."

Dad also organized an annual Rotary Pool and Poker Tournament that cemented life-long friendships - and left more than a few Rotarians hung-over and asleep in our basement. And he was on the organizing committee that honored our own Cap Peterson by raising over \$253,000 for the Kennedy Renal Dialysis Center. Typically, the final dollar tally exceeded its goal by a ton.

As the years progressed, Gene's mind didn't. It really began to slip when he retired and discovered that the world didn't see him the same way anymore. But he kept attending Rotary, sitting quietly with a small group of old timers, hoping that he wouldn't say something that would embarrass himself or the club he loved. Without fanfare, his torch was passed to new Rotarians. But, I dare say, none would ever feel prouder of being a Rotarian than Gene Burgoyne. It truly fed his soul.



The Greenleaf Theory

7/7/72 "And Jim's grammar leaves much to be desired, too. But I'll not fault him too much about that as I remember my grammar, she wasn't perfect. She was mean to gramper!"

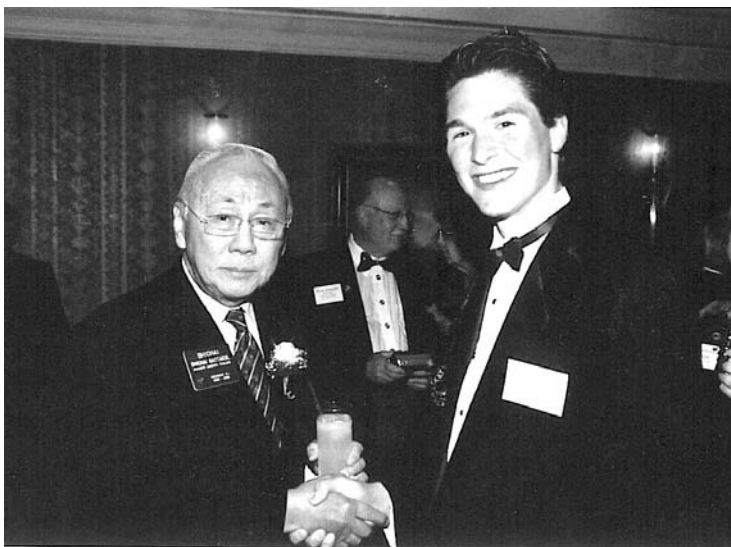
For more than twenty years, the Greenleaf Theory has been invoked as a fining standard. The simple answer as regards the question of "what is the Greenleaf Theory anyway?" is this: If it's worth talking about, it's worth \$20.

There has never been a question as to where the famous theory originated, as clearly it finds its genesis with Past President (1976-77) Don Greenleaf. But contrary to normal supposition, it did not start then, nor was it a proclamation by President Don at the time of his presidency. According to Don himself, the story goes like this: At a Fireside Meeting in

July of 1984, newly inaugurated president Ron Herbel was trying to decide on a fining policy. The club was just coming off the Sid Acuff year, when "a two dollar fine with six months to pay was a real scorcher," says Don. Club finances demanded a higher fine level, and Ron was struggling with how high to go. Ron asked Don at the meeting how he went about setting fine levels when he was president. Don said, "Well, Ron, in my year, my theory was that if it wasn't worth twenty dollars, it wasn't worth talking about." Basically, Don was saying that the normal fine should be in the \$20 range. Well it so happens that the Fireside was at Don's home, and while there that evening, Don showed him his brand new boat. By long-standing Rotary tradition, this boat was clearly a fine-able offence. At the very next Friday meeting, Ron had Don stand and tell him about the "theory", probably in hopes of off-loading any grouching about the increased fine levels. Don did as instructed, explaining the \$20 rule. A little later in the meeting, during the "fine time", Ron asked Don about his new boat. The conversation went back and forth, as these negotiations are prone to do, until Ron finally asked the length of the boat. Don replied that it was seventeen and one half feet long. With his continued concern about appearing to be a cutthroat finer, Ron proclaimed that one dollar per foot would be a good fine, rounding it up to \$18. In true Jack Benny-fashion, Don just continued standing, and slowly shook his head "no". Don said, "At this point, I could see his face actually turn white as he was thinking, 'oh, *&#!---my first meeting and what is Greenleaf going to do to me?' And then I said, 'If it isn't worth twenty dollars, it isn't worth talking about,' and sat down to much laughter and applause. Paul Reeder happened to be sitting next to me and said, 'That's the best two dollars you've ever spent.'"

And he was right. Twenty years later, the Greenleaf Theory is still a standard of the club. One would have to believe that unless rampant inflation takes over, the Theory will continue to be used for another few decades.

For all the things Don has done and accomplished, that extra two dollars on his fine has served to raise his name to a level of fame reached by few others in the club. The Greenleaf Theory remains Lakewood Rotary law. If it's worth talking about, it's worth twenty dollars. And that's a fact.



R.I. President Bhichai Rattakul and Lakewood Exchange Student, Alberto Cavalin

The Paul Harris Foundation

7/4/87: "Some of you will be receiving a letter in the mail asking for completion of a form to aid in the writing of your bio for the newsletter. Thank you for not procrastinating, as you have done the last two times requested."

The Rotary Foundation was begun in 1917 by Arch Klumph, sixth president of Rotary International. By 1928, the endowment had grown to only \$5,739.00. When Paul Harris died in 1947, more than \$1 million was donated to the newly named Paul Harris Foundation. That year, 18 scholarships were awarded for graduate students to study overseas.

Today, more Paul Harris scholarships are given each year than Rhodes and Fulbright combined. Just as the national fundraising got off to a slow start, so it was with Lakewood's contributions to the fund. It was not until 1971 that the club

produced its first Paul Harris Fellow (gift of \$1000), Russ Klauser. Russ was made head of the committee that year, and he not only gave money himself, but convinced Al Stearns, Tom March, and Boyd Lundstrom to become sustaining members (\$100 donation, with ongoing payments). At that time, Rotary District 502 had seven Paul Harris fellows, including Sustaining Members. Lakewood had four of the seven. Russ later got Matt Clapp, John Main and Glen Anderson to join. Seven Paul Harris Fellows was far ahead of District goals, but nowhere near Russ's expectations. It was time for serious measures.

In 1974, Russ Klauser invited nine other Lakewood Rotarians to meet him for lunch at the Mirror Room in the Lakewood Terrace restaurant. This event has entered Lakewood Rotary lore as "The Famous Lunch." When the last of the nine arrived, Russ shut the door. "Gentlemen, we have a problem. And you're going to help fix it." Russ proceeded to explain the benefits of the Foundation, and the good it does in the world. And he told them that after lunch, they could leave the room in one of two ways: signing a check to the Foundation for \$1000, or signing an IOU to Russ to the same effect. The 10: Russ Klauser, Mike McGowan, Gene Burgoyne, Bud Estes, Dez Isaacson, Harry Mansfield, Bernie Ootkin, Charlie Peterson, Jim Walter, and Howard Williams. Lakewood Rotary's foundation giving was on its way. That evening, Bernie Ootkin returned home to Olga, chuckling. Olga asked him what was so funny, and Bernie replied, "That Klauser.....", and chuckled some more.

Russ Klauser eventually ceded much of the day to day operation of the committee to his protégé, Mike McGowan. Mike met with a Long Beach, California Rotarian by the name of Jim Sassy, who explained their club's program. Mike immediately adopted it, getting computer software

written to handle it. Members were now expected to become Paul Harris Fellow sustaining members at joining, committing as little as \$2.00 per week. The program was and is hugely successful.

In 1994-95, the 90th Anniversary of Rotary was celebrated. The District goal was 90 new Paul Harris fellowships over the course of the year. Prorated, that meant Lakewood Rotary was responsible for two. President Paul Reeder wanted to make sure the club exceeded that target, and it did after one month when six were turned in. By year's end, the club had earned 45 new Paul Harris Fellowships, half of the goal of the entire district. At the commemorative dinner, the handing out of Lakewood Rotary awards lengthened the award ceremony so much that it dragged on into the night.

By 2003, Lakewood Rotary had contributed over \$500,000 to the Paul Harris Foundation. To commemorate this great achievement, Mike McGowan planned a black tie optional dinner event at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club. With help from past Rotary International board member and Gig Harbor Rotarian Floyd Olson, Mike was able to get the Rotary International President, Bhichai Rattakul of Thailand to speak at the event. Getting a man of his world stature to speak in Lakewood was a fete nearly as amazing as raising the \$500,000. The handling of his visit was a challenge as well: it was like having a head of state, or a famous rock star. He was absolutely humble, but his entourage was paid to make his movements as trouble free as possible, and this required a great deal of special procedures. Mike McGowan became aware that Mr. Rattakul loved Kit Kat bars, and Mike decided to provide a case in his hotel room, much to the President's delight and amusement. Nearly 200 people attended the festive evening commemorating Lakewood's monumental achievement.

By March of 2006, Lakewood Rotary had raised over \$611,000 in funds for the Paul Harris Foundation. More than 300 Lakewood Rotarians, friends and family members are Fellows, and there are many members with multiple fellowships. One member has 21.



Mike McGowan, Russ Klauser, Jim Walter: Installation Banquet

Russ Klauser

10/13/67: "The gallery (for the golf tourney) was small and the math was long, long and longer. We did have lots of fun and Russ Klauser and I arranged free drinks for all of the gallery. We are so happy that you couldn't make it."

Over the years, a number of people have assumed that Russ Klauser's real first name must be Russell. A reasonable assumption. But in fact, Russ was his mother's maiden name, and his birth certificate states his name to be Russ Klauser. So now you know.

Of all the legends that make Lakewood Rotary what it is now, Russ Klauser is the biggest and most enduring of those

legends. A legend he is, a huge presence he had, a great man he was. But he wasn't big. In his prime, he may have stood 5'6" tall. But he had to learn early that being a man wasn't about your size. His father died when he was young, and he had to work hard early in his life to help support his mother. She was a taskmaster, though a loving one. She lived to be 100 years old, and Russ was acutely attentive to her until her last breath was taken.

Russ worked hard early in life, and was making a name for himself in and around the grocery business. He traveled the West Coast as a salesman, quite successfully, before he was called into the service during World War II. After serving in the Pacific theater, he returned home to eventually open up his first grocery store. Business was good, and he added more stores, eventually opening up Villa Thriftway in 1957. Problems arose at the store, and he moved his wife and daughter to Lakewood temporarily to fix the issues. He never left.

He joined Lakewood Rotary in 1958, and he and the club were never the same after that. Russ had a deep and raspy voice, almost like a growl. His vocal delivery could put a person on notice, and often did. He fancied himself something of a tough guy, and he definitely could be. Pity the car driver who made a foolish or intimidating move toward Russ on the highway. But for every instance of tough behavior, there were 100 examples of his soft heart. One of the employees of his Lakewood grocery store never tired of telling the story of how he was promised a bonus if he hit certain numbers. He did, but the store was losing money overall. But the deal with this employee was gospel, and the fellow told anyone who would listen that Russ had to borrow money to pay him his earned bonus. He was beloved by his employees, and that's not the usual.

Russ was there for the origination of the Pancake Breakfast, and he funded all of the supplies for the first few years. He bought all the wine for the first Wild Game Dinner. He went to almost all the events, and he and wife Maxine were first in line for all the parties. Service and have fun, too, was how he lived his life in Lakewood Rotary.

In 1971, he wrote a check for \$1000 to become the first Paul Harris Fellow in Lakewood Rotary. He became a legend in Lakewood Rotary when he managed to get 15 others to join him within the next three years. You don't get 15 people to pledge \$1000 by simply asking. Unless you're Russ, of course, because asking with him drifted very close to "telling". He led by example, and you darned well better be following, or else.

Russ did not brag about this wealth, at least not in the traditional sense. He was indeed proud of his earned success. He worked hard, starting with nothing but his mother's force of will, as well as his own, and ended up a considerable player in the grocery business (Washington State Grocer of the Year, 1982). Brag he could have, but he didn't: except just a little in his own way. Russ originated the "matching fine". It started in Mel Neighbor's year as president, when Mel called upon Mike McGowan for some offense crying out for a fine. While negotiating the size of the fine with Mike (who was Russ's general manager, and later bought Russ's business), Russ stood up and declared that all should be matching fines: Russ, Mike, and Mel. When the dust settled, poor Mel was dragged into a \$150 fine to match Mike's \$150 and Russ's \$150. From that day forward, Lakewood Rotary President's were very, very careful about finding themselves in a position for a Klauser matching fine.

In July of 1994, the Lakewood Rotarian of the Year Award was renamed the Russ Klauser Rotarian of the Year Award. Russ died on September 7th of that same year.

When doing interviews for this history, the author asked several interviewees to name three Lakewood Rotarians who had most influenced them personally. There were quite a few names given, but on almost every list was one name, Russ Klauser. That sums up the effect he had on the lives of others quite succinctly.



Rotary Anns And Women in Rotary

12/24/65: *"The best way to stop the noise in your car is to let her drive."*

When Lakewood Rotary began, it was an all-male organization. Taken in the context of the times, it is hardly surprising. Men were the "bread winners" as a general rule, with the majority of women being stay-at-home moms and housewives. The view of women could often be dismissive, a long way from enlightened. And yet women were an early part of the success of Lakewood Rotary. In August of 1958, seventeen wives of Lakewood Rotarians held the first Rotary Anns meeting. The President was Anita Williams, Vice President was Joan Stearns, Secretary was Pat McDonald, and Treasurer was Meta Zarrow. Their first appearance in club history was social, when the Rotary Anns organized the first Christmas Dinner/Dance in 1959.

"Rotary Anns" is the original name for the wives of Rotarians' groups. The name came about in 1914, when the wife of San Francisco bridge designer and second Vice President of Rotary (1917-18), H.J. Brunnier, was the only female on a train load of Rotary passengers to a convention. Her name was Ann, and the fun-loving Rotarians began chanting, "Rotary-Ann! Rotary-Ann!"

Later, Ann Brunnier was with Ann Gundaker, wife of future Rotary President Guy Gundaker (1923-24), and the two formed an informal Rotary Ann group, which became the unofficial name for the organization of Rotary wives. Rotary forever discouraged the attachment of the name "Rotary" to these groups, but they failed at stopping it.

Lakewood Rotary's Rotary Ann group made their first major contribution in their assistance and support of the Pancake Breakfasts. It would be impossible to imagine these events without their hard work in the setup (table settings, flowers, etc.), serving, and clean-up. Eventually, they started receiving 10% of the net proceeds of the Breakfast, which financed their awarding of scholarships, among many other civic endeavors. The group has almost always met monthly on Mondays throughout most of the year.

"Rotary Anns" they stayed until 1982, when they changed their name to the Lakewood Women of Rotary. Rabble-rousing Clover Park Rotarian Dave Sclair crashed one of their meetings after his wife, Mary Lou, became a Lakewood Rotarian. He "demanded" a name change, as he was a spouse of a Lakewood Rotarian but most assuredly not a woman. And so they became the Partners in Lakewood Rotary. The group continues to flourish as an entity unto itself, all the while being a huge part of Lakewood Rotary's success.

Women becoming members was another subject entirely. In 1970, Carl Fynboe suggested that the club have a particular woman come to the Friday meetings to lead the club in a few songs periodically. The board responded, "We do not want a woman at our meetings all the time, and we don't want to become a singing club." In that order. In July of 1980, the bulletin writer wrote, "Speaker Christine Shannon grabbed our attention in telling us why women should be admitted to Rotary. Does she have a point? Let's ask our wives! I've got a feeling it's gonna be a long, long time."

With Rotary having spent over \$200,000 in legal fees defending their no-female rule, the Rotarian Magazine published a review of the reasons for and against in the January, 1987 issue. Essentially, they pointed out that

women's roles had changed, and that gender should not prohibit women from taking part in community service. On the negative side, it said that wives of Rotarians would become second class citizens. Women would cause friction. The basic emotional makeup of men and women had not changed, and society needs groups for both sexes. And finally, "Rotary as we know it today would be at risk if women enter, because of the inevitable temperament changes in the clubs." This final argument was echoed by many Lakewood Rotarians at this time.

Jim Strait took the reins of Lakewood Rotary in 1988 as Rotary International resolved to allow female members. Jim had to deal with numerous threats of resignation, but told one and all that "any women proposed for membership would be considered fairly and conscientiously." Jim later said, "And the rest is history. There were no resignations." On November 4, 1988, the first female Rotarian was installed, Genie Latta. Mary Casad followed shortly, and the third was future Lakewood Rotary President (2004-2005), Mary Lou Sclair. The first female President of Lakewood Rotary was Cindy Thompson (1995-96).

Gordie Quick said that when he took a Group Study Exchange group to Germany in the late 1980's, he was told by many, many German Rotarians (and he's paraphrasing here), "Just what the heck are you American Rotarians thinking, bringing women in?!?" As it turns out, the American Rotarians were thinking intelligently. It would be hard to find a Rotarian today to complain about the joining of women. While some changes have occurred in the atmosphere, many of those changes have been good. And there is clearly no denying the tremendous impact of women on the success of Rotary in general and Lakewood Rotary in particular.

Interestingly, the effect on the Rotary Anns/Lakewood Women of Rotary/Partners in Lakewood Rotary has been negligible. They remain a vibrant support group for the men and women of Lakewood Rotary.

Al Hagen

5/10/86: "Bill Lincoln was sawing away on a piece of wood in his backyard when Paul Sullivan came by. Paul asked, 'How is your wife?' Bill said, 'She has a very bad cold.' Then Paul said, 'Is that her coughin'?' Bill answered, 'No, I'm building a hen house.'"

The above could very easily have been a story told by Al Hagen. A consummate story and joke teller, he could remember the first one he ever heard. A group he belonged to in his later years, the Washington State Seniors, relied on Al as their "designated joke teller". But this talent would probably not be the first that come to mind to his fellow Lakewood Rotarians.

Al was a rock. The second new member in the club in 1956, he was virtually a charter member. He was President in 1959-60. Until he died in late 2000, he was a participant in virtually every golf tournament, game trip, district conference, hamburger fry, and every other activity of the club. As his widow Venette recalled, "Al put Rotary above anything."

Al was the unofficial "king of the syrup" at the pancake breakfasts. He took ownership of the duty, cleaning syrup bottles, making sure the servers always had syrup to put on the tables. This particular "king of syrup" also happened to have been awarded the Legion of Merit by the United States Army on December 31, 1968. This honor he shared with the likes of George Patton, Audie Murphy, Omar Bradley, Tommy Franks and John McCain. Established in 1942 by President Franklin Roosevelt, the Legion of Merit is awarded for "outstanding conduct in the performance of meritorious service to the United States."

Born in Clinton, Iowa, Al spent five years in Minnesota during his teen years, working on the family farm. Shortly after this, he joined the army. Despite never going to college, he took numerous correspondence courses (particularly in engineering), and rose to the rank of Colonel.

One of Al's highlights was also one of his lowlights: he was elected as President of the Tacoma Country and Golf Club in November of 1961. It promptly burned down in December. Then, just before the end of his term in October of 1962, the Columbus Day storm racked the region, and rendered the golf course unplayable for a long time. And they wanted him to remain for another year as President. Their board was either a glutton for punishment, or deeply in love with the easy-going talents of a very likeable man.

Al was excellent at virtually anything he attempted: dancing, baseball, football, basketball, bowling, and golf. He first shot his age on a golf course at 72, and did so every year until he was 89. He got his first and only hole-in-one at age 88. Al married Venette Lewis in 1974, after his first wife Mary died. Venette had been married to charter Lakewood Rotarian and former Treasurer of the club, John Lewis, who died of leukemia.

Rotary was indeed everything to Al. It was his kind of dedication that others in the club rallied around. In so many ways, he was, quietly, The Rock of Lakewood Rotary.

Williams Party/ The Toutle/Packwood

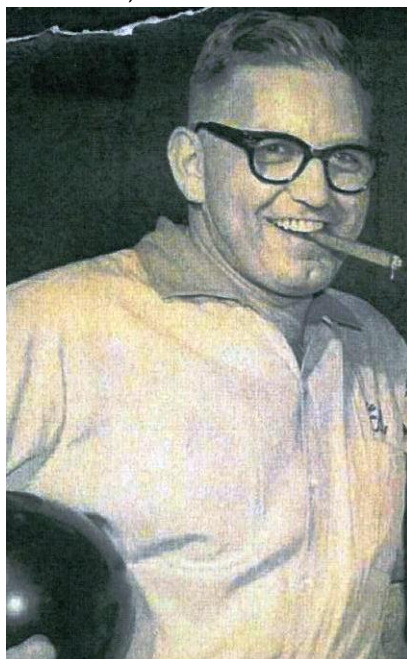
8/15/68: "If any new members are shy about walking in alone (to the Williams' party), give us a call and we will see that you get a buddy to go with, but you will have to crawl home on your own knees."

Howard Williams, also known as Bronco, was a charter member of Lakewood Rotary, while his father was instrumental (as a member of Tacoma #8) in chartering the club. He remains, at this writing, the longest serving Lakewood Rotarian: 44 years, 11 months. Virtually all of that time was perfect attendance. He and wife Anita were tireless workers for Rotary and the Rotary Anns. Bronco was the master of pancake batter preparation from the beginning until his death. Actually, the committee would have been more aptly named "Pancake Batter Mixing/Card Playing".

Howard and Anita started the social life of the Lakewood Club with their first annual "Williams Party", held on May 15, 1958. From the beginning, the event was held at their party room/swimming pool. The party room was originally a chicken coop, but Howard remodeled it. At that first extravaganza, the highlight was apparently the acting of Al Hagen as Elvis in a game of charades, doing "Jailhouse Rock." Most years, more than 80% of the club (and wives) attended. Steak was served, songs were sung, volleyball was played, and occasionally a drink was imbibed. Maybe more than occasionally. The bulletin reported in 1965, "Bring your own steak and bathing suits (no objection to topless). Dress: informal, sporty, or sloppy." In 1968, Boyd Lundstrom was pushed (with clothes on) into the pool. It might have been funnier if he knew how to swim. Fortunately, he was

removed successfully from the water, though not with a smile on his face. In 1983, Tom Kanno held a Rotary luau at the site, cooking a pig in a pit.

While the Williams' party was wives-invited, the Toutle trips were definitely not. The first one at the Peterson retreat was February 18, 1966. Fishing for steelhead, trap shooting, card playing and drinking were the activities of the day. The Toutle excursions ended with Charlie's death and were eventually moved to the Packwood vacation home of Ed Selden. Ed was a Rotarian in Olympia in the late 1940's, but moved to Lakewood in 1955. He became one of the early members of Lakewood Rotary, joining in June of 1957. Ed was the consummate paddle man at the early Pancake Breakfasts, flipping pancakes with Dick Emery, wetting their whistles simultaneously. Never a president, he was nonetheless a central cog in the Lakewood Rotary machine. The club needed workers, and he was definitely one of those.



Ed Selden

Ed is part of Lakewood Rotary lore for a more stressful reason, too. While the Club was still at the Lakewood Terrace in the early 1980's, Russ Klauser was asked to put on a presentation about the Paul Harris Foundation. Russ hated public speaking, despite having to practice it frequently. Not wanting to suffer alone, he called upon fellow committee member Ed Selden to make part of the presentation. Ed hated public speaking more than anything, but managed to do the deed. He sat down, stressed but relieved, and Russ started his presentation. It was the first and last time that anyone interrupted Russ. Ed passed out onto the floor. His son, Rick, immediately went to his side. Almost as quickly, doctors Early, Ootkin, and Greenleaf joined him. Dr. Ootkin checked his pulse, and reported that there was none. He was technically dead at that moment. Dr. Greenleaf removed Ed's dentures, and mouth to mouth was instigated while Dr. Early did CPR. Across the room, Mel Neighbors (like everyone in attendance) waited anxiously for the drama to unfold. He heard a tapping, and was immediately incensed. He thought that Gordy Quick was taking the opportunity to clean his pipe (as he sometimes did) by tapping it into the ashtray. Mel looked at Gordy, prepared to give him the business, when he saw he was doing no such thing. The tapping was in fact Ed's ribs being cracked during the life-saving procedure. He was revived by the doctors, the lesson being that if you're going to have a heart attack, have it with three doctors within a few feet of you. The fire department aid vehicle (that Rotary had paid for) arrived shortly, and he was transported to the hospital. He was kept overnight there, and released the next day. Art Hudtloff heard he was released, and went to visit the recovering Ed at his home. When Art arrived, two days after the heart attack during which his pulse had ceased, Ed was working in his garden smoking his cigar.

The Packwood events had the same flavor as the Toutle retreats: plenty of drinking, card playing, skeet shooting, and wood cutting. At one such retreat, they noticed that a sign had been posted saying that no gun shooting was allowed within such and such area. It appeared to include the Selden cabin, but just barely, so they decided to think that maybe they were wrong, and the cabin was outside the limit. During a period of rest, a sheriff pulled up. "Where's Ed?", he said. Mel Neighbors and John Lee handled the conversation, indicating that Ed was not there just then. "Don't you fellows know that there is a shooting ban here?" Mel said, "Well, we were thinking that we're just outside the banned area." The sheriff said, "Well, I don't think so. I'll go double check and get back to you fellas and let you know. Tell Ed I said 'Hi'". Off he went. Though they failed to mention it to the sheriff, Ed was off buying more ammunition for the skeet shooting contest. Said contest resumed, and the understanding sheriff never returned. He was undoubtedly, like everyone else, a good buddy of Ed's.

Another year, the card game was going on, as usual. Jim Skar decided that it was a good time to entertain the troops with his concertina (a small accordion). Don Greenleaf indicated to Jim that his assumption was incorrect: it was not a good time at all. Jim wasn't so sure of this assessment, and continued. At least, he continued until Don got up and started strangling him. Message received.

After women were allowed in the club, the "boys' night out" events came to a close, for better or worse (mostly better). The drinking was tempered, and the activities became less male-oriented. In 1990, the Packwood Retreat became a mixed event. Skiing became the central activity (at White Pass), and women and children were invited. Dinner at the

Selden's (cooked by Rick) became the event's social focus, and a good time was the theme. It was definitely a different kind of good time compared to the early days, but a good time nonetheless.



*Back Row: Al Stearns, Al Hagen, Jim Rediske
Front Row: Vearl Ball, Jim Walter*

Sports & Lakewood Rotary

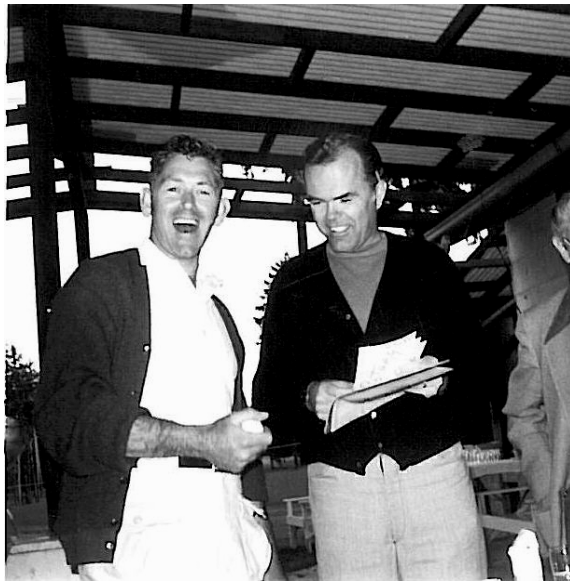
11/5/82: "Ferrel Gines announced the volleyball team did win a game. I believe they beat the Annie Wright School, but no score was mentioned."

In addition to sponsoring many youth sports (especially baseball) teams, the club's members have been active as sports participants. The first such event was an old-timers baseball game in August of 1956. It was the Old Timers (Rotary) vs. the Lakewood Lakers (?). \$700 was raised (\$1200 the following year, and \$2000 in 1958). A bowling tournament won by Charlie Peterson followed in February of 1957, followed by a golf tournament in May of 1957. In September of 1959, a golf tournament was held pitting

Tacoma #8 against the fledging club. The youngsters won by a point, beginning a long history of domination over the larger club.

In 1960, Lakewood Rotary became serious about their sports. Three bowling teams were formed, with averages ranging from 114 to 191 (Dez Issacson was 191; Al Hagen was 178). With substitutes, they had about 20 bowlers, in a club of less than 45 members. In 1963, it was noted that Al Hagen had the high average (167), Howard Haley was the most improved (113 to 132), and Russ Klauser was most consistent (132 start, 132 finish). As the 1960's neared an end, bowling dwindled away as a regular club sport.

No discussion of sports in Lakewood Rotary could be complete without mention of the program for the September 10 meeting in 1965: a film entitled, "How to watch pro football." One has to wonder whether such a program was REALLY necessary.....



Ralph Lockhart, Ray Highsmith

The first annual golf tournament was held in 1961, and ended with Chuck West winning following a playoff, with a net of 67. The following year, Bernie Ootkin "won" high gross for the second time in two tries (114). The bulletin noted his score "which was much better than last year's score. You see, it pays to practice constantly: once a year." Al Hagen was low net. The third tournament was won by Gene Burgoyne. The tournaments in the early years were cause for more than just golf playing. Cards entered the picture during the presentation of trophies/eating/drinking. Gene Burgoyne was asked some of the highlights of his life for a Rotary bio. His response: "After a Rotary golf tourney, they played seven card stud. Jim Rediske beat Vern Taft's 4 jacks with a diamond straight flush!" Perhaps he had other highlights in his life, like his children being born, but that story is what came to mind. The golf tournament has continued to this day, often with two tournaments, only one of which being the trophy tournament. In 1975, the club tried to set the world record for the fastest round of golf (10 minutes, 58.4 seconds) as a fundraiser. They completed the course in 19 minutes, 19.5 seconds, with a score of 101. They tried again in 1976 at the Oakbrook Golf Club. There were again problems: after sinking the putt on hole #1, there was no one set up to drive on #2, and they eventually teed off using a putter. They finished with a time of 16:44. So they tried again that same day. On hole #1, they teed off with the drive going out of bounds. No problem with the score, but it became a problem when no one had another ball, and someone had to run back to the cart to get one. Still, they improved to 14:54. The same event was held in 1995. Again, the world record was not set. As if anyone cared.

Sports even inspired a party: In 1966, they had a Sports Party at the Camelot Apartments, when everyone had to dress in

their favorite sport uniform. The Loving Cup Trophy for the Greatest Lover went to Ralph Johnson, and the Top Sports Award went to Wilma Walter ("deer Wilma had more fawn than anybody!"). Any excuse for a party, it would appear.



Dutch Templin, Tom Names, Harry Mansfield, Gene Burgoyne

In 1972, the first pool tournament was held. Sixteen men entered the field, and the contest was held at the Klauser's and the Burgoyne's. The tournament continued for over a decade, most often at Gene Burgoyne's. The first tournament, besides yielding a champion, also produced one of Lakewood Rotary's most enduring nicknames: Kerosene, aka Ralph Lockhart. The event promised food and mixer, but bring your own liquor. Ralph brought along the makings for several martinis, but found no takers, and was therefore "forced" to drink them all himself. He then partook of some of Tom Smith's whiskey, and when Don Greenleaf left his bottle of Beefeaters, he finished that. The next day was the Friday meeting, and Ray Highsmith called upon Ralph, who would not be described as **"bright eyed and bushy tailed" at that moment**. Ray proclaimed that henceforth, Ralph would be known as "Kerosene", because the night before he had

consumed alcohol like he “had a direct line to a tanker.” He was later presented with a new name badge designating his new call name as Kerosene, and was given a t-shirt with large yellow letters saying “Kerosene”. The nickname stuck. He proudly wore his name badge at Lakewood Rotary until he left in 2005 to start the new club in Elma, where he served as its first president.

In 1974, the baseball games came back. This time, it was against the Lakewood Lions. The Lions, aware of the talent on the Lakewood Rotary team, ended up sending two players. 1982 saw Lakewood lose to Tacoma #8 in a game at Peterson Field. But 1986 marked the beginning of a yearly game with either Clover Park or Tacoma Rotary. The 1986 game resulted in a Lakewood win, 18-11, in front of “a standing room only crowd of 44.” Clover Park would lose every year until 1995, when Dave Covey spotted CP 10 runs; Lakewood won by 9 runs, but not enough to overcome Dave’s overconfidence.



Dave Covey supporting cheerleaders Pam Lowney, Sharon Selden, Carole Wier and Mary Horn

In 1996, Kevin McGranahan died of pancreatic cancer. Kevin was the organizer of the softball games for several years (among other things), and his sudden death was a shock to the club, especially given his youth. The game was named the Kevin McGranahan Memorial Game, the first of which was won by Lakewood 24-3. Cindy Thompson was named Most Valuable Player. The following year's score was 25-3, despite the average age of the winners being over 50. It was then that the duel began with Tacoma #8, a club of over 400 members. Lakewood has won each contest since the 1982 loss, with the exception of 2003. That year, playing in Cheney Stadium, the bases were 90 feet long. With a two run lead in the bottom of the seventh, and two outs, Tacoma managed a three run homer to win by one run.

A tennis tournament was held in 1982 with Tacoma #8. But the big addition that year was a club volleyball team. This team played in a local league for several years, and managed to lose about 90% of their games, in addition to collecting a fair number of injuries. (They finished 3-39 in 1992.) Not all sports can be conquered by Lakewood Rotary, apparently.

Lakewood Rotary has been home to some noted professional baseball players. Cap Peterson was the darling of the club for many years, as they followed his professional career until it ended. His major league statistics: 536 games, .230 batting average, 19 home runs, and 122 RBI's. Many programs were devoted to Cap and baseball in the early years. In October of 1962, the program was watching the World Series on television. The bulletin announced this with a poem by Jim Rediske:

*It's World Series time and the Yank's are ahead
But the Giants have rumored that they'll knock 'em dead
For Pierce is a chompin' to give 'em the collar
And the Willie's are waitin' with a Hiller and a Haller*

*We'll have a T.V. courtesy of Penney and Haley
So come on to Rotary to see that home run by Bailey
It'll be in color and that should be a treat
With the very best company with you while you eat.*

(Explanation: Pierce, Hiller, Haller, Bailey and the Willie's (McCovey & Mays) were Giants' players. "Penney" is the JC Penney store, "Haley" is the Penney's manager, Howard Haley (President 1963-64).)

Rudy Tollefson was a beloved member of Lakewood Rotary (President 1965-66) and part of a gifted athletic family. When he died in August of 1980, Ed Honeywell (Tacoma News Tribune Sports Editor) wrote, "Rudy was the closest thing to a cat I ever saw on the diamond. His range on fly balls was almost limitless and he could steal bases against the best catching arms." Over 40 pints of blood were donated by Lakewood Rotarians for Rudy when he had heart surgery. The bulletin later noted, "Playing for the angels, next season, will be a new shortstop, a real whiz kid, Rudy Tollefson."

Ron Herbel (President, 1984-85) was a pitcher whose greatest fame came in the San Francisco Giants organization. He established many records pitching for the Tacoma Giants before going to the major leagues. As good as he was (894 innings, 42-37 record, 3.82 ERA from 1963-71, including a league-leading 76 appearances (9 wins) for the Padres in 1970), he has remained most well known, even notorious, for his hitting exploits. Ron continues to hold the major league record for worst hitting in the history of the game: a .029 batting average (6 hits in 206 at bats). Occasional mentions on national sports shows brought Rotary fines, including a Howard Cossell report one year. One would never guess this hitting malfunction from watching him hit a softball, which he could crush. Perhaps it really is difficult hitting a major league baseball.....

Harry Mansfield

2/11/72: "Drinks at the bar were only forty cents each, but since Ray Highsmith's group didn't know how to make change, the profits were terrific."

In 1987, Kay Shinn was involved in writing mini-bios on the club's members. In so doing, he sent out worksheets, for members to fill in pertinent details. After receiving Harry's back, Kay wrote in the bulletin, "Hey, Harry, ya' did a lousy job of filling out your biography questionnaire. There are a lot of blanks and there is one 3-letter word we can't use! And under historical events in your life, you wrote, 'Huh?'" And Harry said two of his three hobbies were hunting and fishing, with the other nameless. The third was probably the three letter word Kay wouldn't use: sex.

Harry was irrepressible.

Harry's mother and dad both died before he was three years old, and he was raised by his Finnish grandmother in Tacoma. He attended the University of Washington, Central Washington and UPS, playing baseball, basketball and football in the process. He played semi-pro baseball, even playing against the great Satchel Paige in one game. While attending college, he worked for his uncle in the moving business, eventually living in Montana for several years. He went to work for Smythe Moving, and was transferred with his family to Hawaii, where the idea for his long sought personal business came to fruition. He formed a company that contracted with moving companies, repairing furniture that was damaged in transit.

Harry was not a "joiner". He was a lifelong devotee of the Boy Scouts, and remained involved his whole life, but that

was it. Thru his involvement with coaching his kids in baseball, he met Charlie Peterson. Charlie hounded him and hounded him to join Lakewood Rotary, and in 1969, he finally did. And he never, ever regretted it. This self-professed non-joiner jumped in with both feet, suggesting the Wild Game Dinner idea based on what he'd seen in Montana. He and wife Jean were regulars on the District Conference trips, along with most all of the social and work events. When Harry joined, he really joined.

Harry was always involved in athletics and outdoor sports. What he began to see was a large portion of the kid population in Lakewood who were unable to participate in such things. This led to Harry's passionate advocacy for the Boys & Girls Clubs. Once he latched on to this need, he wouldn't let it go, and worked tirelessly until the day he died. There are many of his Rotary friends who feel the Lakewood Boys & Girls Club should be named for Harry. When Lakewood voted to give the Boys & Girls Club \$50,000 in 1994, Harry was mad as heck: he thought it should be \$100,000, and he never relinquished this belief. Ever.

Harry loved Lakewood Rotary because he felt they all spoke the same language. He felt that this assortment of characters, from various walks of life, were all common sense, down to earth people. Working together, partying together, and getting things done was what resulted. As Jean Mansfield said in recollection, "And we all had uproarious good times."

District Conferences

8/7/87: "Remember: Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now. And if everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane."

For most people, the word "conference" conjures up a certain degree of drudgery. Yes, you should go, but you don't really want to. Early on, Lakewood Rotary decided that this "drudgery" was a golden opportunity to learn more about Rotary. More importantly, it was a darned good excuse for a party! As if they needed an excuse. In addition to the good time they had together, though, they discovered other Rotary clubs. Especially the Canadians. The hospitality of the Canadians was a real revelation. They were so warm and forthcoming. Jean Mansfield remembers them as "exceptionally nice!"

In the early 1970's, Ralph Lockhart decided that spilling the drinks while walking up and down the aisle of the bus was a waste. After a couple of good ideas gone bad, he designed and built a wheeled cart that held a case of beer, an ice chest, and a separated box for the liquor. Richard Simmons designed a tank and pump for the water used to mix their concoctions. The airlines had nothing on Lakewood Rotary.

For some years, two buses traveled to the conference (over 75 people). They'd often stop half way there, and redistribute people so everyone got a chance to socialize. Lakewood established a reputation for having the best "Hospitality Room" (aka Party Room) at the conferences. At one such event, Ralph Lockhart brought a grill into the room to cook breakfast. The aroma made its way to the hotel manager, who wondered about the sanity of these particular hotel residents. The manager expressed his concerns about a fire,

to which Harold Carlson reportedly remarked, "Don't worry about a fire: we'll blow up first!"



The Conference Cart (Mel Neighbors with bottle)

For one trip to a conference in Victoria, Art Hudtloff flew his plane, taking along Ed Selden, Pat Selden, and Patty Neighbors. Art and Ed were often a dangerous combination, and this trip was no different. After landing their float plane in the harbor in Victoria, Art jumped from the pontoon to the dock, greeting Mel Neighbors with his usual salutation of "Hey, Amigo!" Sadly, he forgot to tie a rope to the plane first. Off goes the plane, floating with Ed, Pat and Patty and no pilot. Patty looked sadly out the window to her husband Mel, with a pleading look of helplessness. A man with a plan was Ed, and he grabbed an oar and began rowing from the pontoon as fast as he could. Someone on the dock started yelling, "Go, Ed, go!" and before long half of Victoria was yelling, "Go, Ed, go!" This was an inadequate method of moving a large float plane, and despite Ed's best efforts, the plane headed toward the marina. Just as one of the wings was set to crash into an expensive boat, someone was able to

grab the plane and hold onto it until Art was ferried over in a rowboat. Watching the drama unfold was a Canadian customs agent, who looked at Mel on the dock and said, "Yank, eh?"

Leaving Victoria was also a problem. Art took off in a flight pattern strictly forbidden by the Canadian authorities, as well as frightening to the boat traffic immediately below. That was his last float plane trip to Canada, as they were not amused.

On another conference trip, several Lakewood Rotarians decided to encourage retired General and fellow Lakewood Rotarian Chuck Gorden to run for the Pierce County Council. As unofficial campaign managers, the busload of Rotarians came up with a now-legendary campaign slogan. It was printed up on signs, and the bus load of Rotarians regularly joined in the vocal chorus up and back. It went like this: "Up, Chuck!! Up, Chuck!! Up, Chuck!!" Clearly, the campaign was clever, and he did end up running. There were some minor changes to the promotion campaign devised by his friends in Rotary (like all of it!), and he won. It was a Rotary District Conference that influenced the political history of the region. Not a bad payoff for all the fun.

In 1995, there were 60 people who went to the District Conference in Whistler. Whistler repeated as the destination in 2001, and about that same amount went again. Lakewood Rotarians love those Canadian trips. Sadly, Canadian law has since intervened, and things will never be the same. It seems it is no longer winked at when bringing liquor across the border. In 2005, Ted Wier (President, 1998-99) was "responsible" for bringing over the liquor, a duty for which he had volunteered before. Remembering his Rotary Four

Way Test (#1: Is it the truth?), he volunteered after being asked by the border guard that there were a couple dozen bottles of hard liquor, several bottles of wine, and two cases of beer. This exceeded the maximum amount by a shade less than two dozen bottles of liquor, several bottles of wine, and two cases of beer. Clearly taken aback, either by his honesty or his brazen smuggling, the car was pulled over. Each and every bottle was laid out on a cart in front of all the other cars exiting the ferry, exposing Ted for the smuggler he was. As the offense exceeded any previous incident for bringing in excess liquor, the border guards' smuggler's handbook was researched, resulting in the opinion that the appropriate fine was over \$1000. Assessing Ted's grandfatherly looks, the fact that he was a Rotarian, and that the whole thing was utterly hilarious, they let him go. Their parting words: "How could you bring that awful beer into the country when you could buy OUR beer!?"



Military Appreciation Day, or Ralph Lockhart's version of it, anyway. He was doing an "inspection" of the Generals.

Alive and Well: Modern Times

12/18/92: "Norm's knowledge of such delights is quite limited: he thinks Johnny Cash is money for a pay toilet."

The first twenty five years of Lakewood Rotary set traditions and standards in place, and established a host of colorful characters in memory forever. Since then, the accomplishments of the club have only increased in number and scope, while the old characters have been replaced by an equally raucous group of new characters.

One of the ongoing traditions of the club is the Puffins. This group consists of new members of Lakewood Rotary, and they remain Puffins for one full year. The concept started in 1977. At a Fireside meeting one evening, when some new members and spouses were being educated about the

requirements of Lakewood Rotary, President- Elect Mel Neighbors sat and talked with Auggie Meier, Jim Rediske, Mac McGreevy, and Harry Mansfield. As is usual in this and most any service club, there was a continual exit by members. As is also usual, it was mostly newer members. The perpetual discussion of mentoring to these new members was argued. It was decided to make new Rotarians a Pledge Class for one year. A few days later, Mel was looking at a book which described the Northwest coast dwelling Puffins. Puffins are seabirds, described as clinging to rocks for survival. This seemed a perfect analogy to Mel for new Rotarians, and the name for the Pledge Class was born: they would be Puffins. Duties for the Puffins included handling the Food Basket project, attending a minimum number of social events, taking attendance, and assorted other bonding projects. Today, the Rotary Puffins are also responsible for the caring and feeding of a plush Puffin doll. It hasn't always been pretty: some of the Puffins have been lost, and some were forced to wear unusual clothing and jewelry by their caretakers.



February 14, 1973: Front page of the Suburban Times

The above cartoon appeared on the cover of the local newspaper, the Suburban Times. Accompanying it was the following front page "news" article: "Outstanding individuals who have made contributions during the past year were honored today by the Lakewood Rotary at their annual awards banquet. The occasion was dubbed to be so important that their wives were invited. Harry Mansfield was given special recognition for being the club's worst golfer. The 'earliest to leave the meetings', Charlie Peterson, was also rewarded for his efforts. 'Poorest pronunciation of names of foreign exchange students' award went to Joe Ghilarducci. 'Hunter of the Year' was Russ Klauser, who spent nearly \$300 for each of the pheasants he delivered for the Wild Game Dinner. 'Hops and barley consultant', Jim Rediske, received recognition for being the champion beer drinker. Benni Anderson was presented with a Poor Boy Sandwich to honor the food he serves at the Rotary meetings. A 'Banquet Introduction' award was given to Mike McGowan for his lengthy speeches. 'Outstanding Social Chairman' was Kerosene Lockhart. Rudy Tollefson received a 'Joe Miller Joke Book' to improve his sources. A final presentation was made to Jim Walter. 'Our great leader who lights the way.'"

In 1978, the installation of officers became a grand and impressive event. Ralph Lockhart was the incoming President, and he asked Jim Strait to formulate and deliver a new and improved installation recitation, after seeing him do this at the Masonic Lodge. Jim took material from the Masons and the Grange, and incorporated it to fit Rotary. The words were indeed grand. But the delivery left everyone in awe. Jim memorized the recitation for each officer, delivering them with the solemnity that characterized his occupation as funeral director. Most people have trouble

with reciting a ten word phrase from memory, but Jim recited several pages without a note in sight. Jim continued this profound and amazing installation of officers every year until he moved out of the area in 2001.

No one visits Lakewood Rotary without being impressed, or downright scared, by the fines. Fines in Rotary are assessments for grievous sins, like having a baby or grandbaby, going on a trip, winning something, or merely continuing to live and breathe. The fine can indeed be for a very questionable offense. Over the years, these fines have grown to a sizeable amount. While most clubs fine \$1 or \$5 or maybe even \$10, Lakewood usually starts at \$20 (a Greenleaf), while a fine of \$100 or more can occur.

In 1987, President Gordy Quick stated he was about “to separate the wheat from the chaff”, and called upon Joe Ghilarducci. Gordy produced a picture of Joe with five women, none of whom were his wife. Joe’s response was that he was “damned proud”, and paid \$50. Retired Judge John Lee would regularly produce letters of questionable authenticity from famous people, arguing for a lesser fine. One time, he read a (supposed) letter from Jimmy Carter, defending Judge Lee’s righteousness, and concluding with the statement that “anyone who would fine this man is a dirty rotten, mean man.” 1991 saw a formal “attack” on the fining system. Led by Dave Covey, the Mighty Fine Liberation Front (MFLF) was formed. Dennis Shade was the president that year, and he called \$50 fines a “mighty fine”, and this fine was considered the standard. Covey and his compatriots set up a takeover of the meeting one day, complete with bags over their heads. The demand was simple: reduce all fines to the manageable level of \$17.95, and provide a suitable ransom, or they wouldn’t return President Shade. The “kidnapped” President’s supporters

raised a total of \$3.98 for his release. This fine of \$17.95 is still invoked by Dave Covey, and a few others, 15 years later.

In 1992, President Norm Tremaine fined Ray George, Keltie Burt, Chuck Gorden, Jim Russell, Clint Scott, Ron Irwin, Ed John, Chris Robin, and Jim Walter for having two first names. Then he fined Spirro Damis for having no first names. In 1999, a "lawsuit" was brought against "the diminutive" President John Lowney. "You are hereby notified that on behalf of all Lakewood Rotarians taller than 6', you are being charged with discriminatory fining practices. A study commissioned by a few of Lakewood's BIG members, has shown you fine 28% higher against taller members. Either cease your unspoken policy or fine the hell out of those height challenged Rotarians like yourself." As with all the fines, a good time was had by all. The large fines of Lakewood Rotary are worth their weight in belly laughs.

The very first Lakewood Rotary project was for the youth in the area (baseball teams), and the club has continued giving to young people. Several thousand dollars in scholarships are given each year. Off and on since 1969, an exchange student has been hosted. Many if not most of these students remain in close contact with their host families in Rotary, and the families with them. It is truly one of the most rewarding of Rotary programs. In 1992, the club "adopted" Lakeview Elementary School. Sitting next to the Boys and Girls Club, it is in an economically depressed area. Besides donating money to buy necessities for the truly needy (socks, shoes, coats), many club members tutor. As many as 22 Rotarians have participated in a given year. One year, a trip to McChord AFB was sponsored by the club through retired General Jack Gamble. In 1999 and 2000, Jan Luze led a group of fifth grade students in an etiquette class. Upon completion of their lessons, the club sponsored a graduation lunch at the

Oakbrook Country Club. It became immediately clear that a few Rotarians could have benefited from Jan's classes, as well. A quiz was, in fact, offered for Rotarians in the bulletin:

Q: When do you drink the little bowl of hot water with the lemon slice in it?

A: You don't. It's for rinsing your dentures between courses.

Q: Do you pass to the left or right?

A: Yes!

Q: Is it okay to stand on your chair to reach for food?

A: If you take off your shoes and it's not a sanctioned food fight.

In 2003, Ron Irwin asked Mike McGowan to consider starting a program in Rotary that Mike had been doing individually for 20 years. During those 20 years, Mike and Wendy McGowan had taken on a number of 11th graders in the public school system locally, and guided them for two years through the college admission process. Their success: five kids to Stanford, two to Harvard, and others to Occidental, Columbia, and the like. The Rotary program was modeled on this system, essentially identifying motivated 11th graders who might otherwise get lost in the system. These kids are then schooled regularly in clarifying personal goals, and helping with resumes, essays, college applications, scholarship applications, and so forth. The two year program is yielding its first group of four kids in 2006, with one student getting a \$40,000 scholarship to the University of Portland, and another getting a significant scholarship to Reed. Other awards are pending. The two-person McGowan program has evolved into a dozen Rotarians improving children's lives, one at a time.

1991 saw the introduction of the Revolving Dinners. Groups of three couples take turns hosting a dinner at their house

over a three to four month period. Fifteen years later, the program thrives as a wonderful fellowship event.

Another popular fellowship event started in 1998, the Roadster Romp. Rotarians and spouses pull out their convertibles, and take a day trip or an overnighter to a variety of Northwest locations: Cannon Beach, Mt. Rainier, Vashon Island, Leavenworth, and the Olympic Peninsula, to name a few. The occasional wrong turn only gives more Excuses for laughter.



Dick Emery, Mel Neighbors, Jim Walter Tom & Jerry Christmas Party

In 1980, the club got serious about honoring their sitting president with a Roast. "Honoring" might be a stretch, actually. Auggie Meier received a llama in 1980. (Amazingly enough, on the day that Auggie died years later, so did the llama.) Don Jacobson was roasted on December 18, 1981, and was presented with a live turkey by his adoring minions. The turkey showed its feelings for the event by relieving himself all the way to the podium. Doug Cole's ("King Cole") gifts included a mini pig. The little guy was a bit too

active, so Ferrel Gines administered a tranquilizer. Unfortunately, his timing and dosage were a bit off, and the pig was none too active for the actual presentation (but alive!). Bill Dallas was given a riding lawnmower in 1982: a goat. Not to be outdone by animal gifts, the Puffins of 1992 gave President Norm Tremaine a live goat, a chicken, and a pot bellied pig. There were some allusions to pregnant ski bunnies from Norm's ski bus as well, all unproven allegations. Dave Covey was dressed up like Elvis, and required to sing some of The King's songs. He made a noble, if not musical, effort.



Dave Covey, aka The King

Lakewood Rotary produced its first District Governor in Gordon Quick in 1993-94. At the time, he said, "We have talked about Rotary, now let's DO Rotary." And thus began 11 trips to Thailand, Fiji, Mexico, Jamaica, and Russia on Rotary teaching missions, with his wife Juanita. All of these teaching and building exercises occurred between 1995 and 2005. He also became a master of the matching grant.

Lakewood's first matching grant came about thru the work of Harold Gray, and resulted in money to feed the poor in India. (Harold asked for and received Mother Theresa's autograph while there, and carried it in his wallet for inspiration until the day he died). Gordy built on this start, and between 1996 and 2004, he parlayed \$21,860 of Lakewood Rotary money into \$137,634, after the matching grants, to go to various overseas projects (mostly Thailand). Interestingly, it wasn't all Lakewood Rotary money that got used. Gordon and Juanita took their stipend from their trips there, and turned the money over to the Club to use for this purpose, in another example of Service Above Self. The process continued in 2006, with a \$2000 Lakewood donation growing to \$14,500.

Gordy's generosity of time and money are in direct opposition to his legend, however. The prevailing joke holds that Gordy retains his first nickel. All because he took a few plane rides from the military to save a buck or two! And then there was the club auction event where a night's stay at the very low-level Daffodil Motel in Ponders was secured. Gordon's good "friend" in the club got his bid number, and he was the proud owner of a full night's stay there (as opposed to the hotel's normal hourly rate). He later announced his intent to sell time-shares for the night. Gordy had a theme when he was President of the club: Lead, follow, or get the heck out of the way.

Lakewood Rotary's other District Governor was Dave Sclair in 1998-99. Dave was originally a Lakewood Rotarian, but left to help form the new Clover Park club when they were chartered with the help of Lakewood. When Dave's wife, Mary Lou Sclair, was elected President at Lakewood, he transferred over to his original club. So he wasn't really a DG as a Lakewood Rotarian, but it is close enough to claim him.

Another possible reason he transferred back to Lakewood was to avoid the constant booing. His every introduction at Lakewood Rotary when he was a guest resulted in a chorus of catcalls from the peanut gallery of his friends. Dave lives and breathes Rotary, as particularly evidenced by the hundreds and hundreds of hours he worked on the playground equipment project for Ft. Steilacoom Park. His life is Service Above Self.

In 1996, Lakewood started a new fundraiser that continues, the Raffle. Founder Dave Betz felt that this would be an easier project for members to get behind, and a much easier sell than Pancake Breakfast tickets. The prize in 1996 was a trip to the UW football game against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and other away UW games followed in subsequent years. In 1996, Notre Dame beat UW, 54-20. In 1997, Arizona beat UW, 58-28. In 1998, Nebraska beat UW, 55-7. All games were the grand prize for the raffle. There is no truth to the rumor that the prize was changed at the request of the University of Washington, in an effort to improve their performance in big away games. Subsequent prizes have included Mariners' playoff tickets (2001), a trip to the America's Cup, and a trip to the Summer Olympics in Greece. Interestingly, about 75% of the winners have taken the cash, which was a big plus for the club. The event has netted between \$20,000 and \$30,000 each year.

One of the most satisfying of any regular club project is the food basket delivery program. The week before Christmas, the club has for several decades delivered a large basket of food to needy families in the area. Some years, there were baskets. In 2005, the number was 120. Rotarians see the terrible need in their own community, with many of the recipients living in squalor. Some of the deliveries can be very emotional.

The End of 50: The March to 100

5/31/74: "And so, as Lady Godiva remarked while getting off her horse: I come to my clothes."

Rotary's public image was the subject of an article in the January, 2006 issue of THE ROTARIAN. "The overwhelming impression in our district is that Rotarians are a group of very rich old men who get together every week." No doubt there are people in Lakewood whose impression of Lakewood Rotary is the same, and there is some truth in the statement. Some of the members are rich. Some of the members are old. Some are old AND rich. Some are even old and rich and men. These are, however, unimportant characteristics of a typical Lakewood Rotarian, in addition to being grossly inaccurate in many cases. What is true is that in the past 50 years, the club has donated more than \$2 million to the local and world communities. More importantly, countless lives have been improved by the Rotarians who have served in the club, both in Lakewood and around the world.

There is great truth in the "80-20" rule, known formally as Pareto's Principle: in any given situation, 20% are vital and 80% are trivial. In the case of an organization like Rotary, the normal situation is that 20% of the people will do 80% of the work. What separates Lakewood Rotary from most organizations is that 30-35% of the people do 80% of the work. This takes away from the symmetry of the equation, but adds greatly to the efficiency and success of the organization. When Tom March moved back into the area in 1967 and rejoined the club, he proclaimed that Lakewood Rotary should be named The Spoilers. He said that "after having been in this club first, my enjoyment of my other Rotary club was sadly diminished."

So why is this so? The theory of this treatise is that the founding fathers of Lakewood Rotary excelled at having fun, and the tradition has continued to this day. This has encouraged greater participation, and greater accomplishment. Service Above Self remains the guiding principal of Lakewood Rotary, but there's nothing in this motto that excludes having fun while doing it.

And so they have.

Lakewood Rotary Timeline & Book of Firsts

- 1956 First Members: Charlie Peterson, Bob Bernnard
First Meeting: 4/16/56, Lakewood Terrace Restaurant
Legal Charter: 4/25/56
Charter Night: 6/19/56
First Board of Directors meeting: 4/3/56
First Project: \$125 for youth baseball
First visiting Rotarians: Buck Thompson, Howard Williams, Sr., Floyd Snider, Newt Burien
First out of town visitor: Sumner, 5/18/56
First fine: Jim Nichols for "too much publicity", \$1
First month's attendance: 88.88%
First new member: Richard Worthen (2nd: Al Hagen)
First Swedish joke told: 9/14/56 (Chuck Pearson)
First year's meeting places:
 1. Lakewood Terrace
 2. Lakewood Recreation Hall
 3. The Embers Restaurant
 4. Lakewood Terrace, again
- 1957 First dues increase: 1/24, to \$36/year
First bowling tournament, February
First golf tournament, May
First technical difficulties: film projector malfunctions for film on bowling, 5/17/57
First food complaint, 7/12/57: "Why are the roll plates so hot and the rolls so cold?"
First social event: 11/8/57 Officers Beach Club, Ft. Lewis
- 1958 First party: May, at Howard Williams'
First Rotary Ann Meeting
- 1959 First competition with Tacoma #8 (golf, 9/11)
Lakewood won

- 1959 First Christmas Dinner Dance
- 1960 First Installation Banquet, \$2.50 each at TCG
- 1966 First Interact Meeting, Clover Park High
(1st project: clean Pioneer Cemetery)
- 1967 First pancake griddle purchase
- 1968 First advertisement in the bulletin
- 1969 First club chartered by Lakewood Rotary,
Parkland Rotary
First exchange student, Carlos Tudela, Chile
Club bulletin becomes known as "The Key"
First time half of jackpot goes to Fellowship
- 1970 First Wild Game Dinner
- 1971 First Paul Harris Fellow (Russ Klauser)
- 1973 First Sunshine Committee
First RYLA
- 1974 First member to win 3 pots in 3 weeks (Jim Early)
- 1977 Puffins started
- 1980 First Roast of a club president (Auggie Meier)
- 1982 First Packwood Retreat
- 1986 Cigarette/cigar smoking banned at meetings
(but only during the speaker's presentation,
1:00-1:30)
- 1988 First female member, November 4, Genie Latta
- 1991 First Revolving Dinners
- 1992 Adopt a School program started, 22 volunteers
- 1993 First District Governor from Lakewood, Gordon Quick
- 1996 First Raffle (UW/Notre Dame game trip as prize)

Membership Growth

April, 1956	20
July, 1957	30
January, 1961	44
June, 1967	67
January, 1974	102
January, 1988	144
April, 1991	161
March, 2006	125
March, 2016	116

Charter Night June 19, 1956

Tacoma Country & Golf Club
Rotary Club of Lakewood
District 151

Officers

President	Robert M. Bernnard
Vice President	Ray W. Thompson
Secretary	James R. Hayes
Treasurer	Byron E. Coffman

Directors

John Steward Charles McCallum Charles Peterson

Charter Members

Robert M Bernnard	Bryon E Coffman	Tom W Deyton
Harold F Gray	James R Hayes	John A Lewis
Charles McCallum	Roger W McDonald	Claude L McFarlane
James H Nichols	Bernard N Ootkin	Allan N Owyen
Charles Peterson	Gilbert Richards	Alvin G Stearns
John T Steward	Ray W Thompson	Jack M Tuell
George E Webber	Howard J Williams	

The Next 10 Years: 2006 to 2016 We're 60 Years Old!

IB

The second fifty years of Lakewood Rotary began with more of a bang than a whisper.

During the 2005-6 year, President-elect Greg Rediske named a committee to look into finding the club's next major project. Mike McGowan chaired the committee, which came up with a project designed to improve the Clover Park School District. Specifically, the suggestion was to finance the incorporation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program into the district, which was estimated to be about \$150,000 for all start up costs.

At the very first meeting in Rediske's year as president, the topic was raised for discussion. And it was discussed at length for several more meetings. There was so much discussion that Greg's fine budget was starting to look unattainable, as there was no time for fines or much of anything else. Questions ranged from details about the program, the size of the donation, and most emotionally, whether the program was elitist. Several meetings into the year, it was finally brought to a vote: the club voted to provide the means for the Clover Park School District to become an International Baccalaureate diploma program (IB).

This committee headed by McGowan continued, as they had for months, to meet nearly every week. (Including: Bob

Zawilski, Ron Adkins, Clint Johnson, Ted Wier, Bob Peterson, Greg Horn, Eric Herbel, Carl Fynboe, and Dave Sclair.) They met with the school district leadership. Multiple times. The initial reaction from that leadership was that they were not interested in the program. It was considered by them to be elitist: specifically, it would appeal to rich white kids, when the perceived problem with the district was to raise up the lowest socio-economic level children. In their view, this program would not help with their principal needs at all, and would cause financial uncertainty for other programs. They also expressed concern about their ability to maintain the program once the introductory process had been completed.

Good fortune struck our ambition in the form of a change of leadership at the district. Debbie LeBeau was named the new superintendant, and the project was looked at from a different angle, and after a great deal of discussion and scrutiny, the district decided to commit to the program. Several years later, the Middle Years IB program was instituted into the Harrison Preparatory School. With that success, Harrison Prep applied for and was granted the high school diploma program. And subsequent to that, Idlewild Elementary applied and was accepted to introduce the primary years program. The Clover Park School District is now one of the only districts in the state to have all three of these IB programs in place. Most importantly, the programs have by all accounts been a great success: instead of residents opting out of the Clover Park School District, people from outside the district are opting in. All other measures of the district have been rising in recent years, and we at Lakewood Rotary take partial credit for this success.

More Than IB

Early in the next 10 years of Lakewood Rotary, the club split itself in two, creating the Charitable Club, with a 501C3 designation. Thanks in large part to Clint Johnson, the club now is a legal source for tax exempt donations.

The club also created a promotional brochure for ourselves, chaired by John Magnuson with help from Dave Burgoyne, Dave Sclair, Ben Sclair, Duncan Cook and Greg Rediske. But mostly John Magnuson. When the first draft was done, all said, "Yes!" except Dave Sclair. He said, "Too many words. Typical Magnuson. Shorten it." And shortened it was. In June of 2007, the club donated a 14 passenger van to the Boys and Girls Club, with some help from the Clover Park Rotary Club. Bob Zawilski shepherded this project through while raising our cumulative donations to the Boys & Girls to in excess of \$150,000.

Projects and notations that followed in "the next 10 years" included:

- Picnic table construction for Ft. Steilacoom Park
- Norwegian Group Study Exchange hosting
- Ron Adkins became district chair of the Ambassadorial Scholar program.
- Created a strategic plan for 2009-13, thanks to chairperson Judy Hosea.
- Had a Rotary meeting on February 29, 2008, for the first time since 1980.
- Held fund raising home brew festivals at Greg Horn's ski park.
- Raised over \$7000 for the four fallen Lakewood police officers.
- Greg Horn started a Biggest Loser contest in 2010, with half the money going into the club's coffers. (Round 1 of the challenge had Bill Price as the big loser at 30 pounds.)
- Enjoyed a concert at Lakewold Gardens, and netted \$2000 in the process.

--Cleaned up 84 cubic yards of junk from the newly acquired addition to Springbrook Park (thanks to Dave Reames). The junk included a pink bed headboard with a set of handcuffs attached, to everyone's amusement.

--Rebuilt some of the playground equipment where the original building material (Trex) had rotted prematurely.



--Raised a total of \$20,000 including matching grants for a Braille printer for Nepal.

--Donated \$6500 to improve the computer room at the Boys and Girls Club.

--Collected \$1500 by passing the hat for victims of the eastern Washington fires (2015).

--Collected \$2195 to aid the victims of the Nepal earthquake by the passing the hat (2014).

--Dave Coleman heard that there were "leftovers" from the recently completed U.S. Open golf tournament, available to charity and service organizations. Dave asked, and received a load of t-shirts, umbrellas, and other souvenirs. The result was more than \$6000 into the club coffers.

--Paul Harris Foundation monies collected by Lakewood Rotary will surpass \$1 million by 2017.

1971: \$0 raised 2006: \$611,000 2015 \$975,000

An Acre for the Arts

In 2012, the end was in sight for the funding requirements that the club committed to the IB program. PE Mark Blanchard headed up a committee to find the next major project. They were looking for a "hands-on" local project aimed at youth, a project that could be branded as a Lakewood Rotary project with a large community impact. Various park projects headed the list (soccer field, playground slide, community garden), most of which were small enough that multiple projects could be undertaken. Discussion continued, and the project segued into looking at more traditional "major" projects. Projects at the YMCA, Clover Park Technical College, Communities in Schools, and Rally Point 6 were investigated. The eventual decision in 2013: Build an amphitheater at Ft. Steilacoom Park ("An Acre for the Arts").

While there was not nearly the internal disagreements with this project that there was initially with the IB project, it soon met with formidable outside objection. The City of Lakewood was fully onboard as a partner in the project, and called for a community meeting on the proposed site for the amphitheater. With input from project chair Mark Blanchard, Paul Casey had drawn up renderings of the new fixture and these were displayed and advertised. The meeting outdoors on a rainy day produced notable heated arguments. The general feeling was that this would detract from the open space feeling of the park, impeding visitors ability to enjoy the great outdoors. And furthermore, these music events would attract too many people and cars, and many of those people would be undesirable.

Back to the drawing board.

New plans were put together as Mark Blanchard and Dave Coleman worked tirelessly with the city parks department to work on minimizing community dissent. Many months later, the project received the blessing of the city council, and

at this writing, the project is full-speed ahead. The plan remains for Rotary to not only donate a sizeable portion of the cost, but also provide in-kind services and labor. Architect Paul Casey, and builder John Korsmo, are two of the projected in-kind service donations.

The Great Geraldo Rivera Reveal: Lakewood Rotary Style

It was 1986 when Geraldo Rivera promoted a live television event in which he would be the first to unlock a long-sealed

vault that belonged to Al Capone. After much anticipation, it turned out the vault was empty, except for some garbage. Lakewood Rotary had its own great reveal during the Horn regime. The club received an unpaid rent bill on a long-forgotten safety deposit box from 1988-2002. The bill for \$90 was paid, and a locksmith was given \$200 to open up the box.



The great reveal at a Rotary meeting was somewhat more exciting than Rivera's. The contents were insurance policies, tax returns, tax preparation invoices, articles of incorporation, title to the club's trailer and, most exciting of all was a copy of an August 1991 Playboy magazine. Now, another mystery: what happened to the Playboy magazine after the big reveal?

Eat your heart out, Geraldo.

Oh, The Fun We Have Had

For the last ten years or so, the installation of new members into the club ends with the statement: *Lakewood Rotary's success in service is perhaps only matched by our ability to enjoy ourselves while doing it.* This has been going on for 60 years, and doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon. From

98

the very beginning 60 years ago, it was apparently decided that Scandinavians were good sports and could handle "blonde joke"-style ridicule. It continues, thanks in large part to our resident Swede, John "Ole" Magnuson. John's periodic joke recitations in his Swedish accent are always a happy occurrence at club meetings. In 2015, he wrote a poem to "honor" the newest of Lakewood Rotary's past presidents, Dave Coleman. With Dave front and center, John played the ukulele, accompanied by Greg Rediske on the melodian (a push button accordion) and Chris Kimball on the snare drum. The music was lifted unceremoniously from a Paul Anka song made famous by Buddy Holly, "It Doesn't Matter Anymore". The new song is called, "Da Dang Past President Lament".

*It's a pretty sad lament,
As Lakewood Rotary Past President,
No vun remembers vhetter you came or vent,
Cuz yew don't matter anymore.*

*Who vus dat guy yust left da place?
Did anybody reckonize his face?
Did somevun yust slam da door?
("Ay tank Ay knew him vunce before")
But he don't matter anymore.*

*Tings shure change here pretty fast.
Vun day yer somebody but you don't last,
Yer used to bein' a big shot.
An' now yer really ain't so hot.*

*Yew ain't nuttin' anymore.
Git over yourself, dat's fer dadgum shure.
Dey all say hello and den goodbye,
Den turn and ask, "Who vuz dat guy?"
But (all togedder now) Yew ain't nuttin' anymore.*

The recorded version of this historic event can be found at:
<https://youtu.be/a0ukdv7Hcmg#sthash.2l8GOrmr.dpuf>



During a park cleanup day in 2015, several Rotarians were involved in refreshing the paint on several of the playground objects. Rick Selden walked away from his paint bucket, which resulted in the inattentive president of the club, Dave Coleman, stepping into the paint bucket. While Selden lamented the lost paint and the mess, Coleman was apparently more concerned with this damage to his apparel. At the next club meeting, a sign awaited President Dave: "Chief Painted Foot". The fining started at \$84, with various plea bargains and counter accusations in the mix. In the end, Rotary won: Selden donated \$100 to the Foundation, with the stipulation that President Dave and President-elect Chris Kimball throw in \$50 each.

Judy Hosea has long held a key position in our Sportsmen's Dinner fund raiser. As she is also a key member of the award-winning bulletin writers, she wrote the following poem:

*As I go to sleep this night
I think about what next I might
Put together, before it's too late,
An auction item that will really be great!
Of course, I may have to spend some cash
And spend some more to buy it back!
But that is what we do fulfilling our test,
To build goodwill, and all the rest.
For Lakewood Rotary is on a quest
You're either with us or you can join Kiwanis!*

Cell phones are the bane of all public meetings, and result in scowls and fines at Rotary on Fridays. During his first meeting as president, Ben Sclair used his cell phone to follow his agenda. Greg Horn wondered if his cell phone was on mute, and tested same by calling Ben during the meeting. Ben did not think it was as funny as Greg did.

According to the legend invented by John "Ole" Magnuson, T. Torvald Torvaldssen III came from the Poulsbo Rotary Club, and was famous for his white sauce over Wonder bread and for starting the Wild Game Dinner. T. Torvald's legend was revived at the Presidential Roast of President Ben Sclair. Prior to the Sclair regime, Magnuson was notorious (in general, but specifically....) for missing perhaps 20% of the meetings during his year as president, for business reasons. Ben Sclair raised the bar even higher, missing at least that many meetings, also for business reasons. A giant trophy was assembled by Ole and Greg Rediske, and presented to Ben at the Roast: "The T. Torvald Torvaldssen III Award," for missing the most meetings while

president in Lakewood Rotary history. Tears flowed that day, to be sure.



During the Presidential Roast of Greg Horn, the Puffins required Greg to demonstrate a game called "Squint" that he had apparently invented, and played several times, always with copious amounts of beer around. The alternate name used is "Butt Darts." The object is to hold a quarter between one's butt cheeks, walk carefully knock-kneed fashion, then turn around and drop the quarter into an awaiting cup. Greg holds the world record at 17 in a row. After demonstrating for the assembled wide-eyed Rotarians, Greg said, "It is best to wear loose fitting pants." Remember these sage words of advice next time you're playing "Butt Darts."



In 2010, the Sportsmen's Dinner committee ordered up another of their famous skits to promote the event. Gun-toting bailiff Norm "Bull" Tremaine brought to the Superlative Court the case involving the potential pardon of "Fuzzball". Fuzzball was the name of the president's beloved bunny (supposedly), but slated to become an ingredient in the Sportsmen's Dinner stew. Culinary lawyer Chef Seldom (Rick Selden) was the prosecutor, while Gregory Radish Exquire (Greg Rediske) served as defense attorney. Presiding was Yudge Yudy Magnusson (John Magnuson), replete with skull cap and long blonde braids. The Yudge's first words: "Okie Dokie, send 'em to the pokie." When informed that that wasn't the case before the court, things settled into an intense debate regarding the bunny's fate. Chef Seldom's closing argument was, "If the noose fits, we must not equit!" Defense attorney Radish noted that the

rabbit was a saint, made of 301 continuous filament fiber, and was inedible. Chants of "Free Fuzzball!", countered with chants of "Hare, hare, fry Fuzzball!" echoed through the room. The Yudge determined it was a case of "hideous corpus", and the courtroom was adjourned. Atticus Finch would have been appalled. But amused.

It should be noted that Marilyn Monroe has made two posthumous visits to Lakewood Rotary. In 2009, she sang Happy Birthday to President Horn on the occasion of his 65th birthday. In 2015, she arrived again, literally falling out of a cake/box before settling on the presidential roasteer's lap (Dave Coleman). There were rumors that the second Marilyn was actually Eric Quinn in drag, but this remains an unproven supposition.

During the meeting of Friday, February 29, 2008, a truly rare event, President Zawilski called upon historian Greg Rediske to report on the events of the previous Rotary meeting on Friday, February 29, in 1980. Greg recounted with great accuracy (and imagination) that President John Simmons on that notable day dealt with a club leadership-produced suggestion that Swedes be banned from Lakewood Rotary membership. After heated discussion, the club decided to allow the continued participation of Swedes, because: 1. Rotary International has long supported efforts to help the disadvantaged, clearly applicable here; and 2. Who could the club laugh at if we didn't have a few Swedes around?

Sunriver Rotary Ski Trip

For many years Lakewood Rotary had a group of skiers who were members of the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR). The Lakewood group branched out in

2009 and formed its own ski group, travelling to Mount Bachelor, Oregon. Arranged and coordinated by John Lowney, the group rented a large house in Sunriver, Oregon that was actually like having their own private lodge. The first trip was such a success that the trip has become an annual event for the last seven years. The house will accommodate 20 guests and we have had 19 Rotarians and spouses make this trip over the years.

The trip is a four day event that is filled with adventures, misadventures and lots of fellowship. The first year John planned to serve pizza provided and delivered by the local pizza parlor. Guests were arriving in the afternoon, so his plan was to enjoy some fellowship with a social hour(s) while guests arrived. When all had arrived we would order the pizza. Unfortunately when John called the pizza parlor to order dinner he was informed that it had closed, which meant he had 18 hungry Rotarians who were probably in no condition to get behind the wheel to drive anywhere. Not a good situation. But in true Rotary fashion, Jan Reeder stepped up and announced that she brought an entire spaghetti dinner, including garlic bread.... enough for all of us! Nice save by Jan.

One year, late in the evening, the remaining few that were still partying performed for the group by travelling to each of the master bedrooms and serenading those that had gone to bed.

Rick Selden is the resident chef/kitchen coordinator while Sam Hunter is in charge of morning coffee. Joe Quinn has been the "breakfast sous-chef-in-training" for the last few years. Greg Rediske provides movies for our movie night, and in 2016 is inaugurating his "world renowned" music recognition contest. Ted Wier often takes charge of the non-skier activities.

Guests receive a different gift each year: wine glass, baseball cap, coffee mug, watch cap, wine, beer glass and travel mug, all imprinted with “ Rotary Ski Trip, Sunriver (the year)”. Each year we have games and contests including ping pong and shuffleboard tournaments, bingo, and games with prizes and/or trophies. Ted Wier and Pam Lowney still hold the record for number of years as shuffleboard champions.



Kris Quinn and Bonnie Magnuson on Mt. Bachelor



Gordon Quick

Rotary International has a number of awards to recognize above average service to the organization and to the world. One of the most prestigious and rarest is the Meritorious Service Award. There can only be one per district (our district has 86 clubs) per year at most, and it is usually several years between awards in a particular district. Stated criteria:

The Citation for Meritorious Service recognizes individual Rotarians who have demonstrated outstanding active service to The Rotary

Foundation for more than one year. Examples of eligible service include, but are not limited to:

- *Service on Foundation committees at the club, district, or international level*
 - *Participation in Foundation grants or programs*
 - *Support of Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Peace Fellows, Group Study Exchange teams, or vocational training teams*
- Financial contributions to the Foundation, however notable, are not relevant considerations for this award.*

Gordon was awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 2009, and recognized for such in the ROTARY INTERNATIONAL magazine. He first joined Rotary in

Nebraska in 1962, and has been a Rotarian for over 50 years. Gordon is a past president of Lakewood Rotary (1987-88), and a Russ Klauser Rotarian of the Year (1997-98). He was Lakewood Rotary's first District Governor (and only DG, other than Dave Sclair, who re-joined Lakewood Rotary after being DG while a member of Clover Park Rotary), 1993-94. Gordon and wife Juanita have worked Rotary projects in six different countries, worked 10 RI matching grants and been a part of 13 projects and served overseas 11 times. In some cases, they spent 3 months on location teaching and refining students' English. It was noted in the Rotary bulletin, "If you ever meet someone from Russia, Thailand, or the Philippines that have a Nebraska drawl, you'll know Gordy had touched their lives!"



Gordon receives his Meritorious Service Award with Juanita from the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for RI

Reeder Roadster Romp

By Phil Eng

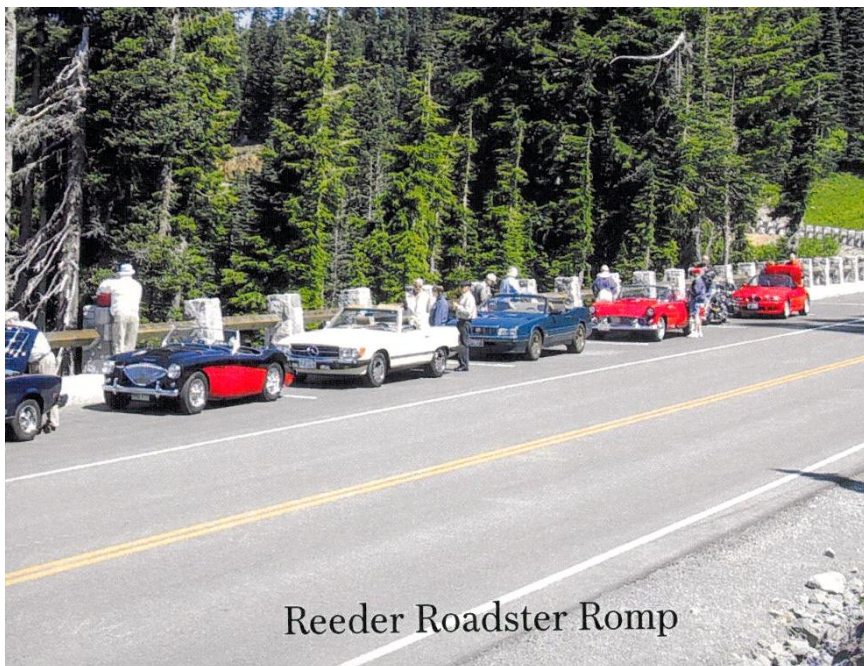
The Reeder Roadster Romp originated in 1996 when Paul Reeder took delivery on a shiny new red '96 BMW Z-3 roadster. He wanted to enjoy driving it along with his Rotarian friends, so he got together with Sam Hunter (already the proud owner of a 1993 Alfa Romeo Spider) and the "roadster romp" was born. Roadster Romp was the public name. In the secret halls of Rotary, the name for the event was "Topless in Tacoma"!

The early days were half day road trips around western Washington. Destinations included Bainbridge Island and the Bloedel Reserve; Mary McCrank's Restaurant south of Chehalis, Mount Rainier and Packwood. The joy of driving in the sun and great fellowship led to longer and longer drives. A couple of drives around Mount Rainier drive necessitated dinner on the road.

Around the late 90's the Roadster Romp evolved into an overnight trip. The range was expanded and a trip around the Olympic Peninsula was booked. Leavenworth and Winthrop were favorite destinations. One of Paul's ultimate destinations was Cannon Beach, OR. He enlisted Phil Eng to help with arranging accommodations and meals, and with mapping out the trip. With Paul's passing in 2006, Phil took over planning the romp and renamed it the "Reeder Roadster Romp" in Paul's honor.

Today it's no longer a strictly roadsters event. Rumor has it that Ole Magnuson broke the mold by joining in and riding his Harley. After that, "anything goes", and in the spirit of good fellowship all members of the club are invited to participate. Recent trips have averaged around 40 participants, to places like Hood River, Winthrop, and

Whidbey Island/Chuckanut Drive in Bellingham. The John Lowney poker run is always a highlight.



The Courage Classic

In 1992, Lakewood Rotary donated \$100,000 to Mary Bridge Hospital, to help with aftercare in their child abuse unit. (They had no money to deal with victims who were diagnosed, and had no follow-up.) Still underfunded, the Executive Officer for Philanthropy for MultiCare, Jane Shanaman, met with Mike McGowan and others at Don Greenleaf's house to discuss options for expanding the Rotary Endowment for the Intervention and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. The idea for a bike ride over Snoqualmie, Blewett and Stevens passes germinated from these discussions. Mike called in the other five Rotary clubs in Pierce County, who all confirmed their participation. The first ride took place in 1992, bringing in over \$50,000 for the endowment. It doubled the next year, going to over \$200,000 by 1998, and now each year donations exceed half a million dollars in net proceeds. Several other Rotary clubs participate in providing rest stops along the way for the riders. Lakewood Rotary's rest stop is always the best, of course. Ice cream, costumes, and hula hoops are among the culinary delights and entertainment to keep those riders energized and on their way. (How is it, you ask, that Lakewood Rotary has so much fun making so much money?!) *(Below: Dave Covey, practicing before the ride)*



Woodstick

By Chris Kimball

In 2003, Tacoma Rotary #8 was looking for a signature event to raise money for Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign. The club needed something different. Something unique. Something strange.

Member Chris Kimball came up with an idea--attempt to break the Guinness World Record of drummers simultaneously playing drum sets. A financial planner by trade, Kimball had played drums since age four and toured worldwide with several bands. Kimball enlisted help from fellow Rotarians and Donn Bennett, the owner of a specialty drum equipment store in nearby Bellevue, Washington.

In March of 2003, in a 15,000-square-foot airport hangar in Gig Harbor, WA, 264 drummers arrived with their sets. Entertained by emcee Pat Cashman, and conducted by Seattle Symphony's Maestro Gerard Schwarz, they shattered the previous world record. Initially named "A Drum Set March" (due to the timing of the event that year), it was renamed "Woodstick" from 2004 onward. Kimball recalls, "When I saw all the station wagons, minibuses, long hair, and drum sets, it reminded me of something. I remembered the pictures I saw as a kid in *Life* magazine of Woodstock. A drummer's version of Woodstock--how could I *not* call our gathering Woodstick?"

Tacoma Rotary 8 sponsored the event for the next two years, held in the Tacoma Dome. Over 500 drummers participated in both 2004 and 2005, with net proceeds again dedicated to Polio Plus. Kimball and Bennett broke their own record a third time in 2006 at Seattle's Qwest Event Center with well over 530 drummers in attendance. Rotary had ended its official involvement at that point, so net proceeds were donated to several local charities.

Many Rotarians continued to support the event, however, and continued to volunteer their time and effort.

In 2007 the event was held in the Showplex Event Center in Puyallup, Washington and was sponsored by a Rotary-related organization, the Fellowship of Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration. Of course, the irony couldn't be missed: an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring hearing sponsoring an event consisting of hundreds of drummers making more noise than a jumbo jet!

Undeterred by the cacophony, Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration (especially Gene Pankey from Clover Park Rotary and our own Dave Sclair) also sponsored Woodstick 2008. Rotarians from Tacoma #8, The Rotary Club of Lakewood, and Clover Park Rotary were heavily involved in the planning and execution of both 2008's and 2009's Woodstick. Rotarians have continued to support the event since then.

In 2015 the Woodstick name and rights to the Woodstick event were sold to a Pierce County charity called Crimestoppers. One of the divisions of Crimestoppers is Groove Music for Youth. Groove Music for Youth was the recipient of Woodstick's proceeds in 2013, and helps underprivileged music students obtain instruments and training.

Each year, well-known conductors (Maestro Gerard Schwarz, Maestro Harvey Felder, etc.) have led the drummers in a short, original song. Using an actual conductor and playing an original piece of music are both Guinness World Record requirements.

In addition, drum manufacturing companies have donated tens-of-thousands of dollars-worth of equipment which has been given away as prizes over the years (note: Ringo Starr also donated two signed Beatles bass-drum heads), as well as bringing famous drummers to each year's Woodstick.

Some of the celebrity drummers include Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick), Alan White (Yes), Michael Derosier (Heart), Liberty DeVitto (Billy Joel), Kenney Aronoff (Mellancamp, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, etc.), Michael Shrieve (Santana), Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche), Jeff Kathan (The Paul Rogers Band), Scott Mercado (Candlebox), Tony Coleman (B.B. King), Ricky Lynn Johnson (The Wailers), Leon Taylor (The Ventures), Matt Cameron (Pearl Jam, Soundgarden), Joe Plummer (Modest Mouse), Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie), Ray Luzier (Korn), Jon Bolton (The Beatnicks, Herding Cats), Steve Moore (“The Mad Drummer”), Chad Wackerman (Frank Zappa), Danny Seraphine (Chicago), Chris Coleman (Prince, Chaka Khan), The Seattle Seahawks Blue Thunder drum line, Glen Sobel (Alice Cooper), Thomas Lang (Peter Gabriel, Tina Turner), Tim Alexander (Primus), Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge, Rod Stewart), Todd Sucherman (Styx), Jason Sutter (Foreigner, Smashmouth), Brian Hitt (REO Speedwagon), Brian Tichy (Whitesnake, Billy Idol, Ozzy Osborne), Chris Slade (AC/DC), and more.

Woodstick 2016 has been scheduled; who knows how many more years the event will continue? After raising more than \$100,000 for charities, one can only hope the beat will go on for a long time.

Postscript: Under the heading of “The Ripple Effect,” other Woodstick-type drumming events have begun popping up all over. In Birmingham, England in 2009, 582 drummers gathered to break Woodstick’s record, and supposedly 1000 drummers played simultaneously in Saidapet, India in 2014 (although this has not been confirmed).

District Level & Above Leaders

District Governor, 1993-94	Gordon Quick
District Governor, 1998-99	Dave Sclair
District Governor, #5030	Vaughn Hoffman
RI Council on Legislation	Dave Sclair
Assistant Governor	Ted Wier
Assistant Governor	Norm Tremaine
Assistant Governor	Dave Covey
Assistant Governor	Greg Horn
District Grants Coordinator	Bob Zawilski
Group Study Exchange Coordinator	Ron Adkins
Rotary Foundation	Mike McGowan
Nominating Committee	Mike McGowan

Student Exchange

Lakewood Rotary's first exchange student was in 1969. Since then, many students from around the world have come for their exchange year to Lakewood, Washington. At various intervals, the program has gone dark in our club, for different reasons. In 2007, the program was revived, with plans to continue into the foreseeable future.

2007-08	Nick Athia (Brazil)
2008-09	Satu Sihvo (Finland)
2009-10	Anatole Verhaeghe (France)
2010-11	Victor Bertelsen (Denmark)
2011-12	Patricia Franko (Hungary)
2014-15	Selen Erdogan (Turkey)
2015-16	Christina Borga (Italy)

Outbound:

2009-10	Hunter Larsen (India)
2015-16	Gabby McIntire (Poland)

Bernie Ootkin Award

1993-94	Natalie Humphrey
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1994-95	General Jack Gamble
1995-96	Skip Rash
1996-97	Andy Gernon
1997-98	Juanita Quick
1998-99	Dr. Claudia Thomas
1999-00	Ellie Wilson
2000-01	Syd Bersante
2001-02	Diane Formosa
2002-03	John Dimmer
2003-04	Gary Milgard
2004-05	Alma Gray
2005-06	Carole Wier
2006-07	Gloria Grubert
2007-08	Bill Amblaad
2008-09	Hugh Hedges
2009-10	Fae Crabill
2010-11	Harold "Pepper" Roberts
2011-12	Zosia Damis
2012-13	Larry Saunders
2013-14	Josie Sappington
2014-15	Don Tyler

Russ Klauser Rotarian of the Year

1984-85	Ted Karl
1985-86	Mel Neighbors
1986-87	Russ Klauser

1987-88	Dennis Shade
1988-89	Boyd Lundstrom
1989-90	Harry Mansfield & James McChesney
1990-91	Mike McGowan
1991-92	Archie Heany
1992-93	Mike Crouch
1993-94	Ash White
1994-95	Ralph Lockhart
1995-96	John Hewitt
1996-97	Rick Selden
1997-98	Gordon Quick
1998-99	Norm Tremaine
1999-00	Richard Simmons
2000-01	Mary Lou Sclair
2001-02	Cindy Thompson
2002-03	Ted Wier
2003-04	Tom Sadler
2004-05	Paul Wulfestieg
2005-06	Ward Fletcher
2006-07	Judy Hosea
2007-08	Tony Robinson
2008-09	Greg Rediske
2009-10	Dave Covey
2010-11	Bill Young
2011-12	Duncan Cook
2012-13	Gayle Selden
2013-14	John Magnuson
2014-15	Steve Mazoff

Complete listing of Lakewood Rotary Boards

Key: P=President; VP=Vice President; PE=President- Elect;
S=Secretary; T=Treasurer (Past President is not listed, but
was a member of each board but the first)

1956-57

P Robert Bernnard

VP Ray Thompson

S James Hayes

T Byron Coffman

Board Charles McCallum Charles Peterson John Steward

1957-58

P Charles McCallum

VP Gilbert Richards

S James Hayes

T Byron Coffman

Board Tom Deyton Charles Peterson Robert Bernnard

1958-59

P Gilbert Richards

VP Al Hagen

S Al Stearns

T Byron Coffman

Board Bill Chisholm Vearl Ball Allan Owyen Charles West

1959-60

P Al Hagen

VP Charles West

S Al Stearns

T Byron Coffman

Board Vearl Ball William Chisholm Clifford Olson
Allan Owyen

1960-61

P Charles West

VP John Lewis

S Al Stearns
T Byron Coffman
Board Vearl Ball Clifford Olson Rudy Tollefson
 Howard Williams, Jr.

1961-62

P Dr. Claude McFarlane
VP Howard Haley
S Al Stearns
T Byron Coffman
Board Russ Klauser Jim Rediske Howard Williams, Jr.
 Rudy Tollefson

1962-63

P Clifford Olson
VP Howard Haley
S Al Stearns
T Bryon Coffman
Board Harold Gray Russ Klauser Dr. Tom March
 Jim Rediske

1963-64

P Howard Haley
VP Jim Rediske
S Al Stearns
T Dr. John Lewis
Board Harold Gray Herman Huckstadt Des Isaacson
 Jim Walter

1964-65

P Jim Rediske
VP Rudy Tollefson
S Al Stearns

T Dr. John Lewis
Board Harold Gray Herman Huckstadt Dez Isaacson
 Bernie Ootkin Jim Walter

1965-66

P Rudy Tollefson
PE Al Stearns
S Harold Carlson
T Dr. John Lewis
Board William Brashers James Long John Main
 Roger McDonald Bernie Ootkin Jim Walter

1966-67

P Al Stearns
PE Bernie Ootkin
S Jim Rediske
T Harold Carlson
Board James Chiamulon James Long Carl Fynboe
 John Main Ed Selden Ralph Johnson

1967-68

P Bernie Ootkin
PE Clayton Peterson
S Jim Rediske
T Harold Carlson
Board Gene Burgoyne Ed Cooper Carl Fynboe
 Ralph Johnson Frank Miller Ed Selden

1968-69

P Clayton Peterson
PE John Main
S Al Stearns

T Harold Carlson
Board Gene Burgoyne Ed Cooper Russ Klauser
Frank Dempski Boyd Lundstrom Frank Miller

1969-70

P John Main
PE Russ Klauser
S Al Stearns
T Harold Carlson
Board Boyd Lundstrom Frank Dempski Glen Anderson
Ed Nesse Charles Reilly Bud Estes

1970-71

P Russ Klauser
PE Dr. Tom March
S Al Stearns
T Harold Carlson
Board Glen Anderson Ed Nesse Spirro Damis
Don Greanleaf Art Hudtloff Charles Reilly

1971-72

P Dr. Tom March
PE Jim Walter
S Al Stearns
T Harold Carlson
Board Benni Anderson Spirro Damis Don Greenleaf
Don Jacobson Art Hudtloff Don Jacobson

1972-73

P Jim Walter
PE Glen Anderson
S John Simmons

T Harold Carlson
Board Benni Andersen Homer Fulton Don Jacobson
 Harry Mansfield Fay McAlpin Michael McGowan

1973-74

P Glen Anderson
PE Homer Fulton
S Jim Strait
T Harold Carlson
Board Fay McAlpin Harry Mansfield Dr. Jim Early
 Michael McGowan Ray Highsmith Gordon Quick

1974-75

P Harold Carlson
PE Ray Highsmith
S Mel Neighbors
T Al Hagen
Board Dr. Jim Early Gordon Quick Archie Heany
 James McGreevy Joe Ghilarducci Ralph Lockhart

1975-76

P Ray Highsmith
PE Don Greenleaf
S Mel Neighbors
T Al Hagen
Board Ralph Lockhart Archie Heany Joe Ghilarducci
 James McGreevy Richard Emery August Meier

1976-77

P Don Greenleaf
PE Mel Neighbors
S Harry Fox

T Ray Highsmith
Board August Meier Dick Emery Carl Bosteels
 Jim Peterson Dale Hirz Don Jacobson

1977-78

P Mel Neighbors
PE Ralph Lockhart
S Harry Fox/Percy Tilley
T Don Horan
Board Joe LaTona Jim McGranahan Rick Selden
 Carl Bosteels Jim Peterson Dale Hirz

1978-79

P Ralph Lockhart
PE John Simmons
S Percy Tilley
T Don Horan
Board Doug Cole Jim Strait Ron Herbel
 Joe LaTona Jim McGranahan Rick Selden

1979-80

P John Simmons
PE Auggie Meier
S Larry Cliff
T Bob Marley
Board Doug Cole Jim Strait Max Flockerzie
 Bill Dallas Dave Sclair Ron Herbel

1980-81

P Auggie Meier
PE Don Jacobson
S Jim Rediske

T Bob Marley
Board Sid Acuff Ben Bassett Bill Dallas
 Max Flockerzie Ed John Dave Sclair

1981-82

P Don Jacobson
PE Bill Dallas
S Jim Rediske
T Tom Sadler
Board Sid Acuff Paul Reeder Ben Bassett
 Robert Lordahl Tom Westbrook Ed John

1982-83

P Bill Dallas
PE Sid Acuff
VP Ron Herbel
S Jim Rediske/Mel Neighbors
T Tom Sadler
Board Greg Ootkin Paul Reeder Robert Lordahl
 Steve Matule Ted Karl Bill Lincoln

1983-84

P Sid Acuff
PE Ron Herbel
VP Doug Cole
S Mel Neighbors
T Tom Sadler
Board Chuck Gorden Bill Dallas Bill Lincoln
 Steve Matule Ted Karl John Lee

1984-85

P Ron Herbel
PE Doug Cole
VP Bob Lordahl

S Mel Neighbors
T Jim Bisceglia
Board Bill Conley Tom Kanno Greg Ootkin
 Chuck Gorden John Lee Jim Strait

1985-86

P Doug Cole
PE Bob Lordahl
S Mel Neighbors
T Jim Bisceglia
Board Jim Strait Ron Herbel Ron Irwin
 Ray George Bill Conley Tom Kanno

1986-87

P Robert Lordahl
PE Gordon Quick
S Mel Neighbors
T Frank Hayes
Board Dave Burgoyne Ron Irwin Ray George
 Michael McGowan John Warner Tom Swarner

1987-88

P Gordon Quick
PE Jim Strait
S John Simmons
T Harold Carlson
Board Dennis Shade Gary Fulton Tom Swarner
 Rick Selden Dave Burgoyne Michael McGowan

1988-89

P Jim Strait
PE Tom Sadler
S John Simmons

T Harold Carlson
Board Charles Alexander Garry Cooper Gary Fulton
Rick Selden Dennis Shade Max Flockerzie

1989-1990

P Tom Sadler
PE Rick Selden
S Joe Quinn
T Bob Rothwell
Board Charles Alexander Garry Cooper Max Flockerzie
Sam Hunter Greg Rediske Norm Tremaine

1990-1991

P Rick Selden
PE Dennis Shade
S Joe Quinn
T Bob Rothwell
Board Dan Cook Ferrel Gines Sam Hunter
Greg Rediske Don Stolz Norm Tremaine

1991-1992

P Dennis Shade
PE Norm Tremaine
S Joe Quinn
T Bob Rothwell
Board Robin Blankers Ferrel Gines Dave Reames
Larry Pfingston Dan Cook Don Stolz

1992-93

P Norm Tremaine
PE Gary Fulton
S Pepe Ugalde

T Bob Rothwell
Board Bill Young Robin Blankers Larry Pfingston
 John Hewitt Dave Covey Dave Reames

1993-4

P Gary Fulton
PE Paul Reeder
S Pepe Ugalde
T Bob Rothwell
Board John Warner Bill Young Cindy Thompson
 John Hewitt Dave Covey Gerry Boren

1994-1995

P Paul Reeder
PE Cindy Thompson
S Mary Lou Sclair
T Jack Babbit
Board Fred Emrick Mick Johnson Cindy Thompson
 Ted Wier John Warner John Lowney

1995-1996

P Cindy Thompson
PE Spirro Damis
S Mary Lou Sclair
T Jack Babbit
Board Dave Betz Walt Richardson Fred Emrick
 John Lowney Ted Wier Mick Johnson

1996-1997

P Spirro Damis
PE Joe Quinn
S Mary Lou Sclair

T Jack Babbitt
Board Mick Johnson Dave Betz Scott Buser
 Eric Herbel Walt Richardson John Korsmo Jr.

1997-1998

P Joe Quinn
PE Ted Wier
S Mary Lou Sclair/Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board Eric Herbel Scott Buser Len Zarelli
 Phil Eng Ken Swarner John Korsmo Jr.

1998-1999

P Ted Wier
PE John Lowney
S Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board Len Zarelli Phil Eng Bud Montgomery
 Ken Swarner Jim Rooks Ron Adkins

1999-2000

P John Lowney
PE Phil Eng
S Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board John Magnuson Bill Price Ron Adkins
 Frank Jacobs Jim Rooks Bud Montgomery

2000-2001

P Phil Eng
PE John Magnuson
S Greg Rediske

T Margaret Smith
Board Greg Horn Paul Casey Bill Price
Frank Jacobs Bob Gee Ron Akins

2001-2002

P John Magnuson
PE Dave Covey
S Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board Ferrel Gines Greg Horn Paul Casey
Ron Adkins Gina Crocetti Tom Dyer

2002-2003

P Dave Covey
PE Ron Irwin
S Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board Jay Mayer Gina Crocetti Joel Feldman
Sam Hunter Ferrel Gines Tom Dyer

2003-2004

P Ron Irwin
PE Mary Lou Sclair
S Greg Rediske
T Margaret Smith
Board Bob Running Jay Mayer Jane Pryor
Sam Hunter Joel Feldman Michael McGovern

2004-2005

P Mary Lou Sclair
PE Scott Buser
S Greg Rediske

T Vallie Jo Fry
Board Michael McGovern Jane Pryor Terry Roarke
Dave Coleman Joanne Crane Bob Zawilski

2005-2006

P Scott Buser
PE Greg Rediske
S Ron Adkins
T Vallie Jo Fry
Board Dave Coleman Joanne Crane Bob Zawilski
Terry Roarke Duncan Cook Eric Herbel

2006-7

P Greg Rediske
PE Bob Zawilski
S Bruce Dague
T Astrid Arola
Board Terry Roarke Duncan Cook Eric Herbel
Mary Covelli Johnson Ed Janay Steve Mazoff

2007-8

P Bob Zawilski
PE Joel Feldman
S Ben Sclair
T Astrid Arola
Board Duncan Cook Mary Covelli Johnson Steve Mazoff
Dave Guttu Clint Johnson Janine Messenger

2008-9

P Joel Feldman
PE Greg Horn
S Ben Sclair
T Astrid Arola

Board Dave Gutu Clint Johnson Janine Messenger
 Paul Guy Bill Potter Paul Wulfestieg

2009-10

P Greg Horn
PE Mick Johnson
S Sally Porter Smith
T Mary Lou Sclair
Board Paul Guy Bill Potter Paul Wulfestieg
 Dave Reames Tony Robinson Andrew Neiditz

2010-11

P Mick Johnson
PE Ben Sclair
S Sally Porter Smith
T Astrid Arola
Board Dave Reames Tony Robinson Andrew Neiditz
 Mark Blanchard Lowell Johnson Stephanie Walsh

2011-12

P Ben Sclair
PE Dave Reames
S Sally Porter Smith
T Bill Potter
Board Mark Blanchard Lowell Johnson Stephanie Walsh
 Morris Northcutt Gayle Selden Jason Whalen

2012-13

P Dave Reames
PE Mark Blanchard
S Mary Covelli Johnson
T Bill Potter
Board Morris Northcutt Gayle Selden Jason Whalen

Chris Kimball Rose Stevens Jim Sharp

2013-14

P Mark Blanchard

PE Dave Coleman

S Mary Covelli Johnson

T Bill Potter

Board Chris Kimball Rose Stevens Jim Sharp

Bill Price Mary Moss Rod Ladd

2014-15

P Dave Coleman

PE Chris Kimball

S Greg Rediske

T Bill Potter

Board Bill Price Mary Moss Rod Ladd

Jay Mayer Kim Prentice Mo Sarram

2015-16

P Chris Kimball

PE Rose Stevens

S Greg Rediske

T Bill Potter

Board Jay Mayer Kim Prentice Mo Sarram

Chuck Hellar Vaughn Hoffman Don Daniels

2016-17

P Rose Stevens

PE Andrew Neiditz

S Greg Rediske

T Bill Potter

Board Chuck Hellar Vaughn Hoffman Don Daniels

Sally Porter Smith Janie Frasier Clayton DeNault

