



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

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LAST MEETING: January 19, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Casino night will be January 28, 2017 at Shadescapes in Hotchkiss. It will be a dressy affair. There will be a silent auction. Bring auction items to Jackie Parks. Also, sign up to help set up, take down, bring food. **SELL TICKETS!**

Sign up for the Superbowl pool. See Bob Lario.

Sign up to sell tickets at PHS basketball games. Karri Polson will send out sign up sheet via e-mail

Felix Belmont wants to step down as club secretary. Somebody else needs to step up.

Give speaker ideas to Randy Campbell.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues!

[At your editor's request, our speaker re-enforced Randy Campbell's support for A Little Help, the organization in the valley that links volunteers to senior citizens needing "a little help". It currently has 12 members, who pay \$225/year and 30 volunteers. See Randy for more info.]

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Dave Knutson, President of the Grand Mesa Nordic Council. Knutson started his presentation with a quiz about skis and boots that he had brought with him. Were they back country, classic or skate skis? Once they were properly identified, he admitted that the skate skis, while fun and fast, were difficult for him to master.

This is the 26th season for the Nordic Council, which maintains the cross country trails on Grand Mesa. This is the most dependable - snow-wise - longest and best groomed area in the US. World class skiers have moved to Grand Junction and Cedaredge to take advantage of these conditions. Cross country skiing is attractive because it is good exercise and inexpensive. The equipment is nowhere near as expensive as downhill equipment, and there is no fee to ski on the Mesa, though donations are encouraged. The Nordic Council depends on members - 500+ from Delta and Mesa Counties - and donations to support their \$80k/year grooming costs.

The Ward Lake area is mostly back country skiing, i.e., little grooming in the area, with 1000' elevation change. Dogs are welcome there as well as at the County Line area, which is the highest at 10,800'. Skyway is used for training classes and races. The Council tries to keep it pristine for everyone's enjoyment. They may ask the USFS to help them keep dogs out of this area. Knutson said they were looking forward to a junior racing program as they have good instructors. They are also anticipating longer races, up to 42k.

Last year the Council bought a Weatherport ski hut, which when equipped with a stove, cost

\$12,000. The funds were raised at two house parties. This year, with the assistance of a large grant, the Council purchased a new and larger grooming machine. It lays down a 16' track and can incise classic and skate tracks much faster than the old machine, a savings of time and money.

Knutson urged us to become members of the Nordic Council at \$75/individual and \$125/family. They are also looking for volunteers and can be followed on Facebook. Other notes of interest: There is a CDOT camera at the Skyway trail head. The Delta County Board of County Commissioners have been generous donors to the Nordic Council. GOCO funds have been used to make rental skis available in the County.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: January is vocational service month.

Advancing high ethical standards in the workplace. As leaders in their businesses and professions, Rotarians can advance high ethical standards by setting a positive example among employees, associates, and the community in general. All types of work-related interaction offer an opportunity to encourage ethical behavior. Here are a few specific ways that Rotarians can integrate ethics into their daily work life:

- Discuss and emphasize honesty, accountability, fairness, integrity and respect when hiring and training employees.

- Praise and encourage the exemplary behavior of your colleagues.

- Demonstrate your personal commitment to high ethical standards in relations with customers, vendors, and business associates, treating each business interaction with care and consideration.

Rotary's commitment to corporate social responsibility. Corporate social responsibility is a company's commitment toward the community and environment in which it operates. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development defines it as "the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as the local community and society at large." According to a 2012 article on social ethics, there are currently three defining trends in corporate social responsibility:

1. Giving aligned with core business expertise, in which corporations target their philanthropy to issue related to what they do as a company

2. Employee engagement through company-sponsored volunteer programs, which raise morale and attract employees who share the company's social values

3. The communication of a company's social values and commitments through social media or other methods.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 26: Chris Lazo - the Audubon Society Christmas bird count

February 2: Amy Rowan, Region 10 Aging and Disability Resource Center

February 9: Kathy Welt, West Elk Mine

