



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

Issue 54 November 5, 2015

LAST MEETING: October 22, 2015

EDITOR'S ABSENCE: I had to miss the October 15th and 22nd meetings while helping my sister convalesce from heart surgery. She is doing very well and will be running circles around me soon, I am sure. October 29th was a fifth Thursday social at Kate's home, the last such event there prior to her moving into town on Main St.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Peggy announced that Barking Bargains and the Blue Sage were organizing a Santa's workshop to introduce children to Christmas shopping and money management. Bring small items to Rotary to be sold: candy, tooth paste, soap, etc.

The North Fork Children's Christmas party will be Dec. 12 at Memorial Hall. You should have received a letter announcing this event and the opportunity to support a child at \$50 each. Bring to Pam Bliss or send your check to the NF Children's Christmas Fund. Volunteer to help out at the party and/or help wrap gifts on November 28. Marsha and Jackie have already assembled 140 bags of gifts and there are likely to be more to come.

The club's Christmas party will be Dec. 10 at Davis and Becky Walton's home.

Kevin won the football pool. Wife, Jackie, came in second. In Kevin's absence, Jackie donated his winnings to the club foundation.

Lots of happy bucks today, including a big one from Sarah who celebrated her birthday earlier in the week. She remembered that we are encouraging those willing to admit to having birthdays to donate an amount to the foundation equal to their age.

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT: In celebration of Don Foster's 56 years as a member of our Rotary Club, DG Bob Delavan presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from District 5470. President Marsha presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the club. Don has resigned primarily because he can no longer hear. He hopes to be eligible for cochlear implants. If they are successful, he says he may be back in a year.

Don then presented Pam Bliss her certificate and pin for becoming a Paul Harris Fellow. Having sat on the Board of Directors of Don's bank for several years and managed High Country Shopper located on Grand Ave., Don often referred to Pam as "the best looking businessman on Grand Ave."

Betsy told a story about getting a loan from Don's bank. In 1975 Betsy and Ed were



Bulletin Editor, Sarah with her mentor, Don

new comers to town, and somewhat bored. They decided to start a Paonia newspaper along the lines of ones published in Hotchkiss and Crawford, and called it "The North Fork Times." They needed a loan to get the paper started. They applied to Don's bank, and in Hobart Knight's absence (the bank's owner) Don signed off on the loan. When the paper became so successful it drove the others in the area out of business, Hobart was appalled.

PROGRAM: Ulli, having returned recently from his and Inge's annual trip to Germany, gave a presentation on Dresden, formerly part of East Germany. His family moved to Dresden on the Elba River in 1939. During WW II 61 German cities were bombed. It was like our 9/11 every night. While Dresden was not one of the first cities to be attacked, the Lange family left in 1943 as the bombing intensified. When the city was bombed, over 25,000 people were killed. Ulli and Inge attended a re-enactment of the bombing earlier this fall. For years, a famous church that was destroyed was kept as a peace memorial. However, after Germany was re-unified, the church was reconstructed to look as it did prior to the war.

In 1988, as relations between the East and West were beginning to improve, Joe Cocker was invited to give a concert in Dresden. Probably 100,000 people attended. During Ulli and Inge's visit, a plaque commemorating the place of the concert - Cockerwiese - was unveiled: "Danke, Joe! "Unchain My Heart". Barb Heck was also at the celebration. A man, who had attended the 1988 concert, gave Ulli an original ticket. When asked why he would give such a memento away, he said he had another one. There is currently an ongoing show in Dresden called "Mr. Joe", a revival of Cocker's music.

There is a back story to the naming of this concert site Cockerwiese. In 2002, when the Langes moved to Paonia, Ulli met Joe Cocker, who was then living in Crawford. By then Joe was performing frequently in Germany. At Ulli's request, Joe always got concert tickets for Ulli's relatives. Joe's wife, Pam joined our Rotary Club, and the couple became very generous supporters of our scholarship fund and other projects, culminating in a 2012 event at their ranch which raised over \$20,000. With the Cocker family's permission, shortly thereafter Ulli started talking with German officials about naming a street in Dresden for Joe. When that request became entangled in red tape, the idea of a plaque at the concert site was born and accepted.

One final interesting note: Joe has performed several times in the Kremlin for Russian leaders including Putin. In 1988, Putin was head of the KGB in Dresden, and probably attended Joe's concert. Perhaps he became a fan of American Rock and Roll way back then.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November 19 - Sharon Compton

December 3 - Annette Chosczyk

December 10 - Christmas Party - evening

December 17 - Business meeting

[Program directors, please let me know who your program will be. Thanks. - Ed]