



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 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: February 1, 2018

Club President James Schott presided over the meeting.
Thank you to Mike, Glenn and Felix for setting up.

Announcements:

- Glenn has Don's cards.
- Karri: getting closer to end of basketball and wrestling. This evening is the last wrestling match. There are basketball games on Saturday and we need more volunteers. Passed sign-up sheets around.
- Ulli: attended meeting in Germany and got a pennant. At the bicycle tour last year Ulli got a Viking rubber ducky
- Bob Lario announced that the Super bowl pool sold out. Random numbers have been applied to the chart so you can write down your numbers to see if you will be the winner of the \$250 and the other \$250 goes to the scholarship fund.
- Randy: Planning has begun planning for the pancake breakfast in June 16th and the Blue Sage regatta on June 23rd.
- Felix: first class postage went up one cent to 50 cents.
- Sarah: bought the new version of Quick Books as part of taking over treasurer responsibilities. She and Kate have put in many hours to get the books transferred and straightened out.
- James: The Ducky Derby is our primary fundraiser. Sarah will be handling management of tickets and tracking sales. We still need volunteers for coordinating with other community organizations to help sell tickets (60-40 split).

No visiting Rotarians or guests.

No Key Guest: Randy giving up the Key (paid the \$5 fine). The Key is a means to get new people to introduce them to Rotary in order to get new members. Kate's token was drawn so she's the lucky winner.

We sang America the Beautiful and Edelweiss.

PROGRAM:

James introduced Frank Stonaker, PhD from the Forest Service extension office of the Agricultural Experiment Station out of Colorado State University. Frank moved from the front range 5 years ago and owns an orchard on Rogers Mesa. He is the site manager for the Western Colorado Research Center on Rogers Mesa. There is \$875K for CSU research facility. Frank is restarting and revamping the research center which was closed 10 years ago. He's been working to clean up the facility after years of neglect. It should be open in another month or so. The orchards are dead or dying so they're pulling out old trees and will replant as they're able. There is 80 acres and are located 3 miles west of Hotchkiss near the Rogers Mesa Fruit Company. He is planting trees and vines this spring.

The building has 5 offices, a Vet diagnostics lab and meeting room. There's a three-bedroom house with a new furnace and new paint. The CSU students can come live there and do online course work. They have Brown-bag seminars for people to learn about local issues—Barb Heck mentioned that the grape growers used the meeting room for 10-years where they talked about re-introducing grapes into the valley. Frank has been involved in the brown bag seminars.

Phlooxera is widespread in local orchards. Visitors need to take precautions or not enter vineyards when Phlooxera is mobile. There is a 20-page list of things the facility should be working on, including but not limited to: climate change mitigation and adaptation (because of early blooming is at the top of the list); carbon capture, solar energy (pumping, cooling); electric tractors; tolerant root stocks; misting to delay flowering; also interested in promoting modern orchard and vineyard techniques; and fruit and vegetable organic agriculture. Fifty-five percent (55%) of new farmers consider themselves organic. They need a science-based production and technique system. Education is the primary focus of the research center. They provide an incubator program for new farmers. There is a need to minimize the division between conventional and organic growers. Each can help the other if they will work together.

Bob Lario asked about ad mentioned that there's a lot of interest regarding hemp and the regulations of hemp. Frank mentioned that John McKay in Fort Collins is the guy to talk to about hemp but that hemp is very difficult to harvest.

Betsy Marston mentioned that 20-years ago when she was a master gardener organic growing was mocked but it has flipped now so this is great!

Frank replied that “yes, there's been double-digit growth in organic acreage over last 30 years.” Everyone is invited to the Research Center where they will have an open house either later this winter or early spring.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Feb. 8 - Carol Schott:** Whose lavender farm has burgeoned into a bigger business than she and husband James anticipated. Now they produce more than a dozen lavender-inspired products, making Carol "the Estee Lauder of Lamborn Mesa."
- **Feb. 15 - Anita Evans:** Founder of the Nature Connection, a two-county, multi-partnership with a \$1.7 grant to get kids outdoors and into nature, priming them to think of jobs outdoors as well.
- **Feb. 22: Bob Lario and Doris Danielson:** on local real estate going nuts
- **March 1: Lindsey Ballyhoo:** dancer
- **March 8: A Little Help:** has a short documentary, Randy Campbell shows it
- March 15: open
- **March 22: John VanDenBerg:** on social services in our area, a novel approach
- March 29 is a fifth Thursday: no meeting
- April 5: open
- April 12: open
- April 19: open
- **April 26: Dixie Luke:** on water



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MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

