



"I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious."
—ANONYMOUS



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

"Having fun helping others... watering the rosebuds"

—DR. TED SCHULZ

Bob Bard, Ed.



Opening rituals

We pledge, pray, & join Interactors in rousing version of Rio Fight Song.

Our guests

Dick greets his lovely wife, Trish, who's put up with him for 50 years. Hector welcomes his daughter, Alyssa.

Hog August Bites

Relieved that it's over, Lee says rib cookoff winner is Smoking Ewe, third place is Lira's, chili winner is Byron Boys. J. Mac says Downhill Racers had 13 cars. The winners, determined by photo finish, were Tim Kubli's grandson, Jessie Kubli and Langlow girl in Wes Stewart's car. Jim Lira supplied sandwiches, beverages for hard working crew. J. Mac thanks J. Lira for *pro bono* catering of Larry Pezzaglia's memorial reception.

Hector says beer booth sold \$3,500 of refreshments; we get 50% of net after bills get paid; we will use those funds for scholarships. Derek Jones worked booth from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m., and he's so happy that he had helpers that he gives \$25 to the General Fund. Hector thanks the helpers: Derek, Ed Kingen, Dick, Betty, Gene, Bob, Hale.

Rotary at the Races

Nov. 19, Sat., Golden Gate Fields: Gary says there are 3 open spots left; 37 signed up.

What? Kelley still has the gavel?

That's right. So far, nobody's been able to do anything about it. Our sticky-fingered evil doers are totally stymied. This is really astounding!

Bass Derby Beer Booth

Kelley passes signup list around for Danny.

Poker tourney with Lions

Lee won for Rotary, last year. Ted agrees with pride to chair event, Nov. 16.

Please note these dates:

Sept. 23, Board Meeting
Oct. 7--9, Bass Festival
Nov. 16, Poker Tourney
Nov. 19, Horse Races
Dec. 10, Xmas Party
Feb. 13, Charter Night
Calendar will be posted on our website after Jim McCracken returns. Online RBS not okay for Derby. Bass Festival Beer Booth proceeds split among the

Chamber, Soroptimist and Rotary.

Milestones

Birthday: Ken--Aug. 27; wedding anniversaries: Gary--41 years, Gene--5 years, Gil--23 years; Rotary anniversary: Edwin--3 years.

Student Rotarians Report

First Volleyball and Football games at home, today; Club Rush to be scheduled; first rally, today; all Frosh get Senior buddies; Homecoming dance planned, Oct. 1, with horror movie theme.

Confessions

Molly says she just got a text that there are 5 sheep out on Hwy 12 across from Trilogy. Trish says that



Dennis Elliott speaks on Russia trip.

she appreciates new paving on Hwy 12. (*So do we all.*) Molly confesses that she was not able to serve in beer booth, as she was getting daughter, Jenna, settled into new digs at Chico State. She gives \$20 to Jenna's PHF.

Edwin apologizes for missing Beer Booth service, blaming his hard-working wife for managing his calendar. He fines himself \$100 to pay for the amount of beer he would have bought and drunk if he'd been here, Saturday.

Hector missed last week's meeting due to a scheduling conflict...someone said they spotted him leaving town wearing a tie...to go play a round at Hidden Brook? A likely story. Hector's game was so bad (this is a man who once made a hole in one on #8 at Rio Vista) that he fines himself \$25.

Ted pays off on a friendly baseball bet with Jack and donates \$20; Ted's still hopeful; he says Jack owes \$10.



Student Rotarians report on school activities, from left: Susanne Johnson, Chris Galeno, Josie Hamilton, Casie Mortimore and Daryn Katsuki.

Don reports that school year's going well...so far.
 J. Mac reports that our members pay far more generous fines than other clubs he's visited, where they donate only "Happy Dollars." *Your editor has also observed this disparity while attending make-up meetings.*
Program--"Russia Today"

Dennis presents a pictorial travelog of his and Merrill's cruise up the Volga River from St. Petersburg to Moscow, with stops at the riverside towns of Mandrogy, Kizhi, Kuzino, Yaroslavl, and Uglich. They did not see what they expected.

We all know that during the cold war, communism created a stern, bleak, hard life of military governmental controls, intimidation, food lines and scarcities for the Soviets. Well, times have certainly changed, at least that's sure what it looked like everywhere the Elliott's went. Dennis showed us photos of apparently active, happy people living vibrant, affluent lifestyles.

The GUM Department stores in the big cities are upscale, blocks-long shopping centers with myriad products and services available to those who can pay, and apparently, there are many who can. One universal challenge, however is the ubiquitous traffic jams in urban centers. Locals meet this challenge by taking public transportation, the "metro."

The Volga River rises 200 vertical feet up from St. Petersburg to Moscow. The law code of 1697 made serfs (slaves) of women who pulled ships up this stretch. These serfs were the property of the owners of the land bordering the river. The serfs, numbering 46 million, were emancipated by Alexander II in 1861. Now, there is a system of narrow locks (about 2 feet wider than the ship the Elliott's were on) to float the ships up the river.

Although the area covered on the trip was large, with 4 temperature zones, it's a small portion of Russia, which is about twice the size of the U. S. For 800 years the Vikings from Finland ruled Russia, a Slavic country. Then, in the 1400's the Romanoff's reign began. The country has 11 time zones and 140 million people.

The currency is the ruble, with about 61 rubles to the dollar. Since the government's introduction of free enterprise into their economy 15 years ago, the Russian people have become quite affluent.

St. Petersburg is a major port with 11 bridges crossing the Volga. The city boasts many canals, making it the "Venice of Russia." All 11 bridges remain open to ship traffic and closed to vehicular traffic during the night. The river runs right through the heart of town, so if you enjoy night life and live on the other side of the river, you might not get back home, that night.

Today's Russian government is a "semi-presidential federation" with a premier (head of state,) a president, a дума of 400+ elected representatives, a supreme court, civil & criminal courts, and a central banking system.

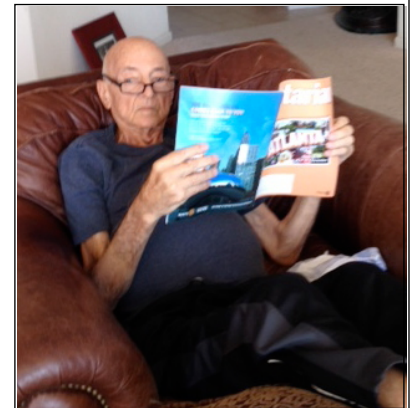
Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg will take your breath away, as it is lavish beyond description. The huge rooms and walls are literally adorned in gold, with priceless ceramic tiles, Faberge Eggs, and artifacts where ever you look. Peter the Great stood 6' 5" and evidently didn't put up with much B. S.

In the small towns all the people grow large vegetable gardens in their back yards. Very little meat is consumed. The schools teach English, French and German. To punish errant students, they take away their cell phones.

We end with a tour of Red Square; there are no homeless on streets, but beware of the pick-pockets!

50/50 raffle

Fortunately, Hector buys the lucky ticket; unfortunately, he picks an unlucky marble.



Dr. Joe Awender is doing well, catching up on some reading. Hang in there, Joe!

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
Friday, September 2	Naomi Walker, "Exchange Students"	Tatyana Pool
Friday, September 9	Rob Hickey	Jim Nordin
Friday, September 16	To Be Announced	Tom Donnelly
Friday, September 23	John Broughton, General Manager at Frontier	Edwin Kingen
Friday, September 30	China and the Terra Cotta Soldiers	Jim Nordin